

limited amount required, or, rather, *required*, for the examinations do not test its performance—by the professors of Philosophy and History, the library is not used to an extent at all comparable with what ought to be the case. This largely follows from two causes; one, the already-mentioned bad arrangement, and the other, the frequency with which books are missing, just when one wants to use them. With the library's limited income, this cannot be remedied immediately. But something can be done at once. Let each instructor reserve the books which he wishes his classes to read, and prohibit their being taken from the library. Then let the income, instead of being dissipated as at present, be applied to the purchase of books in one department, until a reasonably complete working library on that subject has been accumulated, with duplicates enough to prevent inconvenience; then treat the other departments in the same way. The branches in which the most advanced instruction is at present given, Philosophy, History and Political Economy and Classics should perhaps receive attention first; in the last-named department especially there is crying need of a stock of unannotated texts for use in examinations. The subject of natural science is one sufficiently broad to have a fund raised for its especial benefit.

Finally, if any of Acadia's friends feel in a donative mood, a gift of fifty or one hundred dollars, dedicated to the use of one department, would be made most wisely and opportunely.

J. E. B., '91.

ELOCUTION AT ACADIA.

Elocution at Acadia is no longer an experiment. It now needs no champion to justify its existence. The department has so clearly proved the necessity of its presence that it has become an essential part of our curriculum. It has raised itself to a position from which none can dislodge it without affecting the entire course of study of the institution.

Now to whom is the credit of this work due? Very largely to the head of this department, whose efficient work could not be disregarded. We do not mean to affirm that the executive body of the college have left the department to work out its own salvation entirely. They deserve credit, indeed, for what they have done. They showed their appreciation last year when they made the department a permanent one.

But, after all, has the department received the prominence of which it is worthy? Has it been supported by the hearty sympathy and co-operation that it deserves and as a new department needs? On the contrary, the thought is too often disclosed in acts, if not expressed in words, that elocution is only a very minor department and worthy of but little consideration. In the chair of elocution we possess an inducement that should lead many to Acadia's halls. But how widely is it known that Acadia offers advantages in the way of elocution superior to any other institution in the Maritime Provinces? How many have been acquainted with the fact by the college authorities that our institution offers elocutionary inducements worthy of the careful consideration of every prospective college student? Again, it shall not be an unknown fact that there are provisions for work in vocal music in connection with the college, for in this line, too, we are in advance of similar institutions, and this vantage ground should not be disregarded either by the authorities or students. If the college itself then does not give to the department the place which it deserves we cannot expect a disinterested public to recognize its importance. There are more ways than one of keeping our lights hid.

Again, from the standpoint of the students, elocution does not receive the appreciation that it deserves. True, indeed, the number of those pursuing the study is steadily increasing, but too large a proportion of the students entirely neglect the cultivation of their voices. Some do so no doubt with the expectation of pursuing the study at a theological seminary, but in fact a previous study of the subject is practically essential to obtain the full benefit of the course at such an institution. The testimony of those who have studied elocution at Acadia is that they did better than they knew and that the chair of elocution is more ably filled than they realized till they met other teachers of the subject. It is only to repeat a truism to say that the public audience of to-day demands that a speaker not only should have something to say but that he know *how* to say it. The endeavor of Acadia to meet this demand is one evidence of her progressive spirit, and now it remains for the students to embrace the opportunity and accomplish the fulfilment of the purpose. These lines are only intended as a suggestion, their object being to call the attention of all to the invaluable department we possess in elocution and to create a greater interest in the department on the part of Acadia's friends.

W. N. H.