

CAVENDISH COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

BY ONE OF ITS GRADUATES.



THE honour of introduction to the readers of this Magazine has already been accorded to Cavendish College. More than eight years have flown since the laying of the foundation-stone of the present buildings was made the occasion of a brief, cordial note of welcome to what was then the latest experiment in University extension. Considerable progress has been made by the builders during the interval; and if it has not

been long enough to see the final completion of their scheme, it has been more than ample to justify their labours. It is too early to express any definite opinion on the value of the work done; but the seed sown is maturing, and promises at no distant date to blossom, in every sense, into golden grain. The credit of the undertaking, without detracting in the slightest from the merits of those noblemen and gentlemen who have so munificently loosened their purse-strings, must rest with the Rev. Canon Brereton.

Dr. Arnold was happy in his pupils. They came to him with characters ready to be moulded: they listened to his teaching at an age when the mind is most easily roused to a noble enthusiasm on any point. Many thankfully acknowledge their indebtedness to the great Rugby master for all that is lovely and of good report in their dispositions; but in Canon Brereton is seen, perhaps, one of the best examples of the rare power of that personal influence which has borne the fame of Arnold over every sea.

Fifty years ago the tutor was lamenting the miserable condition of secondary education in England, and for more than one generation has the disciple been re-echoing the master's cry. The system of county schools, inaugurated in Devonshire with such satisfactory results, owes its origin to Mr. Brereton, and of itself is sufficient to place him in the front rank of educational reformers. "Limited liability" has been his watchword; and while he has insured to his shareholders a dividend varying from three to five per cent., he has contrived, with the true legerdemain of finance, to blend the endowment with the commercial principle.

Cavendish College is the logical sequence of his county schools. The capital is raised by the County College Association, under limited liability, with a dividend restricted to five per cent. A considerable portion of the share capital, it is anticipated, will form an endowment for scholarships. The title of the association was so chosen because it was hoped that the College, if established, would prove a centre of attraction round which the newly-founded county schools might constellate. Too long have our Universities

been fed, with here and there an honourable exception, solely by our great public schools. The local examinations have done doughty service to the middle class, by stimulating the powers of both teachers and scholars. On the authority of the Bishop of Exeter, one of the first examiners appointed, the standard has been raised distinctly higher than it was, and the work is much more thoroughly done. The healthy spur of competition has compelled schoolmasters to shake off their torpor; and as for the pupils, even those who do not propose to submit themselves to the examination ordeal are often encouraged to participate in the studies of intending candidates.

So far the result is good. But beyond making a favourable appearance in the local examinations, the average middle-class school has had neither incentive to ambition nor ideal of attainment. To supply this was the *raison-d'être* of Cavendish. It is believed that the brighter youths of intermediate schools will be tempted to secure the social and educational advantages of a University degree, if it can be procured for them at a cost and on conditions suitable to their means and prospects.

The benefit of a University training is a very threadbare theme; but never was it more pithily put than by Professor Tyndall lately at the opening of the Birkbeck Institution. Relating in charming style an early chapter of his life's story, the eminent physicist tells how he set out in 1848 for Germany, the land of Universities. Sown broadcast over the country, to them he ascribes the source of an important portion of Germany's present greatness. "The strength and endurance which belong to the Germans as a gift of race needed enlightenment to direct it; and this was given by the Universities." But a course, say at Marburg or Tübingen, provided the student can resist the allurements of the *Kneipe*, is a very different matter from three years' residence on the Cam or the Isis.

In the Fatherland every shopkeeper can afford to send his son to College, and many a peasant boasts a boy in the halls of learning. Indeed, the lowly-born furnish a very large proportion of students, and they court their Alma Mater's favour with a steady purpose, and not, as many thousands of their English comrades do, dally with her merely for the external polish which her society imparts. In short, in Germany culture is not the monopoly of the rich: education is universal because it is cheap.

But, offered the same opportunities, will Young England despise them? I protest it is a slur, nay, a libel on British character, even to hint such a thing. Never was greater truth spoken than when Goethe, in one of his moralising moments, attested the yearning of humanity to raise itself above its dull daily level. Cavendish College offers to the merchant and to the non-affluent professional man the

opportunity of satisfying these cravings. It places the advantages of the University course within the reach of the pocket of the one, while it welcomes the other at an age when it will not be too late to acquire subsequently business habits. These are the primary objects; but, in addition, it is pledged to maintain a supply of University-trained masters, consequently special instruction in the pedagogic art is promised to those who intend following the profession of teaching.

The establishment of the College dates virtually from 1873. Three students formed the van-guard of the noble three hundred which the College, when

boast double figures. Since that time, however, the numbers have gone on steadily increasing; and in the last October term, the commencement of the academical year, the muster-roll was verging on the century. Without question the success of the College would have been more rapid if the public generally had been better aware of its existence. But for nine years its students have been included in the non-collegiate ranks, consequently only the initiated knew how large a number were passing the various examinations and proceeding to degrees. In November, 1882, however, it received the honour of official recognition at the



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complete, is destined to accommodate. (Mem.: If this dauntless trio ever get their deserts, they will be canonised among the founders as the Cavendish triumvirate.) It was called the County College till 1876, when with the permission of the Duke of Devonshire, Chancellor of the University and largest proprietor of the share capital, it took his family name. The change was commendable in every respect. Besides shedding on the fledgling the lustre of his high renown, and connecting himself more closely with its fortunes, the duke by his graciousness conferred on the College a real rallying-cry, both for the Senate House and the towing-path. Again, the very name of Cavendish, recalling, as it does, "claims of long descent," figures in happy unison beside such ancient and illustrious patrons of learning as Margaret of Anjou, May, Countess of Pembroke, Lady Clare, Edmund Gonville, John Caius, Frances, Countess of Sussex, Sir George Downing, and others whose benefactions have made their memories immortal.

