



Away back in the eighteen hundreds a writer in the *Athenaeum* criticized a contemporary college magazine for a lack of literary material. Other writers have been doing it ever since! Every year and every month there have been the same old criticisms. Why? Firstly, because most of the writers cannot think of anything else to say; and secondly, because they do not understand the situation or purpose of the magazine they are criticizing, and could hardly hope to know it. Moreover, those are the reasons why future criticisms are going to remain the same.

Now, in the past the *Athenaeum* has been much criticized for things that, if our contemporaries knew the purpose of our magazine, no doubt would have been overlooked. We would like to correct a misconception that seems to be prevalent among our critics; namely, that competition for the *Athenaeum* is open to all. That is not strictly true.

The primary purpose of the *Athenaeum* is to encourage the students, and especially novices, to write. With this aim in view competition has been limited to undergraduate students who have not received a literary "A." That means the most of the material of our magazine is contributed by beginners, and should be regarded as the work of such. Now, this is not offered as an excuse—orientation can never be an excuse for bad work—but is given merely that our purpose and material may be more fully understood.

There is really a wealth of worth in many of the magazines that come to our shelf. Sometimes it seems a shame that some