

The University Reporter.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY.

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No. 2

SOME CONSOLATION.

This is a cheerless, gloomy day;
The trees are stripped of every leaf;
The shapeless clouds are gray with grief;
The sun withholds his genial ray;—
Yet well I know that this display
Of nature's sorrow will be brief;
That brighter days will bring relief
And chase the present gloom away.

To-day my friend withholds his hand
And passes with averted eyes,—
He thinks my theories but lies—
My stronger faith a rope of sand;
But sometime he will understand
Eternal truths he now denies,
Or, taught by time, will sympathize
With those not bound by his own band.

To-day I am annoyed by "sin"—
The peace-destroyer of the soul,
The foe that slips the fine control
Of holy nets that people spin;
But well I know that what has been
And what may yet be Evil's role
Is necessary to the whole—
The perfect Whole that shall be seen.

C. S.

THE PRICE OF TRUTH IN THE FORMATION OF OPINIONS.

BY JOHN J. HAMILTON.

"How can we find the truth?" is a question which every historical age has asked, and, in its own way, attempted to answer. The question is repeated to-day; and never was it the honest utterance of so many lips. It is a momentous question; for it involves in its answer the solution of some of the most important problems. It can never cease to be a timely question; for no age can inherit so much truth that it can afford to abandon the inexhaustible mines that are always left. And whatever may be said of the future, surely the present age, enlightened and advanced though it is, would not be true to itself and the future if it should fail to ask itself the old, old questions: What is the truth? Where and how shall we find it? How are we to know and prove it?

As this is so, any inquiry into the nature of the mental and physical laws whose operation tends to keep men under the hateful dominion of error, cannot fail of being interesting. Nor is the problem incapable of at least a

proximate and practically valuable solution; but it must be approached in perfect candor and with eyes open to the existence and importance of laws which do exist and do enter largely into it.

As a rule, when a man begins really to think for himself, he finds himself already an ardent supporter of opinions which are not peculiarly his own, but which are, in spite of this, a natural outgrowth of his character and the character of his times. These opinions are the necessary effect of the operation upon him of causes which have determined the bent of his mind and, at the same time, moulded into similar shape and turned in the same direction the collective mind of his times. The beliefs of mental childhood are thus a tolerably reliable index to the prevailing mental tendencies. As such, and because they are the best expression that we have of the deeper instincts of a generation, they must have some foundation and are, to say the very least, a proper and interesting subject for scientific investigation. But if it is presumable that they are partly true, it is equally presumable that they are partly false. Truth is a vast pillar of which men can see only the surface, and only a little of that at a time. Slowly passing around, I might almost say *along*, its immeasurable base, the world forgets or but dimly remembers the most that it leaves behind, sees but imperfectly and relatively the little that it does see, and all the while keeps shouting that it never can and never will see any more.

As the original opinions of the mass of men are thus limited by an iron necessity to a narrow scope, the widening of their intellectual horizon must depend on the exertions of a few, and is practically conditioned upon the success of independent thinkers in reaching reliable conclusions, and then impressing upon their age the truth which is the fruit of their investigations, making their own opinions the living moving creed of their time. Leaving out the latter condition (as we may on account of its minor importance), our subject narrows itself to the question: What difficulties hinder the progress of independent thought?

I have remarked that when one first dons the intellectual toga he finds himself entirely at one with the opinions which happen then to prevail. If he now accept the skeptical dogma that these opinions are from the necessities of the case only partly true and only the veriest fraction of the sum total of knowable truth and that they ought, therefore, to be brought and held to the test of the most searching criticism, he may be said

to have taken one step towards a true intellectual life. But the first step is not the most difficult and the road never becomes easy. At that point in a man's life when he begins to doubt the absolute truth of the received beliefs, one or the other of two opposite tendencies is almost sure to discover itself in his mind, and, if not checked and controlled, to ruin or greatly damage his intellectual prospects. One is a tendency to be hurried by the very impulse which first set him to thinking, and stimulated by the excitements and the pride of controversy into wholesale opposition to all popular beliefs. The other is a tendency to be driven back by the first considerable difficulties or defeats into utter mental apathy and tame acquiescence with contemporary opinion, content in the world's history to be a mere effect. The true course for the thinker is to avoid both these extremes and, if possible, to grasp and combine in one system all the truth which is discoverable from both these and as many more points of view as he can make his own. But this is hard work. It is no easy or pleasant task to sit in impartial judgment upon one's own opinions. It is a painful thing to throw down and break the idols that we have long fondly worshiped and kneel to others that we have fairly abhorred. It is yet more painful and less satisfactory to reject and deny them all and to see and remember, and act as if they were all but wood and stone—only idols. The travail which precedes the birth of a broad original generalization is a pleasurable agony but none the less an agony; for successful mental labor is the painful expenditure of force which there are always strong temptations to let lie unused.

But, after all, these hardships in the thinker's own mind will bear no comparison with others, external in their nature, which meet him and vex and discourage him at every step. In tracing, thus far, the thinker's course, we have followed him from entire sympathy with his age, into at least partial antagonism to it. Now the changes which have gone on in his mind have not been accompanied by equal changes in the mental life of the world. Both, indeed, have shifted their positions, but his change of ground has been a direct logical process, individual and rapid; that of the world hardly more than physical, at least unconscious and hence slow. His present position relatively to that of the world is thus about the same as if the world had stood still, and the enthusiasm which, in his breast, has given place to the calmness of philosophical inquiry, still beats in the heart of the world and shows its vitality there in a passionate longing for world-wide unity of creed. We must not be surprised if we find that in the only course which can lead him to real success he must contend against the determined opposition of the representatives of this principle. And so indeed we shall find it. The desire for unity preceded and did much to make possible the vast spiritual empire of the medieval church. That venerable institution was discerning enough to perceive, and shrewdly practical enough to control for her own pur-

poses, the powerful current of human force which had its principal source in that over-mastering passion, and at her bidding the first timid utterances of independent thought were thrust down the thinker's throat by the rude hand of physical force. For centuries then the fear of the coarse, brutal infliction of physical pain deterred men from giving open expression to opinions which could not be made to square with the universally professed doctrines of the church. Physical force was a vigilant taskmaster, but while it lashed one disobedient slave ten others arose against it and bound it hand and foot.

