

afflicted with all sorts of diseases, and had tried Dr. Ayer's remedies, and been completely cured. This certificate was sent to Ayer with a view of its being published in his almanac, but the thing leaked out, and I believe the student whose name had been used wrote to Ayer and obtained the certificate. The perpetrator ought to have been punished, but he was forgiven. I will now say good bye. If you choose to publish this "lucubration," well and good,—if not throw it to one side. If it is published I hope other students of olden times will furnish you with reminders of their college days. Yours,

A B.A. of 1859.

[It is gratifying to find that our request to graduates, to contribute to the JOURNAL, has not been wholly unheeded; and we are grateful to "B.A. of '59" for thus opening the ball. It is to be hoped that his example will be followed by others who, by so doing, will enable us to establish a column headed "Class Reminiscences," or something of that sort. Such reminiscences would surely prove interesting not only to the different members of a class who are scattered over the country and those who immediately preceded or followed them, but also to the general reader. The reminiscences would doubtless recall to mind more of the fun, the fears, the fights, and the frolics, of their student days, than have been mentioned by the first writer, and these being added, a very interesting department might easily be established. A considerable portion of the JOURNAL as it now is, must be of little interest to the old alumnus, because being removed from the scenes, he cannot enter fully into their spirit. But if such a department were established it is safe to say that his interest would be doubled. And of course there are many who have taken a partial course and have not obtained the degree who we would like to hear from. Such letters would also tend to draw men nearer their Alma Mater, and be a means of communication between old classmates. We are sure our alumni readers will see the force of what we say and fall in with the suggestion. Don't all write at once.—MAN. ED.]

HOW A SOPH CAME TO GRIEF.

"THEY say there is nothing like skating for combining pleasure and exercise at the same time," muttered a certain Soph, who was trying to discover some means by which he might enjoy both, and yet be able to make the required percentage at his finals without descending to the use of 'cribs,' &c.; for he happened to be an honest youth, and would that we could claim that as the characteristic of all students, both here and elsewhere. However, after thinking the matter over, he came to the conclusion that skating was what he wanted, and hearing, the other day, that the ice was sufficiently strong to allow of his enjoying this pastime with comparative safety, he immediately determined to try it. The chief drawback, however, was that he had never acquired a knowledge of this noble art, for he had always lived in a place where he had no opportunity of learning it. But deeming it highly probable that even those who were the most accomplished skaters must have been at some period of their

lives in the same position as himself, he was disposed to look upon this as a comparatively slight hindrance, and one which would soon be overcome. Therefore, with all the ardour of a student who is just beginning to study a new subject, and is inclined to consider it a little more than probable that that is the department in which nature has destined him to shine; after purchasing a pair of skates constructed on the most improved design, he made his way to the place where he was told the best ice would be found. Having arrived there, and finding the ice in a very good condition, he lost no time in putting on his skates. But just here it occurred to him that as there were quite a number on the ice, and as he wished to impress upon them the idea that this was not his first appearance on skates, and as it would not be becoming to the dignity of a second year student in Arts to appear in any other condition than as familiar with the art of skating, he thought it would be advisable to watch others for a short time, just to find out how the operation was to be performed. The conclusion which he arrived at was that skating would not be very difficult to learn, as all seemed to glide along on their skates without the least trouble. So he thought that if he would only strike out boldly at first there would be no difficult at all. The way in which he did strike out, however, showed that he was evidently going on the supposition that he had quite as much control over his feet with the skates on as without them. He soon discovered his mistake, however, for when he first launched out he was not long in discovering that his feet would no longer obey him. At first he endeavored to keep them under his body; but finding, in about two seconds, that such a course of action was utterly impossible, he changed his course of procedure, and made a frantic effort to increase the velocity of his body to such an extent that it might correspond with that of his feet. He might have succeeded in accomplishing his object had time permitted, but unfortunately it did not, and the result was that he sat down very suddenly, very emphatically and very much against his will. At first he was inclined to be angry, but was at a loss to find something on which to bestow it; so, after looking around to satisfy himself that no one was laughing at the ignominious way in which he had assumed a sitting posture, and casting a somewhat doubtful glance at his feet, as if his confidence in them had been as much shaken as his body, he ventured to get up again, and with some little difficulty regained an upright position. His fall had evidently given him some new ideas about skating, for his bold and confident air had left him, and there was considerable timidity displayed in his movements, with a certain amount of caution, which showed that he did not feel at all comfortable either in body or mind. However, he seemed to have discovered his mistake and found a remedy for it; for he brightened up considerably, and in preparing to make another attempt it was noticed that he intended to keep his body a little in advance of his feet. His first move, therefore, was to incline his body forward, with the intentions no doubt, of making another trial. Now we have not the slightest hesitancy in saying that his intentions were good, for we are assured that they were; but the principle on which he intended to advance was evidently one of those which are very good in theory, but exceedingly poor in practice; for he had no sooner inclined his body forward, preparatory to making a start, than his feet, by way of variety, no doubt, began to take the opposite direction.