

play. Their amusements are now more varied, and less wasteful of time and money. Fifty or sixty years ago cricket was in its infancy and athletic sports unknown, and the amusements were those of embryo country gentlemen—riding and shooting; or, if embryo men about town—card-playing and billiards, and lounging up and down the “High” in magnificent waist-coats. “Wines” were frequent, costly and demoralizing; and the healthy vent for young animal spirits, which rowing, football, running, rackets, and the like now provide, had hardly any existence. On the whole, we suspect that undergraduate life is healthier and happier, because busier, than it was half a century ago. The modern undergraduate, no doubt, does less work than he might, and has more play than he needs; but he at least professes to do something.

Such is a hasty view of some of the healthier changes from Old to New Oxford within the academical lifetime of the aged Heads of Colleges who have just passed away. Their motive-power may, perhaps, be summed up in two words—competition and work. Competition (*i. e.*, the principle of regard to merit rather than to birth or favour) has changed the type of men who guide the destinies of the University and shape its life, and has raised the standard of academical duty. Work has diminished the idleness which lay at the root of most abuses in the life of Fellows or of undergraduates, and has introduced a higher ideal of University life; and it is true in Oxford, as elsewhere, that where there are fewer idle hands, less mischief is found for them to do. It is so far an advantage of the change in fifty years that the relative proportions of idleness to industry have been, if not absolutely recovered, at least altered for the better.

We should regret to find, however, that with the advance of competition and work there had been any loss of that inbred courtesy and simple piety of which the late heads of Merton and Worcester were types in old Oxford.

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#### SORTES VERGILIANÆ.

An old Schoolmaster declaring against the Radicalism of young Educators, quoted with great satisfaction the line—

*Fit via vi: rumpunt aditus primosque trucidant.*

The first requisites of sound education were the Classics and these were to be the first victims. He was neatly answered by—

*Corpora viva nefas Stygia vectare carina.*

We must not educate live men upon dead languages.