We are so fortunate as to live in a more liberal age, an age which is reaping some of the first fruits of that victory. The vast sheet of ice which for ages shut in and froze and by its cruel weight crushed human thought was too weak to resist the pressure of the living, quivering, mighty force beneath it. It burst with the fearful explosion of the Protestant Reformation. And yet the contest remains substantially the same. The universal orthodoxy of the Middle Ages has with many of its attendant evils, indeed disappeared. But the world has yet to unlearn its old folly of believing that any one creed in Politics, Philosophy, Science, or Religion may have a monopoly of the truth in its own department; and that fanatical, intolerant desire for unity of opinion—the irrational longing to have the whole world agree with us whether we are right or wrong, though limited in its operations to narrower fields still holds much of its old power and is often able to direct against the independent thinker, its deadliest enemy, a current of popular hatred quite as damaging and quite as effective as the torch and the dagger of the Middle Ages.

Thus is the price of Truth to day the same which that bright, priceless gem has always brought in the world's market. That price is PAIN. If we would know the Truth we must suffer for it: suffer the pain of thought itself, no little pain; suffer the pain inflicted by the opposition which all real independence is sure to encounter; suffer the pain which comes with the loss of the laurel and crown which are often the easy wages of falsehood and infidelity to conviction. But of this thing the thinker may always rest assured: that the principle against which he has to fight, that principle which for hundreds of weary years held the bulk of civilized men in a grasp of iron and by its cruelly vindictive and blindly tyrannical policy drove the rest, by far the nobler part, into entire though alas! often too silent opposition, can withstand only a limited amount of real, honest, manly opposition; and that every effort in good faith put forth against it is so much done towards ridding the world of its hateful presence and substituting for it a principle more rational, more beneficent, more consistent with the true weal of mankind: the principle of perfect, absolute and universal toleration.

IOWA CITY, Oct. 28, 1876.

A LAW OF THE PROCESS OF EVOLUTION

BY B. F. HOYT.

[From the proceedings of the Franklin Club.]

Most people vaguely believe that rapidity of growth is accompanied by imperfection of development. If a solution of any substance be rapidly boiled to dryness, the crystals are small and distorted; if the same solution be slowly evaporated, the resulting crystals are comparatively large and well formed.

Again, if a liquid solidify, the slower the process of cooling the larger and more perfect are the resulting crystals. Thus the phenomena of crystalization conform to the alleged law. Among plants, the oak is as renowned for its slowness of growth as for its length of life; its wood is tough and durable. On the other hand the soft-wooded poplar and bass-wood display a rapidity of development that is only equaled by the quickness of their decay. Early harvest apples decay almost as soon as ripe; while late fall apples—having a longer time for development—often remain sound all winter. Many other like facts in regard to plants come within the scope of every one's experience.

The facts of Paleontology quite clearly prove that orders of animals, arising in past time, have been long lived and highly developed in direct proportion to the slowness of their evolution. Quick growing animals, in general, are less hardy and long-lived than those of a slower growth. The cow and horse attain maturity in about five years, and live on an average not more than twenty. Men grow for two decades, and besides displaying vast mental superiority over the brutes, often maintain their existence for three score years. Negroes attain maturity at an earlier age than do the Arabs, and the Arabs require less time for their growth than do the English. So it seems that the inferiority of the African and Asiatic races is accompanied by an early and rapid development.

The average length of life of six hundred eminent men of modern times has been found to be sixty three years. The few prodigies of whom I know any thing have lived, on an average, only twenty years. It appears that great men as a class are as characteristically long-lived as prodigies are short-lived. The average age of our nine greatest leaders, when they came to the surface in the late war, was forty-three years. The youngest of the nine had attained an age of thirty-two. During that war opportunities for rising to eminence were abundant. It is fair to presume that there were many developed and ambitious *young* men in the national armies; but why did they not rise above mediocrity? In general the only assignable reason is that they could not make headway against their older and more slowly developed competitors.

If we turn our attention from individuals to combinations of individuals, we shall find here also that rapidity of development is very generally accompanied by poor organization. It is a matter of common experience that quickly formed friendships are apt to be

less lasting than those of a slower growth. To some extent, friendship is the basis of all human combinations, consequently, they obey the same law. The Free Masons have been slowly organizing for a great length of time; in this country they now number about 600,000, and are constantly increasing. On the other hand, the Grangers, originating about fifteen years ago, have developed rapidly; there are now about 300,000 Grangers; but already they have almost or entirely ceased to increase in number.

Perhaps the crowning illustrations of this general truth are to be found in the rise and fall of nations. In this connection, history furnishes several examples; but it will be sufficient to cite the most illustrious. In a quarter of a century, the Macedonians under Philip and Alexander established their government throughout most of Asia, in Greece and in Egypt. In less than three hundred years, the Macedonian Empire came to an end. The Roman power required four centuries for its development; it attained to a more extensive dominion than did its predecessor. From the beginning of its conquests, the Roman government maintained its existence for sixteen hundred years. It is perhaps unnecessary to cite more illustrations of this law, but it seems important to put the generalization in its most abstract form. If the change from the indefinite homogenous to the definite heterogenous be relatively rapid, the resulting product of evolution will, in general, be relatively imperfect. Or in general, the curve that represents the rise and fall of Definite Heterogeneity is symmetrical.

HINDRANCES TO PROGRESS.

The many brilliant epochs that mark the path of progress along the track of time, have been preceded by centuries of toil, slowly evoking order from chaos, light from darkness, strength from weakness. They have often been followed by long years of confusion and gloom, until men have been compelled to lay anew the foundations of their advancement; and to human agency must be attributed much of the evil resulting from the loss of the vantage-ground gained by sweat of brow and weariness of brain.

Ancient Greece and ancient Rome, from rude beginnings, reached a high degree of civilization. Learning and the arts prospered; schools of philosophy flourished; they were adorned with temples, and the temples with statues. But a host of barbarians from northern Europe cross the Alps, and Grecian and Roman civilization is devoted to destruction. Temples and statues, aqueducts and Appian Way, their learning and their arts, disappear, and the shadow goes backward on the dial of progress ten centuries.

Where the Nile finds its outlet to the sea, once flourished a city renowned for her attainments in literature. Thither the youth of that age flocked for instruction, and among her treasures was an extensive library. But

the Moslem horde spread over Egypt; and the caliph Omar, with the insane remark, "If these writings of the Greeks agree with the Koran, they are useless, and need not be preserved; if they disagree with it, they are pernicious and ought to be destroyed," dooms the Alexandrian library to the flames.

