

around the sun, determine the distances of the planets from the sun, and likewise from the earth. The distances of the primaries being known by measuring the apparent sizes of the orbits of their satellites we at once get the distances of the satellites from their primaries.

Again, knowing the distances of the members of the solar system from us by measuring their apparent sizes we can at once get their magnitudes. Thus, so far as distances and magnitudes are concerned, the whole grand solar system, of which our earth forms but a small member, is known.

But again, by knowing the size of the earth's orbit around the sun, we have command of a grand base line, viz., the diameter of the earth's orbit with which to measure the parallax of the stars which twinkle at inconceivable distances beyond our system, if there be any.

Now, with the exception of a very few, the astronomer finds to his utter astonishment that even with such a base line the fixed stars have no parallax. This means that 186,000,000 miles is simply nothing compared to the distances of the stars. Compare now this magnitude with the size of the particle of musk which affected the nostrils of a certain writer in the COLLEGE JOURNAL, and we have an illustration of the smallest and greatest magnitudes which are attempted to be measured by the physicist.

The greatest heliocentric parallax detected yet in any of the stars is about 1". With such a base line and such a parallax it is easily calculated that the nearest star might sneak away from things visible to us, and we would not detect its disappearance for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. I mean by that that the light which we now receive from the nearest fixed star was sent from it $3\frac{1}{2}$ years ago, even although that light has been travelling at the rate of 186,000 miles per second.

Let me now briefly explain to you what you will see to-morrow. (Illustrated by figures.)

Before concluding this lecture, ladies and gentlemen, I desire to draw your attention to the fact that in Kingston there are two citizens who for some months have been devoting their time and energies to assist in the observation of the rare event of to-morrow, and I think we ought to feel proud that in the history of the transit of 1882, Kingston will figure as assisting in the solution of one of the grandest problems which can be solved by man.

→ ROYAL + COLLEGE. ←

MEDICAL CO-EDUCATION A FAILURE.

THIS all absorbing question which has been the topic of conversation and serious discussion among the students of the Royal during the past week or ten days has well nigh excluded all thoughts of the JOURNAL, and the morning of publication finds us without our modicum of "copy." Moreover, we believe we did receive a hint from our managing editor that perhaps it would be better not to make any reference to this co-education question, but now that the matter has been so amicably settled, and such an excellent arrangement arrived at, we have no hesitation in presenting briefly the facts in the case before our readers.

The week just ended has been a momentous one in the history of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston. A great question has been decided, so far at least as this college is concerned.

As most of our readers are no doubt aware co-education of the sexes has been on trial in the Royal College since the beginning of last session. Since the adoption of this course, from its very commencement, there has been a murmur of discontentment among not a few of the students, who felt that the Faculty had departed from their original prospectus, wherein they displayed their liberality

and philanthropy in making known to the public their intention of devoting their valuable time to the furtherance of the furnishing of a most worthy object, namely, a complete medical education for women, the course to be completed in four summer sessions, and in departing from this course and introducing the female students within the halls of the college during the winter sessions, the male students claimed that they were deprived of the full benefit of the lectures in all the departments, with perhaps one or two exceptions, and that on the whole the presence of the ladies was an obstacle in the way of their obtaining a full and complete medical education. It will be unnecessary here to go further into detail, as many of the objections will be at once apparent to those who have thought on the subject. To the public, and also, it may be added, to the Professors, everything appeared to be going on well, but the fire which had been smoldering so long was suddenly fanned into flame by the unwarranted and uncomplimentary fashion in which the female students interrupted one of the lectures and treated at least two of the professors with disrespect. All the male students, with the exception of those of the final year, held a meeting on Friday, the 8th inst., presented to the Faculty a memorial setting forth their objections to the existing state of affairs, and stating that they would no longer than this session attend the Royal, if male and female students were to take lectures together after the Christmas holidays, or if there should be any female students in attendance after the coming spring. The final students were not requested to sign the memorial, as it was expected that in all probability they would bid adieu to the college at the end of the session.

The Faculty regarded this action of the students as an attempt to dictate to them, and, under this impression, very properly informed the students that the government of the college lay in the hands of the Faculty and not with the students.

Now, it seems to us, that each party made a mistake at the very outset of this trouble. We think that the objections to co-education in medicine made by the students were strong and worthy the serious consideration of the Faculty. Unfortunately, however, the memorial containing these objections, which in the main was couched in language the most respectful, concluded with a declaration of the students' intentions which was so strongly worded that the professors regarded it as a threat. It would have been much better and far more becoming had the students after stating their objections, requested the Faculty to make some arrangement whereby the grounds for their objections would be removed. With all due respect to the medical professors, we say that much of the trouble would have been avoided had they not been too hasty, and concluded that they were being dictated to by the students. That this was not the intention might have been inferred from the most respectful tone of the greater part of the memorial. Thus, owing to these mistakes a breach was made between professors and students, between whom there had always previously existed the most cordial relations, and the task of settling the difficulties arising from co-education was thus rendered more complicated. The professors very properly would not submit to dictation from the students, and the students felt aggrieved by the manner in which their memorial had been answered, and they (the students) at once communicated with other medical colleges in the Dominion, asking for terms on which some fifty or more students would be accepted, and in reply received such information as enabled them to again approach the Faculty, this time with an alternative.

The matter now assuming very serious proportions, and appearances pointing to the fact that the Royal College was in danger of being at least very materially injured, if not completely destroyed, the Faculty and stu-