

# Trinity University Review

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## Trinity University Review.

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## Editorial Topics.

In the January number our readers will find changes of considerable importance in the staff, and that Mr. J. H. MacGill, M.A., has been chosen to replace Mr. Troop in the position of Business Manager. *THE REVIEW* also loses, with regret, the services of Mr. E. A. Anderson, M.A., whose literary ability is of a high character. Although not able to devote much time to the columns of our College paper the absence of Mr. Anderson's contributions will be a marked loss. In Messrs. Boyle and Griffith *THE REVIEW* secure the services of two men who have, as yet, had no experience in similar positions, but whose literary tastes promise well to make them successful in their editorial career. It is greatly to be regretted that the change in the business management, and the entire re-arrangement of the financial affairs of *THE REVIEW* have delayed the publication of this issue for so long—for so long, indeed, that our readers may look for our next effort almost immediately. Each year that there is a change in the business management some such delay seems unavoidable, and it would be a boon to the College if some bright intellect would devise a scheme to prevent, or, at least, to mitigate the evil.

Corporation has, this time, "gone and done it" with a vengeance, and the result of its labours has not met with the approval of the undergraduate body, which, we think, is rather to be deplored, since the undergraduates are interested to a very considerable extent in the statute recently passed. The statute in point is one which changes the date of the Annual Convocation from June 27th to October 12th. The change is not an innovation, as has been at first supposed, for, some ten years ago, it was the custom to present the "sheepskins" to the kneeling supplicants in the Michaelmas term. Owing to causes not necessary to relate it was thought expedient to hold the Annual Convocation in the month of June, and the change was made apparently to the satisfaction of everyone concerned. The third year finals came round and were disposed of. At the end of the week the results were announced, and the following day, entirely in keeping with

the feeling of freedom, satisfaction and honest jubilation the degrees were conferred. June 27th was a day to be anticipated; a day about which there was a glamour of joy, an exultation of success, an honest pride in newly won laurels not yet faded, a pride which the cool apathy of the practical uncultured world had not suppressed—in truth, a day on which the temple of fame opened wide its portals for a few short hours to cast a golden halo about well earned success. This is something immaterial and fleeting, to be sure, not to be valued by any standard but that of pleasant memories, and yet, not to be lost without injury to that intangible feeling which excites a pleasant thrill and binds us indissolubly to that phantom foster-parent of ours, our Alma Mater. Dull the glamour of Convocation and the farewell to our undergraduate days loses all its charm. Take away the pleasantness of the memory of the last "event" in our Collegiate life and a strong bond which would hold our sympathies with our College forever is rudely snapped. A man does not return to have his degree conferred three months after he has won it with the same pleasure that he would experience had it been conferred while the feeling of success was still new. The metal must be run into the mould while it is still hot: degrees should be conferred when newly won to impress with the giving the distinctive character and the claims of our Alma Mater upon her sons. If this is not done we who should be bound to our College lose vastly; but our College loses more. This is an important loss which the change of dates must mean.

So let us observe what considerations have brought it about; what it is expected will be gained in return. It may reasonably be surmised that the wail of the examiners has come up to the ears of Corporation, and has touched a responsive chord. The examiners assert that the six days between the writing of the last paper and the meeting of the Board of Examiners is too short a time in which to make returns. That the intervening six days is a period of continuous toil there can be no doubt, but at the same time there are expedients by which it might readily be made more easy. The duration of the examinations might be lengthened to the benefit of examiners and victims. By placing the papers which take longest to mark nearest the beginning, the time for correcting them would be considerably lengthened. By setting, at most, one paper a day the strain on the candidates would be appreciably and gratefully decreased, and the examiners would readily keep abreast of their work. The benefit of such a course would be greatest to the men of the second year whose papers are especially numerous and, in some cases, voluminous. The extension of the time of writing the examinations admittedly has some drawbacks, but scarcely such weighty ones as the change in the date of Convocation.

It is possible that the "idle week" between the end of the examinations and the Annual Convocation may have been a factor in causing the recent change, but it would appear on consideration that the majority of men have been able in the past to find ample occupation and amusement during the six days or so without calling in the faculties of the powers to direct their energies. It does sometimes occur, rarely, we are glad to say, that the assistance of the faculty proves valuable to the College in directing the currents during the so-called "idle week." The year of the Diamond Jubilee is, though, an unhappy one in which to