

fully, at the cost of necessary quiet for class-work. At times classes have been so disturbed by unnecessary noise in the halls as to make it an impossibility to proceed with class work. This noise has been caused, not by those who studied in the halls, but by a few noisy persons who had a leisure hour and did not wish to study. It seems possible to reach these without disturbing all. There are very few, however, who can study in the crowded 2x4 foot room, sarcastically called the study and reading room. Placing fifty chairs in that one room does not furnish the required place for waiting and studying. If the privileges so long in practice are to be taken from us, we should have some place where students could meet and not be under the necessity of remaining absolutely quiet, but where those who wished to converse, do general reading, etc., might do so. We humbly suggest that if no other places are at the disposal of the faculty, that they partition off, mat and furnish with seats, the several alcoves on the different floors and thus provide a sort of rendezvous for the students. This would not disturb the classes in the adjoining room any more than classes in adjacent rooms disturb each other. We need some place and why not have it?

We learn from the *Ariel* that the board of regents of the State University of Minnesota have taken a step which, in our mind, has long seemed a possible solution of that problem, troubling them as us, as to how to adapt and conduct the Agricultural College so as to meet the wants of the class for which it was organized. With them as with us, that college has been mainly one of theory, not receiving the support or confidence of the farmers of the state. They have bridged the difficulty, as far as is possible under existing circumstances, by appointing an advisory board of seven representative farmers; thus seeking to combine the practical and theoretical; meanwhile silencing complaint by placing in the hands of the farmers themselves the most direct means of influencing the management. It is true that such a step might not prove a "panacea for all the evils of our present system." Yet it would certainly be a move forward and an earnest on the part of regents and faculty, that it is their aim to make of the Agricultural College an efficient and practical school where the farmer's son may find an agricultural training and be encouraged in the pursuance of that vocation which a college education so often induces him to leave. Why could not such a policy be established here? We are all only too well aware that our Agricultural College is not a success, that theory alone is taught, that something is needed to inspire the farmers of our state with more confidence than they now feel, and that the college must be shown to be practical as well as theoretic-

cal before we can expect a large enrollment of students. Something should and must be done, and if not this plan, some plan akin to it with the same aims, ought to be adopted.

DREAMS OF YOUTH.

The path of life, to youthful eyes,
Lies glittering on before,
And seems a sparkling sea of bliss,
With pearls along the shore.
Sweet dreams of joy inspire the mind,
And, eager for the prize,
She trips o'er diamonds at her feet,
Nor turns her dazzled eyes.
Hope, on her airy wing, descends,
And lights the golden scene;
Her wand unto the heart conveys
New charms before unseen.
Thus all seems lovely and serene,
Beyond the present care;
No hopes or dreams or fond desires,
But have their fullness there.

GENERAL TOPICS.

Mr. H. Rider Haggard, who has acquired so much notoriety through the publication of his remarkable book entitled "She," has written an article in the *Contemporary Review*, in which he attempts to give the public his views on fiction in general. It is needless to say that the article is interesting; anyone who possesses imagination enough to write such a book as the one just mentioned, could not fail to excite some interest in what he had subsequently written; especially as it has a direct bearing upon the very subject by which Mr. Haggard has become so famous. But, although we are prepared to receive most of this writer's views on fiction with implicit confidence in his superior judgment, we cannot refrain from differing with him in two or three points. Mr. Haggard's temper would probably not be ruffled much by anything we may say regarding him, even if he should ever be so fortunate(?) as to run across this number of this great western college periodical. Therefore we feel no apprehensions that our feelings may be cruelly lacerated by the eminent writer of fiction in a scathing reply to our humble criticism.

Mr. Haggard starts out by depicting the trials and difficulties which the average writer of fiction has to contend with, from the fact that hundreds upon hundreds of novels are being written every year. Many of these cannot certainly meet with success, and therefore the unfortunate authors of them must necessarily suffer. This result, according to Mr. Haggard, is chiefly from the fact that a great number of these would-be authors, without having any of the qualities which constitute good authors, foolishly imagine that they can write as good, or even better, novels than the average, and, unfortunately, proceed to put their delusions into practice.

We entirely agree with Mr. Haggard in what he says of this state of affairs, but are inclined to disagree with him as to the cause which he assigns. No doubt there are many who think themselves qualified to produce good works of fiction, who have not the first requisites for such an undertaking, but to say that the want of interest felt for many works is owing to the lack of literary skill displayed, is assuming entirely too much. Public opinion, although it is the ultimate judge in