

ladies should remain to graduate than do at present; and also that the last year of the course is relatively of greater value than any of the others.

But even after leaving college, much of the advantage of the training received is lost for lack of keeping up habits of study and pursuing some definite course of reading. It is like carefully tempering and sharpening a delicate instrument and then allowing it to rust from disuse. In the case of young men, the exigencies of their professions often require them to keep up their studies or to prosecute them still further. But young ladies, for the most part, are without this stimulus. They have ample leisure for study, but seldom use it to the advantage which they might use it under proper guidance. The Alumnae Associations of our ladies colleges do good service in keeping up a bond of union among graduates, and in the preparation for their essays, developing a considerable amount of intellectual effort. But many, we are persuaded, would gladly pursue their studies much further if a judicious course were indicated for their guidance. Possibly examinations, somewhat like the Cambridge Civil Service examinations for women in England, might be held for those willing to submit to them, and some recognition of success in passing them given in the form of a diploma or certificate of merit. The heads of our different Methodist colleges, male as well as female, might be induced to indicate such general course of study as they might judge best suited for their graduates; and might also make arrangements, if it were found desirable and practicable, for the holding of such examinations and the conferring of diplomas.

In default of such a concerted arrangement, students, whether self-taught or not, should lay down some definite plan for the pursuit of their studies. If they have any special aptness for any particular subject, let them investigate that as thoroughly as possible. The domain of knowledge is so vast that we can only hope to explore a limited arc of its circumference. If we wish, therefore, to advance its bounds in any direction, which should be the laudable ambition, and in some sort the duty of every one who has enjoyed the advantage of a higher educational training, we can only do so by concentrating our efforts in some special direction.