

studies become more difficult each year and his practicum consists of more work which of itself helps to starve out his love for company on account of lack of time. We do not say that this is always true but we do emphatically state that one who is an earnest technical student will possess a strong inclination which is averse to society. It is an undisputed fact that classical colleges always possess more society element than a scientific college, and hence it follows that the men who enjoy the sciences must either naturally or from the change wrought by the course, be dislikers of society.

This but shows us that all scientific institutions, should make especial efforts to surround their students with the best of society advantages and to endeavor to overcome the tendency to conservatism as far as possible. There is undoubtedly a great difference between the men generally, who take a classical course and those who take a scientific, whether it be a natural consequence of their preference of studies, or from the effect of their course, and it is evident that if it is a consequence of their preference, that the extended study of the same would but intensify the desire to avoid meeting one's fellow-man for an evening's enjoyment.

LIFE?

Prize oration, delivered by B. W. DREHMING, of Harrisburg, '90, Junior Oratorical Contest.

LIFE in its boundless immensity is the most profound mystery of creation. Our existence is unaccountable; why we live, for what we were born, is as mysterious to us as the existence of the universe itself. Yet we do live; life is not a phantasy as some would have us believe. It is a vivid, glowing reality; in every place of the civilized world and among all classes of any civilized community, the great struggle for existence is now more keen than ever it has been in the history of the world. In no metaphor, but in cruel truth man is struggling for life down deep in the

mines, seeking earth-hidden treasures; at the furnace, battling fierce, raging fires; at professional duty, at law, medicine, teaching within universities, colleges, schools, all about us this strong fight for existence manifests itself. What is there that occasions this great tenacity of existence? Life in its popular sense is a merely abstract name embracing the great number of concrete experiences and their appropriate emotions. This is only mechanical existence; but there may be added; Life is the pursuit of happiness and then we have our reason for desiring to exist. This aim is unconsciously pursued by those who do not consciously set it before them. While the body is healthy and the appetites keen, this aim of happiness is worth pursuing. The ambitious pursuing an ideal life have while active and vigorous, a gain.

On the other hand, some slight constitutional disturbance may cause deep gloom. Great disaster makes life no longer to seem a blessing but a curse, many poor souls distracted rush to seek, they know not what, often to suicidal graves, rather than bear the ills they have and feel so vividly. Prosperity bears a human being along its gay stream; roses crown the banks and waft sweet perfume to the cheerful navigator, who rocks joyfully in his fragile bark (for oh! prosperity is but a fragile thing after all) singing merrily, when adversity, disaster in terrible masquerade seizes the bark, twirls it roughly among the rapids. Crash! his hopes are gone, his fondest joys are turned to deepest misery! Strong must be the heart to bear such woes, but our country's history proudly lifts thousands of names of persons who have withstood their overthows, struggled with adversities, and triumphed o'er all their foes,

"When Life considered; 'tis all a cheat,
Yet, fooled with hope, men favor the deceit
Trust on, and think to-morrow will repay.
To-morrow's falser than the former day,
Lies worse; and while it says we shall be blest
With some new joys, cuts off what we possessed."

DRYDEN.