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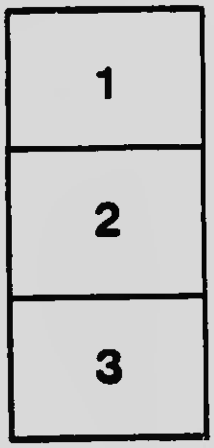
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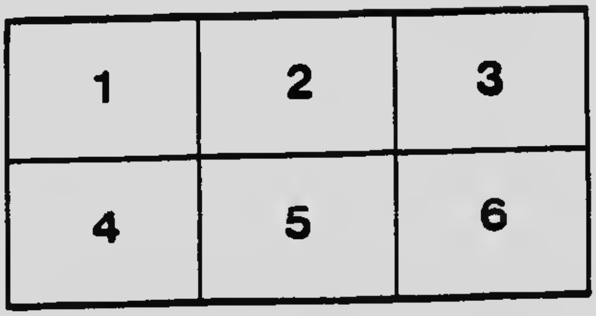
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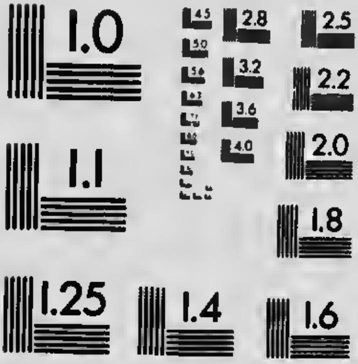

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The New Science Hall

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA,

Inaugurated June 19th, 1901

OTTAWA, CANADA
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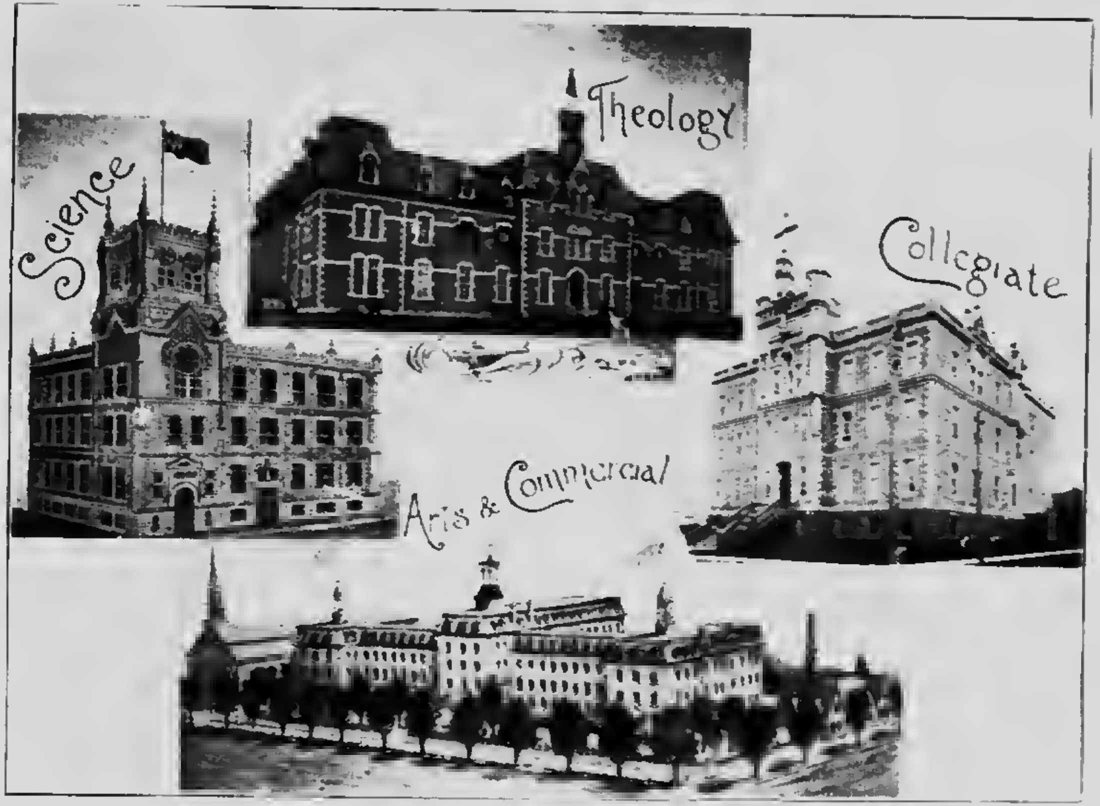


UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA.

