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WE have been favoured with a glance at the advance sheets of the 97-98 calendar and notice some striking alterations have been made in the curriculum prescribed for the course of Honour Latin. For the first year examination in honours twenty-eight books are required, compared with sixteen in the current calendar, and ten in that of last year and many previous years. And the list for the final examination shows an almost proportionate increase. Such a decided extension of the Honour Latin course seems to us to demand a wider range of reading than is possible for students who have not enjoyed any more thorough training than is afforded by most of the preparatory schools. Men who have spent no more than two or three years at Latin before entering the University will find it exceedingly difficult to read for their second or third year examinations the twelve books of the Æneid, with the whole of Horace and the books of Cicero and Tacitus. And the result will be a superficial rather than an accurate and systematic knowledge of the authors read.

We appreciate the spirit of this step towards a wider reading in Latin literature, but are of the opinion that it must be accomplished more gradually. The work done in the schools is not to be a fixed measure of a University curriculum, but neither can it be entirely left out of account; and a gradual movement in the direction of a more extensive reading will lead to more exact and thorough preparation in the schools.

There is rejoicing and goodfellowship in the halls of our Alma Mater this week. Our elder brothers who have gone forth from time to time into the arduous battle of life are home on furlough. Gray and reverend seniors, who have battled for almost a generation with the stern realities of the world since they went out from these halls, have come, bringing with them the fruits of a ripe experience. Others are here whom we ourselves knew as fellow-students only a short year or two ago; sobered a little, perhaps, by the first onset against the hosts of ignorance and the serious business of life, but scarcely masking under clerical collar and coat the old hilarity of college days. Enthusiasm and earnestness everywhere prevail, and the determination of all seems to be to kindle anew at the shrine of their benign mother the torch of learning, which is in danger of burning dim amid the smoke and turmoil of the battle.

The fifth annual conference of the Alumni Association, now in session, surpasses any previous one in point of numbers and in practical helpfulness as well. While intellectual studies are the predominant feature, there is no danger of their producing a hard intellectualism. Sympathies are quickened, new zeal is kindled, and spirituality is deepened. These conferences are no mere mutual admiration societies, where the members meet to say pleasant things of each other. One is immediately impressed with the earnest search after truth, the frank and candid spirit of criticism and the constant insistence upon clear and logical thinking. All the problems of interest to men who are leaders in the realm of thought and morals are bravely and hopefully met. The general attitude assumed in the discussions is that of a liberal conservatism, a bringing forth from the treasury of things new and old, and the stimulus mental and spiritual which the members receive must have far-reaching effects in their subsequent studies and work.

The influence of these conferences upon the University is no less wholesome than upon the members who attend. Our University is indeed an organism which through all its history has developed new organs as they were required. Hence the Alumni