

Messrs. J. P. McMurrich, B. A., and T. A. Haultain, M. A., are taking a course in the Trinity School of Medicine.—Mr. H. A. Fairbank, B. A., long and favorably known in University College, has annexed himself, and is studying medicine in Michigan University, Ann Arbor.—Mr. J. Balderson, the silver medallist of last year in Mathematics, is Mathematical Master in the Mount Forest High School.—Mr. W. H. Frazer, B. A. '80, the gold medallist in Modern Languages, now holds the position of Master of Modern Languages at Upper Canada College.—Mr. S. Mizner, who left University College last spring to compete for entrance from the Seminary of Wyoming to the Military Academy at West Point, and who stood first in the examination, having obtained 97 per cent. of the total of marks, was disqualified on the ground of insufficiently-long residence in Wyoming.—Mr. W. J. Loudon, B. A. '80, who obtained the gold medal in Mathematics, has wisely chosen the John Hopkins University as the place to pursue his favorite study; and Professor Silvester may be sincerely congratulated on this late acquisition.—The author of "Clinker" attends lectures in University College.

#### VARSITY SPORT.

—THE general tendency of alteration in the rules which govern the more virile athletic games is towards lessening the amount of 'unskilled labour,' to borrow a phrase from Political Economy. There is little doubt in regard to this beneficial result being effected by the modification in foot-ball, known as the 'open formation.' Of course a protest is made by the party which deems it desirable that untrained muscularity should prevail in an athletic contest; and there is opposition from the quarter where vanity concerning size of arm and hardness of leg is equalled by an inability to employ strength in a scientific manner. The extreme upholders of the ancient regulations can hardly be congratulated upon the defence undertaken in their behalf by a writer in the *Mail*, who maintains that English rules in foot-ball are to be observed because it is an English game. The fallacious inference is in keeping with the ignorance of sporting history exposed by the premise; the origin of foot-ball has long been assigned to Ireland. Another remarkable vindication loses in print the plausibility imparted by tone of voice and vigor of expression:—"I stick by the old Rugby game. Who cares in England or Canada for the effeminate attempt to spoil the fun of the glorious scrimmages." The impression produced by this style of colloquial eloquence is often deepened by an exhibition of scars and other disfigurements received in the "glorious scrimmages." Believers in the convincing power of such rant, will have their faith rudely shaken if they try to win the undergraduates back to the Rugby fold. Even the "crusading" machinery of a certain journal would be unavailing against the hardened convictions of these young men. They have lost patience with the monotonous game, the issue of which depends not so much on the practice, which maketh perfect, as upon the capability of one side to shove harder and to sustain the shove longer than their opponents. The recent match between a team of the Toronto Club and Upper Canada College, on the grounds of the latter, showed by contrast the superiority of the Open Formation method. Both spectators and players were disappointed in the expectation of a display of skill. The ball was buried in scrimmages the greater part of the afternoon, and moved scarcely ten yards in as many minutes, giving very few chances to the forwards or the backs to display dexterity. Open Formation, on the contrary, requires very fast running as well as agile movement—requirements which, if fulfilled, immeasurably increase the interest deserved by so excellent a game.

—The programme of events which accompanied the invitation to this University to be present at the McGill College sports, suggested some advantageous alterations which might be made in the catalogue of games in succeeding years. All contests, except those for the championship cup, are open to undergraduates of all universities. Second prizes are awarded only when there are three *bona fide* competitors. Amateurs alone can compete, and this is a regulation which should unquestionably be adopted and added to our already existing code. These alterations would prevent individuals carrying off just what prizes they determine upon between themselves to have—the determination resting on the grounds of the inefficiency and the sparse number of their opponents. Foot-ball teams would not then need to hesitate about accepting challenges on account of the untrained condition of men whose mantlepieces are ornamented with spoils.

—The following important changes have been made in the foot-ball rules of Harvard University.—

1. A match shall be decided by majority of touch-downs. A goal shall be equal to four touch-downs; but in case of a tie, a goal kicked from a touch-down shall take precedence over touch-downs or a goal kicked from the field.

