

fortunate "plucked" candidates. Its standard is high—we believe higher than the average on this Continent or in Great Britain. We fully realize the importance of this statement, and before making it have instituted a careful study and comparison.

The Council have not, however, accepted the Intermediate as it stands, but have made some additions to that Examination, which make it very inconvenient, and in some cases impossible, for the High School Teachers to prepare their pupils for matriculation. The original resolution, as proposed by Dr. Burns, reads as follows: "Moved, that on and after July 1st, 1881, in lieu of the Matriculation Examination heretofore in force, the Council accept the Provincial Intermediate High School Examination, with Latin included as a compulsory subject, and that upon presentation of the official certificate of having passed the said Examination to the Registrar, and the payment of fees, the holder of the same shall be entitled to register as a medical student." We had supposed that this resolution, after coming under the consideration of the Educational Committee, was passed by the Council, but on examining their announcement we find the important additions above referred to. Some of our readers may wonder at our reference to these "additions," when no subjects are specified which are not included in the ordinary curriculum of the High Schools; and we will endeavour to explain our meaning.

The subjects of the Intermediate Examination include three compulsory groups, as follows:—

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| Group I. | { | Arithmetic,
Algebra,
Euclid. |
| Group II. | { | English Grammar,
Composition,
Dictation. |
| Group III. | { | History,
Geography,
English Literature. |

Every candidate is compelled to take these nine subjects, and in addition to these, there are four optional departments, of which he must choose one. It is also expressly stated that "no candidate will be allowed to take more than one of the four optional departments."

1st Optional Department:

Group IV. { Natural Philosophy,
Chemistry,
Book-keeping.

2nd Optional Department: Latin.

3rd Optional Department: French.

4th Optional Department: German.

The Council have not only decided on the nine compulsory subjects, and chosen from the optional departments that of Latin, but have also totally ignored the regulation quoted above, and have added all the optional departments, leaving only a choice between French and German. We cannot help thinking that this has been done inadvertently, without fully appreciating the results of such a course.

We have taken considerable pains to enquire at the Education Office in Toronto, and to communicate with some High School Inspectors and Teachers throughout the Province, and find that, with their existing regulations, it is impossible to prepare students in all these subjects without extra work after the completion of their ordinary duties. The reason is this: the compulsory subjects are taught at different hours, so that every pupil may receive instruction in them, but the optional subjects are taught "concurrently," that is, at the same hour. It is thus impossible for the students to receive instruction in more than one of the optional subjects according to the present arrangement of their time-tables. It must be remembered that the larger High Schools are institutions of considerable magnitude, having large staffs of teachers, and it is no trifling matter, when they have made their arrangements to suit the ordinary Intermediate and University Examinations, to ask them to make the radical changes here indicated. We may say that those to whom we referred spoke in the most kindly way of the new regulation, and expressed their anxiety to do all in their power to accommodate the wishes of the Medical Council. It was thought by some that they might manage to teach both Latin and Natural Philosophy, but entirely impossible to teach all the optional subjects without adding many hours in the week to their already very laborious duties. Some of the Masters have expressed their intention of undertaking this