

and forms the chief natural attraction of the place.

It is with much regret that the University is compelled to forego for a time the valuable services of its President, the Rev. Dr. Merrick. For a quarter of a century, Drs. Merrick, McCabe, Prof. Williams, and others have been "abundant in labors" to give the University a sure footing and a "name to live." These unintermitted labors and the added cares of the Presidency have made imperative a little rest for Dr. M. He, with his esteemed lady, is seeking it among the hills of his boyhood's home in New England. As he is an Alumnus of the Wesleyan, you will in more than a usual degree share with us the hope of his entire recovery.

But little enthusiasm exists on the Lyceum question. One or two lecturers have been engaged. Of them and what they do, more anon.

N. B.

A COLLEGE WITHOUT A CAMPUS.

It is encouraging to notice in your last issue an increased interest in boating. Would that your next might show a general revival in the department of physical culture. No college can fall behind Wesleyan in its neglect of good invigorating sports. You have opportunities for boating, far better than Harvard, Yale, Amherst, or Brown; but, after the first term in college, the river loses its charms. You have a gymnasium spacious enough for the college at present; yet the majority cease to avail themselves of it after the first few weeks of freshman year. But you are without a campus. You have not, students, a single facility furnished you for

or any other healthy sports in which a number may combine. It is a shame.

In most of our fitting schools and colleges, these facilities have been studiously provided. Two fitting schools that we attended, and of which we are therefore prepared to affirm, furnish large level play grounds. One of these is Wilbraham. At Brown University as much space in the rear of the college is devoted to field sports as in the front is devoted to display, and the ground is as hard and even as a floor. And other colleges that we might mention furnish good and spacious facilities.

But Wesleyan has at hand the best in New England. Draw a straight line from the south-west corner of the gymnasium west to Vernon St. Take all the land in the rear of the college lying north of that line; demolish the fences; tear down some of the unnecessary structures, and with them the dilapidated laboratory, the carpenter's shop, and the circumvallation of coal sheds. Convenience for stowing coal could be made under the dormitory or up stairs, as in other colleges. Water closets could be provided either in doors or out that surely would be an improvement on the present. The nicest model we have seen is at Brown; let the authorities examine it and copy. Grade all the ground thus set apart, and the transformation would be enticement enough for a man to shake the kinks out of himself every morning before going to breakfast.

The play ground thus provided would improve not only the *health* but the *looks* of Wesleyan. For, behold, under the present arrangement how a man's ideas of our Alma Mater at first sight must descend from the sublime to the ridiculous. He comes, "inso-