

Correspondence

LIFE IN RESIDENCE.

MR. EDITOR.--At times this session within the college walls there has been discussion about the benefits of "resident" life. Your editorial "Be not hasty" of the November issue was perhaps inspired by some of this discussion. And though treating all phases, the discussion has confined itself particularly to spiritual development. It has been pointed out that we are free from the presence of the grosser sins; that our sympathies are enlarged and that the apostolic injunction "let brotherly love continue" might be altered to "let brotherly love increase" and that it would find its fulfilment: that the life is a happy one, and taken all in all a pure and holy one as much as a number of individuals can so live. With all this Mr. Editor, I agree, but to become the men that we ought to, to be good ministers, are there not surroundings that we lack? Are there not experiences that should be ours for full development? May I name what in my opinion are some of these?

First. We come in contact with next to nothing, many of us with nothing, of skepticism, and not coming in contact with it, we do not know of the many honest doubts and anguish-begetting questions that it raises in thousands of hearts around us. It is true these doubts and questions are not absent from our halls, and from our own lives, but are not talks over them few and far between? Is there not a spirit of unspoken unanimity that we ought to be orthodox, that we often quietly make ourselves forget these difficulties and accept them because we understand that some good person before us or around us has accepted them? I do not desire to laud skepticism, but I do desire to say that we should not act in this way. The forgetting of such things now, will cause a rude and unpleasant remembering of them when we come face to face with some strong spirit who does not think as we do, and who asks a reason for our faith in particular matter under discussion. An answer that good doctor so and so believes it, and that therefore we do, will not be accepted. Then there are skeptical views of which we do not know, and to learn them and as a sequence learn how to answer them, contact with the outside world is necessary.

Second. We do not get the varied experience of human nature, I thought, inclinations, and aspirations that is to be acquired at, say, the average boarding house. We fail also to experience so much of "roughing it." Here "in residence" all are aspiring to the same calling in life; there, there are varieties of aspirations. To be, as already said, the men that we ought to be,