

PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS.

For the purpose of rendering admission to the study of the learned professions as general and as light as is consistent with the dignity and responsibility incumbent upon professional men, and to relieve the candidates from the heavy expenditure and time consequent to following a regular academical course, almost every civilized country has presented certain preliminary examinations for an educational test of those proposing entering the learned professions; but never, until the Council of the Bar of this Province became clothed with unlimited powers by the Legislature, was the diploma of chartered Universities rejected as an adequate qualification. The members of this Council are selected from every district of the Province, and assuredly many of them must be wholly unacquainted with the essential characteristics of a University training, or the spirit of monopoly has overpowered their reasoning faculties, otherwise it is incomprehensible that they should desire that a purely cram examination, which an expert crammer can and does, in a very brief period, prepare a boy just leaving the High School or Academy, to pass, is a superior criterion of educational preparation for the study of Law. In this University to-day there are men who, after passing the preliminary examination laid down by the Bar, are following the course for the degree of B.A. This implies four years hard and constant application to study, coupled with nine severe and critical examinations upon text books, and lectures regularly classified and delivered by men specially trained in the subjects of their several departments. And still these same students, if they had not already been admitted to study, if they presented themselves for admission, would be required to undergo an examination which, at matriculation, they passed with credit. This course, on the part of the Council of the Bar, must have a most pernicious and disastrous effect upon liberal education by inducing young men to avoid the better but more toilsome course of the Universities and Colleges, and to force them into the hands of men whose only object is to push them through an arbitrary examination. Moreover, habits of industry and perseverance, so essential in the laborious and arduous labour of an attorney, will be most seriously impaired.

In support of the opposition to the bills introduced into the Legislature by the Hon. Mr. Lynch last year, and again before that Assembly this session, the Council of the Bar has brought forward a most remarkable plea. They declare that the Law Schools of the Province have heretofore delivered lectures *pro*

forma only, and endeavour to justify the number of lectures they have prescribed on that pretence. This is a most peculiar and paradoxical position, for it is certain to lead to what they complain of—the delivery of lectures *pro forma*—for professors who are compelled to deliver a certain number of lectures, will not feel that they are bound to make their lectures more interesting and comprehensive, but will expand these subjects to unnecessary and useless length. There is, besides, the consideration of the proper classification and arrangement of subjects for the different years, by no means unimportant, and, in lecturing to students of different stages of advancement, it must inevitably follow that some students will be obliged to follow the same course of lectures twice in order that others may be led up to the more deep subjects which require an introduction, especially in commercial law. The question of the number of lectures, too, is seriously complicated by the work of the office, which is as essential to a student as are the lectures themselves. We publish in another department the memorials in which the University states its case.

A COURT OF HONOUR.

The proposal of the *Varsity* last year, having in view the settlement of the hazing trouble in University College, has been revived this year by definite action on the part of the students. *Varsity* proposed the formation of a College Court, having jurisdiction over the conduct of the students in their relations with each other, the voluntary submission of the students to its fiat, of course, being understood. The design of *Varsity* seems to have been to superseded the outlawed and forcible authority of the secret hazing court by an openly constituted society, formed by the body of the students, and ruling by their voluntary acquiescence in its powers.

Acting in the spirit of this proposal, a motion was introduced at the regular meeting of the Literary Society, on the 18th Jan., for the resolution of that society, at its meeting on the 8th Feb., into a court with power to try all college offences and inflict punishment, by fine or otherwise, on those who were found guilty. In view of the action taken by the Literary Society, the Council of the University issued an announcement forbidding any interference with the liberty of a student, whether by arrest, deprivation of privileges, or infliction of personal indignity of any kind, on pain of expulsion from the University.

The question at issue is a crucial one in college life. That the resolution of the Council was passed,