

# The Acadia Athenæum.

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## THE Acadia Athenæum.

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### SENIOR THESES.

The Senior theses have been read. April saw all completed in preparation for the work of the final months. The same course was pursued as last year, the papers being presented before the faculty and duly criticized. As at present conducted we consider the preparation and presentation of these theses as of decided advantage to the student. Formerly they were looked upon with favor on this ground. "Being so much longer (than the monthly essays) they admit of a more exhaustive treatment, and as they are read instead of spoken without manuscript, less attention is paid to rhetorical effect and more to detailed analyses." The attempted exhaustive treatment on the part of the student, knowing that he must hold himself in readiness to answer questions, is decidedly of great benefit. To the task is added the pleasure of research. More than this, they are an index of facility in the use of our mother tongue. From the Freshman year until the close of the course, there are prescribed essays. The theses, as to form and general plan, should evidence the benefits of our English training. Surely an adept in the art of writing is looked upon with

more favor than he who is to all appearance a novice, and surely there should be a striving after that skill in the use of languages which enables us to boast of a Shakespeare, a Milton, and a Tennyson.

### THE GYMNASTIC EXHIBITION.

One of the events of the year occurred on Thursday evening, March 17th, when Mr. H. N. Shaw and his pupils gave their gymnasium exhibition in College Hall. The galleries were well filled, while the exercises proceeded on the main floor. It consisted principally of class drills and marches, which were characterized throughout by military precision. Though seventy or more took part, event succeeded event without a hitch and the classes went through difficult and complicated movements in perfect unison. The tendency has been in exhibitions to bring forward specialists in fancy work. This, however, does not show what is really being done in the gymnasium. It is only when a large number are brought upon the floors that the spectator can have any idea of the benefit that is being obtained by the students generally. The faculty and all others who saw the exhibition that night are now assured that the gymnasium is being made a place for benefit to be obtained as well as fun to be enjoyed. The benefit is not merely that of all-round physical exercise but also the mental benefit that is derived from *system and discipline*.

The exhibition this year was probably one entirely novel in the history of gymnastic exhibitions in the Maritime Provinces and it will have a very palpable influence in raising in the minds of people the value of gymnastics as a part of college training. Athletic exercise is being more and more recognized as indispensable to the student, for facts show that the best athletes are usually the best students, and it is evident that a sound mind requires a sound body. Such training as Mr. Shaw has been giving this year is just what the students need, for it does not sacrifice the rank and file for the sake of the natural gymnast, as is the case too often in gymnasiums. Every one has the benefit of good exercise that disciplines as well as improves physically. The exhibition showed conclusively that every one had been taking as much interest in his gymnasium as in his other class work and there was a general feeling that the college owes