

murmur at their lack of legislative and executive powers. Here the college paper has a function. It furnishes a quasi-constitutional means of submitting suggestions and discussing grievances. I mean to say that when real discontent is rife among the students the spirit of agitation takes definite form in letters or "leaders." And in every well-conducted university the fullest weight is allowed to student hints or protests when suitably conveyed.

I have just glanced at exceptional emergencies. Happily few serious notes of discord are heard in the college paper, for occasions of contest seldom arise. The normal tone should be formed by a harmonious blending of *allegro* and *penseroso*. Or perhaps one can put it better by saying that the grave and gay should both be represented, if not in every number, at least in every volume. As in all other things that which is most desirable will be most difficult to secure. A college paper should not be altogether frothy; it should carry some ballast. Still, according to my conception, it should be, first and foremost, a source of genuine amusement. Sober essays will flow into the editor's pigeon-holes with steadiness, while scintillations of true wit and humour will appear with comparative infrequency. I do not include under the head of "true wit and humour" the average run of class jokes. These may at times cause a moment's laugh, but they rarely stand the test of "cold print." On the other hand, subjects of delightful fooling are within easy reach of every student. Parody, gentle satire, experiments at writing in other languages, and the ludicrous aspects of dull or heavy themes, are only a few of the fields which can be suitably exploited by the lover of jest and *persiflage*. Fresh incidents of contemporary college life, whether local or not, always help out the wag who is seeking to turn a neat stanza or to shaft a pointed paragraph.

One need hardly suggest that the topics should fall well within the range of academic interests. The danger which threatens is of another kind. It comes from the side of narrowness. Items of class and personal intelligence are often too numerous and relatively too prominent. No college paper is good which cannot create at the distance of five hundred miles a distinct impression of its cleverness. Notices of the great athletic events, of university demonstrations, of important public lectures given under the auspices of the university, etc., always deserve to be inserted, but the reports of them should be carefully written. Proceedings of the debating and technical societies should also be accounted legitimate college news. For the rest the "personal" element should be reduced to a minimum.

Sometimes the college paper, through a variety of accidents or, worse still, from a feeling of general indifference, declines and even approaches its fall. Wherever such a condition occurs the undergraduates as a whole should face the catastrophe in the same spirit which one of the London dailies displayed when news came of the reverse at Nicholson's Nek: "If this check shows us the value of something better than music-hall patriotism, it will not be without its value." "Music-hall" allegiance to the university is always rife among students, but when it comes to doing real work for the college paper the ranks are not always full.

C. W. COLBY.