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THE LIT.

A question which occupies the attention of a considerable portion of the undergraduate body is that of *esprit de corps*—or rather lack of *esprit de corps*—of the University. A marked awakening in this respect has no doubt occurred of late, as was seen on the occasion of the grand turn-out to the Laurier demonstration, the games, etc., nevertheless it cannot be denied that there is a deplorable lack of college spirit in the majority of undergraduate events.

Several plans have been mentioned lately in connection with furthering the *esprit de corps* of the college, but the majority of these are either impracticable or fail to touch the vital point of the question. The Alumni Association, the Dining Hall, etc., are all steps in the right direction, but something more is needed, something that will stimulate each and every member of the undergraduate body.

An executive formed of the presidents of the several years, or any like scheme, would be powerless to act in this connection. They might take the lead, exhort, and organize, but they alone could never stir the student body unless the student body *itself* felt vitally interested. And here we reach the keystone of the situation. Make each and every student feel that the University owes something to him personally, and undergraduate enthusiasm will be unbounded. Mark my words, a student may feel a certain critical interest—the kind we see at most public events—he may join in his college yell, stamp and cheer, but when it comes to his own personal co-operation—genuine heartfelt interest in university life—then I say to obtain this it is absolutely necessary that the student be made to feel that on him and on him alone depends the life and prosperity of all undergraduate organizations.

And how can this be done? Simply enough. Along with the registration and library dues, a moderate fee of say five or six dollars should be charged to each and every student as his annual athletic dues. This would secure for him an active membership in all branches of undergraduate life—the gymnasium and reading-room, Literary Society, Hockey, Rugby, Cricket and Tennis Clubs, athletic grounds and annual sports, admit him to all University games of any description and secure him the privileges of all these clubs. This would cause him to feel himself an integral and necessary part of the life of University sports and athletics.

It must be admitted that only in connection with athletics can this problem of the *esprit de corps* of the University be solved. College spirit is practically unknown in any school where manly sports and exercises do not exist. We all admit that the literary side of our life here is the most important, but students as a whole can never be stirred to any great pitch of enthusiasm by mere literary and scientific achievements. To rouse a truly deep interest something more exciting is needed; enthusiasm and surplus of feeling, exuberance and carelessness must be given scope. To a certain extent the annual elections fill this requirement, and for this reason all should take active part in them, but unfortunately this event, coming when it does, can have only a temporary effect. In athletics and in athletics alone can *esprit de corps* be fostered.

By this plan the Athletic Association would receive far more actual money than it does under the present system. The interest of every student would certainly center upon it, and once this interest—by this I mean true and sincere interest—was aroused, the present indifference and lethargy would totally disappear, and the Athletic Association would be the nucleus of an *esprit de corps* which would equal, if not surpass, the tremendous enthusiasm of the American University.

In these opening days of the College year, no event at Varsity has been more successful than the first meeting of the Literary and Scientific Society held last Friday evening in the Students' Union. Whatever the Lit. may have been in the past this opening meeting showed unmistakably that as a students' organization it will this year fulfil its function in University life as the college "parliament" and the center of student action. Not only was there a large attendance of the student body, but there was over and above all a tone of hearty enthusiasm, and this found free vent when Mr. S. Casey Wood, B.A., the new President, entered and took his place for the first time.

The business part of the meeting was most important. Much was done and much was planned, and the spirit of the meeting clearly evidenced the progress and reform so characteristic of the time. Among the notices of motion we note specially the following:

By *F. M. Chapman*, '01—The formation of a Rifle Corps among the Arts students of University College.

By *W. W. McLaren*, '01—A revision of the old constitution, and the publication of a new.

By *F. P. Potvin*, '01—The supplying of papers and magazines for the students' rooms at the Dining Hall.

But more important than any of these was the initiative taken towards the formation of a central student organization. It was moved by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Coleman, and carried "That this society considers it advisable that an executive committee with representatives from the various student faculties of University College should be appointed for the purpose of Central Student Organization, and that the Secretary be requested to communicate with the various college societies expressing our willingness to take the initiative in this matter."

Committees were appointed to make complete arrangements for the Hallowe'en celebration and for a student demonstration upon the return of the Canadian Soldiers from South Africa.

The resignation of Mr. R. A. Smiley, 4th year Councilor on the Executive Committee was read and accepted. R. D. Keefe and James Little were nominated for the vacancy, and as there may still be traced the "fire of former days" the election at the next meeting promises to be keenly contested.

The President was appointed to represent the Society on the Executive of the Inter-college Debating Union.

The routine of business having been finished the meeting assumed a more entertaining character. The program opened with the inaugural address of the new President. It was a simple yet masterly effort—reviewing the past, and looking out upon the future—and Mr. Wood has already found a place in the sympathy and support of all the men. The popular Vice-President, Mr. J. L. McPherson, also addressed the meeting, and in eloquent words showed the Society to be an open field for the development of every student, and urged the men to be faithful to themselves and to their University.

One of the most pleasant features of the meeting was a "spicy" speech from Mr. J. F. M. Stewart, of Osgoode, a graduate of last year, who was called to the platform and cordially received.

In the musical part of the program, instrumental duets by Messrs. Lucas and Klotz, and a solo by Mr. J. A. Soule were heartily appreciated.

The next meeting promises to be unusually interesting. In addition to the program and the election of 4th year Councilor, nominations will be received from the first year for representatives on the VARSITY Editorial Board, and the Literary Society Executive next Friday night. Don't forget it!