

EXCHANGES.

We hope that our college exchanges will not regard us as being inconsistent, if instead of commenting on their own merits and demerits we turn our attention in this issue to Maher's Philosophy as reviewed in that cleverly written paper, the *North West Review*. Of course we assume that all our exchanges know more or less about this work.

We are accustomed to make a distinction between natural ability and rectitude of judgment, and regular philosophical training or acquired logic. While it is true that some are naturally of a logical turn of mind, the instances, we must admit, are rare. So then it is of paramount value to any young man capable of grasping metaphysical notions to have a sound training in a consistent system of philosophy.

The question now arises as to what particular text book should we use; because it is always helpful to consult some authority when we are sailing in that bark at the helm of which reason stands. The Council of Public Instruction prescribes for us James' Psychology written by a Sensist philosopher as an option. But commonsense, rationally expanded which is in itself philosophy, tells us that the theory of Sensism is not tenable. We say therefore that those preparing for a provincial Grade should not be allowed, much less be led to follow a text that is erroneous in its theories; and which by being such defiles the mind and impairs its reasoning powers.

The North West Review of Jan. 30th. advises students who may be going up for a normal school course to use Maher's Psychology. The characteristic of this work which gives it prominence over the best works on the subject is its thorough criticism of contemporary philosophers. In this respect it follows the method adopted by St. Thomas of Aquinas who deals with the false systems of his own century. The Review, strong in its conviction goes on to say: "As an instance of caricature of scholastic teaching vigorously exposed by Father Maher we may mention Mr. Sully's travesty of the distinction between the different faculties of the soul.