

MR. THOS. BRYANT (President Royal College of Surgeons, London, Eng.) was greeted with prolonged applause on rising to speak. He said he was afraid that much he might say would sound flat and commonplace. He was charmed to find that the additional fifth year was up for discussion, and he could not help thinking, as he listened to-day, that he was sitting at his own Board-meeting some years ago when the same subject was before it. He had heard the very same arguments *pro* and *con* over again, but they had got the fifth year and it was a success, and he was glad this country was following. Their experience might benefit us now, and he would therefore give it. The first defect they set out to remedy was the want of a good preliminary education, and an able committee are at present at work on that subject, and will doubtless soon devise some method of raising the standard. In this country you have a sufficient number of universities to justify you in demanding some literary degree. Every man wishing to study medicine should be at least an educated man to begin with; and if to this you add the technical knowledge of his profession, you have a true scientific man. We have therefore a right to look for literary excellence in the answers to examination questions; but how seldom do we find it. In this respect you even have the advantage of us, for a university course here costs less than it does with us. The examination questions, too, often do not indicate the standard of education, because although they may be quite difficult enough, yet the student may be only required to attain 50 or 30 per cent. of the total marks. This should not be. The true work of the medical course should begin with anatomy and physiology, to which the first two years would be devoted. Chemistry and physics should be in the preliminary course, and taught in all higher schools. Next comes in our fifth year question, and let us fully understand what we mean by a year. Here, I understand, it only means six months! This should not be so, and is a great blot on the medical course you give. Let a medical year consist of nine months, and let us have five such years. After passing his primary subjects (anatomy and physiology) a student is ready for clinical work, which is the summit of knowledge.