The New Science Hall

. of .

The University of Ottawa

Inaugurated June 19th, 1901.

OTTAWA, CANADA:
The Ottawa Printing Co., Limited, Mosgrove Street.
1901.

THE NEW SCIENCE HALL

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA.

ONE bright morning in the early fall of 1856, a few dozen lads gathered for the first formalities of an academic year's work in the new stone building which to most of them, as to most of the people of Bytown, seemed a stately college home. The new building was not indeed palatial, but compared with the humble quarters provided for faculty and students in the College of Bytown, since its inception, eight years before, the five-storied structure, 84 by 40 feet, on Wilbrod street, looked charmingly imposing.

Bytown became Ottawa; the College of Bytown became the University of Ottawa; the new capital grew, and its leading educational institution more than kept pace with it. The stone building, began thirty years previously, had by 1885 been enlarged to more than seven times its original size, and in that year the theological students who could no longer find room in the main edifice, moved into a new building on the banks of the Rideau, truly splendid in dimensions, style and surroundings. Before ten years more had rolled by, another colony, this time collegiate students attending the Apostolic School of the Oblate Fathers, went to occupy the fine modern annex on Theodore street, opposite to the College Block.

These extensions and annexes, however, failed to permanently supply ample room for all departments of the University. Great inconvenience has been occasioned, of late years, by the insufficiency of space allotted to the Laboratories and Museum, and by the fact that this space was very much needed for class rooms. There was but one remedy for the inconvenience, and the application of the remedy brought into existence the subject of the present sketch, the new Science Hall.

Every old student will remember the two small log houses that stood on the north side of Wilbrod street, facing the statue of Dr. Tabaret in the central lawn. They had some interest in serving to recall a style of habitation that belongs to by-gone days, but standing in the midst of a modern residential quarter, and just in front of a remarkably fine building, they seemed, to say the least, not in harmony with their surroundings. A little over two years ago they became the property of the College Corporation, and their demolition speedily followed. The lot they so long disfigured, is occupied to-day by the latest University building, a a solid stone structure 98 by 85 feet and about 65 feet high.

