

It should be cheap. This quality will recommend itself to all, and especially to the College-student; for such a variety of books are necessary in every department, and so little care seems to be exercised in procuring cheap editions, that his book bill is one of the heaviest he has to meet. Of course, cheapness only in so far as it is consistent with real merit, is desirable. In cases where books are expensive, there is a tendency to use them only one term, and then sell them to in-coming classes. This is a grand mistake. A great loss is sustained in such a bargain; for one not only sells the book, but parts at the same time with certain annotations which serve as landmarks, and are invaluable for future reference. Not least among the evils of the National Policy is that it forces Canadians to pay twenty per cent. on American books. To impose a duty on articles that can be manufactured at home is bad enough; but to tax brains is barbarous.

It should be easily attainable. Difficulty in procuring suitable books promptly is often experienced by the students of Acadia in spite of improved means of transportation. Sometimes it is the fault of the student himself in not sending his order in time. Again it is traceable to the neglect of the bookseller to order promptly. Teachers frequently are not careful to furnish a list of the needed books and to impress on the student the necessity of obtaining them. And cases have been known where the book was either out of print altogether or, what is worse still, where a sufficient number of copies could not be obtained to supply an ordinary sized class. In truth, it is no uncommon occurrence for a fortnight at the beginning of a term to be lost by a class on account of the difficulty of obtaining some book.

In order to bring about a better condition of things respecting the matter of text-books, the following plan is suggested. Whether it has ever presented itself to the minds of the authorities is not known; but it is certainly worthy of their consideration. The plan is simply a book-room in connection with the Institution, carried on in some such way as this: Let a room in the College, or some section in the library, be taken for the purpose, and the oversight given to somebody competent for the work, whose duty it shall be to order all necessary books, to buy and sell second-hand books, in short, to do a regular business in furnishing the students of the three departments. No doubt, a man willing to take the position, provided the patronage of all were assured, could be found. In case the thing was run under the supervision of the Faculty, which would probably be the proper way, it could be delegated to somebody, who would be willing to do the work for a less profit than that charged by the regular booksellers, and hence a matter which is now everybody's business, and consequently nobody's, would become the business of one responsible person.

ATHLETICS.

AMONG the many subjects which engross the student's mind, the improvement of his physical condition should claim the attention due to it from its vital importance. For it is a fact well attested in every age and every race, that the *mens sana* can never or seldom exist without the *corpus Sanum*. It has always been found that the nations which paid the greatest attention to the cultivation of the physical powers, have excelled in the production of genius; while on the other hand, those who have neglected their bodily development have degenerated into a race of mental dwarfs. We find, for instance, that Greece, the whole pent of whose genius was directed towards the idealization of human form, has stood forth in modern, as well as ancient times, the model and teacher in literature and art of all the nations of the earth. Rome, too, while she gave heed to the physical education of her children, was like Athens, the mistress of the world. But when the desire for the improvement of the physique gave way to the luxury which "closed in behind the chariot wheels of the Cæsars," the halls of the senate ceased to re-echo with the eloquence of the orators; nor did her streets receive further embellishments from the hands of Roman artists.

Seeing then, that the strength and energy of the mind so far depend upon the proper development of the body, is it to be wondered at, that the Universities and Colleges of to-day spend such large sums of money for the erection of Gymnasias, and for the proper instruction of their students in Athletics? Yet, notwithstanding the thorough manner in which this subject has from time to time been agitated, there are still some who do not seem to be awake to the importance of physical training. And I am afraid that men of this character—men who think that the *sumum bonum* of their lives consists in being able to construe Heroditus and Demosthenes, or differentiate an equation of Calculus," may be found among the students of "Acadia College."

When I see, during the time given for recreation, students deeply engaged in study, I sometimes wonder if they are aware that, whilst collecting the gems classic lore, they are wasting that most precious of all treasures, health.

There are some here who derive great benefit from the different sports upon the campus, but many whose only physical recreation consists of a walk of a mile or two over the same course every day. This exercise may be very good, and in fact is the only resort at hand; but it does not meet the demand. Exercise to be truly beneficial, must have variety, and be taken at regular intervals to produce its full effect.

Since then the conditions are not fulfilled by the means at our command, would it not be well for the students to establish athletic associations, from which