

EDUCATION AT OWENS COLLEGE, MANCHESTER.



OWENS College is an institution which Manchester people may well regard with pride in its usefulness. It owes its foundation to an act of remarkable liberality on the part of one of their most successful fellow-citizens, Mr. John Owens, who died on the 29th of July, 1846. By his will, Mr. Owens left about £100,000 to found an institution for instructing young men in the usual branches of University education, "as they were then, or as they might be in the future."

At the same time he stipulated that neither the students nor their teachers should be required either by declaration exacted from them, or by the matter or mode of the instruction, to submit to any test of their religious opinions. The first session of the College commenced on the 12th of March, 1851, the classes being held in a spacious dwelling-house in Quay Street.

The institution might have ended in being only a superior local school. Thanks, however, to those to whom its management was entrusted, and to the enlightened spirit of the community, it took up higher ground, and aimed at becoming a College of national importance. After it had been in existence for some years, systematic efforts were made for its extension; large sums of money were subscribed; and on the 23rd of September, 1870, the foundation-stone of the handsome new buildings, shown in our illustration, was laid by the Duke of Devonshire.

On the 1st of September, 1871, the College was re-constituted and incorporated under an Act of Parliament, the objects aimed at by the change of constitution being simply those of "placing the College, augmented by the large sums of money which had been subscribed for its extension, on a wider basis than formerly, investing its managers with legal powers which unincorporated persons cannot possess, and above all of so constituting them as to give them the character of a public representative body, in place of that of trustees of private nomination."

We have said enough now on the history of Owens College. The government is vested in three separate bodies, in addition to the President: these are the Court of Governors, the Council, and the Senate. The first, consisting of forty-two members, is the supreme governing body, to which both the others are responsible for the discharge of their functions; the second is entrusted with financial and other business of an ordinary kind; and the third organises and directs the education of the College, and superintends its discipline.

The students attending Owens College may be divided into two separate bodies, the day students and those attending the evening classes. The former, who will have our first attention, are subdivided into

regular and occasional students; the regular students being required to go through a systematic course of study in arts, science, or engineering, whilst the occasional students are at liberty to attend any classes they choose, on payment of the fees. The regular student has an advantage in point of economy: he gets a reduction on the ordinary class-fees of about one-sixth.

And here it is to be mentioned that those desiring to be admitted as students must be at least fourteen years of age, and that all who are under sixteen must pass a preliminary examination in English, arithmetic, and the elements of Latin. The College session begins early in October, and lasts till about the close of June, and is divided into the three terms of Michaelmas, Lent, and Easter.

We have said that the regular student is required to attend one or other of three courses. The first of these is the arts course, the object of which is to prepare for matriculation at the University of London, and for the degrees of B.A. and M.A. there. It is the course which should be attended by those preparing for the learned professions, or who intend to become candidates for Civil Service appointments. It is also well fitted for students whose aims in education are general rather than specific. The course extends over three years, and the total fees are £17 for the first year, £20 for the second, and £20 10s. for the third and last. For the first year the student has also two additional payments to make—£1 1s. of admission fee, and a library fee of 5s. It should be remembered that these two payments have to be made by every student on entering the College, in addition to his lecture fees.

The second course is that of science. In it the student is prepared for matriculation at the University of London, and for the degrees of B.Sc. and D.Sc. there, for the higher branches of manufacturing art, and for pursuits and professions strictly scientific. The fees amount to £17 for the first year, £15 15s. for the second, and £14 10s. for the third. In addition to the lectures covered by these fees, the second and third year students are also required to go through a laboratory course, of not less than two days per week, either in chemistry, physics, or physiology. The fee to regular students for a laboratory course of two days in the week in chemistry is £9 9s. for the session; in physics, £7 7s.

Thirdly comes the engineering course, successful attendance on which, it is stated, "will furnish a thorough scientific groundwork for the attainment of the knowledge requisite for the prosecution of the higher branches of the engineering profession." But the course "is not intended to supersede the practical training which can only be obtained in the office of a civil, or the workshop of a mechanical engineer." The total fees for the course of three years are £12 for each year. There are, however, several additional subjects

