

to that of most, if not all, of those which might be considered desirable additions to the curriculum. In truth, if our college is to keep pace with the times, such a chair is an absolute necessity. If the dead languages have to give way a little to make room for their living sisters such courtesy will only be consistent with the spirit of the age. The time is not far distant, if indeed it is not already here, when a degree which does not stand for a certain amount of French and German will be subject to considerable discount. In view of this, we feel sure that an effort, to supply this deficiency, will be made in the near future by those on whom the responsibility rests.

IT has been frequently observed that during the skating season, that interest which is due to the Athenæum as a literary society and which at other times exists among the students, to some extent decreases. That such should be the case we sincerely deplore; for to make any society a success, and especially one of a literary nature, the united effort of all its members is required. Granting this last clause and also that each student desires a flourishing condition of the society, the question naturally suggests itself, why do so many on Friday evening desert the ATHENÆUM and give their attention at the Rink? We cannot think that any student will say, that the advantages presented by the Rink are of a kind superior to those afforded by the Athenæum; nor can we suppose, that his need of physical exercise is so great as to require his attendance at the former, on that one evening. How then can his absence from the latter be excused? Merely on the ground of enjoyment. But when this is attainable nearly every afternoon in the week, such a reason will not out-weigh the demands placed upon him by his duty to himself and to the society. The cost is too great, and must ultimately defeat one aim, and an important one, of a college course. In the main, the object of the Athenæum is to accustom the student to public speaking; and as a general thing he can ill afford to absent himself from its weekly meetings. We have spoken mostly of what has transpired in past terms. During the present term the Society has had a fair attendance and interesting meetings; and we hope that the mere pleasure of skating will induce no one to leave it.

A MOVEMENT is on foot in the United States for an exchange, at certain intervals, between the professors of different colleges. Such an arrangement, it is argued, would be to the advantage of student and teacher. The idea is so opposed to prevailing custom that, on first thought, it seems to border on the absurd; but a closer investigation will attribute to it, at least, the merit of plausibility. The chief advantage to the student would be that resulting from contact with a number of men. A stranger of note, even in one lecture, leaves behind him impressions altogether apart from the instruction he gives. In addition to this, no two men have the same style in teaching. Professors are only men, and as fallibility is common to all mankind, it may be taken for granted that there are objectionable features in the style of the best of teachers. And from the variety of gifts, it may, with equal fairness, be assumed that no two will either excel or be wanting in the same particulars. It follows, therefore, that by a systematic exchange, one would supplement the deficiencies of another, giving the student the best of each. Again, a certain study is not only liable to become a hobby, but certain lines in the same study are subject to the same danger—an evil which the proposed movement would tend to correct.

Supposing a salary sufficient to atone for the inconvenience attending the scheme, let us see how the professors themselves would be affected. They would not be tied year after year to one obscure spot, but would have the advantages of a number of educational centres. With an increased sphere of labor, a longer period in which to make their merits known, would be required, and hence there would be less liability of their losing their youthful zeal and floating listlessly along on an established reputation. As the tastes and requirements of a large number of students, as well as the customs of places differ, a more flexible system of teaching to meet the wants would be necessary, and, hence, the danger of becoming a groove-runner—the teachers worst failing—would be avoided.

Perhaps the best feature of the movement is the uniformity in the value of degrees which it implies. At the present time, for instance, the degree of Bachelor of Arts has an exceedingly indefinite meaning. A multiplicity of colleges, each of which represents a certain amount of wealth and intelligence, naturally implies a variation in the value of degrees. Under