To-day we toil laboriously among ruins, and endeavor to read partially defaced inscriptions, seeking to unlock mysteries to which its alcoves undoubtedly hold the key. Not alone the ravages of time, but the destructiveness of man in past ages, has been a mighty hindrance to human progress. Ruskin writes:

"Fancy what Europe would be now, if the delicate statues and the temples of the Greeks,—if the broad roads and massy walls of the Romans,—if the noble and pathetic architecture of the middle ages, had not been ground to dust by mere human rage. You talk of the scythe of Time, and the tooth of Time: I tell you, Time is scytheless and toothless; it is we who gnaw like the worm—we who smite like the scythe. It is ourselves who abolish—ourselves who consume: we are the mildew, and the flame, and the soul of man is to its own work as the moth, that frets when it cannot fly, and as the hidden flame that blasts where it cannot illumine. All these lost treasures of human intellect have been wholly destroyed by human industry of destruction; the marble would have stood its two thousand years as well in the polished statue as in the Parian cliff; but we men have ground it to powder and mixed it with our own ashes. The walls and the ways would have stood—it is we who have left not one stone upon another, and restored its pathlessness to the desert; the great cathedrals of old religion would have stood—it is we who have dashed down the carved work with axes and hammers, and bid the mountain-grass bloom upon the pavement, and the sea-winds chaunt in the galleries."

No greater hindrance to individual progress among the masses can be found than the tendency to overlook or neglect the opportunities for improvement we have. No one is so weak, but that he persuades himself he is so because of the lack of opportunity; and so, disregarding or despising the means of advancement he has, he idly dreams of those he has not, or vainly wishes for them.

"There are two little songsters well known in the land,
Their names are 'I have' and 'oh had I;'
'I have' will come tamely and perch on your hand,
While 'oh had I' will mock you most sadly."

There is no dearth anywhere of means of advancement. The art of printing has brought splendid opportunities within our reach. The things we see and handle every day, let us examine ourselves on these, until we realize how broad a field is before us in them, and how small a portion of it we have traversed.

All about us nature presents a teeming, attractive page, illuminated with leaf and flower, affording ample provision for exercising and strengthening every faculty we have. She spreads before us a vast array of facts,

and teaches many wonderful and instructive lessons. We may read the records of pre-historic times in her rocks, learn social science from the busy ant, form and color from her myriad objects, and "unwritten music" from her myriad voices.

An intimate acquaintance with the works of nature around us, is desirable in the interests of æsthetic culture. The most highly cultivated nation of ancient times glorified nature, personifying it; and her artists wrought under the inspiration of the idea. Some one has said, if a Greek artist had wished to represent Niagara Falls, or the Mississippi, or the Hudson River, he would not have copied the landscape; but he would have deified it, and would have represented it in the likeness of a perfect man or a perfect woman. That man has attained a good degree of culture, who has become so thoroughly conversant with the things that every day his eyes behold and his hands handle, that he sees the inanimate world as almost instinct with life, and looks reverently on all about him. The Jew, in Longfellow's "Tales of a Wayside Inn," could not have been other than a man of refinement.

"The Jew replied with solemn air,
'I said the Manichean's prayer.
It was his faith—perhaps is mine—
That life in all its forms is one,
And that its secret conduits run
Unseen, but in unbroken line,
From the great fountain-head divine
Through man and beast, through grain and grass.
How'er we struggle, strive, and cry,
From death there can be no escape,
And no escape from life, alas!
Because we cannot die, but pass
From one into another shape:
It is but into life we die.

"Therefore the Manichean said
This simple prayer on breaking bread,
Lest he with hasty hand or knife
Might wound the incarcerated life,
The soul in things that we call dead:
'I did not reap thee, did not bind thee,
I did not thrash thee, did not grind thee!
Nor did I in the oven bake thee!
It was not I, it was another
Did these things to thee, O brother;
I only have thee, hold thee, break thee.'"

So long, then, as we have not exhausted the store of knowledge the books within our reach afford; so long, then, as even a superficial examination of our attainments shows us we know almost nothing about the things with which we daily come in contact, let us conclude, if we are ignorant and uncultured, "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves."

Undue haste is a foe to lasting progress. It results from short-sightedness. As a general rule, time is an important element in all enduring work. Nearly three and a half centuries were consumed in the construction of St. Peter's church in Rome; but we have one of the noblest specimens of architecture the world has ever seen. Lorenzo Ghiberti constructed two doors of bronze, for the baptistry at Florence. To the former

he devoted twenty-two years of his life; to the latter, sixteen. Thirty-eight years—more than half the allotted three score and ten of man's life—bestowed on two doors of bronze! But so beautiful were his conceptions, and so exquisitely were they wrought, that Michael Angelo declared that they "were worthy to be called the gates of Paradise." (—)

ORATORICAL CONTEST.

The third annual meeting of the Iowa Collegiate Association occurred in Cedar Rapids, Thursday Nov. 2d. The convention met at 10 o'clock A. M., and transacted such business as would naturally come before it. That which will interest readers of the REPORTER is the names of the newly elected officers, and the place of the next meeting. The officers elected are: W. A. Helrell of the Agricultural College, Prest.; E. H. Ashmun, of Tabor College, Vice Prest.; Miss Hattie J. Parker, State University, Sec'y; J. E. Robertson, Upper Iowa University, Treasurer. Delegates to Inter-State Convention are: J. H. Applegate, Central University; J. S. Dey, Cornell College; S. E. Wilson, Simpson Centenary College. Mt. Pleasant was chosen as place for next contest. Oskaloosa College and Western College were admitted to membership.

At 8 o'clock in the evening the contest in oratory took place. After prayer by Dr. King, Pres't of Cornell College, the first oration on the programme was delivered by R. B. Hassell, of Iowa College. Subject—American Statesmanship. While the thought was, perhaps, not so good as the best, the style of composition was clear, and, so far as mere delivery is concerned, he surpassed every other speaker of the evening. His gestures were graceful, in keeping with the thought; his voice under perfect control, his position on the stage easy and natural. His one defect was lack of animation.

The next oration, "The Politician," was given by Mr. John McCammon, of Iowa Wesleyan University. This gentleman is a vigorous thinker, a fair writer, and, with practice, will be a forcible and entertaining speaker. Some of his sentences were spicy, and as they were uttered, elicited applause from the audience.

E. H. Ashmun, of Tabor College, with "Liberty of the Mind" as his subject, came next. His thought was good, but rather common-place. He has a good voice, which will improve with culture; his appearance was not graceful, and his gestures were mechanical.

"The Power of Poetry," was the theme chosen by L. E. Spencer, of the State Agricultural College. This oration was not well written; too diffuse. The connection was broken and the labor required from the listener to bridge over the chasms detracted from the effect. The delivery was inclined to be monotonous. Mr. Spencer has a weak voice, which, of course, is to his disadvantage.

The fifth oration on the programme, "The Way of Success," was rendered by F. M. Abbott, of Cornell College. It was a thoughtful production, ranking third according to the markings of the judges. In style of composition it was clear, logical and forcible, while the delivery was adapted to the thought and its expression.

