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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THERE are some commonplace and even senseless things that must be done and said, we suppose, in order to make life liveable. When a man returns from a trip, all his friends must ask him if he "has got back;" and we insist upon telling our acquaintances that the day is warm or cold, pleasant or disagreeable, as the case may be, when really it is an insult to their intelligence to presume that they are not aware of these facts.

But even commonplaces may be carried too far; and it occurs to us that "cheering" in the literary societies is in danger of passing its proper boundary. It is worth no small amount of work to win the heartfelt thanks of an intelligent audience, and it is exhilarating to receive these thanks when one can be sure that they are sincere. But, with us, cheers and thanks have degenerated into a meaningless formality. Every performance must be cheered, and the noise is frequently the loudest for the poorest speaker, "just to encourage him." Appreciation on the part of the audience is and should be the aim of everyone who appears before a literary society; and the reward

should be given if the result is attained, and under no other circumstances.

Again, our critics are not appointed or elected for the purpose of dealing out meaningless and indiscriminate praise. If the society is for individual improvement, it is the duty of the critic to suggest the ways. If it would aid in making the criticism more distinct, we suggest that the report be postponed until after recess, when the members are alone and the non-student friends of the performers have gone their ways. The critic's chair should invariably be filled by one of the ablest and most discriminating members of the society.

It may be impossible to have good, permanent walks in the campus until the new buildings are completed; but it is certainly an imposition to expect students to walk through mud over the tops of their rubbers in order to reach the buildings. It would not bankrupt the University to have a few loads of gravel or cinders drawn to make temporary crossings from the east and south, at least; or even crossings of one plank's breadth would much improve the existing condition. After the new buildings are completed the very first expenditure should be for durable walks of some description. We need a library building and a boiler house; but it seems decidedly penny wise and pound foolish to be so free with tens of thousands, and yet to hesitate year after year over the little sum that would enable us to reach the University with a presentable appearance and in a state of mind that would not disgrace our religious and philosophical training.

THERE are two classes of students who go through college and do not receive the full benefit from their opportunities. One of these classes is composed of the over-conscientious students who are determined to lose not one moment of their time, who spend every day and night in digging, and who begin to "cram" a week before every examination. Now it is impossible for one small head to contain the sum total of all knowledge, and it is also impossible to absorb more than a certain amount of truth in a certain time. If more is attempted, the result will be that some truths are forgotten in order to give place to others, or that the mind will come into a state of confusion, or that the mental or bodily health will