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A Question of Honor

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A Question of Honor.

DURING the last few years a great deal has been said and written in regard to the establishment of an organized honor system in our colleges and universities. Without entering into a discussion of the question whether or not such a system is adaptable to girls' schools, a few facts may be mentioned in connection with what may be termed the *morale* of the classroom in such institutions. Is the general school work, including all forms of recitation and examination, perfectly honest work, or, on the contrary, does cheating in one or more of its many forms exist? We would rather, assuredly believe the former, but it cannot be denied that the latter is only too true, that assistance is given in oral recitation, help obtained in written work outside of the classroom and examinations passed by unfair means. There are apparently two chief reasons for these dishonest practices, a failure to recognize the significance of the wrong and the ambition to at least be considered clever and successful. It is hard to understand how a girl can so blunt her conscience as to be able to reconcile underhand actions with any standard of right, but perhaps it is only natural to look leniently upon whatever one has come to regard as a matter of course, and in many cases the sin is the result of absolute thoughtlessness, a fact however that palliates it very little. As to the other reason, we cannot imagine a narrower or more narrowing view of education than to grimly accept the task, assigned and work merely for marks, yet what can be said, when, with such an aim, the work even is shirked and the place of honor in the class reached by means that ought to make it the place of deepest shame?

Now it must be acknowledged that such a state of things exists in our schools to a greater or less extent,

and what remedy can be applied? In many institutions especially in the North, a monitor is stationed in each room to watch the pupils and report any wrong-doing that comes to his knowledge. This method is not only limited in its reach but ruinous in its influence upon the students, as every effort is then made to escape detection and when this is accomplished nothing further is thought necessary.

The only real remedy is to go to the root, to the character of the student herself, for it is by these individual characters that the *esprit de corps* of the school is determined. Each girl must realize the seriousness of all dishonesty in whatever form and under whatever name, and with this full realization there must be a recoil from it. When the student-body as a whole, making clear its unqualified condemnation, denounces all such practices, then they will die a natural death and the college-life, freed from this the greatest danger threatening its growth, will advance unimpeded towards the ideal of rectitude, honor and truth.

Lives of croakers all remind us
We can make our lives a pest,
And departing leave behind us
Feelings of relief and rest.

Ex.

Art Notes.

THE Art Studio was opened to its friends on Monday afternoon, December 20th, from two to five o'clock. Miss Murdoch, the head of the department, assisted by Misses Trotter, Jones, Whiting, and Burt received the visitors and showed them through the studio. The exhibit consisted of the work which the pupils have done since September and there was quite a large amount—considering that the time had been short and a number of the pupils were beginners. All the pieces showed a correctness of form and coloring and also certain artistic touches.