

Many things have no doubt contributed to this result, which no alteration of our University arrangements would affect; and if the only thing observable were the diminution of academical candidates for Holy Orders, it might perhaps be supposed to be due to causes wholly beyond our control. The simultaneous increase of Literates points in another direction, and naturally suggests the inquiry, whether it would be possible to attract to the University many of those who now seek an entrance to Holy Orders through the channel of an inferior education, or to substitute for them any other class of young men, of whom a fair proportion might be expected to seek for the Orders of our Church.

Our inquiry, then, has naturally started from a consideration of the obstacles which at present prevent their coming. These obstacles may clearly be of very various kinds.

Besides those who are kept away from the University by the want of a certain measure of previous classical training, many no doubt, who would otherwise gladly become members of our body, are deterred by the length of residence required, especially from those who desire to become candidates for Honours.

Others again, and probably a larger number, are deterred by the age to which it has practically become necessary to defer the degree.

These obstacles we notice simply to point out, (1) that they lie beyond the province embraced by the present report, and (2) that they affect candidates for Holy Orders less than they affect any other class of students, since they cannot enter on their profession below the age of twenty-three.

There are, however, far more to whom the great impediment in the way of an University education is simply that of its expensiveness; not only in its actual cost, but in the extravagant habits which it is often believed to form.

Assuming, then, that the age at which the B.A. degree is customarily taken remains unchanged, the expense may conceivably be reduced in one of four ways. I. By a reduction of fees, academical and tutorial. II. By a cheaper scale of living. III. By removing men, partially or wholly, from the temptation of social expense. IV. By the aid of foundations or other benefactions.

We propose to consider each in turn, with especial reference to the plan on which we have to report. But before doing so, it seems desirable to state the principles which, in our view, ought to govern any plan for the introduction of a cheaper academical life.

A reduction of expense is entirely a relative question. The problem is, how to unite the greatest possible reduction with the retention of those advantages for the sake of which the great expense of an Oxford education is now so cheerfully borne by many.

These advantages may be briefly enumerated as follows:—

1. Our religious and moral discipline, which although not directly chargeable to the individuals under it, forms an essential part of a system which is more or less expensive.
2. The intellectual advantages derivable, whether simply from residence in a place possessing a large educated society with an ample supply of libraries and other appliances for study; or directly from the fact of University membership; or, lastly, from Collegiate life, with its elaborate system of tuition.
3. The social advantages enjoyed within the University through free intercourse between men of about the same age and the same high standard of education.

We conceive that it may be laid down as a principle, that no scheme of University extension is entirely free from objection which interferes with the enjoyment of any one of these advantages; and that if some sacrifice be necessary, that plan is preferable which sacrifices the least important, and to the least degree. We conceive also that in any scheme of which we undertake to recommend the adoption, the maintenance of these advantages should be carefully considered with reference not only to any new class to which we may hope either partially or wholly to extend them, but also to those who already possess them. We should think it a grave error to propose any plan which would in any way tend to diminish the advantages enjoyed by those now educated here, for the sake of giving an inferior education to another class of men, who may, after all, prove indifferent to that which it would have cost us so much to offer.

With these considerations before us, we have carefully examined the question whether it would be possible, by the establishment of a new College or Hall, materially to reduce the expenses of the University course in any or all of the four ways above enumerated. We have come to the conclusion—

1. That it is important not to reduce the tutorial fees so low as to impair the efficiency of the educating staff; for although able men might be found to devote themselves to the work, while the interests of it was fresh, for an almost nominal salary, it would not be wise to count on the continuous efficiency of underpaid labour.

We believe, however, that if a new College or Hall were estab-

lished on a sufficiently large scale, the fees might be fixed as low as £12 a year.

On the amount of the University fees, we express no opinion.

II. The expenses of living in College might, it is believed, be sensibly reduced below the standard ordinarily prevailing in Colleges; and, if a new College or Hall were built on a sufficient scale, and on plans carefully considered with a view to economical management, below the lowest prices now charged in the smaller Halls of the University.

The measures by which it is believed that greater economy may be secured are the following:—

(a) By having smaller rooms than are now usual in College; and by having these furnished at the expense of the College, the occupant paying a fair rent for the wear and tear of the furniture, as in ordinary furnished lodgings.

(b) By arranging the rooms along corridors, instead of by staircases, as is customary now in our Colleges. This arrangement, we believe, to be not only more economical, but intrinsically superior, more comfortable, and better adapted to modern habits of life. Its economical advantage is partly in the cost of construction, but far more in the opportunity which it gives for placing a large number of rooms under the management of one head servant, and of saving labour both to him and to his subordinates.

(c) By having breakfast as well as dinner in common. The economy of this plan is considerable, both in victuals and in servants' labour; and it need not, if properly managed, interfere with the comfort of the Undergraduates. Indeed, in an existing Hall, where the choice is given, it is found that the majority of the men prefer the common meal.

(d) By the abolition or material reduction of caution money and entrance fees.

(e) By including everything which is really necessary to living in ordinary comfort in one fixed terminal payment. All extras would then come under the eye of the Undergraduate as exactly what they are, expenses within his own control, and he would thus be helped to form habits of economy. A limit, narrower than is usual in most Colleges, would of course be fixed to the amount of extra battels.

III. This brings us to the third point, the possibility of reducing the social expenses which attend on Undergraduate life. It may be observed then—

(a) That the size of the rooms and the general mode of life would tend of themselves to keep down the cost of entertainments.

Whether it would be expedient to place this source of expense under any special restrictive regulations, is a question to be worked out, in a great measure, by the light of experience. But we believe that more can be effected by providing within the walls the means of a comfortable and comparatively inexpensive entertainment, as, e.g., by supplying, at a moderate tariff, wine and dessert from the College Buttery, when required, than by any very rigid system of prohibitions, which might fail, even economically, and be productive of indirect evils.

(b) The social expenses of existing Colleges differ far more widely than is at all generally supposed. In some colleges an undergraduate may easily live, without forfeiting society, or appearing in any way peculiar, if he spends about £10 a year in entertaining; and the only subscriptions expected from him are £1. 1s. to the Cricket Club, and an equal sum to the College boat. A few Colleges are exempt even from these light athletic taxes. Moreover, in those Colleges in which the general scale of living is not expensive, the position of a really poor man is quite understood and recognised. In no place in the world, probably, is poverty a less bar to joining in general society.

In a new College or Hall, such as we are contemplating, there ought to be no difficulty in making the general style of life even simpler than in the Colleges to which we have referred, without making it in the slightest degree unsocial. The prevalence of an inexpensive habit of entertainment is, in fact, in any society, one of the surest means for attaining a thoroughly social tone.

(c) It will be seen by the general tenor of these remarks, that we contemplate the establishment, not of a "Poor Man's Hall," as the phrase is commonly received, not, that is, of such an eleemosynary establishment as would be sought only by persons of inferior social position, less cultivated manners, or attainments and intellect below the ordinary level of the University, but rather of one which is adapted to the natural habits and tastes of gentlemen who wish to live economically. It would be, however, not a deviation from this principle, but a guarantee of its permanence, that extravagance should be understood to be a proper ground for requiring those who indulge in it to remove to some other College or Hall.

The exact sums which it would be necessary to charge to students must, if the plan is adopted, be the subject of minute calculations; but we have collected facts which enable us to say with sufficient