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The Sanctum.

THE mechanical appearance of the October number of THE ATHENÆUM has been made a subject of unfavorable comment by some of our friends as well as a few of our more fortunate exchanges. We admit the justness of the criticism but question the fairness of holding the editors responsible for a matter of which they were ignorant till the paper made its appearance. The Board of Editors were quite as much disappointed as any of their readers could be. Since then they have made such arrangements as will they hope prevent any similar annoyance in the future.

WE refer with satisfaction to the improvements that have recently been made in the College Reading Room. From being an unfurnished and somewhat cheerless apartment with papers and magazines lying around in splendid disorder, it has become, by a small expenditure and a little judicious management, an attractive resort for students during their leisure hours. A large table, a number of chairs, as well as several additional supports for the larger papers and periodicals, contribute much to the comfort and convenience of those who frequent it. The names of the different papers and their places of publication are neatly printed on the walls, so that visitors can now readily find what they are seeking without the annoyance of having to examine every paper in the room in the search. Something further however, is necessary before the reading room will be in a satisfactory condition for occupation during the winter: the heating apparatus is insufficient. While we cheerfully acknowledge the co-operation of the College Executive Committee in the improvements already introduced, we hope that the health and comfort of the students will be still further consulted by the introduction of some more rapid and effective method of raising the temperature of the room.

IT has been said by one who laid claim to some practical knowledge that the tendencies of the present century were uniformly progressive. However true this proposition may be, in a general sense, its particular application will not be so obvious. While the history of these institutions during the last decade reveals a good deal that is encouraging inasmuch as it lies along the line of progress, still we cannot help observing that