MORALS AND LIFE.

This article is composed of extracts from a personal letter received some time ago by an inquiring graduate of McMaster. The writer was Dr. Rand, and we see no reason why others should not profit by this pregnant message on morals and life, as well as the original recipient. The battle of life is common to all, and " the fight is always on."—EDITOR.

DEAR BROTHER,—

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Dr. Brown ("Subsecivæ" Brown) laid down four qualifications of a physician, and they are no less qualifications of every earnest student who means to bring something to pass: "Capax" —an open, roomy soul; "Perspicax"—sense, alertness, immediate vision, a seeing soul; "Sagax"—right-reason, wisdom, the power of knowing the worth of what is seen, and choosing, or selecting it—a judicial soul; and, lastly, "Efficax"—the power to turn the other three to account, mental nearness, the will and the way, effectualness, in short, an executive soul. These are abiding qualifications for life service of high quality. Their possession n.eans conscious and prolonged self-culture. But there is a central qualification without which all these are naught, and which is eminently in the domain of self-education, the one open door into effectual being and doing in the only real and true sense. I mean the things of the spirit—the life elements which bulk as character. Moral law is an abstraction. It can have reality and authority only as it is embodied in life. Read the Sermon on the Mount if you would have this greatest of life's truths written on your soul forever with a pen of divine fire. The ethical and spiritual concrete is character. When moral law is thus incarnated, it wears the purple, and its authority is recognized by rational men, and even by devils. Each of us is a builder of his own character, and it is by far the greatest work we shall ever do in this world. To accept the teaching of Herbert Spencer, and Rousseau before him, that the discipline of natural consequences is sufficient for this work, is never to enter the realm of the truly moral at all, but to surrender our