

## THE O. A. C. REVIEW.

worthy instructor, and it is not our intention to add materially to what he has said, but we shall point out a few ways in which it would be of great service, which he has not touched upon in his excellent article.

The ancients thought that gymnastic exercises would not only strengthen the body, but also would prevent disease. How far this is true we shall not pretend to say, but of this one thing we are certain, that a person with a strong physical frame can withstand disease much better than one with a weakly frame; and that a gymnasium will do much towards developing a healthy frame cannot be doubted. It would afford a place where students might knock off the excess of animal spirits and then the noises in the halls would not be heard so frequently. If we had such a place, those who wish to practice gymnastics might go there, where they would not disturb others who would rather study. Students would then carry home a better report of the College and more would be induced to attend. Only those who have attended a year or two know how trying it is to study after study hours. But who can wonder if young fellows full of life and energy should at times grow boisterous? At the commencement of each College year we have the warning given us, not to mar the halls, furniture, etc.; and we are also told that a hundred dollars or so have been expended in repairing and cleaning after the preceding year. A large part of this expenditure is due to the fact that no place is provided where students may make merry and hence they choose the halls and rooms as their resort for all physical exercises with the result that considerable damage is done each year. How many hundred dollars thus saved would be required to build a suitable place? A few years expenses for such repairs would soon pay the cost of the building. But the building might serve another purpose, viz.,—that of a Convocation Hall. There is no suitable room connected with the College for gatherings, and its need is sorely felt, as anyone knows who has been to the trouble of clearing out the dining hall and seating it for public meetings; besides, it is far too small.

We hope the authorities will consider the matter and that before the opening of another College year we shall see a suitable gymnasium erected in connection with the O. A. C.

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I wandered into the reading room one day recently when all was quiet and still. It was such a day as tends to produce a meditative mood. Outside was slush and pelting rain. Inside no living object was present to mar the stillness. As I sauntered up to the side of the room where five daily papers are kept on file, I heard them speaking in a language which seemed rather unintelligible, but which was understood after a time. At first I was amazed that newspapers could talk, but there was no mistaking it. All had the push-ahead, business tone, which no doubt they learned from their respective editors. After listening intently I made out their complaint which was after this manner:—"The students read us for the news which we contain and for that only. They have no time to read the politics of the day. The greater part of our columns are not read at all. All the news may be obtained from two of us." But, I remonstrated do you not look for the subscription without any regard for the good which you accomplish? What will your managers say when they hear of you talking in this manner? In the same tones as before came the words, "we would rather see the money expended in other ways more profitable to the students." I turned away convinced that their suggestion was worth considering. As I paced around

to the right the *Herald* and *Mercury* beckoned me to pause a moment. They seemed to have a special grievance. In tones somewhat weakened after the withdrawal of the other three they said—"It is a great struggle we are having here as to who shall be at the top of the heap. Sometimes it is one and sometimes it is the other. Frequently we are removed before many have a chance to inspect us. If we cannot receive fair treatment and be useful we would rather not come at all." I passed on, reflecting that wisdom may proceed out of the mouth of babes.

As I neared the quarters of the great army of Agricultural Journals a babel of voices met my ears so that it was impossible to distinguish what any of them was saying. Each was putting his claims for a place in the liveliest manner possible. I bade them all keep silent except four, viz.,—*The Canadian Live Stock Journal* and *Farmer's Advocate* (which now lie peaceably side by side), *The Cultivator* and *Country Gentleman* and *The Maritime Agriculturist*—that chiefly because of its editor's association with the College and the fact that there are a number of Maritime students and associates. When the noise had ceased, the four stated their views in a very plain, straightforward manner, which were practically as follows: "There is too much skimming of our pages and not enough solid information taken from us. Fewer journals and have these read better are what we advise." Hearing a great bustling of leaves and a small piping voice that seemed to be nearly suffocated, I turned to give any assistance that might be required, but by this time it had extricated itself and the representative of the Dairy Department was endeavoring to claim my attention. I listened, and from its tones, knew that *Herald's Dairyman* was holding forth. In effect his arguments were—that he did not believe in having two or three other dairy journals on the top of him which caused him to be frequently overlooked. He believed that all the knowledge in regard to dairy matters, which is received from journals of his class, could be obtained by a careful study of his pages only. I thanked him for his suggestion and moved on.

The faint whisperings of the *Poultry Review*, and of the *Bee Journals* next claimed my attention. Their voices were very weak, hoarse and wheezy; they seemed unable to endure the cold climate of Guelph. "We never get mentioned by the Professors so the students do not think it necessary to ever look at us, thus we are passed by in silence." I sympathized with them knowing how bitter it is to receive a cold shoulder.

In among the cackling hens and the humming bees I found the *Scientific American*, but he was so engrossed in an important experiment in regard to a new method of photography that he only looked up to say: "Those who are inordinately fond of pictures, or those who are anxious to know how to convert a 3 ft. burner into a 4 ft., occasionally drop in to see me, but if it were not for the engineer I should not be interrupted very much in my experiments to elucidate scientific problems to my satisfaction." So Ho! That is your position, eh? I remarked and moved away. Other scientific papers complained of being skimmed over and all seemed agreed that less quantity and more careful reading of the few would be an improvement.

Ha! Ha! Ha! broke on my ears. "I have full swing except when the *Globe* tries to imitate me. Whenever the boys get the "blues" they always come round to see me." I thought my ears must have been misleading me this time; but no, there was *Grip* holding his sides and laughing as heartily as ever. I thought that truly *Grip* deserves a place in our reading room that he may help to drive away dull care.