

We meet some persons and mingle with them it may be for years, yet they never by their words or actions influence us in the slightest degree; with others again our contact may be only in the form of a conversation of a few hours' duration, yet they have given our thoughts such an impetus that we remember them for years. Our relations with others may tend to elevate our thoughts and feelings, to lift us, as it were, to a higher plane; or they may tend to drag us down, to degrade and pollute us. They may fill us with longings for the true and the good, the ideal of beauty; or they may lower us in the depths of despair and destroy in us every feeling of strong endeavour.

It is mainly by the powers of mind and intellect that one person controls and sways the minds of others. That a teacher does, by his personal force, influence his pupils is granted by all. Long after his voice is silent his opinions will colour the lives of those with whom he may have mingled. They in their turn will influence others, so who can estimate the power of a 'strong-willed man? What is communicated thus unconsciously will remain long after the knowledge gained by books is lost. Some maintain that any one will do for a teacher as long as certain facts are remembered from books; that the teacher is nothing, the knowledge everything. How much that is learned in childhood is entirely forgotten in adult life! But that which moulds our destinies and develops our character is gained chiefly by our contact with the minds which influence us.

SCHOOL CALISTHENICS AND GYMNASTICS.

As a matter of theory all teachers readily admit the necessity of allowing physical education to have a place in a good school system, but all do not as a matter of practice pay systematic attention to it as a part of school work. The training of pupils in the regular and beautiful exercises comprehended under some good system of gymnastics and calisthenics is really the only way in which physical education can be efficiently conducted, and it would be a good thing for the youth of this province of both sexes if the excellent example set by the High School authorities of Chatham were more generally followed. They have engaged the services of a thoroughly scientific and ingenious master, Mr. E. B. Houghton, himself an old pupil of Upper Canada College, and if some of those who are responsible for the management of the schools would pay a visit to Chatham and see for themselves the results he has achieved, there is little doubt that his services would be in demand in at least some of the neighboring towns.

The gymnasium building was erected and the appliances were purchased with money voluntarily subscribed by friends of the school, the total cost being \$450. This sum sufficed to put up a building 35ft. by 50ft., well furnished with bars, trapeze, ladders, ropes, poles, clubs, wooden rifles, single-sticks, foils, masks &c., &c. Regular class instruction is given for at least two hours a week to each form, and the pupils of both sexes attain to such proficiency that the annual exhibition they give to the citizens of Chatham is by far the most popular public entertainment of the season. The funds raised by these exhibitions is utilized in keeping up the gymnasium and making additions to the school library.

Only those who have seen what can be accomplished by an enthusiastic and gentlemanly teacher of physical exercises with a class of pupils, are in a position to estimate calisthenics and gymnastics at their true value either æsthetic or sanitary, but both teachers and school boards may depend upon it that they are losing opportunities of conferring unspeakable benefits on the rising generation when they fail to give these exercises a place on their school programmes.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

The Annual Register of the Cornell University supplies interesting information concerning that institution. The history of the University is a somewhat unique one. The institution owes its existence to the bounty of the United States and of Ezra Cornell, an eccentric, but wealthy and philanthropic citizen of the state of New York. In the year 1862, the Congress of the United States passed an Act granting certain public lands to all States which should "provide at least one College where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts." The amount of land thus appropriated consisted of thirty thousand acres for each senator and representative which each state had in the National Congress. The share thus accruing to the state of New York was no less than nine hundred and ninety thousand acres.

In 1865 the legislature of the state of New York incorporated "The Cornell University" appropriating to it the income arising from the sale of the land thus granted. The chief conditions attached to this munificent gift were that Mr. Cornell should endow the University with a minimum fund of five hundred thousand dollars, that the University should provide approved instruction in agriculture, mechanical arts, and military tactics, and also receive annually one student from each Assembly District in the state, to whom instruction should be given free of charge. Mr. Cornell more than fulfilled the condition imposed on him by adding to the required endowment a splendid farm with the necessary appurtenances. As there are one hundred and twenty-eight Assembly Districts in the state, the free scholarships if all filled up would amount to five hundred and twelve.

The University was opened in October 1868. The faculty consisting of professors and assistant-professors, is aided by non-resident professors and lecturers. Among the latter are found in the Register for 1881-2 the distinguished names of Goldwin Smith (English Constitutional History), Edward Augustus Freeman (General European History), Dr. Adams of the University of Michigan, and others almost equally noted.

The University being established by a government recognizing no distinction of religious belief, seeks neither to promote any creed nor to exclude any. By the terms of its charter "persons of any religious denomination are equally eligible to all offices and appointments," and it is expressly ordered that "at no time shall a majority of the Board Trustees be of one religious sect, or of no religious sect." The University, however, possesses a chapel in which religious services are held and discourses delivered by representative clergymen of the various Christian denominations. The Register publishes the list of clergymen appointed, or requested, to officiate during the current year. The selection seems to have been made on broad principles, almost all shades of religious opinion being represented. The Right Rev. Bishop Doane of Albany and James Freeman Clarke of Boston, may be taken as typical extremes. The Canadian pulpit is worthily represented by Principal Grant of Queen's.

The President of the University from the beginning has been Andrew D. White, LL.D., one of the most distinguished Alumni of Yale College. Dr. White takes a lively interest in politics as well as in Education. For several years—while on leave of absence from the University—he represented his country as United States Minister at the imperial Court of Berlin. The Register enrols the names of 361 undergraduates.