

about his own state of mind, and his own success in the mere delivery of the discourse which he has prepared, than about the impression which the message of mercy ought to produce on the minds and hearts of the hearers. In the case of those of our numbers who are further advanced in their College course, and who consequently have had considerable experience in public speaking and reading, while engaged in mission work during the summer, and occasionally during the winter, we hold that the exercises of this Society are just as necessary as for those who have had no such experience at all. And here, by the way, we take occasion to correct a very prevalent error, regarding the motives which actuate students in conducting the services in the various mission stations in our city. We have heard it again and again said, that these stations give the young men a splendid "chance to try their skill" and see what they can do! It is really painful to hear such language—it is repugnant to all true christian feeling. Moreover, there is no ground, and can be no ground, whatever, for such a statement, for especially at the present time, owing to the plenteousness of the harvest, and the fewness of the laborers, the demand for preachers is really greater than the supply. If, then, the more advanced students have so many opportunities of speaking, apart from any Society such as this, why, it may be asked, are the exercises of the Society as necessary for them, as for those who may be only in their first year at College? We reply, that for them the grand object of the Society is, not merely to afford opportunities for speaking, but for *extemporaneous* speaking; and, what is of perhaps still more importance, for speaking upon literary, philosophical and scientific questions. You all know how soon and how insensibly one who is accustomed to speak only on sacred and solemn subjects, in sacred

places, and of a voice, and a manner, by clergymen. Then, again, as students, living as one of the most abstract philosophy, and every thought upon them, subjects, and a gent opinion, on any one of pared to do this is in opposition forward for the tions of our faculty to develop this view in our Society.

The last meeting on which a few suggestions of *different forms of instruction* engaged in our clergyman to bring forward most damaging sense of other defence of the called upon to the false philosophy scattered broad popular lectures.