

require entirely too much time to copy them. Notwithstanding, the lessons given are generally too long to master in a reasonable time without the aid of these synopses, and it is entirely improbable that we could, even then, derive the generalities which years of study have enabled the professor to derive. It occurs to us that the class could save time enough during the school year, to more than doubly pay for having the synopses for the year's work in that class printed, thereby saving time, worry and pencils. '90, try it.

OUR mail system seems of late to lack the material parts of a system. The mail arrives and then sometime within the course of the day it is distributed. Then if the student happens to be around within ten or fifteen minutes of that time he may get his mail, but if later, he will be accommodated some time next day when he happens to be around and finds the steward around. Such a system is no system at all. Students cannot afford to be running over to the University every hour or so to see if the steward is there yet, although there is great need of getting some particular letter at the earliest possible time. This is not, we apprehend, the fault of the steward, for other business of more importance calls him away. It is possible, however, that some means could be devised by which the mail could be placed in some room to which at least two persons have a key, or that it could be left to some person in the University who could always be on hand and ready to distribute more than once or twice a day. Surely something can be done by which far better results could be obtained; if not, why not drift back into the old system?

It is always more agreeable and pleasant to mention in our columns any mark of improvement or contemplated improvement which may be made, than to be constrained to mention either movements to the contrary or an inexcusable delay in not moving forward. We believe, however, that it is our duty to mention those failures to improve as well as improvements. Among the latter, and one which has been so continually harped upon that these remarks may partake, to some, of the nature of the chestnut, is the failure to provide suitable walks upon the campus. In our opinion, and it is the opinion of the entire student body, THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR IT. We cannot conceive of any reason which should have delayed this long-felt want. Our authorities look on with placid countenances, and see text-books, new dresses, tempers, and like articles of value, utterly spoiled, and make, or at least seem to make, no movement to terminate the nuisance. The plea of no funds seems in our eyes to have no weight, for last summer good, substantial walks were laid at the col-

lege farm or the use of one professor and four or five students. It is not beyond our power to mention instances where money has been spent in and around our University building which would have been far better used in making the approaches to the building safe. Perhaps we may seem a little too radical in our position, but the urgency of this need requires some radical measures. We think that the students would save money in books, wearing apparel and soap, to club together and build walks. Who will start the contribution?

ENGLISH; DO WE SPEAK IT?

In an address delivered at a college reunion a short time ago Hon. Chauncy M. Dupew called attention to the fact that the study of the English language was so far neglected by our people as to make it a matter of reproach to us as a nation. He therefore proceeded to impress upon the minds of his hearers the great necessity of paying more attention to the study of English than has hitherto been paid. The gentleman cited several instances where the clearest and most exact language was required, and where the conspicuous lack of such qualities was attended with harmful, not to say ludicrous, results. Reference was made in particular to a bill recently introduced in the United States Senate, the wording of which was so slovenly and careless that no two men were able to agree upon its meaning. And yet the bill was framed by a man who stands high in the estimation of his countrymen, one who has won a deserved reputation in the halls of congress, and who would naturally be supposed to be a man of great intellectual ability. This careless use of our mother tongue is very wide-spread, and, as every effect must have a cause, that of this effect is not, in my opinion hard to find.

The standard of correct speaking among our people has for some time become sensibly lowered. We do not in our ordinary talk speak with half the purity and care which characterized our fore-fathers. We have fallen into a habit so utterly senseless in itself, and so pernicious that it seems almost incredible that we have ever allowed it to be formed. Of course I refer to the use of slang expressions and vulgar expletives which adorn our conversation, of which—in the case of the average speaker—they constitute about nine-tenths. This may seem at first sight to be a startling statement, and one which cannot be borne out by facts; but if one will look closely into the matter he will find that it is so near the truth as to merit consideration. What is it that causes such a wide dissimilarity in our methods of writing and speaking? Is it because they are unlike in their nature, and that in the one we are obliged to follow rules which in no wise apply to the other? Not at all. There ought not to be any difference whatever in our methods of speaking and of writing; yet no one needs to be told that for some reason they are so distinct as to seem to be different arts. But you may say that what we speak is spoken upon impulse, and that because more time and thought is given to what is written, it is therefore to be expected that it should be of a greater accuracy. All this I am willing to grant; but it must be remembered that if we had not allowed ourselves to become accustomed to this detestable practice of using slang we should not be obliged to pause before we speak, for fear of giving vent to a flood of meaningless words, and our conversation would in time become just as correct and refined as our productions. Understand me, I do not mean to say that one is to write