

STATE COLLEGIAN

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EDITORS,

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Thursday, MARCH 2, 1905.

EDITORIAL

In the North American Review Dr. Charles H. Thwing, president of the Western Reserve University, discusses the question "Should college students study?" It is a timely practical topic and deserves most serious consideration. At first sight many arguments on the affirmative side of this proposition will occur to the average citizen. But unquestionably the great weight of authority is the other way. Solomon, the wisest of men, who had expert information, declares in the most solemn manner that he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow. It is also proverbial that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. How much more dangerous is a great deal of knowledge. Books, studies and lectures are the greatest drawbacks to the pleasures of college life. Without them the life at the university would be ideal. Living in a literary atmosphere, with pleasant

rooms and congenial companions, what could be more delightful? For mathematics and philosophy to creep in is like the serpent gliding into the Garden of Eden and promoting the tree of knowledge, the fruit of which brought sin into the world and all our woe. The two most delightful books about college and school life ever written are "Schooldays at Rugby" and "Tom Brown at Oxford." It will strike the most casual reader that the charming, manly boys in those stories troubled themselves very little about books. They were more profitably occupied in drinking beer, playing football and cricket and rowing boat races. Books in a college distract the mind of the student from his athletic sport. No man can serve two masters: neither can a college boy give his attentions to football and calculus concurrently. He will hold to one and despise the other. It will be noted that Waterloo was won on the football field at Eton and Rugby, not in the classrooms. Therefore, if we want to win Waterloos in the future keep the boys out of the classrooms and on the football fields and do not distract their attention from athletics by forcing books upon them. It is related that a year ago a committee of the House of Commons was examining into the conditions of the great public schools of England. At Rugby a boy who was being examined by the committee was asked how standing at the head of the school in Greek affected a boy's standing with his fellows. The reply was that if the boy was exceptionally good at cricket or football the witness did not think it would hurt him to stand number 1 in Greek. But that was before football became a science. It requires a man's entire time and effort to become a first-class specialist, and it is impossible to reach the highest honors in football if your mind is in any degree occupied with books. Upon the whole, great minds are decidedly of the opinion that students at colleges and universities should not study.—Baltimore Sun.

Open Letters.

The STATE COLLEGIAN invites letters, but the publication of a communication does not necessarily imply the endorsement of the sentiments contained therein. As a guarantee of good faith the writer's name must be signed, but will not be printed if so desired.

To the Editor of "The Collegian,"

Dear Sir:—

In the last issue of your paper, was an article in regard to the use of the Auditorium, written over the signature of "A Subscriber." The article seemed to me a most admirable and an eminently fair statement of the case in hand. It stated some of the reasons why our student organizations, or at least some of them, should be allowed the use of the building. It answered two possible objections to such use i. e. wear and cost. But it overlooked one objection.

To what was the Auditorium dedicated? Here are the words: "To the cause of sound learning; to the advocacy and promulgation of truth in every department of human thought; to loyalty, patriotism and unselfish consecration to public duty; to the service of Religion, pure and undefiled." Does not this, perhaps, throw some light on the reasons for withholding its use from our student organizations?

Personally, I can see no valid reasons, even in the light of these words, why the Auditorium should not be used by at least some of our organizations. I do not say all of them, for not all would be in keeping with the semi-religious character of the building. But I venture the assertion that the Y. M. C. A. is as powerful an agency for the moral uplifting of the student body as are our morning and Sunday chapel services. It would seem, then, that by encouraging and helping the Y. M. C. A. by allowing it the use of Auditorium, the College would be working directly along the lines laid down in the words of dedication, "to the service of Religion, pure and undefiled."

Spectator.