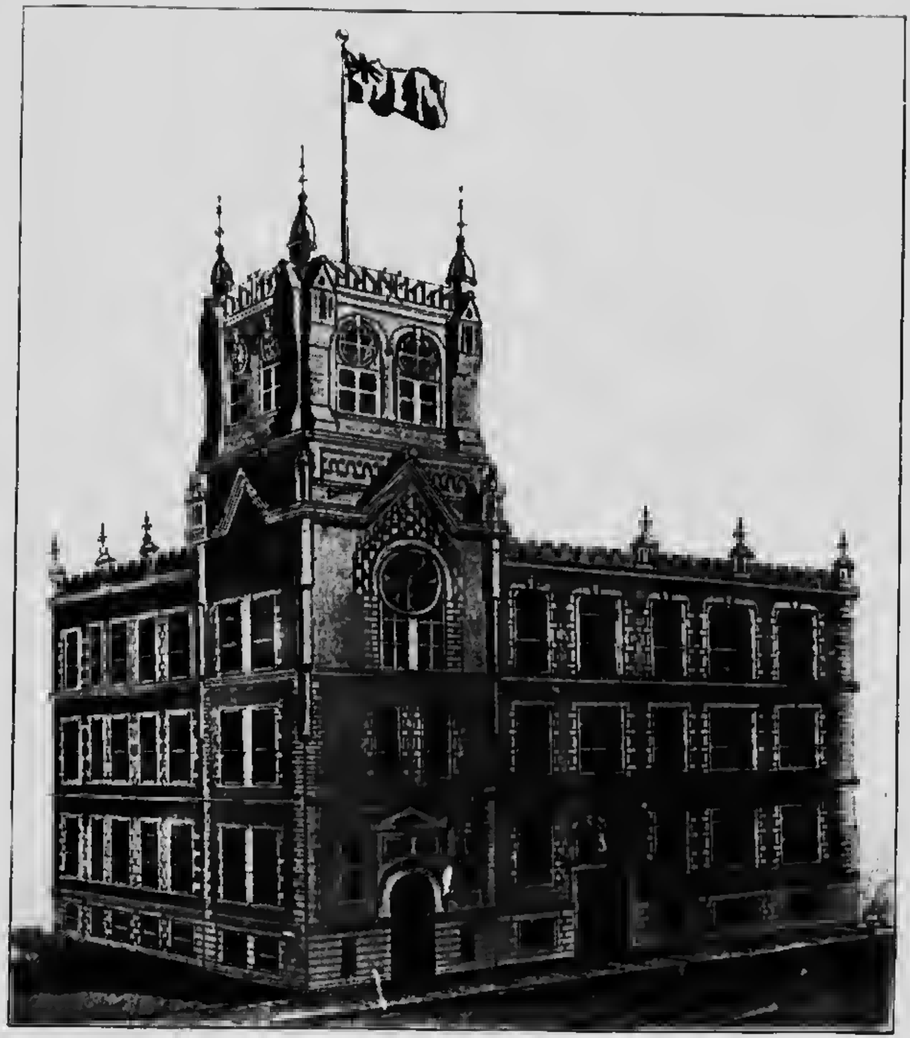
Its lofty stories, and many windows, high and wide, at once impress upon the visitor the fact that the Science Hall comes up to the modern educationist's standard of a plentiful supply of natural light and pure air. Pleasing architectural effect has been equally well compassed. The monotonous, massive appearance that is often a feature of structures of this kind, is obviated, and grace of outline attained, by an ornamental tower with turrets, as well as by the broad bush-hammered stone lintels, sills and reveals around the various-sized openings and moulded band courses on a level with the different floors. The architect was Mr. Z. Gauthier of Montreal, and the contractor, Mr. J. L. Fauteux of Ottawa.

The materials used in the construction are all of most substantial character. The building rests on a concrete foundation, the stone is the best that the noted Hull quarries supply, the pillars and beams are of iron, plate glass fills in the sashes. Terra cotta floors and asbestos plastering, combine with the stone and iron of the framework to make the structure fireproof. Within, numerous ventilating flues, hot water coils and electric lamps, insure convenience and comfort at all times.

An inspection of the interior must convince the educationist that the outside of the structure does not awaken any expectations which are not fulfilled, and that the University possesses several well-equipped departments of Science. Naturally the visitor will begin by the

FIRST FLOOR.

Two broad entrances on Wilbrod Street lead into vestibules, about on a level with the ground. The first floor of the building



SCIENCE HALL.

is four feet lower, the second floor eight feet higher than the floor of the vestibules. First floor seems a more appropriate designation than basement for a story that is as dry, airy and well lighted as the best apartments in most buildings.

Storerooms, workrooms and the furnace room, take up considerable space on this floor, but there remains a section 80 by 65 feet which has not been assigned to any particular purpose. The architect provides on his plan for the division of this large area into several lightsome and accessible rooms. To select a possibility of which this unoccupied space may facilitate the realization, let the discerning leader weigh the respective prospects of, say, an overflow from some of the departments on the higher floors, Engineering in one or more of its branches, Technical School work or some other development in the vast field of scientific education that public or private benefaction can speedily produce.

Leaving this story whose interest attaches to the future rather than to the present, the visitor finds on the floor immediately above it a magnificent store of attractions, the contents of

THE MUSEUM.

The southwest entrance gives direct access to this beautiful room in which an interesting and profitable hour may be spent, for it is open to the public.

The Museum with the offices and workrooms connected with it, occupies the entire second floor, The main room 80 by 65 feet and 20 feet high, is finished and furnished in an elaborate and tasteful style that makes it peerless among Canadian Museums.

It has in common with the other rooms of the second, third and fourth stories, an ornamental metallic ceiling and a floor of clear birch laid in narrow strips. The wainscoting and other wooden parts of the inside finish of the entire building, except the Museum and the passages by which it is reached, are of ash. Rich quarter cut oak is the material used in the doors, arches and sashes filled in with leaded glass, that set off the vestibule and staircase leading to the Museum.