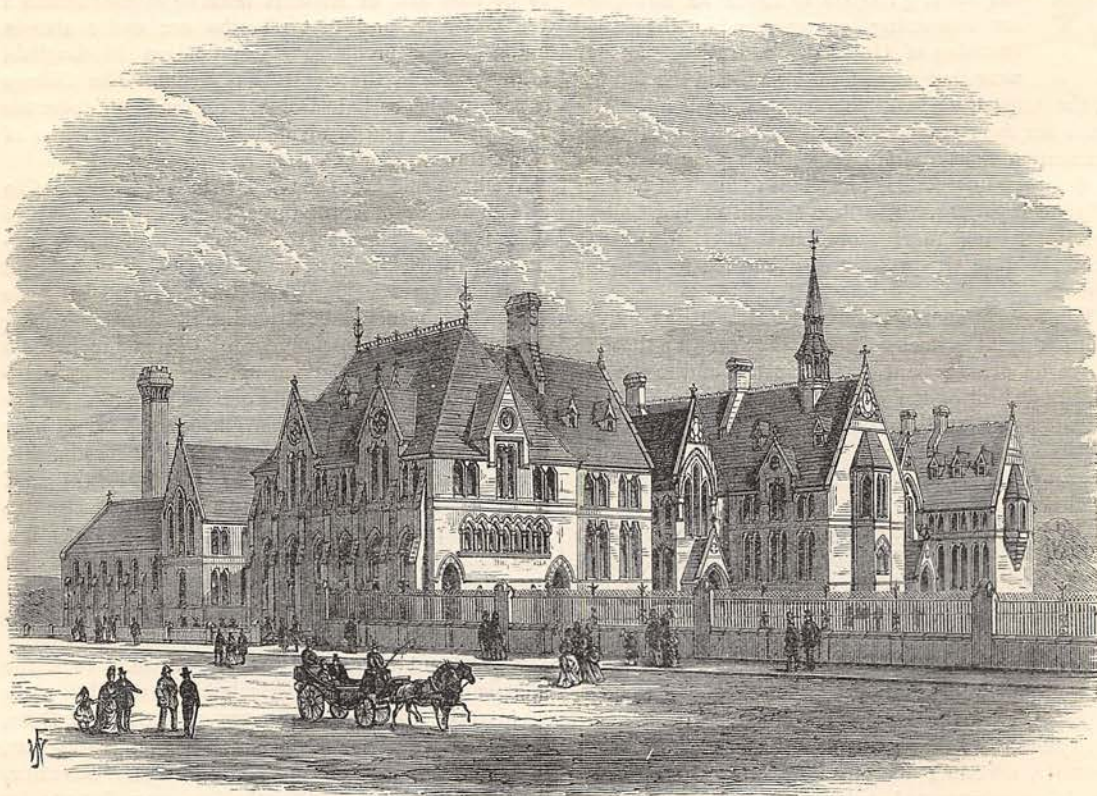
which the engineering student is recommended to attend—physics, chemistry, geology, mineralogy, a modern language, and practical surveying—and these will add considerably to the amount. Certificates in engineering are granted by the College.

It remains to be said that all students are at liberty to repeat the first or the second year's course, and must do so if required by the Principal, and that properly qualified students may enter for the second or third year's course only.

One of the strong points of Owens College is the chemical department, as one might naturally expect,

practical chemistry courses, says the *Owens College Calendar* for 1874—5, "is to make the student practically acquainted with chemical science, to enable him to conduct analysis and original research, and to fit him for applying the science to the higher branches of art, manufactures, and agriculture. To accomplish this, an attendance of not less than four days per week during three whole sessions is, as a rule, necessary."

In 1872 steps were taken to bring about an amalgamation between Owens College and the Manchester Royal School of Medicine, in point of numbers the



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considering the popularity of Professor Roscoe, under whose direction it is, and the industrial district in which the College is situated. The laboratories are about the finest, if not absolutely the finest, in the kingdom, being fitted up with every convenience for the prosecution of practical chemistry, and all branches of qualitative and quantitative analysis and original research. The fees for the session are, for six days per week £21, for four days £17 17s., and for three days £13 13s. Students may also enter for shorter periods, the fees being in proportion. Each student is provided with a separate working table, a set of tests, fuel, water, and gas, free of extra charge; but he is required to find his own apparatus, a few of the more expensive re-agents, and the chemicals required for his own experiments. The aim of the analytical and

most successful of our provincial medical schools. A healthy impetus was given to the scheme by the receipt of a donation of £10,000 "towards the establishment of a School of Medicine in connection with the College," and Owens College has now a medical department of a most promising description, housed in buildings erected expressly for the purpose. Students may, at certain fixed rates, attend any classes in the medical branch they please; but for those who wish to go through the complete course of study, we may mention that a composition fee, paid either in one sum of £48, or in two sums of £25 each, at the commencement of the first and second years of studentship, admits to the whole of the lectures required for the examinations for medical degrees in the University of London, the diplomas of the Royal College of Phy-

sicians, the Fellowship and Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Licence of the Apothecaries' Society. In addition to the composition fee, £2 2s. has to be paid annually as the medical tutor's fee.