"Faith and Doubt as Motors of Action," was next given by S. F. Prouty, of Central University. This gentleman has the honor of representing Iowa in the Inter-State contest to be held next May in Madison, Wisconsin. Any comment upon his production would add nothing to the distinction already conferred upon him. We may, however, remark for the benefit of REPORTER readers that Mr. Prouty has written a good oration; and while he does not make that impression upon an audience which a more lively, enthusiastic speaker would create, yet with studious effort toward improving a naturally powerful voice, and with due care for gesticulation and graceful bearing; he will fittingly and honorably represent Iowa in the Inter-State contest.

Next came S. E. Wilson, of Simpson Centenary College, having for a subject, "Our National Pillar." Mr. Wilson is possessed of an enthusiastic temperament, and in his oration gave evidence of this fact. We consider him to be the most natural orator who spoke. His production was a popular one, written in a style that permitted of an eloquent delivery. His eulogy of the Press was refreshing and particularly so to an editor.

The last oration was pronounced by Mr. John J. Hamilton, State University, whose subject was The Price of Truth in the Formation of Opinion. It may be presumption on our part, it may be because we are prejudiced in Mr. Hamilton's favor, it may be that we do not show due respect to the decision of the honorable judges; yet we cannot let the opportunity pass without saying, that in our youthful judgment, this oration was the best of the eight. From the first sentence of the exordium to the last sentence of the peroration, it was full of thought. Not one ambiguous passage is to be found in the entire production, but pervading the whole is a compact, logical train of reasoning expressed in concise and perfectly intelligible language. His delivery was in harmony with the character of the production; straight-forward, manly and forcible. It may not be out of place, and it is but simple justice to Mr. Hamilton, to here state the circumstances under which he appeared. On the Wednesday preceding the date of the contest Mr. Hamilton was persuaded to enter the home contest. It was with reluctance that he gave his consent, and on Saturday, October 28th, he finished re-writing an old oration, and on the following Monday delivered it before the judges here at home. So he had less than one week to re-write, commit and rehearse his oration before his appearance in the State contest. Under these circumstances his friends have reason to be proud that he stood second on the list at Cedar Rapids.

The average of the orations was above the average

of any former contest. Music was interspersed through the programme, which added to the enjoyment of an enjoyable and profitable entertainment.

Rev. Stephen Phelps, of Vinton, one of the judges, gladdened the heart of the Treasurer of the Association by presenting him with five dollars at the close of the contest. A generous gift, small in amount, yet valuable because of the spirit prompting it.

As regards Mr. Hamilton's fine oration, published in the present issue of the REPORTER, we were somewhat amused to find that a Cedar Rapids' critic got the impression that the speaker "knows, and we know he knows, the *The Price of Truth is the Formation of Opinion.*"

As Mr. H. is a remarkably distinct and impressive speaker, it seems scarcely possible that even a penny-a-liner of the most modest rank could be found to write such nonsense as is found in the would-be critical notice that appeared in the Cedar Rapids Daily Republican. This notice was re-published in an Iowa City paper, and hence read, we suppose, by many students. It may be necessary, therefore, to call attention to what Mr. H. really said, viz: that the price of thought is *pain*. Our critic illustrates the truth of this remark. Were it not that the silliness of the critic is amusing rather than exasperating, such a criticism would be indeed a very great pain inflicted on the thinker who was so imprudent as to express his honest conviction.

We heard Mr. Hamilton speak his oration here, before he had gone through any special training, and were struck with his great power of impressing his thoughts on the audience. As our critic affirms that Mr. H. is flexible in expression, a voice persuasive—that he is "tangible" and "an independent thinker," and that "we assent," we need only add, that if such a speaker, with such an oration, was marked *second* by the Judges, this would have been only, either because the oration that received the first prize was really a marvel of eloquence and logical thought, ———, or that the judges resembled our critic. The successful candidate is described as "a Sphinx." "We look at him, he is not readable." Must we say we are sorry Mr. Hamilton did not look like a Sphinx, and that he was readable? E.

Cornelius Vanderbilt has carried his donations to Vanderbilt University up to a round million! Now let prayers be offered there that no student may imitate his faults, and no University eulogist quite forget all his errors. When a millionaire does a grandly good thing his act too often "blinds the eyes" of even good men, and tempts the young to emulate all his life.

UNIVERSITY REPORTER.

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We have been very much pleased to receive several articles from our fellow students, for the present number of the REPORTER, and indulge in the hope that this indicates an increasing interest which they feel in their College paper. The communications sent in by members of the Faculty and Teachers who are kind enough to write, are interesting to us all, but it is undoubtedly true that a student's paper ought to be made up mainly of articles written by students. The editors should not be under the necessity of writing all, or even a large proportion of these articles. In common with the rest, we have to meet the requirements of a full course of study, which leaves us little leisure for composition.

Assist us then, fellow students, in making your paper interesting and attractive. Bring to our Reporter box, short contributions on any subject related to our sphere of life or thought. Also whenever you happen to have an item of news in reference to former students of the University, note it down at once, and drop it into our box. Said box will be found in Central Hall, under the University clock, and *its mouth is ever open*. One thing more, if you know of a student, new or old, who is not a subscriber to the REPORTER, persuade him to hand in his name and dollar, without delay, to our financial agent, Mr. A. D. BISHOP, office in South Hall.

In the October *News Letter* we notice a request from Prof. Parker for his exact words by the use of which "Dr. Tarbox, or anybody else, could *possibly* suppose" he was unfriendly to "christian colleges," but it elicited only a shuffling, evasive reply. A candid man (even if he were not a "christian") would, instinctively, seize the final opportunity to correct or to confirm an important statement of his which is questioned, yet Pres. Magoun has permitted his charge against Prof. P. of being the "Burlington assailant" of christian colleges to stand unmodified for months, and he seems anxious to fire the denominational heart against high schools and state universities by circulating this and other equally groundless declarations. He appears to assume that his read-

ers are very stupid or very unscrupulous, and to acknowledge that the honest truth is insufficient for his needs.

STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Through the kindness of Prof. Currier, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Iowa State Teachers' Association, we are in possession of the programme for the next meeting of the I. S. T. A. Grinnell has been selected as the place and Dec. 26th-29th as the time of meeting. Every thing seems to betoken a pleasant and profitable session.

