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Hobbies.*

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In occupying your attention for a few minutes this afternoon, I have in mind the surfeit of facts and wisdom that awaits you during the ensuing six months, and feel that it would not be unwise, for this once, to keep away from professional topics. Tomorrow you will receive the first beginnings of the load, beneath which you will go tottering to the examination hall next spring, so, to-day, instead of dissertation upon the islands of calcification and their failure to coalesce or the carbo-hydrates and the hydro-carbons or any of the familiar themes that will ring in your ears for years after you leave college, I propose to take up something light in the way of a subject. Before I had a chance to select a topic for this paper someone kindly suggested to me that of "Hobbies," and a responsive chord was touched, for I have always had to plead guilty to the charge of being a hobbyist, and in a brief way I shall endeavor to not only defend but recommend hobbies.

In a way it would appear that the term hobbyist is often regarded as synonymous with a crank—a faddist—a bore, and a tiresome fellow generally, but a little consideration will show, I think, that he is worthy of some better place in our estimation. And right here it might be well to distinguish carefully between a hobbyist and a crank or faddist. The one pursues his hobby for the achievements it holds within his reach. He sees new pleasures, new possibilities ahead, and goes eagerly after them. His hobby is ample company for him. Others may care to know of it, or

* Read at opening of Dental College, October 1st, 1895.