

wide by the press and bring needless disquietude to the many persons who are credulous enough to believe them.

Some ten years ago, it was said that a V-shaped concern had left the sun and was about to knock out of shape the planet with which we are so closely associated. But instead of a crash in real estate, no more was said about the ugly, but mythical, customer.

And now, according to these pseudo-scientists, all sorts of dire afflictions are to beset our earth in consequence of the simultaneous conjunction of four planets. It is claimed that history justifies this prediction, and the plagues which it tells of, until now attributed to filth, are said to be caused by these troublesome planets. Then, by all means, let the astrologer be galvanized to life, and let all sanitary measures be determined by his prognostications.

These prophecies, analogous to the hygienic nonsense which is so liberally dealt out by learned (\*) doctors, have failed in instances too numerous to mention. Now, if these other erudite frauds must amuse themselves in this way, let them not be hindered in their innocent recreation, but they would do well to cultivate enough of the virtue of modesty not to claim infallibility for their sham predictions.

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#### SOCIABLES AND RECEPTIONS

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We have noticed through the columns of our exchanges, east and west, that sociables given by the students and receptions by members of the faculty are a frequent occurrence. There was a time when sociables were a success in the University, when the societies vied each other in making them joyous occasions.

But during the present year only one sociable has been given by the students, and not a reception has broken the monotony of solid study. Students enter the class-room, recite their lessons and depart, day after day and term after term. So

long has this course of action been pursued that an isolated feeling has gradually sprung up between Professors and students. Through negligence of social intercourse, that more intimate friendship which pervades some institutions, has never been cultivated in the University. We think we speak the truth when we say that the present loyalty and patriotism of the students for the University as an institution, is the secret of present order and regards.

We should like to see the social relations between Faculty and students greatly changed. We should like to have a Professor able to say, when asked by a father concerning his son, something more than "Yes, his name is in my class-books." But never, under the present regime can the state of affairs be otherwise.

Professor and students must meet in some other capacity, where the dignity of the Professors and the timid obedience of the students are laid aside for the occasion.

If the University should act with a paternal care over students, as is argued by some, we desire to hear the first, the most sacred and essential principle of the household—a paternal voice: not alone from the chapel rostrum, where, clothed in dignity and authority, it demands obedience, but in the social gatherings of students and Professors, where the ensigns and distinctions of office are for once obliterated.

Our literary societies have failed to attract the attention of the Professors. Sociables and receptions seem to be the only gatherings where Faculty and students can meet in social enjoyment.

For this reason alone, if no other, they are to be encouraged in college circles.

The students of the University are patriotic for their *Alma Mater*, as they have repeatedly shown; consequently the feeling between Professors and students is cordial. But, outside of the class-room and the University, Professors and students are almost strangers.