

The Varsity

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TORONTO, FEBRUARY 2, 1912

THOROUGHNESS WANTED

Many students in Toronto University have so much work to cover that they have no time to acquire an education. This may be a somewhat paradoxical statement, since many believe that the student acquires education by studying carefully that instructive and persuasive document, the Calendar, and then following the courses outlined therein to the exclusion of all other activity. But surely that wide culture which every university graduate should possess is not to be obtained by any such means. Besides being thorough in work he undertakes, the student should know something of the library outside of the well-worn books that serve as texts in his particular line of study; he should be in a position to discuss public questions at some of the numerous Clubs that exist for the purpose; he should (especially if from the country make use of his time in Toronto to become acquainted with art as represented in music, the drama, and painting. Only by thorough study and broad interests of this kind can the undergraduates be developed into a type that worthily represents the University. A survey of the calendar leads to the conclusion that it was never designed to produce this type. There are students in Arts in the University who put in thirty-five hours a week at lectures and laboratory work. For such, there is no time for acquiring any broad culture. Fortunately, there are not many who have so much work. But even in other courses, where the students are thought to have a fairly leisured life, there is, as a rule, much more on the course than can be thoroughly covered. Students find that they no sooner have their interest aroused in a subject than they have to leave it and take up another. The result is that nothing is done thoroughly, and the student does not work as much as he would were there less prescribed work. On an interesting subject, one will naturally work much more than on one in which he has no special interest.

There is already a move on foot toward limiting the amount of work to be covered in some departments. Considerable choice is now being allowed in the history department. But, it seems to The Varsity that even more might be allowed, and that the student should have the privilege of selecting the particular part he desires to study. The examiners could then insist on a complete knowledge of the subject selected. By this means students would acquire the habit of thoroughness and they would have an interest in their work which they cannot now find in the wide range of subjects before them. Nor would this course involve too great a specialization in knowledge obtained; for, in understanding completely any one phase of a subject, the student would study other phases which are related to it.

Let us have courses where thorough study will be a necessity and which will allow men to acquire the broad culture which should be characteristic of every graduate of Toronto.

ONLOOKER'S CORNER

That philanthropic artist, who displays his masterpieces to all men—the beau, a type that I like to believe is not extinct, is in evidence among us. In Brummel's day, the English adopted the French word *beau* to term the class, and the French adopted our word 'dandy' for the same purpose. Nowadays, this *personal artist* is called a sport, or, more popularly, a 'spoit'.

Although it is my private opinion that the man who spends more than ten minutes in dressing is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils, I am fond of the company of well-dressed men. As a class, they are conservative. They are courteous, and have none of that noisy, democratic argumentativeness that characterises the average man. In fact, while the 'beau' is discreetly examining the condition of your collar and the angle of your tie, you can clinch your argument suddenly; and in his polite assent, you feel the thrill of victory that is so rare in conversation, these days.

However, his art does not outlast youth. He seldom has any virtues other than dandyism. And it is a pointed comment on the perverseness of our college social life, that he is more befriended and more highly esteemed than men of head and of heart.

THE ONLOOKER.

HABITUAL HIGH-BROW



Hot on the trail of College Life, I had climbed to that dark resort high up in the West Wing. The fumes of plebeian Old Chum combined with those of the more fragrant Vafadis to saturate the place; and the shaded

lights which shed their brilliance on the green baize of the tables served only to accentuate the dinginess of the background. From my high seat I watched the play go forward and listened to the elastic click, click, of the balls; the music of the spheres, as some contemporary has aptly termed it.

Just before me five young men were engaged in playing Boston pool, enjoying themselves immensely the while. Between shots they would sit on the stairway railing and discuss Hockey prospects in excited undertones. As I watched, the game was over, whereupon the Colonel issued forth from his den, proceeded to 'rack 'em up' again, and then retired in silence, for all the world like a stage ghost at cock-crow. The game went on.

Whiling away the moments at the billiard table across the room were two pale youths of aristocratic poise. Lassitude characterised the face of each as with languorous sweep he would start the white ball into sudden motion; and satisfaction at any particularly clever shot was always tinged with boredom. I was glad to turn again to the more boisterous pool-sharps.

