

calls itself 'national.' For, where the constituency to which University College appeals, is composed of adherents of widely different, and at times conflicting faiths, it would be utterly impossible to introduce a religious element of sufficient strength and consistency to satisfy every one and at the same time be true to its name as religion. Better no religious element than an emasculated and hybrid compound of theology, which by reason of the trimmings and parings necessary to bring it into a seeming conformity both with evangelical and sacerdotal beliefs, would be little less than a name; and which, instead of being a rallying ground, would degenerate into a battle field upon which would be fought theological battles, worse than useless, and most certainly harmful in their results.

Dr. Carry seems to take it for granted that because University College is secular, therefore its president and professoriate take delight in aiding the onward march of theism, and hastening the coming of the kingdom of the Prince of Darkness. In fact, one would imagine from Dr. Carry's remarks that the staff of University College felt it their duty to do this. Those who have taken the trouble to satisfy themselves as to the illusory character of such implied charges, are best able and none the less willing to testify this to their incorrectness.

Dr. Carry takes occasion to charge Dr. Wilson with disingenuousness in regard to this question of secular *versus* religious education. But when it is remembered that Dr. Carry is a high churchman, and Dr. Wilson a low churchman, the meaning and force of this charge is as apparent as it is unworthy. We would conclude by reminding Dr. Carry that it is the duty of the Church and of the Home to do that which Education can not and should not be called upon to do. Let the church and society be faithful to their divinely commissioned charge, and there need not be any fear of 'secular' education landing us in 'dreary agnosticism.'

THE ENGLISH CURRICULUM.

We publish to-day the first instalment of a draft curriculum in English, prepared by William Houston, M.A., for submission to the Senate. The portion published, it will be seen, covers only the pass course; the portion covering the honor course will appear in the next number of the 'Varsity.'

That some improvement of the English curriculum is greatly needed has long been felt by all thoughtful students of the subject, and the shape taken by the French and German sub-departments in the new curriculum, makes the immediate consideration of the question imperatively necessary. So much any one can see at a glance, but it is not so easy to see just what form the revised course should take. We have no doubt Mr. Houston has given the matter a sufficient amount of attention to warrant him in laying his proposals before the Senate with some hope of seeing them accepted. But it would facilitate the comprehension of his scheme, and perhaps elicit suggestions for its improvement, if he would publish a statement of the precise objects he seeks to accomplish by the different changes he proposes to make.

The new curriculum looks formidable, and it certainly is both comprehensive and thorough, but some explanation is needed. A good English course is a means to an end; what end does Mr. Houston aim at, and is this particular curriculum the best way to reach it?

WOMEN AT THE UNIVERSITIES.

Five years ago Miss Charlotte Agnes Scott, the daughter of an English clergyman, was examined in the mathematical tripos at Cambridge in the final year, and stood eighth in the list of Wranglers, or would have taken that position had a woman been allowed to take a degree. At that time Miss Scott was only eighteen, and she accomplished the above intellectual feat not merely without injuring her health, but without the aid afforded by attendance at college. After the completion of her Cambridge course she held the position of mathematical lecturer at Girton, until her recent arrival in America to fill the chair of mathematics in Bryn Mawr College, a rising institution near Philadelphia. Before leaving England she took the degree of D. Sc. in London University, taking for her subject pure mathematics. In this department she has but one fellow-graduate belonging to her own sex, and that one has taken only an arts course. Miss Scott has the honor of being the second woman who has taken the London D. Sc. degree, her precursor by a few months being Mrs. Bryant, one of the staff of the North London Collegiate School for Girls. The students at Girton testified to Miss Scott's popularity there by making her a presentation of the academical robes which a London D. Sc. is required to wear.

There were 349 graduates in Michigan University at the last commencement, and in every faculty the gentler sex was repre-

sented. In law there was only one woman, but she adequately represented her sex in the matter of attainments as well as popularity. The Dean of the Law Faculty in Michigan is ex-Chief Justice Cooley, one of the most eminent of living jurists, and he has been, from the time when the question was first raised in the University, a warm advocate of the admission of women to all its privileges. The first application was made in 1870. The applicant was advised by influential members of the university not to press her request, which could not legally be refused because Michigan University, like University College, is a State institution. She persisted, however, and in spite of discouragements purposely inflicted upon her, she took the entire course and a degree. It is worthy of note that the severest ordeal she had to pass through was the social ostracism decreed against her by the women of Ann Arbor, who seemed to think that she had in some way brought discredit on her sex. The male students took a different view, however, and public opinion has become so changed that the female students are now one of the institutions of Ann Arbor society.

Literature.

KEATS.

Immortal wand'rer from the Grecian shore!
Thou who did'st lay thine heart at Nature's shrine
Breathing a noble praise in song divine,
Making melodious rhymes that sweetly pour
Enchantment like the Lesbian Isle of yore
And dreams of Dryads, amber honey, wine,
And flow'ry wreaths the white-limbed nymphs did twine,
These sadly thou did'st leave and sing no more.

In crumbling Rome, beneath Italian skies
Where memories of Virgil haunt the spot,
Thou sleep'st alone, and Time's great ruin lies
About thy grave. Young dreamer who once sought
Parnassian heights and bore a precious prize,
Thy golden reed of promise lies forgot!

PHILLIPS STEWART.

FOOTBALL.

In *Basilicon Doron*, James I., after expressing his utter abhorrence of all "rough and violent exercises," condemns especially "that of the football," as being, in his royal opinion, "far meeter for the lameing than for the making able the users thereof;" and that the gentle Solomon of Whitehall was moved to speak thus by aught else than solicitude and concern for the well-being of his loyal subjects, and care to prevent needless bumps and abrasions of the cuticle, we have no cause for believing; as in one of the minor poets of that time, he that hath eyes may yet read a genial invitation:

"To play at loggets, ix holes or x pinnes,
To try it out at footballe, or by ye shynees."

Though it appears, however, that James was content with merely damning and "counterblasting" football, using against it no other weapon than his quill, it is certain that more vigorous efforts to do away with the game were made by its earlier royal oppressors. We find Edward III. enacting that "the football chasers," like modern criminal lunatics, be "imprisoned during his majesty's pleasure." Football, it was thought, and other rough sports might be with advantage replaced by archery. The game, in those days, seems to have been very rude, there being neither goal nor side—simply an uproarious undisciplined rabble,

"With many a merry shout,
In riot, revelry and rout,
Pursued the football play,"

kicking before them a bladder partly filled with peas and horse beans; the play giving out when the crowd dwindled away from sheer exhaustion. Primitive, however, as it may appear to have been at that time, football then was, in fact, no new thing; being well advanced—although the attempts to suppress it greatly retarded its development—in its evolution from the game played by the Roman soldiery; for to their *harpastum*, or ball stuffed with flock, we may trace back the modern

"Thing of leather, heavy, round,
Wherein the wind is prisoner bound."

Is it not in the historic record—to say nothing of the not infre-