

If you take exception to what we say in these columns, or to what our contributors say, then please to hand in a criticism on the matter in question. No harm need result but rather mutual profit. We liked the belligerent disposition shown by the Palladians last term in replying to each others' essays. Life and vigor are thus shown in a literary society, and the same is no less true of a college journal. What say, then, to having a miscellany in the contributed department of the STUDENT?

A STATEMENT AND A THOUGHT.

One of our philosophic citizens asserted, not many years since, that in considering the limit to which society may go, we must at the outset discard all ideas of any radical change in the nature of man, since his desires and passions are the same, on the average, as they always were. There are, perhaps, good grounds for this statement. Man is indeed capable of progress, but only in his intellectual nature. All his culture has created no new faculty, but only developed those which are the common property of the race. Considered in his physical nature, he does not advance, for the savage may possess as fine a physique as the civilized man. The intellectual in man, therefore, is constantly modified and conditioned by the physical.

If we assume as substantially correct the aforesaid statement, a thought suggests itself. Many persons seem to think that progress will continue to take rapid strides, and, perhaps, at an accelerated speed. That this will be the case may be questioned. If the civilization of today possesses throughout the element of vitality, we could reasonably predict such a result. But that this condition exists is by no means obvious. Our present culture has been characterized as robust in the body but weak in the head. It is yet in its youth, and is thus nearer the source of inspiration to effort than we

may expect it to become after ages of conventionality.

Experimental science has assumed wonderful proportions, and it has greatly influenced those branches of our knowledge which are based upon reasoning alone; but this has been chiefly due to the aid which our artificial appliances afford. We are told that no keener intellects have existed than those who wasted their powers in scholastic disputation. The general attainments of a man, in our day, become still more superficial as the field of knowledge is extended. An adequate understanding of a single branch of inquiry with its subtle complications, implies the toil of a life-time. What may we then say of the attainments of the man of general information? The practical duties of life have always been considered of prime importance, and this fact will ever preclude the acquirement of extended information on the part of the average person. Men will either be specialists or they will content themselves with possessing a practical stock of general knowledge. We may then expect the former class to be as limited in the future as it is in the present.

THE MILITARY QUESTION.

We are frequently asked why, as students, we do not speak our opinion in regard to the compulsory military drill. All such personal inquirers, we refer to an article that appeared in the Editorial columns of this magazine, May, 1878. At that time, we think we clearly set forth the opinions of four fifths of all the students then in connection with the University. And now after the elapse of nine months we believe, judging from the expressed sentiment of the students, that there is no material change in their antipathy to coercive military drill.

We still believe that the land grant does not demand compulsory drill in the college of Literature, Science and Art. The phrase, "Including military tactics,"