

THE HESPERIAN STUDENT.

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Editorial.

The opening of the new year finds both societies in new quarters and it ought to find the members of both full of interest and zeal for the work before them. A college course brings to a student many other duties outside of the class room and the most important of these other duties have reference to the societies and their work. Readiness in speaking, ability in writing and a good knowledge of parliamentary rules and political science are acquired in the society halls and the members who take an active part in the society work will find themselves the gainers in more ways than one. Many a successful politician in the seething caldron of public life to day took his first lessons in the management of men and circumstances while he was a student at college. Other things being equal, nay other things may be unequal and the rule will still hold good: the student who is recognized as a power in his society and whose opinion and position on society questions gives weight to the party to which he belongs will be the man whom coming years will find an earnest patriotic citizen taking an intelligent part in the workings of the great institutions under which we live. Few young men can afford to leave school with the knowledge that they have neglected any opportunity for improvement in writing or speaking or the art of controlling wisely and for noble purposes vacillating, many-sided human nature. The advantage of society training to young ladies can scarcely be underestimated; we have too often been bored by the awkward embarrassment and poor rhetoric of lady speakers not to feel it encumbered upon us to urge every young lady who possibly can do so to connect herself with one or other of the societies, and thus have practice in reading and speaking before an audience which will give her a self possession invaluable when future years and unforeseen circumstances may make it necessary for her to "speak before folks."

The University has sustained an almost irreparable loss in the death of Prof. Collier. A man well nigh perfect in his own department, a thorough scholar enthusiastic in his work, a prominent lecturer, an inspiring teacher, with ready wit and sound common sense he endeared himself to all. For some months his health had been failing and a trip to California about Commencement time did not suffice to restore him to us in perfect health. He died at San Jose on the 19th of June. Prof. Collier was in his fortieth year having been born in 1832 in Jay, Franklin County, Me. Three years after his marriage in May 1856, he commenced a four years course of study at Hillsdale College Michigan. He graduated in 1864, and after spending a year as tutor at his alma mater he was elected to the chair of Natural Science. In 1871 he was elected to the professorship of Chemistry in Washington and Jefferson College, Pa. From 1872 to 1875 he occupied a similar position in the State Agriculture College of Penn. Prof. Collier next went to the State Normal school at Indiana, Penn., and remained there until he entered upon

his duties at the University in the fall of 1876. Prof. Collier's career is yet another example of how position and scholarship and fame may be won by perseverance and courage. He began as a poor young man, working his way through college, supporting at the same time his wife and child by his trade which was that of a carpenter. By untiring efforts he won an enviable reputation and placed himself in the very van of his profession as an instructor and original investigator. The valuable scientific apparatus which he constructed during the past few years, and which was described in the scientific journals of the country, are marvels of ingenuity and skill. In 1876, in view of this and other achievements he was given the degree of LL. D. by Hillsdale College. Prof. Collier died of consumption brought on by over-work in the laboratory and class-room, to both of which he was so devoted. In his death the college world loses one of its noblest and best teachers.

There are two innovations which the STUDENT trusts the good sense and taste of the new Senior class will induce them to make. One is the abolition of public Senior exhibitions, which are a burden to the class itself financially and have a tendency to bore the audience which is generally composed of about the same people who become weary of hearing the same speakers so many times; and the inevitable result of two Senior exhibitions is a most lamentable lack of freshness and interest on Commencement day. The second reform is to do away with the throwing of bouquets on Commencement morning as each speaker leaves the stand. It is an old worn out custom agreeable only in the simple times when Commencement day was one of the gala days of the year to all the country around and the bouquets were few and rare, the gift of relatives or friends; but the indiscriminate shower of flowers which follows the close of each oration is an interruption to the exercises and has lost its significance as an especial honor to the speaker. A large table placed in front of the stage upon which all floral offerings could be placed would answer every purpose, and as each speaker finished his oration, an usher could present the blooming congratulations of happy friends.

A large number of the colleges of this country are following the example of those across the waters and doing away with the marking system in the daily recitations. There are many things which might be said both for and against this change. A rigid system of marking tends to make a student study solely for the sake of marks and perhaps superficial scholarship is the result, for it is well known that one may study merely for a day's recitation and get a good mark for it while in reality the practical lasting knowledge is very slight. Many excellent students, who are very shy, lose all their self-control under the excitement of a final examination and forget about all they ever knew; while other careless students, by a vigorous cramming, could make up in the two days before examination, all the glaring deficiencies of a term. A combination of both systems has, in many colleges, been found to answer most admirably.

A student who gives good satisfaction in doing honest, thorough work is given first grade, or what corresponds to 90 or above; while the second grade denotes scholarship ranging from 75 or 80 to 90 and so on.

In older universities and some not quite so old are springing up choral societies, Beethoven clubs and harmonic associations. This is a happy move in the right direction. As a people we are too sober and too much engrossed in business. Music ought to be taught in every country school house in the country, and every higher institution of learning should have a conservatory of music attached. If every man and woman in America knew how to sing they would all be happier, live longer and better and do better work. Here at home with our beginning of a conservatory and our band we are helping in the good cause.

The faculty receives some additions to its numbers and the new October catalogue (issued in the spring) will enroll Prof. G. E. Woodbury as Prof. of Anglo-Saxon, Charles N. Little as tutor in Mathematics and Analytical Chemistry, S. B. Holmann as director of the Conservatory of Music.

Editor's Table.

The June exchanges are wont to be better in their literary departments than those other months being filled with contest and commencement orations, and these show the effect of care and study usually for the better but sometimes only in the development of the florid style of composition. To those to the manner of "essay" writing born, there is an intense individuality in college paper essays. One can easily distinguish the declamatory style of the oration written for society or commencement intended to dazzle by its eloquence from the labored and business-like one of the class rhetorical essay written solely with a view to gaining that open sesame "passed" as well as from the playful, sometimes sarcastic style of the article written for the —, and the grave and fatherly tone of the occasional contribution of the professor can be "spotted" at once; it is usually upon the subjects of for ordination or currency.

The exchange department of these numbers on the contrary are invariably neglected; either entirely crowded out by reports of commencement week or put in to fill up. The exchange column of the eastern paper is at best only remarkable for its incivility and its omission is no loss.

Michigan University had something novel in the way of a tournament, lasting all day and its programme consisting of running, jumping, wrestling, boxing, fencing and numerous other exercises. The editor of the *Chronicle* claims to have beaten the editor of the *University* in a wheelbarrow race.

If a poem is found in all the college press that is worthy of the name, no exchange editor has done his duty if he omits to mention it: accordingly we mention one called Pompeii, in the June number of the *Students Journal* and wish we had room to quote it.