Whatever he may have heard of it, one entering this room for the first time can scarcely realize that all the wood he sees before him in doors, column and wall decorations, and in show cases is *selected Spanish mahogany.*

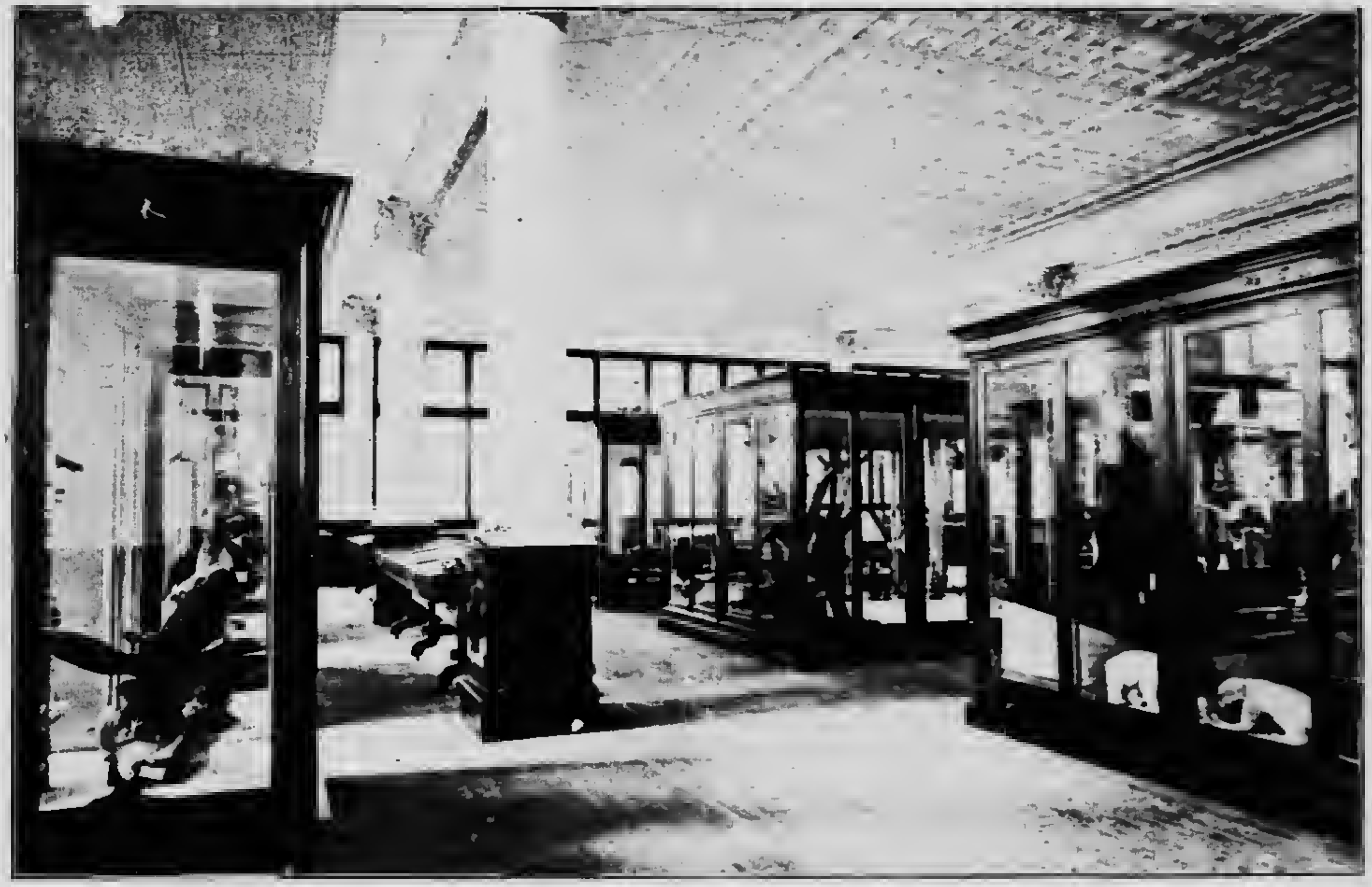
Everything else in the inside finish of the Museum, harmonizes with the beautifully veined wood. The cornices, moulding and frieze, crowning the columns and walls, and the heavy panelled dado which ornaments the lower part of the room, attest rare architectural taste and skill. No less creditable to the designer is the separation between Museum and workroom effected by a screen built up between dado and main cornice of octagonal pilasters and panels formed of sashes in which is set cream-colored leaded cathedral glass. The walls of the room are treated in a white tone and the ceiling, beams and cornices, in a rich cream.

