

and the heads of leading legal firms, that three years' service of a well-trained graduate are worth more than five of an ordinary youth. A systematic honor course, even though in itself defective, might have rescued the vagrant genius of the greatly gifted Coleridge, and redeemed the promise of its dawn; might have consecrated the life of Shelley to all that was noble and pure; and instead of squandering the rare gifts of DeQuincey on ephemeral essays and reviews, might have linked his name with a work that posterity would not willingly let die. A systematic honor-course in mathematics and physics, for which Carlyle showed no inconsiderable aptitude, might have constrained the volcanic impulses of his exceptional genius within such self-control as would have brightened his own domestic hearth and rendered more beneficent his influence on his age.

But no system of academic training can ignore the marvellous expansion of the sum of human knowledge, or the impossibility of the most gifted student to master all its varied treasures. The old Oxford "double first," who attained to the ideal of academic preëminence by superadding to the culture of the classical scholar the excellence of the mathematician, is a thing of the past. An elective system in some form is indispensable. But while in this neither the aptitudes of the student nor his aims in life should be lost sight of, education must not be confounded with professional training. All options and honor departments are valuable only in so far as they are consistent with a thorough general education of some sort, the solid foundation on which alone true professional training can be based. This idea has accordingly guided the senate in the determination of prescribed requirements in the several honor departments, and to these an important addi-

tion is now made. Since last Convocation we have had the pleasure of welcoming as a member of our college staff Dr. McCurdy, a distinguished Oriental scholar; and with the increased facilities thus furnished, the Oriental languages have been placed on a par with the ancient and the modern languages as a special honor department. In so doing the Senate has recognized not only the claims of the affiliated Theological Colleges, but also the important place which the study of the Oriental languages must occupy in relation alike to all early Asiatic history and to comparative philology. The influence which Arabian science and learning exercised on the first great reawakening of Western Europe after the fall of the Roman empire is still traceable in the terms and formulæ of astronomy, algebra and chemistry. The growth of the science of language itself is due in no slight degree to the modern study of Sanskrit and other Indo-Iranian languages in their relation to the great Aryan family; while the tracing out the separate genealogies of the Aryan and Semitic tongues reveals the remarkable fact that the two groups of inflected languages, with alphabets of common origin, have distinct roots and essentially diverse formative elements, with no recognizable traces suggestive of descent from any common mother tongue. For this new honor department, as for those of the ancient and modern languages, mathematics and physics, the natural sciences, and the mental and moral sciences, additional subjects are prescribed, with a view to combining with the thorough knowledge of the specialist such adequate breadth of study as shall enable him to turn it to best account. But it is not to be imagined that this or any other university scheme assumes that its graduates go forth at the end of a four years' course endowed with all