

The Varsity

Published weekly by the students of the University of Toronto. Annual subscription, One Dollar, payable strictly in advance. For advertising rates apply to the Business Manager. Address all communications for publication to the Editor-in-Chief, University College.

G. W. ROSS, *Editor-in-Chief.*

ERIC N. ARMOUR, *Business Manager.*

A. N. MITCHELL, *Assistant Business Manager.*

Editorial Board.—Miss Downey, '99; W. A. R. Kerr '99; V. E. Henderson, '99; W. H. McNairn, '99; Miss Hughes, '00; E. H. Cooper, '00; G. F. Kay, '00; A. N. W. Clare, '00; Miss Forrest, '01; G. F. McFarland, '01; P. A. Carson, '01; R. Fudger, '02; W. Foreman; R. Reaf; F. McNaughton; S. P. S.

Business Board.—Miss Burgess, '99; J. B. Hunter, '99; Miss L. Wright, '00; A. J. Isbester, '01; P. J. McGregor, '02; V. Neelands; A. Smith, S. P. S.

TORONTO, MARCH 8, 1899.

ADVISORY BOARD FOR INCOMING STUDENTS.

If the full facts of the case were available, they would doubtless show a very surprising state of affairs with regard to the method of selection of the various courses of studies by the incoming students. Among the undergraduates it is well-known that very many have practically drifted into the course where they happen to be, and this is not a mere haphazard statement, but the result of enquiry into the question. The cause of this would seem to be simply an ignorance of the situation on the part of the matriculant. He or she takes the long step from the High School to the University, sometimes with definite plans formed concerning the future, but perhaps oftener actuated merely with the desire for obtaining a B.A. degree, and laboring under the false impression that this is a species of "skeleton key," which will open the door of success to any of the many departments of human activity. This is true, perhaps, to a certain degree, but undoubtedly some courses are better fitted for certain professions or pursuits than others. For example, Political Science should form the basis for Law, in the same way as Natural Science is the best preliminary study for Medicine, and the general course for business. But unless an incoming student has had an advisor, who is thoroughly cognizant of the situation, he more often than not simply drifts into a course of study, which, although perhaps as educative as any other course, will not fit him for his life's work nearly so well as another course.

The circumstances of the selection of a course of study are very often these: A student enters a new life—for the University forms a life within the life of the community—with but few acquaintances, and finds himself almost lost in his new surroundings. Unfamiliar faces are on all sides, and it is no wonder that at first he feels somewhat bewildered. In this condition he meets a friend of his who for some reason has formed definite ideas about the matter, and, perhaps, naturally decides to enter the same course with him. Thus, through ignorance, or the want of proper advice, he chooses a course which is not the best for his purpose.

We do not presume to propose the exact means by which this evil should be remedied, but in order to be definite will outline one possible method. An

Advisory Committee might be formed of the President and the professors of each honor department, and it could be stated in the Calendar that each incoming student *must* appear before this Committee, give an account of any special preliminary work he has done, and state his plans. He could then be advised as to the proper course which he should pursue, and would not enter his four years' work blindly, as he now too often does. It may be urged that very many students do not know their plans so early in their University course, but apart from this being an argument against the utility of such an Advisory Committee, it is exactly the opposite; for the appearance of a student before such a body, and his being seriously asked what his intentions are, would in many cases force him to stop and think, and perhaps not postpone his decision as to what he intends to do until a month or so before graduation, as is so often the case. In our humble opinion these two matters are the two of the most serious evils of the present state of affairs, namely: That aimless drifting of students into special courses of study, and secondly, that postponing of their decision as to what they intend to do on graduation, until it is simply forced upon them, when they find themselves confronted with the necessity of soon securing some bread-winning occupation.

It is earnestly hoped that the University authorities will make some move in this important matter leading towards a removal of these evils.

THE PRESS AND THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

For a number of years it has been the custom with certain of the evening papers, especially, to magnify and distort occurrences at Varsity beyond all recognition. Romancing is, no doubt, very pleasant, and as easy as it is pleasant, but we see no reason why the undergraduates should have inflicted upon them reports which cast very undesirable reflections upon their actions. Any conscientious paper should surely refuse to abuse its influence as a power for good by publishing perverted accounts of University undergraduate actions, which reflect on the University itself. What the University undergraduates want is a little more sympathy from the press, both in general matters and also in Athletics.

We refer definitely to the account of the recent "scrap," published in a certain paper which came out with a glaring head-line "Civil War at Varsity," etc., etc., and appended, thereto, a most ingeniously distorted "story" of the affair. In consideration of this and similar actions of other papers at other times, the following resolution was unanimously passed by the students, at a mass meeting held after the Literary Society, Friday night: "Resolved, That we, undergraduates of the University of Toronto, seriously deprecate the attitude of the press towards us, which attitude allows of the publication of such accounts of our actions as tend to leave entirely false impressions of them; and that THE VARSITY give expression to this."

It is to be sincerely hoped that the papers will consider the evident desires of the students in this regard, and be more considerate in the future for the sake of the University, if not for the students themselves.