

*Our Library.*

NOW that our Chief Librarian, Melvil Dewey, has left Columbia College for good, a little library news might be interesting to a number of our students.

It is rather a surprising fact how little we know of many of our departments, even those which are famous throughout the enlightened world. To how many of our students is anything of our Library known beyond the mere facts that it contains a quantity of books, is a convenient place for study, is well-fitted up and is a pleasant place to while away an hour or so in agreeable idleness.

May 7, 1883, Melvil Dewey was appointed by the Trustees Chief Librarian. At that time there were really six different libraries, containing in all 50,000 books, scattered about in nine different rooms. By the close of that year these various libraries had been removed from their respective rooms into the new Library building, consolidated into one university collection and thoroughly classified by divisions and sections. In addition over 10,000 volumes were added, and this large increase has steadily continued, so that at the close of the past year our Library numbered 101,144 volumes and 35,697 pamphlets. An excellent showing for five years.

Our Library, with the system introduced by Mr. Dewey, has acquired a world-wide celebrity. In a French magazine, *The Revue Internationale de L'Enseignement*, for October, 1886, appeared an article giving a sketch of the leading Universities and Colleges in the United States, as gathered by a prominent member of the French Educational Department while in this country as a representative to the New Orleans Exposition.

In speaking of Columbia, among other things, he says (we translate solely for the benefit of those students who have given their entire attention to the German language): "It has rich collections, numerous and well-furnished laboratories, an observatory, and, above all, a library of the first rank. I have visited that of Harvard University, those of Oxford and of Cambridge in England, and those of the majority of the

German Universities. But in point of view, of general equipment, and of the facilities for work and study, I do not know of one which in any way can surpass that of Columbia College." And again: "The library of Columbia College seems to me to realize entirely the ideal of that which ought to be a University Library."

Many French libraries are modeled after our system, and the Italian Government has recently made an appropriation for a library school at Florence which will be largely conducted after our plan. Even in New South Wales our system is in use.

The School of Library Economy was first started in 1886 by Mr. Dewey, and thus far it has met with marked success. Thorough instruction is given during a course of two years in all the mysteries of library management.

Among the libraries that have employed one or more from the School are Bowdoin College, Wellesley, University Club (N. Y.), Indianapolis Public Library, St. Louis Public Library, Railroad Men's Y. M. C. A. (N. Y.), New York Free Circulating Library.

The School now contains about forty students, and has sent out twenty from its last class who have completed the required course.



"No, buy the Rood, not so!"