

The Varsity

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TORONTO, OCTOBER, 9, 1911

ADOPT MORE REFINED METHODS

During the past few days we have had in our midst a recurrence of the ebullition of animal spirits common to undergraduate bodies. The three "scraps" provided plenty of amusement for all those who understand the situation; the combatants in particular and to a certain extent the student body at large. In fact, from the standpoint of fun, and of good feelings of one combatant towards another, the rows may be said to have been completely successful. In one case the sides cheered each other, at the conclusion of the fight, and in another those engaged sat for the camera after the melee. Very little damage was done to University property, and no harm whatever to that of outsiders.

At the same time, there are two points in cases such as these which generally seem to be overlooked or forgotten. First, these "scraps" are very expensive. It is impossible to estimate just what amount of money it would take to replace the personal attire which perished in the fights, but it is generally admitted that the loss is large.

Second, in making our initiations so repulsive in general appearance, we run a great risk of being misunderstood by the public. The public does not always follow the undergraduate mind in all its workings. We are thought to be rude, uncouth, and lacking in moral fibre, at times when we consider that we are merely making full use of our privileges. City newspapers have not always the power of representing us as we really are: in publishing accounts of mix-ups and neglecting mention of the quiet development which goes on week in and week out, they exert an unfortunate influence upon the mind of the average citizen. If then, we could get rid of our present methods of initiation, substituting some process which would be less damaging to apparel and less horrible to the lay mind, we should be better off financially, and should hold a much higher place in the estimate of the general public.

YEAR ORGANIZATIONS

Although the Literary and Scientific Society is the representative body for all male undergraduates, each year requires a distinct organization of its own to manage its own affairs, while the Lit. is indeed a federation of all the years, each year is a distinct unit, electing its own officers with plenary authority over all matters of the year.

With the commencement of each academic year the machinery at once is set in motion to form new executives. The fourth year takes the initiative. About the middle of October a meeting of the senior year is held for nominations and latter the election for the contested offices follows. Each year in its order follows the example of the fourth year.

Although the election of the annual executive may seem but an easy and trivial affair to men of the advanced years, it presents an important and difficult situation to the freshmen.

In the first year a large and unwieldy assembly which can aptly be compared to a leaderless mob meets together for the

first time and almost before the individuals of this class have time to make many acquaintances they must elect the ruling body of their year. It is a real difficulty and a real victory to change this chaotic mob into a well organized body. The first year accordingly has the hardest problem on its hands, the senior years have a retiring executive to set the ball rolling but the freshmen must trust the business of his class into strange hands which show some aptitude for leadership.

The men of the first year have, however, a more happy existence in their chaotic environment than the freshman of years gone by. It was once the delight of the sophomore to catch the innocent freshmen and to use him in a very barbaric manner. Today we are proud to say that in Arts a much more civilized and more companionable attitude has been assumed by the Soph. toward the incoming freshman.

Instead of a tussle where the "freshie" is the victim, an oyster supper is held in November at which the freshman acts as host and entertains his senior in a hospitable manner. In this way each year shows its respect and good will for the other and bitter feeling is engendered between the men of the different years.

When the classes are finally organized a small class fee is levied and preparations are begun for the big event in the history of the year, the annual "At Home," as in the nominations the fourth year takes the initiative, the freshmen hold their's last, and although the "At Homes" of the other years are made up of only the members of the respective years the first year men in this matter do not follow their seniors' examples. From necessity rather than choice, they are forced to receive many an unwelcome guest. For what undergraduate would miss the freshman reception? Generally the modest freshmen is greatly handicapped and still more greatly chagrined at the unfair advantage and the fair freshette the Sophomore has taken.

Other duties of the executive are arranging for a skating party and appointing representative for debates and for the oratorical contests, in furthering anything for the welfare of the class. In short, the members of each year think and rightly think their own year the best and brightest that has ever entered the college door. It is the duty of the executive to prove it.

On the whole the participation of the undergraduate in class functions is of advantage to himself. If he is fortunate enough to be a member of the ruling body, he will receive an executive training. To the great majority this position is barred, but in assisting to form and support class organizations, the undergraduate will find pleasing recreation and make lasting friendships.

A TERRIBLE PLOT


Last night about six o'clock, our Star Reporter, on the lookout for red hot news, came across a "sizzler."

He had been ambling aimlessly up and down the halls, wondering whence his inspiration was to come, when suddenly a partly suppressed cheer from behind a nearby door impelled him to approach that portal and apply his eye to the key-hole. The scene that met his staring optic was blood-curdling. Seated around a three-legged table, upon which reposed a skull and a flickering candle, sat a half-dozen fierce-looking figures—whom our scribe quickly recognized as belonging to some of Varsity's leading spirits. Apparently one of them had been making a speech, and had just sat down. Now another arose.

"Yes, fellow-conspirators," he said, seizing the skull and waving it dramatically over his head, "if Achilles, in an heroic age killed mutton, why shouldn't we, in an unheroic one, kill pork? It seems to me that slander—or knocker as some call him—has fattened upon us long enough. For five years he has run this college. For half a decade he has held our social and literary destinies in the palm of his hand. And I, for one, say—(here the skull descended upon the table with a crash)—its just about time the old fraud warbled his swan-song and floated off down the river."

"Hear! Hear!" "Down with the old viper," etc., yelled an enthusiastic chorus, and our heroic penpusher—his poor tortured soul sick with horror—fled pell-mell along the hall, out of the building.

These, gentle readers, are the facts reported by our colleague. That they are of awful import goes without saying; for certainly they argue that some powerful personage among you, is in imminent danger. Had our hardy detective been more safely situated, he might have



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HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Several Changes Have Taken Place in Department

Several changes have taken place in the history department. Mr. Kenneth Bell, who was with the department for two years, has left. New members of the staff are Miss Winifred Howey, graduate of Trinity, who becomes a fellow in history. Mr. R. H. Williams, B.A., 1911, Christ Church, Oxford, comes to the department and will take the pass constitutional history of the third year and several of the tutorial groups. Another new member of the history staff is Mr. J. J. Bell, M.A., Oxon. He takes Mr. Kenneth Bell's place in the third year honor work. He is a graduate in "greats" and history about 1905. Since he has taught in Goldsmith Teachers' College, London.

The summer vacation has left some of our professors unwittingly humorous. One of the French professors on Tuesday was guilty twice in the course of a lecture "Louis Philippe provided for his daughter by careful husbanding—of his estates." "Napoleon had a winning way with his soldiers."

Prospective Tenant—"I like the house, but I don't like that huge building in front. It's such a dreary outlook."

Agent—"Oh! that only a gunpowder factory. It might explode any day."


—London Opinion.

gathered enough data to hang the whole crew; as it is, unless something further develops, you must be content with what we have said.

(To be Continued)

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