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## The Sanctum.

ACADIA has started upon a new year with prospects the most encouraging. As year after year passes, each leaves the imprint of progress. Her advance is constant, steady; her growth enduring. The attendance of a College can not be regarded as a true criterion of standing. Its popularity may be affected by influences foreign to the actual merit of instruction given. Yet, other things being equal, the student seeking scholarship will attend that College or University where the best facilities for gaining scholarship are offered. Acadia's popularity betokens well. The present Freshman class number nearly forty, and there are enrolled in all more than 120 students, who are pursuing the Arts course. The Collegiate Academy is also largely attended, and the number of students at the Ladies' Seminary is fully up to the average. Ever a popular institution, Acadia is gaining popularity every year. Those who enter her walls to study do not go away disappointed.

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THE work of the academic year at the University began on the first Wednesday of October. The former custom of an opening lecture was this year revived. F. R. HALEY, M. A., the popular Professor in Physics, was the lecturer. A thoughtful, scholarly address, we gladly reproduce the substance of it in another column. It will be read with interest. The optional courses of study in the Junior and Senior classes have this year been widely extended. This is decidedly a move in the right direction. The students are reaping benefits from the change. While doubtless a prescribed course within certain limits can be defended, it seems arbitrary to exact the same course of study, extending over four years, from the student of law as from the student of medicine. It can be