

Life" is asked, very few can give the time to read extensive and complete works upon the subject; yet almost any one can find an opportunity to read such a summary as Prof. St. George Mivart has made upon this subject. In this article, one may glean the best thought upon the question, and gather the ideas of the most advanced thinkers of the day. Again, if one is interested in science, he needs only make himself familiar with *Nature* and the *Popular Science Monthly* in order to be well posted in regard to its present state. This is all the student can hope to do, on account of the many and various studies that are constantly demanding his time. To read the complete works upon any of these subjects must be left to the specialist; but by means of the Reviews and Magazines that are furnished us, no one except ourselves can be blamed, if we do not keep posted to some degree in the various studies of our course.

One of the greatest faults with our system of education seems to be that we are compelled to pass from one study to another with such rapidity, and to employ our time so fully, that we have no opportunity to complete, or even retain the knowledge of some study we have begun. The result is that by the time we have completed our course, our knowledge of Botany, Physiology etc. has gone, or at least only a vague remembrance of it remains. One hour a day spent in the library with the Reviews and Monthlies will save all this loss, or even more, it will fix firmly in memory, and bring out clearly the but half perceived idea of the text-book.

It will perhaps be said that theory, here as elsewhere, is much easier than practice. The writer admits it, yet ought one to withhold good advice simply because he does not carry his own theory into practice? Read one hour, at least every day, and you will not regret it, when you shall have finished your course.

ABLE SPEAKERS.

A common opinion seems to prevail that the only requisite essential to characterize an able speaker, is the artful presentation of subject matter. But experience has taught men that artifice in discourse is as easily detected as the lack of suitable material. So that regardless of the studied manner in which some ideas are extemporarily expressed, they frequently merit but limited attention. Once embodied in written discourse, a critical examination discloses the chief cause of a partial failure to be the lack of proper information.

An unbounded knowledge of the subject under discussion, then, assumes a position equally important to its manner of presentation. The truth that ideas must exist before they can be clothed in oratorical attire, can not be profitably ignored. And unless those ideas be elaborated and expanded by well known examples, they are of little value in entertaining a public audience.

Thus we find by experience in our societies, that he who dwells upon a few arguments—but who never relinquishes a point until his whole knowledge of the instance is related—controls, to a greater extent, the direct attention of his hearers. On the other hand let mere epochs be named, and only assertions introduced, and acute criticism brands the speaker with narrow conception of thought.

Able speakers, then, must find that knowledge is as essential as artifice for the gratification of human nature. There may occur instances when the knowledge to be related becomes intricate, and hence tedious. But by one aware of his position, a studied system of presentation can be made to overcome opposing tendencies. Knowledge combined with tact in the arrangement of discourse, bears success to a speaker. But tact without material to mould, finds little reward for coercive industry.