

him from the list, the Professor resolved to pass him. These "impressions of ignorance" are challenged by No. 492, a distinguished student, by-the-way, as being liable to variation from such circumstances as time of day, barometrical pressure, and so forth, and it might occur even to duller critics that in the case of other candidates the conditions mentioned by the Professor might be reversed, and the second perusal might leave a stronger impression of ignorance than the first.

But it is necessary to state exactly what happened. No. 492, already mentioned, is a most accurate, industrious, and conscientious student of Trinity College—so the Principal of the College says—and holds one of the best open scholarships there, worth £60 a year. The subject in which he was believed to be best was geology, in which he had an unusual amount of field practice, besides bookwork and attendance at Professor McCoy's lectures. An examination came on, in which he had to get at least a second-class pass in order to go in for the honour examination which began next day; and, further, if he failed to pass he would have to refund £30 and lose his scholarship as well. Professor McCoy is, contrary to the usual practice, sole examiner in the subjects on which he lectures, and the paper he set consisted of ten questions, one of which it was understood was not to count. No. 492 answered eight of those which were to count, and satisfied those to whom he told his answers that they were such as to entitle him to 80 per cent. of marks. To his astonishment, just the day before the commencement of the honour examinations he found that the only subject in which he was plucked was the one in which he was strongest—geology. There was no time to appeal to the Council, because the honour examination began next morning, so he went to the Principal of his College, Dr. Leeper, who called on the Professor, and asked if there was not some clerical error, such as mistake of numbers or the like. Professor McCoy upon this went through the papers again, "the impression of ignorance" vanished, and 492 was added to the pass-list by way of a "corrigendum." As a consequence he was let in to his honour examination, but, while he was triumphantly careering through the papers, sad troubles were brewing both for him and for the Professor. The fact was that the Professor had rectified his "impression of ignorance" in two other cases, but not by a re-examination of the papers merely. He had orally re-examined the candidates, and had amended the pass-list by adding their names to it.

This triple emendation came to the ears of the Council, and they had a meeting to consider it, and also to pass sentence on the newspapers for saying that other blunders had happened in the Registrar's office. The Bishop said the conduct of the Professor was "shameful," and others said it was calculated to cast a doubt on the decisions of the Board of Examiners in general. One of the members suggested that the way to remove the slur on the University and at the same time to do justice to the candidate was to submit the papers in all three cases to other impartial and competent persons, but this proposal was most severely condemned. The meeting resolved with only one dissentient that the Professor, having acknowledged his first

estimate to be correct—exactly what he had not done—the list was to stand as it was, and No. 492 as well as the other two unfortunates were to be plucked. The indignation of the Council was so appeased by declaring the candidates plucked that it only occurred to them towards the close of the sitting to condemn the Professor, which they did. They also listened to a general denial from the Registrar of the blunders mentioned by the newspapers, and proceeded to pass a unanimous resolution that there was no evidence of such blunders, and that the Council was quite satisfied with the Registrar's office. It was quite true that there was no evidence before the Council of these accusations, but one reason of that might be that they had not asked for it. One of these accusations, coupled with the answer to it, was interesting. A newspaper had said that a student was just going to put on his gown to have a medical degree publicly conferred on him when he was told that he had not passed. This, the Registrar said, was wholly untrue. The fact was that the returns only came in at the last moment, and the student was premature in thinking that he had passed. There does not seem very much difference here between the newspaper and the Registrar, but the Registrar's account makes the matter a good deal worse than the journalist did. The public conference of degrees was fixed for the afternoon of Saturday, and the practical examination in surgery was fixed for noon the same day, because "no body could be got except at the last moment." Twenty-three men were then, as Dr. Fetherston said, "galloped through the examination in operative surgery in one hour and forty-five minutes. They could not have selected the instruments for the operations." This, said the doctor, was the greatest disgrace that ever happened at their medical examinations. No one would of course suggest that there should be any undue haste in "finding a body," a proceeding which might with humanity be postponed even beyond "the last moment;" but it is easy to imagine the chagrin of the budding medico who, expecting to receive his degree in public at 2 p.m., suddenly discovered his treatment of the newly found body declared unsatisfactory at 1.45. The newspaper, on the contrary, must be grateful to the Registrar for confirming its statement, and going on to give the precise circumstances which made the statement substantially correct.

Such, then, were the resolutions of the Council, such the justice which they meted out to the promising young student, and so did they dispose of the complaints of the Press. The Professor having distinctly explained with reasons that No. 492 deserved to pass, and having amended the list accordingly, it was extremely cruel to deprive the candidate of the position which had been publicly accorded to him without any further enquiry. If the Council were satisfied with the Professor's second and final estimate, why not let the candidate have the benefit of it? If they were not satisfied, why not have the papers inspected by other examiners before publicly disrating No. 492? The candidate is said to have an appeal to the visitor open to him, and will probably avail himself of it; in