

of these scholars are not preparing for a University career; they are preparing for the ordinary life of an American citizen. In the last year for which there are returns—the year 1899-1900—the total number of Secondary scholars, as we have seen, was 630,048, out of whom 314,856 were learning Latin. But of that number only 61,517 were preparing for a college or a higher scientific school; no less than 223,349 scholars were learning Latin as an instrument of pure school culture without any intention of continuing the study at a University. . . For the men of science in America no doubt hold, like many of our foremost scientific men in this country and in Germany, that they would rather begin to teach science to minds furnished with a sound general education suitable to their age, with no knowledge of science at all, than have to deal with minds imperfectly trained, unable to take in scientific conceptions, which have sacrificed education proper for the sake of a so-called training in science unworthy of the name.”

Those who are conversant with what has been taking place in the University know that the question of lengthening the session has been under discussion for some time, and in view of the gravity of the step contemplated, a summary of the opinions expressed in debate will prove interesting. It has naturally fallen to the duty of Principal Peterson to make one, which is printed in full in this number of the Magazine. Our own views have been given at some length in a previous editorial, and they need not be repeated. To increase the number of our students in Arts, and so broaden the influence of the University is a consideration which, in our opinion, is far more important than any other, nor has the reasoning of the advocates of a longer session convinced us that the falling-off in numbers which would inevitably result from their action, would be speedily checked by such inducements, abstract and concrete, as the new scheme is by them held to carry with it.

The importance of giving research the fullest play is too obvious to require comment. Comparatively young as our University is, it has for many years been making reputable contributions to knowledge, both literary and scientific; in fact, with the discoveries in radio-activity that are now exciting so much attention and speculation among physicists, the name of McGill must always remain inseparably connected. Nor can we pass from this subject without referring to an experiment in radio-activity which Sir William Crookes has just made—an experiment as beautiful as it is far-reaching, and one, besides, that admits of being described in few and simple words. Certain substances