



## The College Times.

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## AMUSEMENTS AT COLLEGE.

Amusements are not very numerous at present at College, on account of the season of the year which renders nearly all out-door sports impracticable; but there are some games in which the boys can engage even in Winter, such as gymnastics, snow-balling and running. The first of these may be practised during any kind of weather, whether wet or dry, without any danger of catching cold or otherwise incurring sickness, because the gymnasium is covered and consequently very little, if any, snow or wet gets in: or a good lively game of snow-balling, when there is snow on the ground, which the sun has melted just enough to make it pack well, is one of the most healthy and refreshing exercises one could take, and if care be taken when going again into College there may be no fear of colds or sore throats: and when the snow is covered with a crust of ice, or when the day is clear and cold there can be nothing better than a good race, or a game of "Cross Tag."

Some boys there are who may be seen during recess or at noon racing across the play-ground or playing tag or engaging in any game that is suited to the weather: and these alone know how much benefit they derive from these exercises; but there are many who stay indoors during the recesses and hardly get a mouthful of fresh air from nine o'clock till three, who learn the lessons for the coming hour and do not give their overtaxed brains a moment's rest all day. Such may be known by their pale complexion, their haggard and weary looks or the sluggishness of their minds, which will not work because there is not sufficient fire in the furnace to keep up the steam, and let such be assured that as long as they continue to deprive their young brains of rest, so long will they have these distinguishing characteristics of "fags."

But look for a moment at him who gives his mind a rest of a quarter of an hour every morning and enjoys the fresh air and bodily exercises. See how ruddy he is, how ready for work, how bright and active his thoughts seem, and with what readiness he answers every question put to him during the following hours. He has kindled afresh his fire and spirit, and consequently the steam is generated which gives him power to apply his mind wholly and actively to the lessons before him.

Even supposing that it does not at the time seem necessary to take advantage of the interval allowed for bodily exercise because one may feel fresh and lively beforehand, yet it is the duty of every boy to get the benefit of the fresh air, for it does not follow that because he is lively and active in the morning that he will continue so all day, and if he does not give his mind its proper rest he will feel dull and tired before the day is out. The intermission of a quarter of an hour in the morning and the hour at noon are given to the boys as a time to recruit their mental powers, and not to afford those who were not able to study all their lessons at home—either through too great an amount of lessons, or by idling away their time which ought to be devoted to study, hoping that some fellow will go over the lessons with them at recess,—an opportunity of "fagging" their neglected lessons.

"But," some may say, "the swings and bars in the gymnasium are broken and not fit for use: so what's the use of going out and getting your hands and feet cold by walking round the gymnasium doing nothing?" (Such sort of objections are very common among the "fags"). Why, it is not the fault of the masters that the swings and ropes are broken, but the boys are to blame, for they do not take enough interest in gymnastic exercises to practise their muscles, but leave the gymnasium at the mercy of a lot of fellows who go around delighting in any mischievous act they can commit, and who break the ropes and bars without caring a cent about it. But if more interest were manifested among the boys in regard to gymnastic exercises, and those who might wish "to get their muscle up" were to exercise their influence over the harum-scarum fellows who do not care much what they do, the gymnasium would be kept in a better state, and should any ropes or bars be broken, there is no doubt but that the Principal would speedily have them replaced with new ones. But it is this negligence on the part of the boys that prevents the Principal and masters from taking a greater interest in the sports at College.

The manner in which most of the boys spend the intermissions is this:—during the quarter recess they either play tag up and down stairs, or walk round chatting, or sit around the stove in the prayer room, hurrying over the lesson for the next hour; during the noon hour those who stay in the building amuse themselves by eating their lunches, throwing the crusts at whoever may be nearest and tossing the paper with what is not eaten by them down stairs or anywhere at all, after which they engage in a game of tag up and down the stairs; but some boys have the privilege of occupying some of the masters' rooms, and there they stay the whole hour without getting a bit of exercise or a breath of fresh air in all day! Such a thing ought to be stopped as soon as possible, and the boys ought not to be allowed the privilege of rooms where they can learn their lessons—but where they can also injure their health which is of much more importance than education. The boys can just as easily as not put on their overcoats and enjoy the fresh air and be better prepared for their studies.

However, this matter is in the hands of the masters and can be stopped if they wish; but without their vote it will continue, and College will turn out a weak and clumsy lot instead of a strong, healthy and active set of fellows who would be in after years an honor to College and a benefit to our Young Dominion.

R. D. R.

## Correspondence.

## COLLEGE MARKING

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLLEGE TIMES.

SIR,—I see in your last issue that a writer styling himself "Reformer," has ventured to attack the marking system pursued at College, founding his conclusions, I presume, on a decision given in the Society on the occasion of a debate on the subject. His remarks remind me very forcibly of an old proverb that a "bad workman always complains of his tools." For when we find that those boys who come down most severely on the system, are themselves the greatest adepts at those "dodges of cheating," which the writer speaks about, it may seem that after all it is "men, not measures" that are to be blamed. As to the loss of time of which he speaks, we are aware that this occurs in those rooms in which the master does not exercise his authority as he ought. However, I know, and others know, rooms in which not thirty seconds, much less ten minutes, are consumed in calling the numbers, and where "Please, sir, I did not hear my number," and so forth, are but extremely few and far between.

"Reformer" says that in taking places one loses what another gains, and this is decidedly against the principle of "fair exchange is no robbery;" perhaps he innocently loses sight of the fact that the whole end of trade is to make all you can out of other men, and yet condemning this principle, it is very possible that our friend will go into business in a few years, and strain every nerve to do and do well what he now so strenuously condemns. As has been said, it is not the system that makes a boy cheat, but it is the boy's own contemptible nature. Surely if a boy can't stand a temptation to get up one place in the form by unfair means, only perhaps to get down the next moment, one does not much wonder at the result that the writer in your last issue speaks of. But would he do any better if he never knew a marking system at all.

Our friend then says, "I think it would be well if the masters, instead of talking and lecturing about cheating, would go the root of the matter and put a stop to the marking system." Put a stop to what? The cheating? O, not for the world; put a stop to the marking system! This is certainly the art of putting things, and a most unanswerable art, when used effectively as above.

If the marking system were done away with, what could be substituted for it? Merely nothing. When no grand consequence hangs on whether a boy is plucked or not, he becomes listless, and were it not for the constant excitement of getting up or down in the form that keeps most boys up to the mark, what a glorious time we should have and what bright scholars would be turned out. Dwell not too long on this enchanting view, or perhaps you'll see through it.

Before I close, I would humbly suggest that the joke which has tickled the innocent fancy of our "Reformer" no less than twice in his short letter, be patented or in some way restricted to himself. Yours, &c.,

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TAKING HIM AT HIS WORD.—An auctioneer exclaimed: "Why, really, ladies and gentlemen, I am giving these things away!" "Are you?" said an old lady present; "well I'll thank you for that silver pitcher you have in your hand."