"After all" I mused, "this is not College Life. At a score of places in town this scene may be duplicated. I must seek elsewhere."

So I climbed down from the high seat and crossed slowly to the stairs.

CORRESPONDENCE

A TRUST BETRAYED

To the Editor of The Varsity:

Dear Sir:

That fire-eating publication, "Canadian Defence," has recently been greatly exercised over the little interest the students have been paying to the course of military lectures, observing in part that "these young students come from homes where the idea of personal responsibility for the nation's defence has not been sufficiently emphasised; and, moreover, there are counteracting influences and hostile attitudes within the University itself."

This is verging on the imprudent, to say the least. Who has commissioned the omniscient "Canadian Defence" to criticise our homes? Many of us come from stock which plainly showed in '66, '70, '85, and away back in pioneer days (not to speak of U.E. Loyalist times), that they were quite capable of "personal responsibility" in the defence of Canada and their homes. Yet in those days there were no

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inflammatory publications considered necessary to instruct Canadians in their duty. They were loyal to the last when necessary—but the world has changed, and it is no less than criminal to attempt to inflame the two divisions of the Anglo-Saxon race on this continent now, when Governor-General and citizen are alike friendly.

And this is precisely the aim of "Canadian Defence" and the Canadian Defence League, of which it is the organ. This League is an organization whose avowed object is to prepare for war with the United States, and to make war, if it will not come any other way. The League fought bitterly against reciprocity. The leading spirit is Rupert Kingsford, deputy to Colonel Denison, who is a Rip Van Winkle of the 18th Century, still fighting in the American revolution.

This military course was established in the University, by the Governors without the consent of the Senate, at the instance of Kingsford, whose son became a lecturer. The whole military scheme and propaganda aims at substituting military options in certain courses. This is political and not for the benefit of the militia, as anyone knows who remembers that last summer there were not men enough on the farms of Ontario to man the rural regiments at Niagara Camp, but the forces had to be recruited from the bums and idlers of Buffalo.

In the words of one member of the Senate: "This whole exploitation is an

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indecent political intrigue to influence unfairly and by stealth the minds of the young men in the University. Were the University in the hands of a responsible minister, he would not for a moment have ventured on such a course. The folly of consigning the University to an irresponsible commission becomes apparent. Not only has a generous endowment been squandered, but a great educational Trust belonging to all the people is being scandalously abused."

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THERE are few national institutions of more value and interest to the country than the Royal Military College of Canada. Notwithstanding this, its object and the work it is accomplishing are not sufficiently understood by the general public.

The College is a Government institution, designed primarily for the purpose of giving instruction in all branches of military science to cadets and officers of the Canadian Militia. In fact it corresponds to Woolwich and Sandhurst.

The Commandant and military instructors are all officers on the active list of the Imperial army, lent for the purpose, and there is in addition a complete staff of professors for the civil subjects which form such an important part of the College course. Medical attendance is also provided.

Whilst the College is organized on a strictly military basis the cadets receive a practical and scientific training in subjects essential to a sound modern education.

The course includes a thorough grounding in Mathematics, Civil Engineering, Surveying, Physics, Chemistry, French and English.

The strict discipline maintained at the College is one of the most valuable features of the course, and, in addition, the constant practice of gymnastics, drills, and outdoor exercises of all kinds, ensures health and excellent physical condition.

Commissions in all branches of the Imperial service and Canadian Permanent Force are offered annually.

The diploma of graduation, is considered by the authorities conducting the examination for Dominion Land Surveyors to be equivalent to a university degree, and by the Regulations of the Law Society of Ontario, it obtains the same examinations as a B.A. degree.

The length of the course is three years, in three terms of 9 1/2 months each.

The total cost of the course, including board, uniform, instructional material, and all extras, is about \$800.

The annual competitive examination for admission to the College, takes place in May of each year, at the headquarters of the several military districts.

For full particulars regarding this examination and for any other information, application should be made to the Secretary of the Militia Council, Ottawa, Ont.; or to the Commandant, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ont.

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