

much to those whose funds went into the gymnasium building.

The ladies of the college are on a par almost with the young men in the way of opportunity for physical training and they have evidently made as good if not better use of those advantages. They did excellent work in the dumb bell, wand and marching drills, but it is of the *delsarte* drill that we would especially speak. Mr. Shaw introduced the *delsarte* drill into Nova Scotia and this was the first exhibition of that drill in the province. The ladies wore Grecian costumes throughout the drill and they added charm to the movements. The statue posing, representing some of the finest classic sculpture, was very affecting, and the last representing *Jocasta's* grief stirred deeply the emotions of the spectators.

Variety was given to the exhibition by some good fancy work on the horse, buck, parallels and mattresses, and by the ludicrous actions of an awkward squad who fairly brought down the house. The exhibition concluded with a grand patriotic tableau in which the ladies formed a pyramid on the platform, the young men a W on the floor, the motto—"Canada our Home"—was displayed, and Mr. Nelson's stirring patriotic song—"Raise the Flag"—was sung with true patriotic fervor. Mr. Arch. Murray performed efficiently at the piano. The programme was as follows:

PROGRAMME.

1. Free work, Leg and Shoulder Exercises, Breathing Exercises, Sophomores and Freshmen.
2. Wand Drill, Head and Torso Exercises, Ladies' Class.
3. Robert's Dumb Bell Drill, Seniors and Juniors.
4. March, Sophomores and Freshmen.
5. Exercises on Horse.
6. Stepping Exercises, Pizzicati Dumb Bell Drill, Ladies' Class.
7. Wand Twists, Seniors and Juniors.
8. Work on Parallels.
9. Polo Drill. Sophomores and Freshmen.
10. *Delsarte* Drill, Ladies Class.
Swaying.
Relaxing.
Stretching.
Statue Poses.
11. Fancy March, Seniors and Juniors.
12. Club Swinging, Selected Class.
13. Buck-Work, by an awkward Squad,
14. Pyramids.

M. S. Read, B. A. '91, Principal Wolfville Public Schools, has been seriously ill for several weeks. He is not as yet able to resume his duties, but his health is improving.

SOME NOTES ON THE TROUBADOURS.

Can the Middle Ages be regarded as a period of intellectual hibernation? Did the human mind, in general, remit the effort to expand, and to enlarge its territory both within and without? We are not unaccustomed to the affirmative answer.

The writer of a recent magazine article says: "During the long stretch of the Middle Ages weary Europe could not keep awake. She lay and dreamed of chivalry and romance, of lance and lute."

They must have been heavy sleepers who dreamed in presence of the armed hosts that mustered and fought for cross or crescent, or with the more avowedly selfish aim of securing land and authority. The masses were no doubt lethargic in all that concerned mental development and progress; yet, now and then, some part of Europe aroused itself to literary wakefulness.

Michelet says, "The struggle of the Middle Ages had been continually directed against a relapse into nature. With partial and temporary successes, they encountered frequent and long rebuffs."

We have only to call to mind the court of Alfred or of Charlemagne, to think of the acuteness of the Schoolmen—often misdirected though it was; we have but to name the *Nibelungenlied*, the Round Table, the Troubadours, the Trouvères in order to justify Michelet's description rather than that previously quoted.

To France we must credit a large part of the literary activity that relieved the darkness of the Middle Ages. Literature, fostered in the Greek of Massilia and other cities of the South, maintained in the Latin which spread over the whole country, honored in the German of Charlemagne's court, cultivated by vassal and knight in the rich language of Provence, or making its home with the Trouvères of the North, was not wholly dead in France for any considerable time during this long and generally dark period.

Although under the Cæsars Gaul had become scarcely less Roman than Italy itself, yet she yielded with the best grace to the not very gentle wooing of the Goth and the Northman, upon whom, in their turn, she exerted her assimilating power; and at the beginning of the last quarter of the ninth century in the South, and forty or fifty years later in the North the Romance languages were fairly established. The