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New system of exams for medical colleges

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The medical colleges of the country are going to introduce a new system of examination from January 2, next year.

The new system, suggested by a group of teachers, after a year-long study of the pros and cons, calls for holding three examinations in January, May, and September each year.

It will replace the existing professional examinations at the end of each year, and is expected of removing the cum-

bersome procedure of holding supplementary examinations for unsuccessful candidates.

Many in the medical colleges feel, the new system would do away with the prevailing anomalous situation in matter of taking examinations. All the eight colleges would take examination on the same schedule under the new system and students would no more have to stay in the colleges for six years for the 5-year course.

Under the new system the duration of each examination would be shortened to four weeks, except the final-year examination which will have a duration of five weeks. The results of the examinations would be announced within ten days from the completion of the examinations.

At present in the absence of any strict rule, announcement of results of examinations is sometimes delayed for months. Sometimes it is due to lack of cooperation and coordination between teachers of the medical colleges and the examination authorities of the universities. Even tabulation of marks a minor work in the whole process take months.

Under the new system a student who fails to pass in a paper in one particular examination will be able to appear

in the same paper in subsequent examinations.

The new system would also eliminate the practice of taking supplementary examinations. Passouts would no longer suffer from the mention that had so far been made in their certificates if they passed in a paper by supplementary examination. All certificates would be treated as regular certificates and passouts would no more face the difficulty in obtaining jobs at home or abroad.

The teachers who suggested the new system of examinations taking in the medical colleges also gave thoughts if they could go for introducing semester system examination, now in operation in the University of Dacca.

But a deeper look into the question raised doubts whether semester system was practicable in the medical colleges. This is because the students who are to study the human body as a whole cannot learn fifty per cent of it at one time and the remaining fifty per cent at another. For instance, the subject of at the first professional MBBS examination is anatomy and physiology, and a student cannot but appear at the examination only after completing his study of the six re-

gions of the human body, by gather full knowledge of anatomy.

The current final-year students of the medical colleges will be first to benefit from the new system when it will be introduced in January next. However, the success of the proposed system would depend much on the sincerity of those related to its execution.