The following papers are to be presented: The School Library—Kate N. Tupper, Marshalltown. The Spelling Reform—J. K. Picket, Sigourney. Drawing in Elementary Schools—J. H. Thompson, Des Moines. Political Science in Public Schools—N. E. Goldthwaite, Boone. Footprints of the Centuries—Mrs. T. F. M. Curry, Davenport. The County Superintendency—Abbie Gifford, Marshalltown. County School Management—Helen R. Duncan. Responsibility of the School for the personal development and culture of its pupils—J. B. Young, Davenport. Curse, Cause and Cure of Text-book Change—W. H. Jameson, Keokuk. Normal Instruction, its Scope and Methods—J. C. Gilchrist, State Normal School. The Classics—the modifications demanded by recent changes in the Scientific Curriculum—T. Tobin, Tilford Academy. Plan of a Scientific Course—J. M. Mansfield, Mt. Pleasant. The proper attitude of Denominational Institutions of Learning, to State Schools—E. B. Kephart, Western College. Report of the Committee on the Unification of the School System—L. F. Parker, Iowa State University. The State and the School—Henry Sabin, Clinton. "Morals and Manners"—L. T. Weld, Cresco, Ia.

The last day will be occupied chiefly in reading and considering reports. The Central R. R. of Iowa, will return members of the Association for one-fifth fare, and the local committee hope to obtain similar terms on the other roads. Hotels reduce their rates to \$1.00 and \$1.50 per day.

Every teacher, and every one expecting to teach in the near future, should avail himself of the advantages to be derived from an attendance at the Association, during the whole session.

LITERARY SOCIETIES.—It was our intention to have made some extended remarks in the last issue, concerning the Societies, but owing to a lack of space it was impracticable to do so. And in this number it is intended to give only a general view of their workings, hoping to be able in a short time to write more at length concerning these most useful University auxiliaries. The Societies began their year's work under circumstances not the most favorable, owing to comparative fewness of numbers, and the hurry and bustle of the opening

school term. But earnest work on the part of the members soon produced a different state of affairs. Large additions to the membership have been made, and unusual activity among all, seems to prevail. There is manifested by the members an interest in society work seldom surpassed; judging from present appearances, we may safely predict for the several societies a prosperous future.

On Friday, Nov. 10th, Mr. E. McLain, a classmate of the late Prof. Mathews, delivered a eulogy on his deceased classmate before the Zetagathian Society. Before the eulogy was pronounced the following resolutions of respect were read:

WHEREAS, in the dispensation of an all wise and just God, we are called to mourn the death of our esteemed brother Zetagathian, J. C. Mathews; and

WHEREAS, we have ever found in him an earnest and intelligent member, a true and loyal friend, and a man of unblemished character and stern principles of right; therefore be it

Resolved. That in his death the Zetagathian Society has lost an honored member, the Bar a noble and conscientious advocate and the community a consistent christian gentleman.

Resolved. That we tender our heart felt sympathy to those who were related to our brother by stronger ties than those of mere friendship.

Resolved. That we present a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased, and that we request their publication in the REPORTER and the City papers.

E. P. SEEDS, }
J. F. CLYDE, } Committee.
H. BENTLEY, }

DIED. in San Francisco, California, October 22d, Mrs. KATE F. CONARD.

Mrs. Conard, formerly Miss Shepherd, was a graduate of the class of 1870, and highly esteemed by all who knew her, for her many excellent qualities both of mind and heart. After spending two years as a resident graduate of the University, she was married to Mr. Willis Conard in 1872, and together they sought a home on the Pacific Coast, and there, after a brief illness, she followed her only child to the grave. In his deep affliction her stricken husband has the heart-felt sympathy of their old friends and associates at the University. Mrs. Conard is the third member of her class who has been called away. Mr. Mathews, and Mr. Brown, of Cedar Falls, preceded her, the former last July, and the latter soon after his graduation. No other class has lost so many of its members. Being a member of the Erodolphian society, the following resolutions of respect were adopted:

WHEREAS, it has pleased Divine Providence to remove from her family and circle of loving friends, KATE SHEPHERD CONARD, a beloved and honored member of our Society.

WHEREAS, during our long association with her as members of the same society, the strength of her intellect, and the charm of her true and noble character were such as to win our most sincere respect and our warmest friendship.

Resolved. That we, the members of the Erodolphian Society

of the Iowa State University, hereby express our deep sorrow at her loss, and tender our heartfelt sympathy to her grief stricken husband.

Resolved. That these resolutions be published in the University Reporter, the City papers, and a copy be forwarded to her friends in San Francisco, California.

E. H. OSMOND, }
M. E. COCHRANE, } Committee.

Mr. N. J. BAKER, member of the Law Class, died on Tuesday, Nov. 9th, after an illness of less than a week. The infrequency of such a calamity in our University, together with the fact that Mr. Baker was a stranger to some of his classmates, added additional sadness to the event. Even before his sickness was known to many of his class, the announcement was made of his death. Mr. Baker was born in Starksborough, Vt., Dec. 21st, 1854, but came here from Edgewood, Clayton county, where he had lived for several years. During the short time he was in the Law Class, he manifested unusual diligence and interest in his studies, and whoever formed his acquaintance knew him as an earnest consistent student. The funeral services were held in the Chapel on Wednesday at 2 P. M., conducted by Pres't Thacher and Chancellor Hammond. The remarks of both were entirely appropriate. Mr. Hammond very feelingly referred to the event as being the second which had occurred in the history of the Law Department. The members of the Law Faculty, followed by the students, marched to the cemetery where the last sad rites were performed. The following resolutions were adopted by the class:

WHEREAS, it has pleased Divine Providence to remove from among us by the hand of death our class-mate N. J. BAKER.

WHEREAS, during our brief acquaintance with him as a fellow student, he has given evidence of a high character and true manhood, such as to win our respect and sincere friendship.

Resolved, That we, the members of the Iowa State University Law Class of 1877, hereby express our deep sorrow at the loss of our esteemed class-mate.

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt sympathy to the relations of the deceased.

Resolved, That we, the members of the class, will attend the funeral in a body and wear an appropriate badge of memory.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be published in the University REPORTER, the city papers, and in the paper at his late home in Clayton county, Iowa.

J. J. SEERLEY, }
H. M. HENLEY, } Committee.
C. M. GREEN.

Our genial Professor of Modern Languages, Dr. C. A. Eggert, after a five months tour in Europe, is again at his post in the University.

The readers of the REPORTER have been favored with occasional letters from him during his absence, and we hope to be able to lay before them during the present year, several articles from his ready pen, descriptive of those rich stores of Art and Literature, and those renowned Institutions of Learning which he visited.

The Professor is a native of the city of Magdeburg,

in the province of Saxony; there his father and some other relatives still live, and it was mainly for the sake of seeing them, and of looking again upon the fair face of fatherland, that he bade us adieu at the close of the winter term last year.

We doubt, however, whether many persons so fully give themselves up to hard work—when they go visiting—for besides a few days each at all the leading Universities and Museums of France and Germany, he spent two months in attendance upon the lectures on Comparative Philology and Political Economy, at the renowned University of Heidelberg, where he took the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and afterwards spent four weeks more attending lectures at the University of Paris, and in visiting the grand galleries of the Louvre.

