ENTHUSIASM and sympathy are two of the greatest forces that act in human nature. Without enthusiasm nothing great can be accomplished; with it success in the most difficult undertakings is assured. Without sympathy strong natures become weak, and weaker natures shrivel up; with it, joys are multiplied to infinity, and sorrows almost vanish. Therefore it is evident that those things which tend to create right enthusiasm and strengthen the higher sympathies should be encouraged.

College students are in the period of life when the mind is awakening to the fact of personality, when the imagination finds most food, when all the faculties are beginning to make themselves manifest; when, in short, enthusiasm and sympathy are most active. It is not strange, therefore, that this enthusiasm and this sympathy seek expression in some form, and the outcome is shown in the athletics and societies peculiar to colleges. Football and baseball and the other sports give an opportunity for enthusiasm, while in clubs and societies the social side of the nature is cultivated.

There are many reasons why athletics and societies have been slow to enter the Institute life. The isolated way in which the students live, the application required on account of the severity of the courses of study, the difficulty in securing suitable accommodations without great expense,—these are reasons. But each of these causes is a reason why athletics and societies, when once established, should be nourished and sustained. If the students are isolated, they can come together only in clubs and societies; if close study is required, the best reaction is found in bodily exercise; if expense is involved, organization will meet it. To support class, club, or team with voice, hand, heart,—this is enthusiasm: to share alike the good and ill,—this is sympathy. Develop these, and the life will have a tone and color never known before.

It is a matter of common regret that vacations at the Institute are at such a minimum. While we would not advocate any extended recesses during the school year, as is the custom at other colleges, we feel sure that at least one let-up of a week in addition to the semi-annual breathing spell, would be greatly appreciated by every member of the Institute. Such a recess would enable the student to make a much-needed review of the previous work, thus fixing it more firmly in mind, and would afford an opportunity to make up the odds and ends of back work, which will always accumulate, and get “cleared up” for another period of work. We are confident that with a few days at Christmas, and again in the middle of the second term, there would be just as much work accomplished, and