

OXFORD UNIVERSITY.

SO many articles have been written since the arrival of the Rhodes scholar, discussing and criticizing everything from the influence of the university on national life to the amount charged for salt and pepper in bottles, that it is rather hard to know what to talk about. Criticism, at least, is out of the question. It requires time to get to know any place and Oxford reserve is proverbial. However, it may be interesting to notice a few of the differences between university life on different sides of the Atlantic.

The first thing that strikes one is that there seems to be no university, but a lot of colleges. To the tourist's question, "Where is the university?" the Oxonian can only give a look of blank astonishment or perhaps try to satisfy the enquirer by pointing out the Ashmolean Museum or the Examination Schools. The truth is that the term university as applied to Oxford has its old sense for an assemblage of colleges at a seat of learning. At Queen's, though there are the faculty "scraps" to lighten existence, every man feels first of all that he is a Queen's man and the loyalty is to the university. There a man belongs, first of all to his college. He is "up at" Balliol or Magdalen or New. If he speaks of being "up at" Oxford he is thinking of the city rather than the university. Indeed, the connecting links between him and the university are not the pleasantest features of his stay at Oxford. The chief of these are the ceremony of matriculation with its accompanying fee which jumps up every year or two, the "schools" (exams.) which he must

take from time to time, the proctors who dog his steps after dark, and the final payment of heavy dues for a degree if he is lucky enough to get one. To a great extent this is what the university means to him. Of course, when there is a contest with Cambridge or some other outside club, he is an Oxford man, but this loyalty is not so real as that to the college.

Indeed, that is quite natural. The college has a reality to him that the larger and more indefinite institution can never have. It is probably the college where his father and grandfather have been before him and they can instruct him in all college lore down to the entrances that he may get in by after midnight when the college is closed. In it he lives for six months of the year, during his undergrad. days, and there he will often return for short visits after he "goes down."

There are twenty-three colleges in all and the rivalry among them is very keen both in athletics and academical lines. Different colleges excel in different things, and generally keep up the tradition that has been handed down. Thus, Balliol is pre-eminently the scholars' and students' college, securing four or five times its share of university honors in that line. Trinity excels in "rugger" (rugby football) and generally has five or six blues on the 'Varsity team. This competition is also very noticeable in the rivalry for places in the different university organizations, such as the Union and the different athletic organizations. So far is this carried that the individual is rather merged in the college, *e.g.*, if Gladstone of New gets his rowing blue, no doubt