

years our school-houses may be constructed so that the latest sanitary improvements be used, and that the course of study be so arranged as not to exclude physical development in favor of mental development. It would be much more profitable if the old Greek system were prescribed. In a few schools it has been tried, and the good effects, not only in increased bodily vigor but in improved scholarship, ought to lead to its adoption by progressive institutions. Were physical culture more common in our schools, graduates would not have impaired constitutions, and the lives which should be devoted to the accomplishment of noble purposes, would not be spent in search of health.

A. M. W.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GRADUATION.

During this month tens of thousands of youths and maidens will go out from our high schools, academies, normal schools, institutes, colleges and universities. There is something grand in the thought that the teachers of the land are to send forth the product of their years of effort, either into higher institutions or into the world of conflict. The best words we have ever heard upon this subject were delivered by Phillips Brooks at the graduating exercises of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology last week. Speaking of the graduation of so many at this season of the year, he said :

"This is a stupendous event, for which the world has been waiting from all eternity. Everything is imperfect till something comes to perfect it. The world will always be imperfect, requiring each year, among other things, the infusion of these graduates to perfect it. Every graduate enters the world to perfect it. There is no room in the world for that which comes for any other purpose but to contribute to its perfection. There is always excitement when the river comes to the sea, and it is such excitement that we see in the graduating season. Whatever other blunders the world may make to-day, it has this one virtue, that it knows a man, values character and appreciates helpfulness."

"If the graduation exercises can be utilized, it will be a grand hour for the world when these thousands of graduates go from the schools into life, but if all purpose and power be dissipated in soirees, the world may well hold its breath till after the demoralization is over.—*Selected.*

LITERARY.

"BY-WAYS AND BIRD NOTES."

Someone has asked, "What is in a name?" Although often there is nothing, we can but feel that in this name, "By-Ways and Bird Notes," there is much, for it suggests at once the contents of the book, and makes one feel that he will thoroughly enjoy reading it.

The author, Maurice Thompson, was born in Fairfield, Indiana, September 9, 1844. His parents, who were Southerners, removed to Kentucky, and thence to the hilly region of northern Georgia. Maurice was educated by private tutors, and early became interested in the study of out door life. He served through the Civil War in the Confederate army, and at its close went to Indiana, became a civil engineer on a railway survey, and in due season rose to be chief engineer. He then studied law, and opened an office at Crawfordsville. He was elected in 1879 to the Legislature, and appointed, in 1885, State Geologist of Indiana, which position he holds at the present time. He was also appointed chief of the Department of Natural History. He has written much for periodicals, and has published about a dozen books.

A writer in the *Critic* says, "I don't know of any literary man who works harder than Mr. Thompson, yet he finds more time to play than most workers; indeed, he is as well known as an out-of-doors man as he is a writer of books, and there is no higher authority in the country on certain phases of out-of-door life. In Mr. Thompson we have what few poets of the day have been able to give—the entire restfulness of rural landscapes—and always with the touch of personal interest which relieves landscape verse of dreariness. He has the power of sight and the sympathy to interpret what he sees in nature with natural felicity."

Mr. Thompson has a thorough knowledge of his subject. He sees everything that is to be seen, and very carefully and minutely gives to his readers all that he knows and observes.

The book is divided into essays, which were written at different times. Several, in which he discusses the birds very thoroughly, were written in the woods. He will watch them in their flight, observing how they fly, whether in a straight line or in a round about way; he watches them build their nests, and counts the number