At first the progress of the College was slow. Not till January, 1877, when the building was first ready for occupation, and the writer matriculated, could we

hands of the Senate of the University, under the title of Cavendish College Public Hostel. From that date forth it has appeared in all class lists under its own colours.

The Cambridge use of the word "Hall," is synonymous with "College"—exemplified now only in Trinity Hall, but till within comparatively recent years in Clare and St. Catherine's Halls—precluded its adoption, or it would have been chosen in place of the present somewhat cumbrous title. The peculiar phraseology of the Acts of Parliament and Statutes of the University rendered it unadvisable, in the opinion of the Senate, to bestow thus early the technical title of "College" on Cavendish and other candidates for admission to the University. Had the title been conferred, some extra dignities would have fallen on the head of Cavendish, and the College would have been subject to certain duties and liabilities too onerous to be desirable. As for the undergraduates themselves, no difference whatever is made between the members of Cavendish and those of any other College; by Grace of the Senate, all enjoy equal University privileges, and are subject to the same obligations.

To proceed now to the special features of Cavendish—its economy of time and money. A College tutor of great experience, writing for the information of parents, has fixed £138 as the lowest possible, and £202 as the average, cost per annum at any of the older foundations. But this, be it understood, includes no provision for private "coaches," and presumes the minimum of residence, about twenty-four weeks. At Cavendish, board, lodging, firing, washing, and tuition, for thirty-two weeks—covering a term in the Long Vacation—and all University fees, except the matriculation and the B.A. degree fees, can be obtained by the aspiring Bachelor for eighty guineas. During his first two years each student is allowed one room; and in the furnishing of this apartment care has been taken to merge, as far as possible, the bed-room in the study. For a trifling extra payment, the third-year student obtains two rooms. All meals are taken at one table; and spacious common rooms have been provided for reading, recreation, and social intercourse.

As to the incidental expenses, they will, of course, vary with individual idiosyncracies. What Dr. Arnold said of a public school—"A certain power of self-government is pre-supposed in all who come to it"—is equally applicable to Cavendish. No pressure is brought to bear on any of the students in regard to their personal expenditure; but both by precept and example it is sought to impress upon them that plain living and high thinking should be the motto of their lives. Personally, I was not extravagant; yet, on the other hand, I never denied myself any reasonable gratification. I indulged in almost all the sports of flood and field, and very soon became an active member of the Union. The fees and subscriptions for these purposes, my books, my academics, and my travelling expenses, were all paid out of my allowance. My studies were never neglected; but when they were done, the social joys of College life found me no recreant knight. In relating these details my object is

to convince parents and guardians that if they are prepared to expend £120 per annum, they will find that sum will cover at Cavendish all the necessities and most of the legitimate pleasures of University life. For those from whom necessity demands a little self-denial, £110 would suffice, perhaps even £105. Allowing the same amount for incidental expenses at the older Colleges, which would in most cases be found inadequate, the reader will see that residence in Cavendish means an economy of at least £50 a year.

The age (16) of admission must commend itself to all who are compelled to begin the battle of life early. And now that the University has taken measures to foster the study of modern languages, this College ought specially to attract those intended for a commercial career. The course of examinations for the Ordinary Degree need not deter any one of ordinary abilities and average perseverance. Nor does the fact that the Cavendish students undergo, as a rule, their final ordeal three years earlier than their comrades in other Colleges, have any appreciable effect in increasing the number of failures. This may perhaps be explained by the stricter discipline and closer supervision of studies which exists in the new institution. But, after all, its practice in regard to the reception of youthful students is no modern innovation, but merely a revival of the ancient usage of our seats of learning. Cranmer, the fiery martyr, matriculated under fourteen years of age, and received a Fellowship before his majority. Spenser, author of the "Faerie Queen," donned the Bachelor's hood at nineteen, doffing it four years later for the Master's gown. Philosopher Bacon, when a mere boy of thirteen, was pacing the cloisters of Trinity, and three years later quitted the University in disgust at the low state of learning which prevailed there. At sixteen, Milton was already meditating in the gardens of Christ's; while Pitt—but the list is inexhaustible.

WILL. M. SAUNDERS, M.A.

OUR MODEL READING CLUB.

FIFTH PAPER.



NE of the difficulties which beset the heads of households in this age of books is to decide what works in the lighter literature of the day—poetry and fiction—are suitable for the general reading of the younger members of the family. So strongly has been felt the want of some authoritative guidance in this direction, that we have received numerous communications from parents urging us to do something to fill the gap, and from time to time to give lists of stories which are not only entertaining, but may be read with real advantage, on account either of the information they afford, or of the lessons for good which they inculcate. After thoughtful consideration, we have determined to

extend (if possible) our "Model Reading Club" papers as desired, and to give some account of all the best books for young people as they are published. It should, however, be clearly understood that these stories are not to be read during *club* hours, and that fiction should never be allowed to interfere with the necessary thoughtful study of good works of history, biography, literature, science, and travel.

In this paper we do not propose to speak of any of the new books of the year (these we shall hope to notice from time to time), but it may be useful to give a list—though of course in no way a complete one—of stories already published which may with safety be put in the hands of all young people.