

season. In these two branches of athletics we stand among the foremost, but in the third we are lacking. In the good old games of base ball and foot ball our records are replete with successes, but in the track and field sports they are very distinguishably blank in the contrast, and why? Simply because we have not tried them. We have given very little attention to those manly exercises which show the worth of the individual more than any other sport, and about which the larger colleges vaunt themselves so much. The principal reason for this is, without doubt, because we have not had the facilities. The material, so far as men are concerned, is here in plenty, but we have had no gymnasium, we have had no general athletic grounds. Now that both of these essential requirements are here, let us spring boldly out into this new field of venture. Let the authorities see that the necessary and complete apparatus be placed in the gymnasium at once. Let our track be laid out, and then let our most promising material be selected and put in training the entire winter, each one to his special adaptation, so that they will emerge from it fresh and hardened for the spring intercollegiate games. There are few things that will give name and prestige to our institution among its fellow colleges quicker and more thoroughly than a few well-earned victories and good records in general athletics. We have an abundance of material, our location is all that could be desired in this respect, and there is no reason why we should not stand in the van, not only in athletic games, but in field and track athletics as well.

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WE hope that the trip taken by the students in the mechanical engineering course benefited them, and that their knowledge of applied mechanics has been greatly increased by the visit to the Pittsburg Exposition and the large mills of that city, Allegh-

eny, Johnstown and Altoona. Excursions of this kind may be made the source of almost invaluable learning, or they may be turned into a trip for a general good time, but we feel confident that the former has been the case in this instance, and are glad to see the college manifesting such interest in the advancement of its students.

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THE old idea that colleges are more of a hinderance than a benefit to the majority of young men, is fast being disintegrated and scattered to the four winds of the heavens. Even the horny-handed practical man who has held out so long and determinedly against collegiate education, is having his bitter animosity gradually softened and chastened into calm endurance by the uniform after success of college graduates. We are apparently leaving behind us that period of history when a man going to college was looked upon by practical business and professional men as either the victim of unfortunate circumstances, or one who was devoid of some of the essentials of a well-rounded brain and frittering away valuable time. For the principal cause of this radical change of sentiment we must look chiefly to the continuous good work of the colleges themselves.

True, the character of our colleges, their system of training, their management and their standards of entrance and graduation have steadily improved upon that of the first; yet they have but kept pace with the other advances of our age. There has been no change from the object or general plan with which they were incorporated. Men still go to college and stay there a certain number of years for the purpose of better fitting themselves for the duties and business of life, just as they did in days of yore. Though it must be admitted that the scientific school and the business college are somewhat recent departures, yet they are but very small branches of