2. A scrimmage takes place when the holder of the ball, being in the field of play, puts it down on the ground in front of him and puts it in play (while on-side) by—1st, kicking the ball; 2nd, by snapping it

back with the foot. The man who first receives the ball from the snap-back shall be called a quarter-back, and shall not then rush forward with the ball under penalty of a foul.

3. If the ball either fly, bound, or roll in touch from a kick out, it must be brought back; but if it touches any player it need not be brought back.

4. In case of a punt-out, the players of the side to which the ball is punted out, must be at least fifteen feet from the goal line. The opposite punter-out has five feet clear, extending from his scratch in the direction of touch. Punter-out must not be in any way interfered with. A punt-out must be a kick from the toe.

5. If any player purposely foul an opponent or ball, when such opponent is about to try for a fair catch, the opponent's side may either have the ball down where the foul was made, or take a free kick, which free kick cannot score a goal.

To the Editor of the "Varsity":—

DEAR SIR,—I am glad to see so many encouraging notices of the new college paper, and I hope that it will meet with all the success that has been prophesied for it. There are, however, some points upon which I would like to make a few remarks. Compared with the *White and Blue*, one is immediately struck with the pretentiousness of the new paper. The title-page is excellent—just the sort of outer covering one would have expected the *White and Blue* to assume as soon as it began to look up in the world, and felt the need of a more gorgeous apparel—indicative, too, of that admixture of fun and sound common sense which made our first college paper such a decided success.

The *Varsity* is a much more appropriate title than the *White and Blue*, which was rather meaningless; but what could have induced the the Committee—or whoever manages these things—to metamorphose our modest sheet of College gossip into "A Weekly Review of Education, University Politics and Events"!! "O, Shakespeare, how could'st thou ask, 'What's in a name?' 'Tis the devil's in it!"

What can one expect from a "Weekly Review of Education," but a kind of school journal, devoted to the reproduction of examination papers, with amazingly elaborate answers to the questions propounded—a thoroughly respectable, orthodox publication on the principle of the Sunday Magazine, with which the unfortunate children of the present generation are afflicted by their Sunday-school teachers?

Surely, it cannot be the intention of the editor and his colleagues to really inflict his (*sic*) readers with a weekly review of education? The education of the students of University College is surely carefully enough looked after by the authorities without the establishment of a College paper to supplement their labours! Of course all true University men should heartily co-operate with the professors and tutors, and essays and articles on subjects arising out of college studies should always find a place in the columns of a college paper; but the advancement of education is not my idea of its main object. Leave that to the authorities, and devote all your energies to the *social* side of college life. The weak point with all our Canadian Universities seems to be the luke-warm interest taken in all matters which do not directly tend to help a man in obtaining a good place on the class lists; and the great object of a paper like the *Varsity* seems to me to be the creation of a genuine, hearty *esprit-de-corps* among University men.

Perhaps it is rather soon to criticize, but, judging from the general tone of the first two numbers of the *Varsity*, small encouragement will be given to light and amusing articles, and the reading matter will tend to become, perhaps, highly instructive—even "educational"—but, on the whole, heavy.

I hope I am wrong; I hope the editors have no such intention of allowing the paper to become the organ of a numerous but most objectionable class of University Students—the prigs—men who are so thoroughly impressed with the dignity of the undergraduate that they quite look down on all manly exercises, who assume the habits and demeanor of the Methodist parson, and who talk as though their spare hours were spent in learning by heart the unabridged edition of Webster's dictionary: men, who are utterly selfish, subscribe to no fund from which they do not expect to make a personal gain, and who, in short, are completely devoid of any true University spirit.

The success which attended the 'White and Blue' was in a great measure due to the absence of anything approaching "priggishness." The public were so surprised at finding that there was some little life and sense of humor among the undergraduates of University College that they were quite delighted with that original and unconventional publication, and, with many other graduates and friends of the College, I would be very sorry if the new paper should not, in that respect, at least, be conducted on the same principle as the old one.

Trusting that my remarks will be taken in good part, and, with every wish for the success of the paper,

Toronto, Oct. 18th, 1880.

I am, sir, yours, &c,

A GRADUATE.

Erratum.—The 'College Gown' will appear next week.