

than a dozen skimmed. Master Tyndal on Heat as a Mode of Motion, or Kant's Critique, or Lyell's Principles of Geology, or Butler's Analogy, or the judicious Hooker, and you have effected more in the way of mental gain than by skimming a library. Coleridge tells of four kinds of readers: The first, like the hour-glass, their reading like the sand running in and then out and leaving not a vestige behind. The second, like the sponge, imbibing everything only to retain it in the same state, or perhaps dirtier. The third, like the jelly-bag, allowing the pure to pass away and keeping only the refuse and dregs. The fourth, like the slaves in the mines of Golconda, throwing away the rubbish and keeping only the gems and gold. It needs an education to know how to read. And the essential part of the education is to know that there is no way of success except through hard work. Gibbon said that he usually read an author three times: first, curiously, to take in the general design of the book and the leading of the argument; secondly, to fix the facts and principles in his mind; and thirdly, to criticise, to mark its beauties and blemishes. Editors take the third reading first. It is their profession. In making this confession, we offer ourselves as "the frightful example," and not at all as the worthy objects of imitation. To all students, we say, go and do otherwise, and don't wait till the new reading and consulting room has been provided.

COMMUNICATED.
ATHLETIC SPORTS.

To the Editor of the Journal.

ALTHOUGH most of the students are now on the *home stretch* in the intellectual race-course, perhaps it may not be out of their way to bestow some attention on matters relating to the *corpus sanum* as well as the *mens sana*.

I would like to call the attention of the students to the athletic sports. Would it

not be better, if the Athletic Association (to whom all the students belong) held its annual meeting, to appoint officers for the management of the sports, before the close of the session? For this reason, that as very few of the students arrive in the city, until two or three days before University Day, and as proper arrangements cannot be made in that short time, the few students who are resident in the city have all the burden and responsibility of making them by themselves; and as their views are not always the views of all, dissatisfaction is often occasioned. Besides, if it were known for certain that the sports would be held, the students could train for them during the summer, and this training would also be of service to them in the foot-ball field. And, sir, if we may judge by the physical excellence shown at last year's sports, when all the contestants were "raw," we may safely say that with training our students would turn out really first-class athletes. But it is ridiculous, as well as injurious, for any one to engage in such contests as the mile run and two mile walk without practice before hand.

A word about the prizes. I hope sincerely that the custom of asking aid from outsiders will be henceforward abolished. Let all subscriptions be voluntary. If the members of the Senate would give a champion medal instead of the large contributions they have heretofore given, I am sure every one would be well satisfied. But let all pecuniary aid be from the students themselves. Of course in that case the money value of the prizes would be less than usual; but a student does not care for the value, he only cares for the honour of the prize. Last year over \$70 were spent for prizes, half of this at the outside would be amply sufficient.

I am convinced that if the Association will use the "dumb-bells" I have suggested, it will jump beyond the "heel-marks" of previous years. Yours truly, *Αθλητής.*