

diction is his theory of poetic material, which is that the lives of ordinary people furnish material for poetry in its highest form. This theory he most faithfully carries out, and one has only to read that touching poem, "Michael," to see how nobly he has succeeded. Before Wordsworth's day, the great writers of poetry and fiction always took as their theme the lives and deeds of the distinguished and powerful, and the "short and simple annals of the poor" received little consideration, but after the appearance of his poems public sentiment was directed to a large extent toward the lower classes, with the result that they have been very materially benefited.

Wordsworth's distinguishing trait was his unbounded love for nature. In her he found his comfort in time of sorrow, his joy and inspiration in time of peace. A more successful interpreter of nature has never appeared among men. He loved her in her various moods, in her simplicity, in her beauty, in her grandeur. He not only felt the beauty of the great and sublime in nature, but even the smallest things received his thoughtful appreciation. How beautifully is this expressed in the closing lines of that masterpiece, "Intimations of Immortality."

To me the meanest flower that blows can
give
Thoughts that do often lie too deep for
tears.

In his wonderful ability to teach us to understand and appreciate nature, he is indeed "an eye among the blind, a seer blest."

But in spite of these most admirable qualities, not even the most enthusiastic admirer of Wordsworth can claim that all his poetry is of real merit; for much of it, as in "The Excursion" and "The Prelude," hardly rises above the level of ordinary prose. This unevenness is possibly due in a large measure to the fact that Wordsworth the philosopher and teacher frequently predominated over Wordsworth the poet. He attempted to burden poetry with a task for which it was not fitted, that of teaching when it should seek only to please. His poems are in many places a dreary desert with its monotonous miles of sand and rock, but almost before you are aware you are in an oasis made all the more beautiful and refreshing by its contrast with the scorching sands which surround it. Indeed, no poet has been worse at his worst or better at his best than Wordsworth.

ATHLETICS.

WM. E. BEILHARZ, SOPHOMORE.

[Second Prize Article.]

Athletics is a great factor in the development of a school; they are beneficial in more ways than only physical development of the body, for "a healthy body is the seat of a strong mind."

A school of this size and standing should have a large and well equipped gymnasium, in connection with baths, and if possible a swimming pool, all un-

der the supervision and direction of a skilled and intelligent physical director. Such an equipment is always an inducement to young men; then football would not have a monopoly under whose jurisdiction and at a great expense only the chosen few obtain the benefit of directed training; but better material would be induced by the physical advant-