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University Gazette.

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Editorials.

THE MEDICAL FACULTY.

Already the Medical Faculty of McGill has distanced all professional competitors, and can now afford to pursue medical truth for the sake of truth. It is also forging its way ahead of the other faculties in the University, so much so that it is severing the ties that bound it to the old body, and acquiring an independent existence of its own. There is a possibility of danger here, that instead of having a broad

University standing, it may become a mere specializing, theorizing school for experimenting in new and untried doctrines. Towards this end everything is tending. It has the stimulus, novel views and promising theories to give. There is an expectation about Medicine, a seeking and a gaining of some new thing that always yields a stimulus, artificial it may be, but none the less impulsive. With Arts and Applied Science it is different—these must hold always the same ground. The teaching of Euclid and of Socrates, the methods and versification of the Greek and Latin poets are still the same and the best in their respective fields. If the Medical school were to found its existence on the systems of Galen and Æsculapius, it, too, would be in danger of being regarded as somewhat slow. It has in its favor what the other faculties lack, expectation and novelty; and any one who demands such a manifestation of interest from these faculties, is asking for that, which in the nature of things, cannot exist. They never can have a like interest in the practical sympathies of men, because they stand on their merits simply and appeal more to their abstract conceptions than to more material and less high motives. The Medical school has not yet, however, reached that stage in which it can afford to give all its time and interest to theorizing, however praiseworthy in the abstract this may be. There is a prevalent opinion that one object, by no means unimportant, for which a medical school exists, is to cure disease and alleviate distress, and it is upon this principle it must be based. Some day McGill will awaken to this fact, and will find that it is losing itself in the sand and vanishing in the thin air of unreality. Much of the good work done in the highest professions is due to the fact that men cannot do without bread and butter, and in any school there must be a certain amount of "bread and butter medicine." It would be a fine thing if this country could afford to have one school which placed this matter secondary to a more abstract standard, but, unfortunately, things have not come to such a pass that McGill can assume this rôle. For the first two years of the course no Medicine is taught, the atmosphere in which the student moves is not even medicated to the extent of a homœopathic pill, and the student might as well be in any school of technology, which a medical school should not be. McGill has overstepped the mark, and this tendency