

professions, and a summer vacation seems a most fit time to begin. Every man has to make a beginning, and why should he not use all opportunities within his reach to be as well prepared as possible at graduation? Again a vacation seems the most appropriate time, because the student's mind is fresh with the practical application of the same, does much in fixing them in the memory; while, without it, they may easily be forgotten. Many practical things are taken up during the Freshmen and Sophomore years, which are not touched upon in the later years of a college course; and we often find people surprised that college graduates are unfamiliar with some of the most elementary parts of their profession, simply because they failed to realize the importance of them by seeing a practical application of the same. Although the remuneration for such work is not very large, yet many whose circumstances demand it, help themselves considerably in defraying their college expenses, and, in the end, find themselves prepared to start out in life on a much higher level than with uneducated men.

On the other hand, as it is impossible for many of our colleges to withhold evil influences from the student, a vacation spent in pastimes tends only to invigorate the petty notions which so many of our college students bring home with them, and which are apt to divert them from their true objects, and to cause them to take less interest in their college work afterwards. It is not a ceasing from activity, always, that gives a person his needed rest, but a change and no change seems so beneficial to the student, as that change which both puts him in a better condition for further study, and at the same time makes of him a useful man.

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THE second athletic contest of the year will be held on Tuesday afternoon of Commencement Week. While at present our facilities for out door meetings are not the best, owing to our need of a track, yet we can have many contests this month which will not require a track of great

length, and yet will be full of interest for all.

Though we hope in the near future to have a good athletic ground, we should not wait for that before we go more strongly into field sports. We should begin now with what facilities we have, get our men in good condition and by practice keep them in shape, and then next year when an opportunity for contesting with other colleges presents itself, we will have a good complement of athletics from whom to close our representatives.

There is lots of undeveloped material in college, and now is the time to bring it out. Let the students go in to make the spring contest a big success, so that it will not only add additional attraction to our commencement exercises, but will create a more general interest in general athletics and bring men into the field who have hitherto stayed in the back ground.

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IN its whole history probably no better good fortune has ever happened to our college than the recent appropriation of \$150,500 which was granted it by the Legislature of the State.

It is valuable not only in a pecuniary sense, but for the fact that it shows plainly the good will which the people and the Legislature of Pennsylvania bear toward the State College.

The appropriation gives great and needed stimulus to the work which is being carried on here, and has afforded means that our college can branch out into greater usefulness than ever, by being able to offer in the near future to the young men of the State a thorough course in Mining Engineering. It also aids invaluablely the work of our technical courses, giving money for further equipment of the department of Electrical Engineering and Chemistry, and providing a commodious and well finished building for the Mechanical, Civil and Mining Engineering Courses.

The appropriations were made as follows:

For Civil, Mining and Mechanical Engineering Building,	\$100,000.
Improvements of Grounds and Roads,	\$3,000.