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MISCELLANEOUS MENTION.

It is said that the Panama canal will be completed in 1888.

Our great little men are always surprised that they are not appreciated.

A valuable addition to German historical literature by the publication of the second volume of Treitschki's "Recent German History."

Professor Mommsen has been acquitted of the charge of libeling Bismarck.

The youth should be placed where he can come in contact the greatest minds intellectually and with the best men morally; where he can see the most of life as it is, and as he must see it soon or late.

Not more than one in twenty attends school after the age of ten. Of these how few attend a college. Our university for example contains not more than two hundred and fifty students. Of these perhaps, one in ten will graduate. Surely this is an age of culture!

Book learning in the sciences is a pitiable sham. The reason why so many go through life without ever seeing daily the wonders and beauties of nature is because they have been taught by books alone. They have not been lifted into the pure sunshine of actual life.

A terrible disease has broken out in a certain medical college of this country. Eminent physicians call it "granular conjunctivitis complicated with photoplivitis, Antihydruplivbia and blepharasphosis inducing blepharylivea!" Hope the contagion will not reach us.

Recent improvements in the buildings of Columbia College have involved that institution in heavy debts which will require at least ten years to liquidate. The condition of the finances is another reason for refusing to admit women. There is need of a better excuse.

There is an old story of a customer at a grocery who after examining some butter repeated "too much salt for table use and not enough for building purposes." A similar case happened lately, the report being too much talk for eaching and not quite enough for good stump speaking.

Men of brains have always been in demand, but they have not always been honest, and honest men have not ways had brains. The mind is so apt to be warped by prejudice and training, that it is seldom that we can find a man with independence enough to rise above surrounding circumstances and see things correctly.

Why was early graduation more common years ago than at present? Longfellow, it is said, graduated at eighteen, Everett, at seventeen, and Webster, at fifteen. Are our young men less brilliant than formerly or have our colleges improved? The latter is undoubtedly the correct reason. Fifty years ago even Harvard and Yale were mere high schools for boys.

It is said that Dartmouth College has always had more brains and poor students than almost any other college in the country. If the catalogue of eminent men that have graduated from her halls could be made known, it would cause a sensation. She is like the Polar Star, always above the horizon of thought, and one always knows where to find her.

Lessing, the German philosopher, being remarkably absent-minded knocked at his own door one evening, when the servant, looking out at the window and not recognizing him, said "The Professor is not at home." "O very well" replied Lessing walking quietly away, "I shall call another time." Another well known Prof. asked his wife what the difference was between his head and a hogshead. She said there was no difference, but this reply did not seem to satisfy him.

Symmetrical education is a humbug. That a person dislikes mathematics is no reason why he should study

It is said that a vacuum in any region of the intellect requires filling up, and, therefore, if a student hates Latin he should be compelled to take the classical course even though it requires six hours for a single lesson. Thus a university smothers the fires of genius and converts its victims (*i. e.* students) into symmetrical-machines. The great scholar is the specialist. Genius itself is a kind of monomania. Even College students can not know *everything*. Let him, as soon as possible, observe what line of thought he delights to pursue and make an attempt to know *something* well.

The motto of many of our schools is "Death to Specialties." Half the failures of life are due to the fact that men try to do what they cannot do well. They are in the wrong pew and never find the right one. The strongest man is he of one book. Even our best colleges give their students an assortment of poorly classified ideas, because there is a dabbling in so many things. A little chemistry and natural philosophy, much Latin and less Greek, with a smattering of German, French and Spanish is about the length and breadth of the Procrustean bed on which the students are stretched. These schools are doing great good, but it might be vastly greater if there were more flexibility and longer continuance in one thing.