

In fact, through the influence of modern biological and psychological ideas, education is coming to be *the field* upon which the struggle for existence is carried on. If "nature's pluck," as Huxley puts it, "means extermination," not less will the pluck of ignorance work its deadly results in coming struggles for survival.

But a request for me to answer the query, Is the cost of college education increasing is very like the demand to make bricks without straw. I have neither original statistics nor the inclination to gather them, and he who attempts to write without figures in this statistical age is no less reckless than old Promethers who stole fire from the gods. But disregarding consequences, and taking fate in our hands, there may be something of interest said upon the subject, even though it be upon the level of description and review. As some one has said—"figures never lie, but the figurer does"—we shall at least by our method steer clear of the charybdis of untruthful and false influence even if we do fall into the Scylla of mere "arm-chair" or theoretical reasoning.

In discussion then we shall treat, first, of the facts; second, of their meaning. It has been a matter of frequent remark that the extravagance of college life is increasing, and that it is becoming a menace to its mission. The physically ascetic type of the "howler" has paused long enough in his denunciation of college athletics in general, football in particular, to raise his voice against the manifest tendency to prodigality. Newspaper and magazine have taken up the straw, and high, education stands condemned of an "increasing luxuriousness" as Leslie's Weekly terms it, "the third characteristic of our college life." The far off straws have penetrated the popular convention, and the echo comes that the conditions of Hades are so rigidly reproduced at one of our principal universities that between the two there is scarcely a choice. O tempore mores!

Again, we are told, "the most evident reason which prevents worthy men who desire a college training from getting it is the cost. * * * The average cost to the student per year at the better college is larger than the total income of the average American family. The cost, too, has greatly increased." Quoting further from Dr. Thwing, we have these figures as to the cost of students, including, of course tuition, board, and necessary incidentals: