

A SPECIAL examination for the degree of B. A. in addition to the regular tests is one of the possibilities for our students of the no distant future. Words of ominous import have been uttered, and expectation stands breathless. Like all proposed departures this one calls forth both pronounced condemnation and zealous advocacy. Arguments are hurled at the innovation, joy is expressed concerning the prospective advance.

Such an examination would mean that the seniors towards the close of the college year, when all their strength should be given to their orations, must meet a hostile serried phalanx composed of the fierce giants who at an earlier day had one by one been conquered. Again must they behold the ghost of Polydorus and listen to his sepulchral tones—again must their bared backs writhe under Olney's hyperbolic scourge—again must all those malignant and tyrannical imps of the *ous* family and the *ide* be knocked in the head. To pass again upon the leading subjects of the four years' course—*infandum dictu*.

On the other hand why do we take the arts course, not certainly for the empty B. A. alone? For the mental discipline is the reply, and this we obtain without the proposed university examination. There is surely, however, in addition to the abstract discipline some importance to be attached to the store of knowledge acquired, and to the advantage of having that knowledge at all times for instant use; nor will it be argued that even the discipline itself is in danger of being diminished by the extra study which such an examination would render imperative. And further it would be curious to enquire whether the faculty would consider as a worthy specimen of their professional handiwork that student who has not retained so much of the various studies as will enable him to pass, after due warning, a satisfactory examination upon the whole curriculum. The Indian warrior of the olden time believed that whatever of courage and strength his slain enemy had possessed entered into his own soul and increased that prowess in which he gloried. However that be in intellectual recounters it is true that conquest means added power to the victor. Can there then be any wiser means for the development of strong men than this very system of special examinations with all that it means to the student of continuous review and assiduous toil.

WE are not sure after all that life, in large college boarding houses has as many advantages as are claimed for it. That there are certain healthy tendencies and broadening influences we are very willing to admit, but whether or not these benefits are not more than counter balanced by other adverse influences, is a serious question. The latter view is supported by the experience of some of our most prominent universities, where it has been found necessary to abolish the boarding house system.

Why the same propriety in conduct should not be observed in the college boarding house as would characterize the actions of each individual in his home or any private family, is a little strange, but there certainly is a tendency to encourage a spirit of boisterousness that is not very commendable.

But this is not all. There is a *general* tendency to *lawlessness*, and in some cases the tendency is increasing rapidly. We do not intend to stigmatize any particular class or portion of the community, but we do say that this thing most abounds where it should be least expected. Every student on the hill owes it to the supporters of the institution, to the friends who have sent him here, to his associates whose good name is as much affected by his conduct as their own, and to himself to be a gentleman and behave like one. This is to be expected of the youngest student on the hill, much more by those whose years and positions lay upon them the responsibility of being models for those who are so apt to copy from the more experienced. We should not only be desirous of qualifying ourselves to prosecute successfully the business affairs of life, but to become worthy of the best positions in the best society that this nineteenth century affords.

WE are confident that the argument in the article "Preparation for College," which appears in this issue, accords with the experiences of a good many students, and the recent action of the College authorities in raising the standard for matriculation, and the requirements in examinations, should receive the hearty commendation of every honest student.