

# THE VARSITY

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## Editorial Comments.



We understand that the Class of '93 have decided, though by no means unanimously, to adopt a class color. Without presuming to interfere with the rights and liberties of the free and independent members of that year, we think that such a proposal needs more general consideration, and should be approved by the

undergraduates as a whole before any decisive action is taken in the matter. The different class societies cannot ignore the fact that they are each only *one* year of *one* of the various colleges in affiliation with the University of Toronto. When Victoria comes, as it will in a few years, the necessity for wearing the distinctive *college* colors will be more apparent even than it is now, and the adoption of any additional system of colors would lead to confusion and uncertainty. Blue and White are the colors of University College, not of the University of Toronto. The Medical College has its own colors, Victoria College will have hers, and the School of Science men have, or should have, theirs.

In these cases distinguishing colors are extremely convenient and should be worn more generally than they are. But if the students of University College adopt four more colors according to the various years, the result will be that the old Blue and White will disappear entirely and the symmetry of the system will be broken. We are in fact wavering between the American system of managing things by "years" and the English method of managing them by "colleges." The legal foundation of the University, providing for the affiliation with it of a number of distinct colleges, speaks strongly in favor of the latter method. University College is the only affiliated College which has taken a step towards the American plan by the organization of class societies, and it is tolerably certain had not the distinction between the College and the University been so faint in the past, had there always existed other colleges as strong in number by her side, that the class society movement would not have taken quite so strong a hold as it has. We do not regret the organization of the class societies in University College; they are of especial benefit to the students of the lower years; but it is particularly desirable that when they reach the upper years at any rate the "class" spirit should yield to the "college" spirit. The bearing which these circumstances, hastily noticed and deserving certainly still more general discussion, have upon the color question is sufficiently obvious. The *college* color must not disappear, and though the adoption of some unobtrusive mark to distinguish the years, a mark which would be an entirely "*intra-college*" affair, might not necessarily overshadow the Blue and White, yet the danger is great enough, we think, to justify caution on the part of '93 before they go any further in the direction proposed. At any rate the question is surely one for the students as a whole to deal with, not one particular year.

We regret to announce that Mr. S. B. Leacock has been compelled to resign his position as editor on THE VARSITY staff, owing to lack of time in which to fulfil his duties to his own satisfaction. In severing his direct connection with the paper, we lose one of our ablest writers;

but our loss will in some measure be lessened by our knowing that Mr. Leacock will still be a frequent contributor.

A correspondent in another column calls attention to the changes which are being made in the character of the Literary and Scientific Society. We cannot but admire the Cato-like firmness with which Mr. Standing opposes the innovations that are going on, and none can deny that his conception of what a truly *literary* and *scientific* society ought to be is essentially correct. On the other hand, it is, we think, unquestionable that there should be such a "students' union" as the writer describes; and if it is found that the two cannot be successfully combined, the question to be decided is which should give way to the other. Considering the other societies of a literary or quasi-literary character, which exist in the University and whose number grows apace, one might argue that a students' union is the more necessary. As yet, however, the business which the students have to transact has not materially interfered with the literary part of the proceedings, and until it does so the relegation of the latter to other minor societies and debating clubs need not be seriously discussed.

Now that the athletic season, with its many triumphs and its few defeats, has passed once more, all must experience a certain regret that so small a part of the college year is suitable for the sports in vogue among us. The long, weary winter season is here again with no amusements to enliven it. It is certainly discreditably to us as Canadians who often glory in our bracing climate that we should have no winter games to succeed those which have now come to an end. There are many amusements, such as curling, hockey, skating, etc., which it requires the coldest weather to enjoy, and there is no reason why they should not be introduced among us. The President's suggestion that a skating rink be built is worthy of more attention than some seem to think. Indeed, it is rather a matter of surprise that, living in the climate we do, no winter move has ever been made in this direction. We hope this will not pass by without something being done, and if an Athletic Association is formed, as now seems probable, we would suggest this question for their first and most careful consideration.

We have noticed of late a tendency to use the terms "Senior," "Junior," "upper years" and "lower years" in a very loose and irrational manner. For the sake of those who may be unacquainted with the real significance of these terms some explanation of them may not be out of place. In the first place, the terms "Senior," "Junior," "Sophomore" and "Freshman" are not officially recognized by the college authorities, as is the case in most American universities; but for common use they are so much more convenient than the phrases "fourth year men," etc., that their adoption by the undergraduates is natural enough. The Seniors, then, are the fourth year men only, not the second, third and fourth men taken together. The Juniors are the third year men only, not the Freshmen, nor yet the Freshmen and the Sophomores. The term "upper years" should be applied only to the third and fourth year men; the term "lower years" only to the Freshmen and Sophomores. The term "Freshman," too, seems to be considered by some as a term of reproach; some seem to think they are guilty of an act of impoliteness if they use the term in referring to the first year, but we see no ground whatever for such false and unreasonable delicacy.