

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP.

One of the features of the new curriculum is the evident way in which it discourages wide reading, and encourages men to take one course only. Some of the proficiency scholarships have been removed altogether, and the rest greatly reduced in value, and a change also made which prevents a man holding at the same time a special and proficiency scholarship.

If the end of one's university career were to be the end of one's life, or the department he took at the university his profession through life, then this course would doubtless be the correct one; for one cannot afford to divide his time between two or three professions. But if a university education is intended merely to give a man a general knowledge, a preliminary training and culture of the mind before he enters upon what is to be the business of his life, then the course certainly does not seem the correct one. A man ought to enter life with an evenly balanced mind, not with one side abnormally developed. Is it not unfortunate that any man with the degree of B.A. should be totally ignorant of everything but his own particular subject? Such an education has a strong tendency to make a man a pedant. Let him, while at the university, get as much general knowledge as possible, and then let him afterwards keep up whatever may have the most interest for him. As it is, the man himself has often very little choice in the matter. In his early school-days his master observes in him a fancied predilection for some one branch of study, and advises him to take this alone, if he wishes to obtain university honors; or he himself turns his attention to one particular study either from caprice, or because he is acquainted with no other. When he comes up to the university all his previous training has been in the one direction, and he therefore very naturally takes this course while there, and often even comes to despise every other. No encouragement whatever is given to the young student to take more than one course. Every one tells him; 'If you wish to be a scholarship man read only one department.' He at the same time thoughtless and ambitious, does not reflect that his university course is only the introduction to his life and that therefore he ought to choose what will best improve his mind, and fit him for his work; not what may gain him a few paltry college honors, which will seem to his mature manhood like the rattle of his childish days.

A university education is of importance, not so much for the mere knowledge that it imparts, as for the flexibility and breadth it gives the mind by brushing away all local prejudices and habits of thought and by lifting it out of whatever grooves it may have accidentally worked itself into. But is there a very great advantage in taking it out of one groove only to force it into a larger one? By wide reading, however, the mind undeniably acquires this breadth and 'all-round' quality. It learns to take a broad and liberal view of everything presented to it. It learns to draw comparisons between the various branches, and inferences from these comparisons. It becomes aware of the fact that what was fully believed and defended in one age has often been as completely upset in another, and

so learns to exercise itself by a careful consideration of every theory and assertion before adopting it; a practice of the most incalculable benefit. Such a wide reading, too, makes a man satisfied with his work, because he has acquired an education which will serve as a solid foundation for whatever special study he may afterwards choose to pursue, and which, from the very knowledge that it imparts, will always be a source of pleasure and profit throughout life.

G.F.

WHO IS HE?

One of our students has been 'putting on airs' during the holidays, and ignoring the charms of some 'pretty blushing girl' that he 'once thought far above him.' At least the appended letter points in that direction;—

TO THE EDITOR.—It is my opinion that the most conceited of all young men is a university student. His conceit amounts to something sublime. He looks as if the earth was too low down to walk on, and that a sort of elevated sidewalk should be made for his use. In their own estimation they are perfect heart-smashers; but I say woe to the lady on whom they bestow an hour or two of their educated conversation. It is a well-known fact that a woman has a greater respect for a man's intellectual abilities than for his physical form, when with men it is precisely the opposite. Some one has said that men are won by the eyes and women by the ears. Be that as it may, the student (I mean a student of the first two years standing) has an idea that he is perfectly irresistible. The village that sends a youth or two to a college no doubt repents its folly when the vacations come around and they return. Their former schoolmates are now altogether too slow and far behind the times for association, and the pretty blushing girls that they thought so far above them in the days gone by are 'country's,' or some other such name. Why cannot young men drop easily into their places and be thankful they have the opportunity of improvement, and still keep their feet on the ground. If they would do so, they would really hold the place in women's estimation that they fondly imagine they now do, but which I am sorry to humble them by saying, they do not.

SUSAN.

We think Miss Susan has been over-hasty in denouncing us all. Evidently she has drawn a wide induction from a single fact. But at the same time this ingallant 'university student' (that he hails from a village, and is in the first or second year, is plain from the letter) should make proper amends or show cause.

EXCHANGES.

Range et Noir is the title of a quarterly 'in the interests of Trinity College' (Toronto.) The first number gives promise of a good college paper, but three months between the issues seems to be against its usefulness. The editors are: W. M. Crutenden, secretary, J. T. Lewis, B.A., Fred. E. Howitt, business manager. The college colors are black and red, hence the name.

A prominent clergyman recently referred in the public press to the affairs of Trinity College, and suggested that the best move that institution could do was to sell out as a university, and a teaching faculty in arts, and build a divinity school near University College. *The Range et Noir* doesn't like the suggestion, and speaks of the one making it as 'a Tongucurate, a comparatively new comer, the Rev. Mr. Rainsford.' The editor denies 'that Trinity is in a moribund condition.'

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

At the regular meeting on Saturday last, the president and vice-president being absent through illness, Mr. McCallum was called to the chair. Mr. McKenzie presented the report of the General Committee on sec. vii. of the constitution, which relates to the property of the association. This was adopted without change. The office of the representative of the fourth was declared vacant, and an election to fill it will be held at the next regular meeting. On motion of Mr. Lindsey, the night of meeting was changed from Saturday to Wednesday.

Mr. Lindsey read a paper on Edison's discoveries giving a short history of each machine and of its uses, but dealing chiefly with their structure and the principles involved in them. The descriptions were very clear. At the request of a member he gave a description with diagrams of the new lamp used in lighting Menlo Park.

The next was a paper by Mr. Carveth on fungi and agriculture, or the nature and origin of fairy rings. This paper proved exceedingly interesting, and a long discussion followed, during which many questions were asked the writer, the subject being new to some of the members.

A discussion on the basis of our knowledge of palaeontology was introduced by Mr. A. B. Davidson, who claimed that it was not sufficient to warrant the generalizations founded on it. This was opposed by Mr. McCallum, but the lateness of the hour compelled the association to forego the continuation of the debate.

TORONTO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

The seventh regular meeting of the Literary and Debating Society was held on Thursday evening. After routine business, Messrs. J. Bell and W. Johnson gave excellent readings. Mr. J. Anderson then recited a selection in the serious style. J. H. Duncan was called upon for an essay.

An amusing escapade happened the other day, much to the enjoyment of the boys, by a member of the African race, rather deeply colored, finding his way into the lecture room, and asking for gratuities. The professor's voice was no longer audible, and the lecture came to a close with cries 'Take him to the dissecting room!'

Mr. J. H. Duncan has been appointed pro tem assistant in the hospital during the absence of Dr. Payne.

The subjects for the University prize compositions are published with the examination papers of last year. For English prose: The federation of the British Empire; for English verse: Livingstone River.

The acquisition of the new quarters of the Society, and one thing or another, have greatly increased the business of its meetings, and of late the literary part of the programme has had to be dispensed with. Another reason of this is the late hour at which members assemble. It is to be hoped that hereafter there will be less business before the meetings.