We can but admire the unflinching, almost stoical, self-reliance of Emerson in his independence of all externals. "Man must be so much, that he must make all circumstances indifferent," he says. But he wrote for himself when he says, "Man is a cause, a country, an age." And he forgot that all men are not Emersons. We must have a congenial atmosphere; and how much more can be accomplished in a positive than in a negative atmosphere!

Occasionally some enthusiastic Freshman whose curiosity has been aroused, during the hours of military drill, by the sight of the different pieces of gymnastic apparatus about the gymnasium, seeks out that remote solitude, and variously employs the pulley-weights and other appurtenances to the place. He may return for a second time, but the probabilities are that, unfavorably impressed by the scarcity of the apparatus and the general inconveniences of the place, he will not. If he has a natural fondness for athletic sports and exercise, he will join some other gymnasium; if not, as is the case with three fourths of them, he will never again enter our own, except when compelled to for military drill.

The good derived from gymnastic exercise, and even the necessity for it, has been plainly recognized by the faculties of many colleges by making it compulsory. Assuming that our gymnasium — or drill-shed, as it is variously called — was intended, in a certain measure, for a gymnasium, it seems to us strange that better facilities for exercise are not afforded there. The greatest need, however, is for a gymnasium instructor, who could teach the students in regard to the proper use of the apparatus, and point out their deficiencies and their needs. Every one desiring it should be examined, and provided with a formal report, showing, on the marking system, as at Amherst, his physical status in comparison with that of the average. Then, with his own deficiencies clearly presented, and a counsellor available to show him the proper methods to attain the right results, systematic and intelligent gymnastic exercise would become a regular custom with a far greater proportion of students than at the present time, and an improved bodily tone would soon manifest itself in the improved quality of technical work.

It is a bad practice to introduce — that of changing old customs to suit the whim of the moment — unless the innovation be, beyond all doubt, for the better. As the Institute is a comparatively modern institution, it has but few old customs, and hence what there are should be the more carefully preserved. The new Institute cheer is doubtless an excellent one for certain purposes, and, for those purposes, a great improvement upon the old one; but it must not be allowed to entirely replace the latter. The new cheer has already proved itself very useful at the foot-ball games, on account of its shortness, and is very encouraging to the team. If the latter is losing, it has a defiant sound, while if winning, it rings forth triumphantly. The old cheer is long, and has a very unsatisfactory ending, which faults cannot be said of the new one. Let us keep them both, and, if our foot-ball team continues to gain victories, we shall have plenty of chances to use them.

The disgusting and asinine actions of the fresher portion of the class of '89, who attended the opening of the new Hollis Street Theatre in a body, has been called to our notice through the columns of the daily papers.

An exhibition such as they gave is not only silly and babyish in itself, but reflects discredit upon the Institute, and deserves our most positive condemnation. If the Freshmen thought they were doing something funny, they were very much mistaken, if popular opinion counts for anything, for expressions of disgust from the audience were numerous.

It is hoped that the sensible, solid members of the class of '89 will do their utmost to put a stop to all such outbreaks in future, thereby saving their class and the upper classes from disgrace.