"The show cases of the Museum are undoubtedly the finest on this continent, and no expense has been spared to make them so." Such is the statement made in their notes on the Museum, by the well-known architects, Messrs. Sproatt & Rolph of Toronto, who elaborated the plan of the room. This statement seems confirmed by the admiration of the design and finish of the cases, expressed by other experts. The variety of design of the cases and their harmonious arrangement, are features that no one can fail to remark.

They are finished in mahogany and the best British polished plate glass, and are fitted inside with American cottonwood, treated in a soft dead-white color. In all the cases the glass is in one length, so no line breaks across an exhibit. All the joints, movable or fixed, are made dust and moth proof by a combination of rebates and rubber tubing. The shelving is supported on adjustable nickel brackets. All the cases are on patented casters, so that they can be moved about. The Globe Furniture Co., of Walkerville, Ont., supplied the show cases, and did the inside work of the Museum.

In the superb show cases are stored a great variety of specimens, and the visitor who has a taste for the study of either Ethnology, Zoology, Botany or Numismatics, will find in the new Museum much to interest him. A unifying feature of the different collections, is that they are very largely, though by no means exclusively, Canadian in composition.

The old University Museum, owing to its location on the fifth floor was rather inaccessible to the public, and consequently little known. The number and variety of the specimens it contained, sur-



THE MUSEUM.

prised all who visited it even in Dr. Tabaret's time. Its contents were gradually increased, and one day three years ago, were suddenly doubled when the veteran Indian Missionary, Rev. Father Arnaud, O.M.I., of Betsiamis, P.Q., presented to the University his splendid collections, the result of nearly forty years' labor and sacrifice.

As might be expected, the Zoological Department occupies by far the most space in the Museum. The student of Natural History here recognizes specimens of a goodly number of the large mammals of Canada and of almost all the small ones of North America. There are specially fine collections of fur-bearing animals and of the heads of large game. Distant climes too have their representatives small and large, amongst the latter being a lioness, the wild boar of France and an enormous orang-outang. Among oceanic mammals one may remark a number of seals looking very natural, and the skeleton of a monster whale.

The collection of birds is remarkably large, and includes all the orders and almost all the families into which science divides *Class Aves.* Several rare aquatic birds and tropical birds will be noticed by the ornithologist. Turning from mammals and birds to fishes and reptiles, the visitor sees before him many excellent specimens. The most striking of these are amongst the collections of crocodiles and turtles and of snakes of the larger varieties.

Not the least interesting departments of the Museum are those in which the taxidermist's art has no place. In one of these is a fine collection of old medals and coins, in another many named specimens of woods, and a little farther on, the complete collection of Canadian minerals from the National Museum. Some rare fossils attract general attention. The Conchological Collection is perhaps more varied than any other, for the great number of shells exhibited represent gatherings from the deep under many skies. In the Herbarium is a very fine named collection of Canadian plants from the National Herbarium, and many detached botanical specimens, some of them quite uncommon. Then if one cares for Ethnology he may examine different skulls and many odd articles that human beings once found useful or ornamental. Relics of the red man are most numerous. Amongst them are costumes made of caribou and walrus skins, a dog sled with sets of harness and whips, carvings, tools, weapons, pottery, baskets, calumets, in a word, specimens of most of the handiwork of our Aborigines.

On the higher floors of the building are located the Laboratories and other rooms in which facilities are afforded for experimental work in Science. These may be visited outside of class hours and display a completeness of modern scientific equipment for which many, in the absence of princely benefactions are wholly unprepared. The eastern side of the third floor is occupied by

THE PHYSICAL LABORATORY.

This is a room 60 by 40 feet. Communicating with it are a workroom, a dark room and a room for specialty work. In the location and general arrangement of all these rooms, the special purpose which each is to serve, has been kept closely in view, and the plans of the principal Laboratories in the country, made a subject of careful study. Gas, water at high and low pressures, and the electric current, alternating or direct, as desired, are available. The experienced eye will certainly see in the general features of the Department of Physics, possibilities for thorough demonstration and exhaustive research.

