

EDITORIAL

FOR the twelfth time the FREE LANCE enters the lists of college journalism to tourney or, if needs be, joust for the student body. With couched pen and unemblazoned tablets we will wage a merry war to maintain our proclamation, "The best LANCE possible." And though we be but youthful wielders of the inky lance, yet we are all the more hopeful for it, and should the long contest, lustily fought, bring us honor, we will have but won it; if dishonor, we will accept it and retire with all the grace that brave knights can command.



THE desire to excel is strong in man, and the American student possesses it in no slight degree. With characteristic energy he has set about to realize his wishes and he has done so, in athletics, for to-day the athletes of our colleges are superior to those of every other nation. The attainment of so high a degree of development was, and is, a laudable ambition, but have not the efforts made for its effectuation centered an undue amount of attention in athletic associations to the great neglect of such institutions as the college paper, the literary society, or the debating union; work in which bears with directness both upon the present and future welfare of the student? Debatable as this question may be, the fact, nevertheless, remains that the person highest in favor among students is the college athlete.

Of late years, however, a reaction has set in, and we find the student devoting an ever-increasing amount of attention to rhetorical work, independent of that prescribed by faculties. This is but natural, for, in a country governed so largely by public opinion, the most powerful means of commanding success are those which will shape opinion, and the enterprising student realizes that to do this he must have the ability to write clearly, to speak