

It raises, at the same time, however, the whole question of oratory, its rules, its fashions ; its adaptability to place, time and circumstances. All which, again, involve many kindred matters, as rhetoric, elocution and style ; if, indeed, style be not the one word necessary. One remarks that the judges are to give seventy-five per cent. for matter, and twenty-five for what is, somewhat vaguely, denominated " delivery." The proportion is fair enough, though much good matter may, obviously, be lost for want of style, and very little made to go far by means of the same article.

Style, then, may fairly claim the larger share, if not the whole of the marks assigned to delivery. Style, surely, means so many things, not the man, merely, though the old saying is truer than most wise saws or modern instances. It means elocution, in the case of spoken matter ; that, strictly, is the best form of utterance. Wherein, one includes manner—in the widest sense : of argument, primarily, but also of arrangement, voice, possibly of gesticulation as well. Certainly, choice of words should have due weight.

Which brings us back to that question of adaptability to place, time, and circumstances. The set speeches of Burke would, only too manifestly, not be tolerated by a modern audience, even could Burke rise from his grave to deliver them. The short, pithy, interjectory sentences of Charles James Fox are better models ; Macaulay is to be admired, but as an example of what to avoid. One thing, at least, these and many others had in common, an utter abhorrence of slang and colloquialisms.

It may be, we have descended to a lower, and, possibly, to a more practical plane. Oratory, one hears, is out of fashion in the Mother of Parliaments ; therein presumably, she has followed her daughters, not they her ; it being the prerogative of the young to instruct the old. Like the Psalmist, they are wiser than their teachers, though hardly by the same means.

Still, one would fain enter a plea for style, at least in these Inter-University debating contests. It is easier to be a stump