Elegant finish, handsome show cases, many fine instruments —all shown to advantage by the abundant light which an artistic architect has contrived to admit from all sides, give to the Physical Laboratory a very attractive appearance. Birch work-tables, substantial and trim in design, complete the general equipment, and add to the pleasing effect.

A considerable quantity of apparatus from the best houses in Paris, London and Boston, has been added to the excellent collection of physical instruments brought from the old Laboratory. The student will find in the new Department of Physics, sufficient and more than sufficient appliances for a highly satisfactory general course of Physics. Provision is made for numerous experiments in every branch of this comprehensive subject. The apparatus facilitating the general study of Sound and Electricity is particularly complete.

The fine astronomical telescope secured some years ago, is housed for the present in the Physical Laboratory. So too are the Solar Compass, Refractors, Sextants, Globes and other

PHYSICAL LABORATORY.

apparatus that form the nucleus of a collection for the working Observatory which it is hoped will some day be located under the dome that on the architect's plan, caps the large tower of the Science Hall.

A corridor of which the walls are of finely finished ash, to a height of seven feet, and of heavy clear glass on eight feet higher to the shapely cove overlying the angle of wall and ceiling, separates the Physical Laboratory from the other large room on the third floor,

THE LECTURE HALL.

This capacious room for public or semi-public scientific lectures and demonstrations, supplies a want long felt by students and lovers of Science in Ottawa. The new Science Lecture Hall will enable the University Scientific Society and other Scientific Clubs using it, to offer to lecturer and audience unusual advantages.

The hall seats about two hundred and twenty five persons. The seats rise in tiers to ten feet from the floor, and are so arranged that every one in the audience has a clear view of the experiments that may be made at the large worktable before the lecturer. Any one desirous of jotting down facts and impressions during a lecture, finds that the right arm of his seat is made to form a convenient support for a note-book.

On the worktable before him, the lecturer or demonstrator is provided with gas, electricity and water, and the flow of each may be regulated as desired. Behind the speaker is a smooth white wall to receive views from a stereopticon. The instrument is so placed that no one is inconvenienced, and appliances are at hand for either the oxyhydrogen or the electric light. Tables for specimens and exhibits are given ample space in front of the tiers of seats. Adjoining the hall is a room for committees and lecturers.

The large cheery room in the tower on this floor, is shortly to be fitted up as a Science Library. Amongst other valuable collections that it will contain, will be the Publications of the Geological Survey of Canada, presented by courtesy of the Director, Dr. Bell.

The fourth floor of the building is interesting by its excellent finish and fittings and by the fine view it affords of Ottawa and the surrounding country. A corridor of which the upper half of the wall on either side is of glass, leads from the broad staircase to the principal room,

THE CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

Easy of access from this room are a Private Laboratory, a lecture room and a storeroom for chemicals and other materials. In the new home of the Chemical Department the student is provided with facilities for doing his experimental work in a thorough manuer and under most favorable conditions. In location and finish the rooms leave nothing to desire; they are heated and lighted perlectly, and the system of ventilation effectively prevents the accumulation of foul odors and noxious gases.

The main room has a floor space 80 by 40 feet. It contains eighteen worktables with heavy slate tops. Every table is six feet to the side, and so gives working space to four students, each of whom finds in his section, water, gas, a sink, a drawer, shelves for his reagents and a locker for the storage of apparatus when not in use. There are two large side tables for experiments requiring complicated apparatus. Hoods are provided for the preparation of poisonous gases and for acid evaporation.

Eighty students may be comfortably seated in the lecture room, each one having a writing desk before him. At the disposition of the professor are a platform and reading desk for lectures, and a well-fitted worktable for experiments in presence of his class.

Contiguous to the lecture room is the Private Laboratory. This room, situated in the ornamented part of the tower, with its lofty ceiling and magnificent arched and foliated windows commanding a charming view, seems a fitting place indeed for the reception and appropriate use of instruments by which her jealously guarded secrets are wrested from nature. The large supply ot apparatus in the main room for the ordinary text-book experiments, is supplemented in the Private Laboratory by instruments for delicate work in organic and inorganic qualitative and quantitative analysis. Several of these instruments, such as a microscope of remarkable power, a delicate chemical balance and a polarizing saccharimeter, would attract attention in any laboratory.

