

the Hospital, and not as now, only for walking through it. There can be no doubt that a third year Primary induces first year negligence, while on the contrary the present system of repetition for the sake of our two masters leads to the old result of clinging to the one and neglecting, if not despising, the other. This change, to be effectual, should be combined with compulsory attendance during four sessions—an enactment no longer difficult, as for the future it will be required by the Council.

CONTRIBUTED.

POST-GRADUATE STUDIES.

THE best students lament at the end of each Session that while any one of the subjects to which they have been introduced by the lectures would occupy the thoughts of a lifetime, they have been able to give to it only a divided attention for six or twelve months. Obligated to take up new subjects, they comfort themselves with the resolution of returning to one or other of their old loves in after years, and of giving to it then some of their more matured intellectual strength. Such good resolutions bear about the same proportion of fruit that good resolutions on other subjects usually bear, and after a time they are allowed to drop down to the place that is proverbially their own. Perhaps as regards the discontinuance of systematic study, one of the reasons may be, that Universities have not earnestly sought to keep their sons in connection with their highest work by presenting Post-Graduate courses to them, that would lead—if not to another and higher degree—at least to the comprehensive and thorough knowledge of some one subject. In Queen's the Degrees of B.Sc. and B.D.—though taken in the past as a rule by students during their ordinary course—were intended to be prizes rather for Post-Graduate studies; and we call the attention of former alumni to this little understood fact, with the hope that it may lead them to continue the scientific method of reading which they acquired in their college days. In addition to this link of connection that students of former days may keep up with their Alma Mater, and which students from other universities are entitled to according to their standing, there is a special advantage that graduates residing in Kingston might avail themselves of, and which, we are rather astonished to know, they have seldom or never sought. There must be alumni in Kingston who, though unwilling to enter upon the extensive range of reading that either of the above-named degrees presuppose, are or ought to be equally unwilling to drop academic studies altogether and permit what they have learned to become a speedy prey "to sad forgetfulness." Why should not men of this class

read in one or other of the honor classes that are held in connection with every department of study in Queen's? The Professors would of course welcome them, for it would be much more pleasant to read with half a dozen honour men than with one or two. Usually too, such honour classes are held only once or twice a week, and there are graduates who could easily spare the required time from their professional or other duties in order to prosecute their studies in the special direction to which their own tastes incline. It may be thought that the honour classes are only for the regular students. That is quite a mistake, for every class—ordinary or extraordinary—in Queen's College is open to any one who chooses to register, and every encouragement is now given to men to prosecute special subjects of study. Some may think that attendance would involve a submission to examinations at the close of the Session, but there is no such necessity in the case of ordinary or honour classes. To graduates in the country we would then strongly recommend the post-graduate courses of study that the University has instituted, for the adoption of either course would give a guidance and point to their reading which they would find invaluable. And to graduates and others resident in Kingston we would suggest that the neglect by them of the honour classes must surely have arisen from a misapprehension of their object.

CAP AND GOWN.

SOME wise writer has remarked, that if you know nothing about a subject, but desire to be better informed, write an essay on it. How the information would come I believe he does not say, but leaves it in doubt, whether it would be from your own researches previous to writing or from the remarks and criticisms of your friends subsequently thereto. The former mode must have been in my mind when a few days ago I was asked to contribute to the columns of the JOURNAL, an article on the origin and meaning of the ordinary Academic Costume. Though accustomed to the feel thereof on brow and shoulders, my ideas about them were of the vaguest kind, and when the subject was suggested the above remark came to my mind and with the natural craving of an inquirer after knowledge I at once accepted the task and proceeded in search of my quest. My first attempts took the form of judicious questionings of some of my better informed friends, not of course in such a way as to make them think I was ignorant of the subject, but still sufficiently pointed to give them full opportunity to relieve their minds of any knowledge thereof which they might possess. Rather to my surprise I found that without any exception as far as that subject was concerned, there was a splendid analogy existing between their minds and Aristotle now rather notorious waxen tablets before they had in any way been used. Thus baffled in my first attempt, I betook myself to that glorious institution the Encyclopædia, two of them in fact, but was rather taken aback when I found that though they said a good deal on just what academic costume was