

a bad university. It must of necessity be narrow intellectually and socially : it cannot provide itself with a proper staff of professors, or with a good library, or with the collections and teaching apparatus which science now demands. All this is undeniable, but it will not induce weak colleges to give up their university powers.

In another way the one-horse university system is likely to do mischief. An untrammelled facility of graduation, with the present tendencies of American society, is pretty sure to produce a supply of graduates in excess of the demand. In an early stage of civilization the difficulty is in inducing men to take to intellectual callings; but now, and especially on this continent, the difficulty is the other way. Founders of new colleges hardly consider what is to be done with all the alumni whom they will send forth. The intellectual callings are becoming overstocked, and it is cruel kindness to multiply the number of cultivated and sensitive natures condemned to destitution.

Oxford and Cambridge are so richly dowered with wealth, beauty, and history, and have such a hold on the heart of the nation, that if they are true to themselves they will probably keep their place. Possibly they may even re-absorb the University of London. That institution was called into existence only by the fatal bigotry which, in the supposed interest of a privileged church, excluded half the nation from the national universities. It has no staff of teachers, and is, properly speaking, not a university but a central examining board, conferring degrees on all comers without reference to their place of education or to the course which they have gone through, otherwise than as it is indicated by the examination. About fifty years ago a new university was founded, on the model of an Oxford College, at Durham, out of the sur-

plus revenues of the cathedral. This was an unseasonable revival of a project of Cromwell, formed at a time when the communication between the north and south of England was less easy than at present. It has failed, and the university is fain to give substance to its spectral existence by an alliance with a medical school at Newcastle.

5. Another subject of discussion, and rather vehement discussion, is the system of examinations. At Oxford and Cambridge the examinations for students ambitious of honours are competitive, and more highly so at Cambridge, where the candidates are placed in order of merit, than at Oxford, where they are ranked in four classes and placed alphabetically in each class. The intensity of competition is greatly increased by such prizes as the fellowships, which are now bestowed on graduates by examination, and are of the average value of \$1000 a year. Various objections are now brought against the system. It is said that the examination test is imperfect, that students are apt to be overstrained and exhausted by the effort, above all that the proper objects of study are supplanted by ambition or pecuniary motives, and that the genuine student is prevented from following his natural bent, and forced to direct his reading to the impending examination. The practical question must be whether the good or the evil preponderates, and in England, perhaps, the weight in the scale of good may be increased by considerations which have no place in America. England is an aristocratic country, and these university honours and prizes, especially the fellowships, keep a door open for plebeian merit. On the other hand, there are aristocratic students in the English universities out of whom it is impossible to get any work without the spur. The life of Lord Althorp is in every way