LECTURE HALL (SEATING CAPACITY 225).

On the fourth floor is also located

THE MINERALOGICAL LABORARORY.

In this room fifty students may find working space, and each has before him apparatus, water, gas, reagents and all else necessary for blowpipe analysis. Every student also has shelves and a locker for the storage of articles used by him. Desk wall cases, conveniently placed, contain samples of a great variety of minerals. These are distributed amongst students for experimental work. The study of the mineral products of the Dominion, is facilitated by the large collection of Canadian minerals in the Museum.

The lecture room mentioned in connection with the Chemical Department, is of course available for lectures and demonstrations in Mineralogy. Likewise the Private Laboratory affords facilities for specialty work in this branch.

Up to the present, want of room has been a serious, though not the only obstacle to the establishment of special courses in the eminently practical sciences of Chemistry and Mineralogy. Very reluctantly have many young men in Ottawa and at a distance been informed that the Laboratories had to be reserved, almost exclusively, for the Classical Course of the University, and that consequently they could not find in the capital the facilities they sought of qualifying for a calling in which a knowledge of one or both these sciences is essential—that of analyst or assayer, for instance. With the opening of the Science Hall the aspect of affairs changes. Special students, to a considerable number, may be allowed the use of the new Laboratories, and no great outlay would be required to [illegible] provide courses in Chemistry, Mineralogy and kindred subjects, and in Electricity too, second to none in the country.

It must be confessed, however, that the University of Ottawa, entirely dependent as it is on the fees of students, cannot be reasonably expected to very soon give full effect to the possibilities which the practical mind will see in the existence and present equipment of the new Science Hall. Yet it seems regrettable that these possibilities should not be at once turned to account in the Province of Ontario which spends ever-increasing sums in providing for instruction in Applied Science.

Statutes in our times commonly decree that the public coffers shall remain closed to college corporations whose general acts are exempt from state control, but that regulation, elsewhere, and latterly at least, in our midst, has been given no narrow interpretation. Only the other day, a number of public-spirited responsible citizens forming a corporation offering satisfactory guarantees, secured from the Provincial treasury the sum of $100,000 for a School of Mines in Kingston, a much less important centre than Ottawa. All familiar with the circumstances connected with that grant, know that by it and a similar one for the opening of special courses in the new Science Hall in Ottawa, the universities of the two cities would be effected in exactly the same way.

The principle being wisely admitted that not one city alone in Ontario, is to benefit by Government support towards educational work in Science, it is incredible that a responsible corporation of Ottawa citizens, would fail to obtain state aid for the maintenance of a School of Science. The Dominion capital offers ideal advantages to the young man who seeks to add to technical qualifications the development of a broad Canadian spirit. Ottawa possesses all the desirable conditions that can be claimed for the other cities in Ontario in which Schools of Science exist, including that of many well-organized University courses, open to all, from which students in technical branches may choose one or more subjects that will supplement their specialty work

The idea that a Science School is not needed in Ottawa, or that its interests would clash with those of institutions in other parts of the Province, is not tenable. That idea will not even enter the thoughtful unbiassed mind that has noted the continued extension of courses in Applied Science and the growing need of well-trained experts for the development of natural resources and the building up of industries in our fair Dominion. Definite evidence that vastly additional facilities for practical training in Science, are needed in this section, is supplied by the situation of Ottawa in the heart of a region exceptionally fitted for industrial progress, and by the action of a college corporation, not inclined to venturesomeness, undertaking the erection and equipment of a large Science Hall when nothing seemed possible but tuition fees and rather uncertain private benefaction.

CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

No promise of any assistance whatever, had been made to the College authorities when the Science Hall was begun, but it is gratifying to state that within the past few months, two gentlemen of means, Mr. M. P. Davis of Ottawa, an old student, and Mr. M. J Haney of Toronto, have given very substantial proof indeed of their interest in the work to be carried on in the new building. Each of them has donated the handsome sum of five thousand dollars toward defraying the cost of construction and equipment. These gentlemen, if consulted, would be reluctant to allow their generosity to be proclaimed to the world, but justice demands that their gifts be mentioned in these pages, and that the sincere thanks of the institution they have aided be tendered to them.

