

average student is too apt to wile away his spare hours, when if he would but spend the same time with the works of standard authors he would unconsciously receive invaluable benefit in the way of improving his own manner of expression. The temptation is great to sit down of an evening and plunge right into a thrilling plot of some light novel of which the plot alone is the merit, instead of the works of a Dickens or a Thackary, whose charm lies in the insight which they give into human life and character, rather than in a thickly woven tale of love and murder. A knowledge of the standard literature of the day is an essential part of every good education and in that knowledge many college graduates of today, those of technical schools in particular, are deficient. The student who intends to make good use of his odd hours during the winter would do well to choose a regular course of reading of well known works instead of slipping into the old easy going and useless habit of devouring trashy novels.

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THE manner in which our library is managed has been a subject of much complaint among the college men lately. A communication, from a student, which was published in a recent issue of the FREE LANCE, calls attention to the principal objection to the system under which it is now run, that the fact that the students are not allowed to go in among the books and pick out what they want and having obtained a volume it cannot be taken out of the library. Undoubtedly to these facts can be traced the reason that but a very small percentage of the students ever make any use of the books. There are often times when a man has a few spare hours each day which he would like to occupy with profitable reading and not having his mind fixed on any particular work likes to glance over the volumes until he comes to something suited to him. This privilege is denied us. We must know just what we want and then go ask for it. Having obtained it, even then we cannot take it to a quiet and comfortable

place for perusal, but must stay in the reading room surrounded, by persons rattling papers or freshmen and sophomores whispering among themselves over essays or English exercises. Again there are times when one would like to read but cannot do so because the reading room is not open. With such a state of affairs there is but little inducement for the students at large to make free and profitable use of the works which should be at their disposal. It is to be hoped that the College authorities will find some way of improving matters so as to allow us opportunity of knowing what is in the library and then a chance to read that with a fair share of comfort and convenience.

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THE same old question presents itself to us this year as in past years, namely: "Shall we put a Base Ball Team in the field this year."

There has been a sentiment expressed that one athletic team is all the students can support. That if they supported a foot-ball team in the fall, that was all that could be expected of them, and as base-ball seemed to be dying out as a college game, there was no necessity to put a nine in the field. As to how generally this sentiment prevails we are unable to tell, but we hope that it is not the feeling of the majority of the students. We think that by putting out a good base-ball team, and by arranging games with some of the colleges in the State, we can win new laurels to add to those won by our champion foot-ball eleven. It is almost as necessary for us to be represented by a good base-ball nine, as by a foot-ball team. We have plenty of good material in the college. We have lost but one of last year's nine, and by all reports there must be a few excellent players among the new students.

But now is the time for us to begin work, if we are going to at all. To be sure we have no cage, but some arrangement could be made to put the men in the Gymnasium, which would be just as satisfactory. Let them have plenty of