

STUDENT ACTIVITIES.



THE University of British Columbia is a democratic institution. The student body is self-governing, controlling its own organized activities through the Students' Council, the executive of the Alma Mater Society, of which every student is a member. By the constitution of the Society the Council is the only authorized and recognized medium to represent the students in their dealings, not alone with the University authorities, but with other organizations and the general public. In addition, it has both executive and judicial powers. On it devolves the responsibility for carrying out policies outlined by the Alma Mater Society. It also is a court, empowered to discipline any undergraduate for conduct unbecoming a university student.

It is evident that such wide powers of student self-government involve large and serious responsibilities. The training in the use of power and responsibility is one of the most valuable benefits derived from university life, and, in the case of this University, has been hitherto amply justified by its results.

In consequence of its establishment at the beginning of the Great War, the University has not as yet developed many normal student activities. The annual dramatic performances of the Players' Club, the Musical Club Concert, and the Inter-collegiate Debate are at present the three major events of the year.

The Players' Club has done much to bring the University to the attention of the general public. For three years it has staged a play in Vancouver and Victoria. As a result more than \$2,000 has been contributed to the funds of patriotic organizations.

The Musical Club consists of a Men's and Women's Glee Club and an orchestra. It promises to become the largest organization within the Alma Mater Society. The initial public performance was given last year, and resulted in the addition of over \$200 to the University Red Cross Fund.

The Inter-University Debate was established as an annual event in 1915, the University of Washington being the opponent. Last year it was reorganized as a triangular competition, with the University of Oregon as a third contestant. Each University prepares two teams, the affirmative debating at home and the negative abroad. This year the University's negative will meet Washington at Seattle, while the affirmative will try conclusions with Oregon in Vancouver.

It is hoped that the thoroughly friendly relations established by these debates will, now that the war is over, facilitate the founding of Inter-University sports competitions.

The Men's Literary Society each year holds an Oratorical Contest, at which a gold and a silver medal are awarded to the two best speakers. The Class Debates are also superintended by this Society.