In connection with the benefit that would accrue to educational work in Ottawa by the establishment of a Science School and by increased private benefaction, it may not be out of place to here state a few facts not perhaps fully enough understood by all who may read these lines.

Leaving out of consideration its two Theological Schools, the courses in the University of Ottawa are open to all, and since the foundation of the institution have been attended by many students of different religious denominations. This is as might be expected, for in ninety-five per cent. of these courses nothing could possibly be found objectionable by any one, no matter what his tenets may be.

English is the only language used in the lecture rooms, except as in the majority of Catholic colleges, in the Latin lectures in Philosophy, and, as in all colleges, the lectures on the literature of modern languages when the students attending them understand these languages.

The institution in 1866 secured from the Dominion Government a charter empowering it to confer degrees similar to those conferred by other universities throughout the country. In 1889 it received from His Holiness, Leo XIII, all the privileges of a Catholic University.

In view of these conditions, it is natural that Catholics who, desire to have their sons, or the youth of their race, educated in English, should consider the University of Ottawa as existing specially for them. Catholics do so indeed, and that the institution responds to reasonable expectations is attested by the success which graduates of the University have, almost without exception, attained in the higher walks of life, throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion and in many states of the neighboring republic.

Though certain that the adoption of a different course would bring more students to its Classical Departments, the University of Ottawa has resolutely kept up a very high standard of studies, in the conviction that thorough work would win and maintain confidence, and tend to attract endowments. In winning and maintaining confidence the University is proved to have been successful by the number of students in attendance, and also, though this is stated with regret, by its having to close its doors to many deserving young men who, on account of limited means, need assistance to complete the long course of studies required for a degree. Confidence is shown in another and no less convincing way, by the readiness with which the diplomas and certificates of the University of Ottawa are accepted by all the seminaries and schools of Law, Medicine and Science throughout Canada, and in all of the very large number of similar institutions in the United States, in which they have been presented.

Unfortunately the institution has not received as generous benefactions as the majority of Protestant colleges. A comparison of what members of different denominations have done for their institutions of higher education, certainly would not give our co-religionists the place that they occupy in point of number, nor even, we believe, their present position in order of means. This fact may be explained, in part at least, by the larger contributions of Catholics for the erection of churches and maintenance of primary schools. Catholics too, have rightly a firm conviction that the members of religious orders and many of the secular clergy, may be relied upon to give their time gratis for the cause of higher education, and bring to their work talents, attainments and energy that cannot fail to command success. When all is said, however, it must seem regrettable that wealthy Catholics should allow an institution like the University of Ottawa to remain practically without endowment.

MINERALOGICAL LABORATORY.

Here is an institution which has received from Church and State the fullest University Powers an institution whose work is shown to be of a most satisfactory character, by all the tests by which educational results can be determined, but which is left almost wholly dependent on internal resources, though specially existing for a denomination which counts in its ranks many men of wealth. Scholarships are needed, debts remain to be wiped out, existing departments might be strengthened and there are departments which it is highly desirable to add—very particularly a Medical School, for which the new Science Hall supplies many accessories.

This digression respecting the merits and needs of the University of Ottawa, will be pardoned by readers who know how real both are, and how seldom the attention of many who might feel interested has been invited to them.

To return to the new Science Hall. All the outside work was completed last fall; the building was comfortably heated during the winter, and the inside finish gradually added. Some months ago, students began doing experimental work in the new Laboratories; at the date of writing, the finishing touches are being given to all parts of the building.

The formal opening of the Science Hall will take place on Wednesday, June 19th, at two o'clock.

After the summer holidays all the regular science work of the University will be done in the new building, and it is hoped that at an early date the Chemical and Mineralogical Departments will be open to students who desire to take special courses. The least that the University expects to be able to do during the coming year, is to provide popular evening courses, experimental and theoretical, in Chemistry and Mineralogy for young men in Ottawa who desire to secure some knowledge of sciences that bear directly upon the location and extraction of the great mineral wealth of the country.

Ottawa, Ont., June 1st, 1901.