

THE AMENITIES OF THE LECTURE ROOM.*

Students are proverbial the world over for their whole-souled, light-hearted, careless, and even bohemian life and conduct. That this sometimes finds vent in actions which merit the rebuke of the more staid and law-abiding of the community, and anon, the intervention of the arm of the law, there can be no gainsaying. The exuberance of youth, the change, in the case of many a student, from the quiet country and home life, to the noise and boarding-house or residential life of the city and college very often produces these results. Therefore, with a view of giving to the lawless student world a guide, counsellor and *vade mecum* of propriety and conduct, the author of the "Amenities," who veils his identity under the *nom de guerre* of "Censor Morum," has provided for us in this entertaining little book a set of rules, which, if strictly followed, cannot fail, we are convinced, to make the most lawless student a model of grace and good-breeding. The author, doubtless, has had in his mind similar works on the great subject of conduct, such as "Don't" and others of this kind, but there is evident all through the "Amenities" a freedom from the conventional treatment of the subject, and an originality that stamps his work as a "genuine and important addition to our too scanty stock of Canadian literature"—and, as such, should be greeted with enthusiasm, and studied with care. We can only make room for a few of the many words of wisdom which "Censor Morum" utters on the subject of student-conduct in general, but hope that from the specimens we give, many of our students may be induced to procure the book for themselves, and ponder its sage counsels at their leisure. We reproduce our selections at random and without any necessary connection or classification :

"Sleeping is permissible during lectures, but no true gentleman will be guilty of snoring.

"Always try and come late for lectures, and endeavour to obtain a seat on the most crowded bench. A scattered audience is apt to disconcert the lecturer.

"When the lecturer enters the room do not appear to notice any *gaucherie* on his part. He is often nervous and highly-strung.

"Because you may happen to disagree with any view expressed by the lecturer, do not, on that account, call out in a loud voice: 'Bosh!' 'Rubbish!' 'Nonsense!' 'Whatcher giv'n us!' 'Fudge!' or any similar expression.

"Always wear your hat at lectures and in Convocation Hall. The Bedel may object, but the President likes it. There is ample precedent for this, in the custom of Jews in their synagogues.

"Do not suck your lead-pencil loudly.

"If you happen to think of anything funny during a lecture, do not hesitate to laugh out loud at it. Remember you are not in church.

"Engage your nearest neighbour in earnest conversation during lectures. The lecturer likes to see sociability exist among the members of his class.

"Do not throw ink-bottles at the lecturer when he pauses for breath.

"If you are not interested in the lecture you may go to sleep or leave the room, or whistle, but on no account occupy yourself by destroying the desks and forms by carving your name upon them. Remember University Chairs are expensive; some have cost as much as \$3,000.

"Do not disturb the Librarian, he has duties to attend to which occupy all his lecture-hours.

"Students are not expected to ring the bell. This is how the janitor gets exercise.

"Never put a Residence gift cigar in the mouth.

"If after partaking of the hospitality of Residence, you find that the same does not agree with you, do not remark that 'the Steward was in the soup.'

"Be affable with the lecturers when you meet them. Remember they have seen better days.

"If the lecture-room is cold, put your handkerchief in your mouth. The chattering of teeth is apt to razzle-dazzle the lecturer.

"At prayers do not breathe on the head of the student in front of you. He may be suffering from pneumonia.

"Don't steal the University chalk to mark your billiard cue when down town.

"Always joke with the examiner at an oral. It puts him at his ease.

"Chappie's 'Scale of hardness' is not to be applied to a lecturer's jokes.

"If you are a First Year student, extend a hearty welcome to the lecturers. They expect it. Put them at their ease.

"Do not be reserved in conversation with the President.

"Do not snow-ball the Librarian's dog. He has been tenderly reared in the lap of luxury.

"To argue with a lecturer is, at best, a questionable practice. It may serve to pass the time, but he is usually set in his own opinions.

"If you notice any defects in the lecturer's manner, do not reprove him before the class. Speak to him privately afterwards.

"No gentleman will smoke in the ladies' Common Room.

"If you see the Dean coming down the corridor, do not place your hat on the floor with a brick in it.

"Do not take it for granted that the lecturer likes you to puff smoke in his face.

"If you hear the Bedel talking loudly in the corridor, go out quickly and stop him. On no account rush out noisily, shouting 'Rats!' He may be speaking to the President.

"It is well to give an assumed name to the examiners, especially at an oral. They might recognize you otherwise.

"Do not eat lemons at the German lectures. It might put the Professor's teeth on edge, and interfere with his pronunciation.

"If you come from the country, do not offer the Deputy Registrar farm produce in lieu of fees. Take it to the Steward of Residence. He needs it badly at all times.

"Do not play bowls in the corridors, or leap frog with the members of the Faculty on their way from one lecture room to another. Always be dignified.

"It is not proper to bring dogs into the class-rooms. They should be left in the Library.

"To prevent all mistakes, do not pay your fees until the Registrar comes after you. This is his duty. Always read the receipt before you sign it.

"Do not shoot the Bedel.

"Discharging firearms during lectures distracts the Professor's attention. Keep this for evening serenades.

"In giving assistance to a fellow-student at examinations, it is best not to speak above a whisper.

"On no account tie the lecturer's gown to his desk while he is lecturing. Remember it may not have been paid for, and if injured, cannot be returned."

* *The Amenities of the Lecture Room: A Student's Handbook of Etiquette.* By "Censor Morum." Toronto: The Varsity Publishing Company.