There are several appointments open to students in the Manchester Royal Infirmary: Two senior house-surgeons, two junior house-surgeons, two house-physicians, and four physicians' assistants are selected annually. These officers hold their posts for six months, and receive board, residence, and salary, and "preference is given, as far as possible, to gentlemen who have diligently attended the practice of the Infirmary."

The evening-class department need not detain us long: its importance is much greater than its intricacy. The session begins in October, and lasts till the end of April, there being a vacation at Christmas. Among the subjects of the lectures are classical and modern languages, comparative philology, English literature and history, natural philosophy, astronomy, logic, political economy, chemistry, free-hand drawing, and harmony and musical composition. Each lecture course consists, as a rule, of twenty lectures, and the fee for each course is 10s. 6d.; besides which, new students pay an admission fee of 2s. 6d. The fee for the free-hand drawing-class is 15s. for the session, and for each division of the laboratory course (including the use of apparatus and chemicals), £4 4s.

We arrive now at the interesting subject of scholarships, exhibitions, and prizes. First on the list is the Victoria Scholarship, founded for promoting the study of the classics, and so called in commemoration of the Queen's visit to Manchester in 1851. It is of the annual value of £40, and is tenable for two years. Next is the Wellington Scholarship, of the annual value of £20, and tenable for two years, its object being to encourage the critical study of the Greek New Testament. The Shuttleworth Scholarship is "for the promotion of the study of political economy." It is of the annual value of £50, and is tenable for two years. The Shakespeare Scholarship is tenable for the same length of time, and is worth £40 a year; its object is the encouragement of the study of the English language and English literature. The Ashbury Scholarship is for engineers; it is worth £25 a year for two

years. Then we have the Platt Physiological Scholarships. There are two of them, each of the annual value of £50, offered in alternate years, and tenable for two years.

In memory of Professor Dalton there are two chemical scholarships, each £50 per annum, offered in alternate years, and tenable for two years; two mathematical scholarships, one senior and one junior, each worth £25 per annum, and tenable for one year; and a natural history prize, worth £15.

Besides these we may mention the Dumville surgical prize, of the value of £20; and the Shuttleworth history prize, worth £5. There are also three Manchester Grammar-School Scholarships, of the annual value of £15, each tenable for three years. These are competed for annually by the scholars of that school. We pass over some other entrance exhibitions, as they are not founded on any permanent endowment, and nothing is certain about the offer of them in future years. Special prizes are given in classics, English, political geography, and engineering.

There are several exhibitions and prizes open to evening students only. The most important of these are the Ashbury Exhibitions, two in number, of £10 each, for the encouragement of students in mechanical and civil engineering; and the Cobden prizes, one of the value of £10 and the other worth £5, to be given for proficiency in political economy or kindred subjects, to "evening students being teachers or assistant teachers in schools supported wholly or in part by public contributions."

The total number of students attending Owens College during the session 1873-4 was 1,342. Of day students in arts, laws, and science, 93 were regular, and 263 were occasional: the day students in medicine were in all 139, and of evening students there was the respectable number of 847. For some years the roll has given evidence of a steady growth in numbers, and there seems every reason to believe that this growth will continue. Altogether, the College and its arrangements impress one with the idea of vigorous intellectual life, attended by good business habits and considerable worldly prosperity. Manchester seems in a fair way of becoming conspicuous for literature and science, as she has long been for industrial activity and commercial enterprise.

ROUND THE COAST.

HOW pleasant, on a bright midsummer day,
When all the busy world is still with heat,
To fly from toiling town and dusty street,
And, putting gloomy thought and care away,
To glide with merry hearts through glittering spray,
And cleave the water in light-skimming boat;
Then, resting on the flashing oars, to float

Along the shores of some high-sheltered bay;
Or, lying still amid the sunset's gleam,
While rippling wavelets murmur music sweet,
To gaze at beauteous faces near, and dream
That from cool mossy cave and green retreat
The Naiads of some tributary stream
Have deigned poor mortals once again to greet!

G. W.