From a view of the grand achievements that have been wrought in Europe, in the fields of Science, Literature and Art, he comes back to us, with a still warmer love for his adopted country, and a fresh zeal in the cause of popular education.

HOMEOPATHY.

The last Legislature of Iowa authorized the establishment of a Chair of Homeopathy in the Medical Department of the University, and made an appropriation for that purpose of \$2,000 per year; but the provision has not been carried into effect. The Allopaths, from the first, have been bitterly opposed to the proposition and have even threatened to sever their connection with the University, if the proposed chair should be established. That their opposition is the result of conscientious convictions, we are not prepared to deny; but they should bear in mind that there is a large class of tax-payers in the State who are patrons of the Homeopathic school, and who, justly, do not believe in class legislation. It is not right that an institution, created for the benefit of all the people, should be committed wholly to one medical system, if there is another whose practical workings are so important as to demand public support. If Homeopathy is what it claims to be, thoroughly scientific and productive of the most satisfactory results, its patrons are surely justifiable in demanding a place in the present Medical Department; or, the establishment of a new department, wholly Homeopathic.

Because of the extreme opposition manifested by the Allopaths, the Board of Regents thought that it would be better to create a new department than to carry out to the letter the provisions of the Legislature. Accordingly the Board appointed a committee of Homeopathic Physicians "to furnish a scheme upon which the Homeopathic Department may be organized separate and apart from the present department of medicine, except as to the chair of chemistry, and also to furnish the proximate expense of such Department." The committee appointed is to make a full report at the next session of the Board in March, 1877. The proposition

of the Board is to use the whole appropriation for one term, and to put the Department in operation by October 1, 1877. Hence, next year we may confidently expect two Medical Departments in the University. Judging from the history of Homeopathy in the University of Michigan, we believe that the Board of Regents have acted wisely in the matter. The jealousy of the two schools here is leading to the same result, that was occasioned in the Michigan University. The opposition in that institution was so bitter, that the State established Homeopathy as a distinct department. And, although each school there is independent of the other, their relations are still quite hostile.

At the last meeting of the State Medical Society of Michigan, "an amendment," says the *Medical Record*, an Allopathic journal, "was offered to the Constitution refusing fellowship to any graduate of the University while the present arrangement continues." In relation to the treatment of the New School the same journal says: "The extreme attitude assumed is of itself a confession of weakness, and an attempt to force conviction by arbitrary means, rather than a manly and fearless endeavor to meet the questions at issue, and discuss them with the calmness of men who desire to know the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. If we are ever going to expose the error of Homeopathy we must give it plenty of light and air. We have dignified it with martyrdom long enough. If we are not afraid of it we can afford to offer it every opportunity for proving its superiority." It is to be hoped that the severe attitude assumed by the Old School in Michigan will not be experienced here after the organization of the new Department.

It is gratifying to make mention of the effort put forth by the different churches in behalf of the students. Sociables have been held in nearly all of them, and in each case a special invitation has been extended to the students. The sociability and hospitality so generously given has been gratefully received. There are, however, many students, who, for some reason, do not feel like placing themselves in a company of strangers, and constantly absent themselves from these gatherings. Some associate but little with the big-hearted people of the city; avoid proffered hospitality and sociability; look on the dark side, especially when the purse is about empty, and then feel like reporting the citizens of Iowa City as a set of sharks, "making their living off the students." Every student needs these social influences. By means of them he is enabled to convert unpleasant facial longitude into the more desirable facial latitude, and to dispel the ponderous blues, if any he has. Whoever would pass correct judgment upon the citizens of our city should first seek these best and most cheerful associations. He will then find that there is, perhaps, no greater proportion of greed and gormandizing in our University town than elsewhere.

LOCALS.

Thanksgiving is coming.

Foot-ball is freely indulged in.

What the students lacked in recitations during election days they compensated for in politics.

Some of the boys have been ducking, but found nothing but *dears*.

The students, both ladies and gentlemen, take great interest in the election.

Several fine brick buildings have been built in the city during the summer and fall. The prospects of the new R. R. compensate for "hard times."

The Iowa City Academy seems, by its well filled catalogue, to be in a flourishing condition. A well-appointed Commercial College is associated with it. Prof. Wm. McClain is still its efficient principal.

Several of our students have formed a class in the Sunday School of the German Methodists, where they are taught in German, and thus combine religion and utility.

A new iron bridge is being built across the river just west of the University. It will, doubtless, be completed before winter. Another great improvement to Iowa City.

Chancellor Hammond desires to secure No. 1, Vol. 1, of the REPORTER. If some one of our readers can send it to him the favor will be gratefully received.

The first lecture of the Star Course will take place about the middle of December. J. B. Gough and H. W. Beecher are to be two of the lecturers.

The average age of the Senior class at the next commencement will be twenty-three and seven-twelfths years. These figures were the result of a bet, and we presume they are correct.

The Medics effected a class organization Nov. 8. The officers elected are: S. S. Lytle, President; Mr. Farrel, Vice President; J. B. Kissler, Secretary; Geo. W. Wilson, Editor.

We are pleased to notice that Prof. Philbrick has recovered from a brief illness, and is hearing his classes again.

A very enjoyable hop was that given at Ham's Hall, on the night of the 3d, for the benefit of the band. The music was excellent.

In the fourth annual contest of the Inter-Collegiate Association of Illinois, held at Evanston, Perry Baird, of the University of Chicago, took the first prize.

Prof. Pinkham has removed from his former residence in the north part of town to College Hill. The Professor has certainly chosen a very pleasant place of abode. College Hill is one of the most beautiful places in town.

The Centennial German Conversation Club re-organized on Monday evening, Oct. 30, and its members are determined to enter and, if possible, live through another

century with unabated vigor. To our chums whom stern necessity has scattered a cordial greeting.

Prof. Hinrichs now receives Signal Service Reports from nearly all the nations of Europe. He also receives reports "From Greenland's icy mountains," since the Danish have established four stations there; and expects ere long to receive like returns "From India's coral strand."

Two Seniors, B. and W., expressed their views concerning presidential candidates as follows: Said B. to W., "If Tilden is not elected I will shave off my mustache within two weeks." Said W. to B. "If Hayes is not elected I will raise a mustache within six months." They shook hands and some change is to be expected.

Several of the Professors have purchased the famous machine called the Health Lift. They claim that it is a perfect gymnasium of itself. If a gymnasium can be furnished for \$80 or \$100, would it not be well for the University to appropriate enough drill money to buy one?

