

all would derive substantial benefit? We have literary societies for the improvement of our mental faculties; but, since the work of the intellect is so far dependent upon the condition of the body, it is not unreasonable for us to ask that some steps be taken, which shall insure our students against the danger of leaving their *Alma Mater* possessing, to be sure, an excellent education, but so injured in health as to be totally unfitted to cope with the stern necessities of this sturdy world.

### EXCHANGES.

Our table is covered by a heterogeneous mass, differing in appearance, as also in quality, from the pale chalk water to the rich, genuine cream. Ex.-Eds. have made their debut with the fierce roar of an engulfing tidal wave, each proposing to rise in majesty and overwhelm all presumptuous contemporaries. "On such a high sea are we now afloat." Yes, thank heaven, still afloat, nor rock, nor wave yet appears to disturb our mind's placidity.

We have noted the efforts in this department. Big guns, but blank cartridges, seem to be the order of the programme. The reports of many seem to be traceable to some undue pressure of interior gas resulting in an explosion of veritable nonsense, which could do no more damage than bespatter their neighbors with some of their own crudities.

Whilst not unconscious of our own faults—nor those of our visiting friends,—we propose a course of independent criticism. Our idea of criticism is not met by an indiscriminate melee in which the only weapons are abusive terms. But we forbear expressing ourselves farther on this point, lest we should find our ground for future operations unpleasantly circumscribed.

We first lay hands on a fine-looking paper—but there goes the—hush! hush!—half-way across the room, and we have only the outer garment left in our grasp. After a doubtful debate as to the profit or loss in travelling so far after the thing, we notice the name "Colby Echo," and hasten to recover it. The mechanical get-up is very good—only it ought to be fastened into its covers,—and it has some literary merit. It contains a readable article on "Samuel Johnson," but one wishes that a little less effort had been expended on depicting the personal defects of the great man. Why seek to preserve this decaying matter? The worth of the man should spare him. An Ex.-Ed. who disparages flaming criticisms on covers, should have a little more regard for consistency, and not follow with so many examples of the condemned articles. But this fellow is presumably a literary outlaw, not subject to the code

of laws laid down for others. The "Echo" is on the whole above the average college journal.

The "Dalhousie Gazette" has a look of becoming modesty; but the interior of it almost convinces one that that article is scarce around the University. Even the Freshies are so reckless as to indulge in "side lights," and do other rash things. The Ed. of "Dallusiensia" has only succeeded in trapping the ghosts of his jokes this time. Experience may improve him, and we can look for the realities next issue. The "Convocation Address" is worthy attention, but other matter is almost wholly of local importance, reducing "The Gazette" too nearly to the level of a mere advertising medium. The mention made of the Hon J. S. D. Thompson and Mr. J. T. Bulmer, is devoid that element of flattery which so often renders such tributes fulsome. "The Gazette" has a good record, and will, we doubt not, sustain it.

We take another journal, and first notice written on it in a plain, bold hand the words "Not Sold." Just so, we mutter, but if anyone ever happens to buy you, they will cut off that "not" and wear the other word graven deep upon their heart. This, however, was before we became acquainted with our contemporary. We soon found that "The Cadet" knew a thing or two after all. "State Education" is a fairly-written article, and presents the subject temperately. But certain assumptions made in it are open to criticism, e. g., "Why cannot this education be supported by denominational institutions? Simply because they have not the means." In this christian land, most men are the adherents of some denomination. Hence most of the country's wealth must be under the control of denominational influences. Where, then, is the pertinency of the above expression? The article on "The Acadians" might be read if one had nothing else to do. The paper ranks well.

We like the tone of the "University Monthly." Its articles are carefully written, although the expression "Vacation has glided away on the wings of Time into the regions of the Past, whence it can never be recalled," seems somewhat antiquated, as it has probably been on that particular feather of the "Wing of Time" known as the *Editor's quill* for some centuries past. The "Monthly" contains a beautiful tribute to the memory of the late H. B. Pickhard, and a spicy article on "The Geological Expedition of '86." The Ex.-Ed. gives promise that he will at last overcome his difficulties, but it seems hard work for him to get under way. Our friend should don a heavier covering at this season of the year.

There are a number of other exchanges lying around here just as if they were aching for a review; but we must let them pine for a time.