

HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

During the previous year the horticultural course has been greatly strengthened, and is now undoubtedly one of the best in the South. As a result, the number of students taking up the course has increased 100 per cent over that of last year.

The department has sustained quite a loss in the resignation of A. M. Ferguson, assistant professor, who now occupies the position of assistant professor of botany in the University. However, we expect to secure the services of a man from Cornell. For the present, Mr. F. Kamp McGinnis, a graduate of last session, has the place of student assistant and is actively at work.

Last July the campus department was turned over to the horticultural department by the board. A skilled gardener and graduate of the famous Shaw Botanical Garden, of St. Louis, Mo., has been appointed foreman, and under the direction of the horticulturist will devote especial attention to the work of beautifying the campus grounds.

Near the close of last session a cannery was established, the work in it being done to a great extent by cadets. The fruit canned will furnish the delicacies on the bill of fare at the Hotel de Sbisca for the coming year. Quite a considerable amount of fruit was put up by the cadets—but not all in cans!

AN IRISHMAN'S LETTER.

City of Cork, Sept. 29, 1868.

Dear Nephew: I haven't sent ye a lether since the last time I wrote ye, for we hev moved from our former place of living, and I could not, for the soul of me, tell where a lether would find ye. I now with pleasure take me pin in hand to inform ye of the death of yer only living unkle Kilpatrick, who died very suddenly afther a lingering sickness of seven weeks. The poor man wasn't well tin days during the whole time of his confinement. He lay perfectly spacheless and quiet, entirely, talking incoherently all the time, and crying for wather. I am at a loss to know the disease he died of, but I fear that it was his last sickness; but be that as it may, as soon as he breathed his last the doctors gave up all hope of his recovery.

His property, which was considerable, ye know, devolves upon his next of kin; and now, Barney, ye know, ye haven't a living relation in the wide world except

it's meself and yer two cousins, and they were kilt in the late war; and I expect it will be equally divided between us; and now, Barney, ye know, ye will get two-thirds of the whole, and he left a fine estate, which was sold to pay his debts, and the balance he lost upon a horse race; but it was the candid opinion of all the ladies present that he would hev won the race if the horse he ran against had not been too fast for him. Poor man; he'll never wield the sprig of shilaly again, an amusement in which he took such great delight.

I will now buckle on your unkle's coat of arms, and beg of ye not to break the sale of this lether for four or five days afther ye recave it; for by that time ye'll be bether prepared for the mournful tidings.

All the relatives hev for many years enjoyed good health, and I hope ye may do the same. From your unkle,

PATRICK O'HARRAGAN.