

edgement made by Capt. Knipe, that "the State College team was too strong for them in their present condition" is not the shadow of an excuse for any act of discourtesy to our management. The reception given our manager by University representatives is deserving of as much criticism as their shameful way of avoiding a meeting on the foot-ball field.

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MANY of the educational institutions of to-day recognize the advisability of instituting a reform in their commencement exercises. The old custom of having members of the graduating class deliver tiresome orations has long been criticised by the suffering public. The need of some reformation was apparent to the officers of many of our colleges, but all were naturally loathe to abolish a time honored custom. This necessity for a revision of these exercises has become so evident within the last few years that a few institutions have actually departed from the old rut, and have already reaped benefits by the exchange. The University at Syracuse, N. Y.; has long since substituted an address by some eminent man of the day, while Yale has recently taken a step in the same direction. To say that such changes would be heartily approved by the students and their commencement guests would be but to state but a mild form of their appreciation. To say that it relieves the student of an unpleasant and burdensome duty and the public of undeserved torture would be but to mention two minor of the many good reasons justifying such a movement.

The most forcible reason is found in the fact that such a change would probably lead to the abolition of the custom of conferring commencement honors on grades received in the class room. In a recent editorial the *Philadelphia Press* says, "The practice of conferring commencement honors on those of the undergraduates who have secured the highest standing in class room exercises has long since lost its significance. It was once

taken as a reward of merit and as a recognition by the college authorities and the public in general of the scholarship and ability of the speakers and of their probable success in future life. It has no longer any such meaning. Any one conversant with college students knows that the marking system in use in most colleges is no adequate criterion of the brain power or intellectual attainments of undergraduates and that it is impossible to devise any marking system that will be a correct test."

At many institutions "pull" and "bluff" enters very largely into the matter of securing grades and as a consequence into the awarding of honors. Therefore, if, in determining whether or not a student is sufficiently well versed in any subject, it is necessary to make use of the grading system to do so, but let it stop at that: do not carry it into awards of merit. Abolish commencement speeches by undergraduates and commencement honors.

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WE are gratified to note the benefit of the training table as apparent in the good work of our foot-ball team this year.

It is probably fair to say that some of the high scores are due largely to this cause. No doubt some of the players would have trained just as well without the training table, others perhaps would not. With less indulgence in the way of diet, and with more faithful practice, greater endurance is the result. And to play a long, hard, fast game no little amount of endurance is required.

The effects of the training table are also seen in the team work. The players are more often brought together and the latest plays are taken up and discussed. It is by this foot-ball talk that the schemes are worked up which now and then furnish a surprise to the opposing team. Thus the fallacy that brute strength and avoirdupois alone are needed, has long since passed out of the annals of foot-ball.