

shortens the time hitherto allotted to our commencement exercises one day, and cuts out one day that formerly was useless.

As to the physical director, the Board has handsomely answered the petition made to them last spring by the students and has directed the Executive committee to procure, as soon as possible, a suitable person to fill that position. We anticipate with pleasure a great and needed stimulus to our athletics by having a person in charge of them, and in behalf of the students, we most heartily thank the gentlemen of the Board for their action in these matters which so intimately concern us.

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IN athletics, as in everything else, it takes practice to become perfect. A man cannot become a ball player, a sprinter or a jumper without as heartily applying himself to the work as he would to any special text book study. Application is needed on the field and track, as well as in the class room. The men in college to-day are too apt to think that, because another man can beat them in some particular athletic contest, it is useless for them to try to accomplish anything in that line themselves. This is a vast mistake. To such men we would say: show your pluck, get to work and practice hard, and then you may expect to accomplish something in athletics; but do not sit down and bemoan that you have no talents in that line and that you cannot, with a month's practice, compete with men who have become efficient through years of work. We are developing no new material in college at present, outside of base-ball and foot-ball, and to this tendency on the part of the lower classmen may be attributed the fault. If the men of the Sophomore, the Freshmen and the Prep. classes would get to work and practice regularly in the branches of track athletics for which they seem most fitted then, in the course of a few years we would have plenty of well trained athletes to represent us in inter-collegiate contests. Wake up, men, and show your vim and interest.

THE lecture on "Burma," which the Rev. Wm. Calder, of '83, delivered for the benefit of the Athletic Association was a most interesting one, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who heard it. It was especially interesting, though, from the fact that it came from one so well known to us and from one who, not many years since, was a student of our college. We are always glad to hear thus from our alumni and to note such an interest on their part in our affairs as was shown in this case. Such actions on the part of our graduates can never fail to meet the thorough appreciation of our under-graduates.

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A subject which has met with much discussion lately, is that of the propriety of the formation of State inter-collegiate and of inter-state collegiate oratorical associations. The matter was vigorously discussed at a recent meeting of the Central Inter-Collegiate Press Association and the indications are that in a short time a movement will be made by some of the colleges represented in that organization, toward forming, in this State, an association of that kind. Through the east there are as yet but a few of these oratorical leagues, but in the west they flourish in almost every State and the contests are events of great interest, not only to the students, but to the educated public in general. Harvard and Yale hold, yearly, a debate which is an occasion of great importance among the students of the colleges. Could an inter-collegiate oratorical association be formed among the colleges of Pennsylvania it would undoubtedly be a source of great benefit to all the institutions concerned. It would awaken a far greater interest in the study of oratory in the separate colleges than has hitherto existed; for a man speaking for the honor of his Alma Mater on the public platform, in competition with representatives of other colleges, would put forth far greater energies to win the prize, than he would were he only contesting with men of his own institution. There would be a healthy rivalry, on the part of