While a fire was raging in town a night or two after the election, Mr. H., an ardent Republican, was aroused from his dreamy slumbers by the cry of fire! fire! Seeing the light, but not comprehending fully the import of the noise without, he said that he thought:

Hail welcome light!
Thou art the glorious dawn of Reform!

Many colleges receive contributions from individuals by bequests. As few persons die for the benefit of Universities. i. e. leave property or money for them, we have concluded that our Legislature, when making appropriations, thought to call the attention of moneyed men to the necessity of *post mortem* support for the University! If this is the case, who comes first on the legacy roll?

The new stone walk in front of the central hall is almost completed. It is an elegant and substantial affair. Without waiting for any solicitation of our advice, we would simply state to the Executive Committee, that the work should not be considered completed until the entire bogus sand and tar pavement on the University grounds is replaced by the same quality of heavy flagging.

The click of the merry balls is no longer heard at Sleeth's. His saloon has been closed. This time fire was the crusader, and did its work effectually. Tho' we glory in no man's misfortune, yet we are not sorry that a den of vice has been closed, even in this stern manner. If two score of others should share a similar fate, it would have a moralizing influence on the town.

Through the kindness of Josiah T. Young, Sec. of State, we are the recipients of three neatly bound volumes—The Census Returns of 1875; State Officers and State University, and State Institutions. These works are very carefully compiled by the Sec. of State, and contain much valuable information in the way of statistics, reports of committees, &c.

GENERAL KILPATRICK has been secured to deliver a lecture in the Chapel in behalf of the Hesperian and Zettagathian Societies. When he was last here his lecture was unanimously voted the gem of the course. The date is December 4th and his subject, "The Irish Soldier in the war of the Rebellion."

The advanced class in law is now a fixed fact. The hours for recitations are from 3 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and are held in the room directly under the law library. In connection with this fact it is well to intimate that the study of law is a difficult one, and if our Sub-freshs, Freshs, Sophs, and others have ever felt any thing like compassion for poor struggling humanity, they will refrain from making such a fearful noise while Chancellor Hammond is endeavoring to extract our very souls.

Four Laws and four Medics who are boarding and lodging at the same house, have formed a literary society which meets six times a week. The laws discuss each evening the different principles of law and illustrate the same by sham suits, and the medics treat the audience with lectures on anatomy, surgery, etc. A student from McLain's Academy has been chosen the permanent president, whose duty is to measure five minute speeches to the laws and ten minute lectures to the medics. A memorizing of discussions and lectures is treated as below the dignity of professional students, and is entirely left to the academical students of the upper societies.

A very interesting and attractive feature of the University is the State Geological Rooms. We notice that the articles have been very tastefully re-arranged, and that several important additions have been made. The collection now consists of many thousand specimens taken from the various strata in Iowa, and many rarer species from the more noted localities in other states. We notice also a large collection of shells, star fishes, corals, sponges, &c., together with many hundred mounted specimens of mammals, birds, reptiles, fishes, and many other articles too numerous to mention. An hour cannot be more pleasantly or profitably spent than in a visit to these rooms.

Already the members of the lower societies are beginning to talk about doing over their contest of last year. Each of these rival societies have long been striving for the belt. At their last contest the Symps came off victors, but the Phillos, possessing a reasonable amount of grit, are not disposed to yield the palm of victory without another struggle. From our knowledge of these societies we believe their members will be able to acquit themselves creditably. Go ahead boys and complete the arrangements for holding a joint session, and we will insure you a good audience.

If all men were compelled to continually think aloud, we should, now and then, hear some rather curious remarks, and we should occasionally see some rather lively scattering.

EXCHANGES.

The Iowa Investigator, edited by David Brant, in the interests of Temperance, is before us. It bears upon its face the impress of the Editor's earnestness. Investigator, pleasant and prosperous may be your career, and may abundant success crown your efforts in the cause you have espoused.

The University Missourian, edited by the students of Missouri State University, is well written and presents a neat general appearance. One noticeable and commendable feature of the paper is, that it contains a Ladies' Department, edited by lady students. We are pleased to notice the disposition that prevails so largely in our Western institutions, to grant ladies the opportunity of improving themselves in the various departments of a practical education.

The High School, published at Omaha, is a "Literary and Educational Journal, devoted to the interests of Public Schools." In the November number is an article, "Personal Influence in the Teacher," containing thoughts which demand the careful attention of every teacher in their consideration. It suggests to one, some of the qualifications requisite for a faithful and successful teacher. In the article, "A Fallacy too popular," are some sensible thoughts. We quote one or two expressions: "We confess to a general lack of sympathy for the people who go around sighing about their ignorance. If they have time to bemoan it, they have time to remedy it."

The Hesperian Student, is a spicy thirty-two page monthly, published by the students of Nebraska State University. The October number contains several good articles. Its neat appearance commends it to favorable notice; and we are glad to see so fine a paper sent out from the young and growing institution, Nebraska University.

The Common School, is an educational journal of much merit, published in the interests of the educational cause in Iowa, but is of such a character that it may be read with interest and profit by educators throughout the whole country. It is edited at Davenport, by Prof. W. E. Crosby, one of Iowa's most live educators, who brings with him to the editorial chair, a liberal culture, and a large experience, as is made evident by the choice selection of matter contained in each number of the paper. Prof. Parker, of the I. S. U., is an editorial contributor, and dishes up an excellent quality of University sauce for each issue. To those teaching, or about to teach, we would say, study the common sense teachings of the Common School, and govern yourselves accordingly.

We acknowledge the receipt of the following exchanges: College News Letter, Round Table, Volante, College Mercury, Yale Record, Woman's Journal, Niagara Index, Western Rural, State Press, Iowa City Republican, Iowa Investigator, College Journal, Irving Union, Under-graduate, West Branch Times, College Recorder, High School, University Missourian, Hesperian Student, Common School, Wittemberger, Malvern Leader, Aurora, Tripod, Besom, Trinity Tablet, Iowa Workman, Pen and Plow, Berkeleyan, Home Companion, University Press, Archangel, Informer, Packer Quarterly.

MARRIAGES.

Married, October 18th, 1876, at the residence of the bride's father, in Oskaloosa, Iowa, Miss RHETA FAXON, a former student of the University, to Dr. CHAN. KIMBALL, of Iowa City. They came, the same day, to their home in this city, which had been previously prepared for their reception, and began keeping house immediately. At about half past ten that evening, the band appeared before the house, and gave them a most beautiful serenade.

Married, on the 31st of October, 1876, Miss ALLIE

TANTLINGER and Mr. CHARLES BOND, both formerly students of the University.

Married, Oct. 18, 1876, Miss FANNIE PAGE to Mr. CLARK, of Des Moines, a former graduate of the Law Department.

