

The first week of school, College presented a peculiar aspect, and gave forth certain not very alluring sounds. The workmen were still in the building, and the great iron staircase was not yet completed. No one could say it was beautiful, with its gray, cold lines filling all the space which the sunlight was wont to bathe in gold; but if it is safe, we must not complain. It is a mysterious-looking, winding affair at first, and seems as if it would land one stranded in the air, and as if one would have to start from nowhere to go down it; but on closer inspection it turns out to wind down continuously and respectably. It will, no doubt, afford much amusement to the surprised undergraduate. But I must admit that I scarcely know whether to pity or envy those who come for the first time this fall. They will never have known the broad dignity of the old wooden staircase, nor the tender lights that could slant over it and fall upon the halls, for which loss I cannot help commiserating them. On the other hand, the change from the beautiful to the literally iron-clad ugliness of the useful will not shock or disappoint them. Is it a case of "Better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all"?

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Another rather startling innovation is the introduction of speaking tubes into the rooms. It is true that they have these in some of the public schools—but there they are unobtrusive little tubes about two inches long. At College, the long, green pipe will be a sore temptation to the student, especially if she be of that kind easily open to mental suggestion—who always wants to cut with a scissors which lies near, or ring a bell which presents itself. It is a good opportunity for the cultivation of self-control, and will also be the cause of the development of much curiosity.

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But the addition which is really most to be welcomed is that of three new class-rooms on the ground floor. The need for these was obvious and overwhelming. Let us hope that this will relieve the pressure upon the Introductory Class, and make the work of teacher and pupil more pleasant and effective.

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