

had to be made, and it was decided to add a gymnasium, and to make athletics a prominent feature in order to attract the young men of the town. This was a sensible move, for at that time athletics were popular and justly so, but much harm was being accomplished by several athletic clubs where youthful morals were being deteriorated while physical improvement was being encouraged. So an instructor and secretary was secured, who did excellently well; worked hard, formed several athletic classes, had baths built in the association, and generally woke people up. A first-class lecture course was provided, and things looked much brighter.

But it was hard to make a start in so short a time and the enthusiasm died down again—yet fortunately, was not wholly extinguished. All these changes had cost money; the institution was in debt and the situation that confronted the President and the Executive Committee up to a very recent period was one that was quite sufficient to cause a great deal of worry.

And then came the beginning of an agreeable change. Whether it was that the valiant efforts that had been made, and the experience gained had given a right direction to the ideas of those in charge of the institution it is difficult to say, but affairs took a turn for the better, and, almost suddenly, it seems as if the Y. M. C. A. has found its place.

There is no doubt today about its popularity with young men. Go at any time and you will see them there, the very class whom it is designed to reach and benefit, and whom *it does benefit*.

The reason of the change is after all not far to seek. The young men of to-day need different methods of handling to those in vogue a generation or even a decade ago. To attract them to the Y. M. C. A. was a difficult task; once attracted the greatest difficulty was overcome. Now it looks as if success would be the result of past work.