Married, Miss MOLLIE McCOWAN to Mr. WALTER ROBERTSON, class '75.

PERSONAL.

Gustavus C. Hubner, Assistant Professor in German, last year, recently spent several days visiting the University. He started for Europe on the 11th inst. He will spend a few months in England before going to his own country. The good wishes of his friends and pupils attend him, and we hope that his expectations of returning to America may be realized.

Mr. H. S. Fairall, formerly an efficient member of the REPORTER staff and a graduate of the Law and Academic Departments of the University, is now reporting for the *N. Y. Tribune*. Mr. Fairall has pluck and energy, and his friends are pleased to hear of his connection with the great Tribune. He will visit his friends during the holidays.

'75. W. D. Tisdale is principal of the public schools in Ottumwa.

'76. Special, C. W. Converse is teaching at Avoca.

'76. Special, F. T. Call is at West Point.

Mary Shepherd is keeping books in her brother's store at Marshalltown.

Mr. A. T. Flickinger and I. N. Flickinger, both of class '75, Law '76, have gone into partnership in the law business at Council Bluffs, and are already having a good run of business.

Alice Glick is at home in Marshalltown.

'80. R. Porter is principal of the Bedford schools.

'76. Special. Miss Emma Campbell is at her home near Oasis.

'75. Special. Nathan Townsend is travelling for his health. When last heard from he was in California.

'76. Special. C. F. Peterson is in the employ of a hardware house at Alden.

Law '76. W. W. Ranney is succeeding well in the practice of law at Lansing.

Law '76. McClelland and Ingalls are attorneys at law in Des Moines.

'80. R. W. Letts, who was elected editor from the Sub-fresh. class last Spring, will not be in school this term. He is at Webster city.

'80. C. W. Doty when last heard from was at the big show, and about to start for Europe.

T. W. Parvin, class '75, Law '76, is Attorney and Counsellor at Law in St. Louis.

The Wilton schools are prospering finely under the

management of Mr. Thos. Mattison, class '73. He has been visiting his friends in the city lately.

Lou. Kauffman and her brother have returned from the Centennial.

H. H. Hiatt is publishing a paper in connection with his school.

Mr. Pollard is teaching in Kossuth.

Special '76. Dan. M. Butler is attending the law school at Des Moines.

Law '76. A. Van Wagenen is a successful practitioner at Washington, Iowa.

'80. Thos. J. Schuell is at present teaching in Des Moines, but will return here next year.

Jacob Lamb, class '75, Law '76, is practising law at Toledo.

'73, Law '75. N. W. Macy has been obliged to quit the practice of the law because of his eye-sight failing.

'76. Dr. Frank A. Xanten has located at Le Mars, Iowa.

Dr. R. J. Hart, class '76, has located at Camanche, Iowa.

'76. F. M. Ward is practicing medicine at Marshalltown, Iowa.

'76. Dr. A. Morsman has located at Red Oak, Iowa.

'76. Dr. Wm. Fitzgerald has located at De Witt, Ia.

'76. Dr. J. Brown has located at Tiffin, Iowa.

'70. Dr. Clara E. Atkinson has located at West Liberty, Iowa.

'76. Dr. Jennie McCowen has the position of assistant superintendant in Insane Asylum at Mt. Pleasant.

'76. Drs. S. L. Butler and J. S. B. Farnsworth surprised the medical class with their presence during the last of last week. We understand they both wield the sceptre of Allopathy at Muscatine.

CLIPPINGS.

HOW TO STUDY.—Much is said and written lately about the memorizing of lessons. The practice is decried by all. But in spite of them the fact remains, whether the lesson be from the text book, or from the teacher's topic book, nine pupils out of ten will endeavor to fix the words in the mind. They may be told not to do it, as is generally the case, but they do it because they have no clear conception of study.

Not one high school student in a dozen can read a topic in Natural Philosophy and gain the idea as free from the particular words of the book. The habit of retaining is so strong upon them that they cannot shake it off. Where such a pupil recites a definition, he has the book in the mind's eye; he is thinking of and following a certain paragraph on some left hand page of the book.

The pupils are not wholly to blame for this. They have never been shown the proper way in which to

study; the proper way to read; the proper way to think. Further than this, most teachers encourage memorizing work by their way of questioning. They, too, have the text-book in mind, if not before them, and their questions are so put that they draw more upon the memory than upon any other faculty.

The greatest difficulty against which teachers of the natural sciences have to contend, is the wretched habits of study the pupils bring with them from the lower schools. It is the writer's practice to devote considerable time at the beginning of these courses to the formation of correct habits of thought. It cannot be done altogether in the class room. An hour spent with a pupil over a lesson will be of far greater value than a proportional time at the lecture or recitation. They are taught to study with the understanding; to grasp the leading ideas upon which the whole lesson depends; and to bring the whole into unific form. In the class room considerable time is given to the making of abstracts, or skeletons of topics, and to the analysis of subjects into their parts. And, finally, the pupils are not allowed to lose sight of the fact that the narrower views of those subjects obtained in a short normal school course is valuable chiefly as a foundation for future study and reading.—*School Bulletin.*

One of the Seniors of Beloit College, while on a geological tour lately, wrote the following stanzas, which the class now sing to the tune of "Howe, Sweet Home."

"Midst the children of earth, or the sons of the Gods,
There is nothing so lovely as Brachiopods;
And when they are hid from the vision of man,
Prof. Whitfield will find them if anyone can.

'Pods, 'Pods, Brachiopods,
There is nothing so lovely as Brachiopods.

But a huge Trilobite in the ages gone by,
Was lovely, indeed, when he winked with his eye,
And in these latter days, the most beautiful sight
To the far-famed Prof. Whitfield's a huge Trilobite.

'Bite, 'Bite, Trilobite,
To the far-famed Prof. Whitfield's a huge Trilobite.

Harvard University has one hundred and twenty-nine Professors and Teachers, or one for every ten students.—*Targum.*

It is said that a comparatively small number of seniors at Michigan University elect to take Greek. The college paper believes that the fault lies in the requirements for admission. The average student entering college is not well enough prepared to do the work of the freshman year with a reasonable amount of labor. The result is that freshman Greek and sophomore Greek is a perpetual grind. This is undoubtedly necessary in order that students may obtain the usual knowledge of the language while in college. But it is nevertheless true that a large majority of the freshmen find the work more than they can do well in a reasonable amount of time. It must be admitted that four and five hours a day devoted to the preparation of a single study is too much time, and yet many freshmen every year do themselves the injustice of taking this much time for Greek. Now, this grinding-machine work must be intensely galling; and the consequence is that most men are glad to throw Greek aside at the earliest opportunity.—*Ex.*