

W. Gould; Ladies, C. E. Smythe; Freshmen—Officers of the Fourth Year, H. J. Way, H. A. Wardell, J. A. C. Grant, B.A.; Officers of the Third Year, A. F. Rykert, C. J. Taylor; Officers of the Second Year, R. B. Wells, W. J. McCollum, A. Galloway; Officers of the First Year, A. Gibson, G. W. Hall, I. Smith, E. Fleming.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

Among other items of interest, the President's convocation address contained a promise of the speedy equipment of the Departments of Chemistry and Geology in a manner equal to that of Physics. The prospect is a pleasing one, as those departments have been shamefully neglected, while their sister, Physics, has flourished like the Scriptural bay tree. The prosperity of the latter, however, is one of endowment and equipment alone, as a glance at the number attending the classes of each will show. The crowds of students who flock to the miserable laboratories of Geology and Chemistry are in decided contrast to the select few to whose instruction is dedicated more than *one-third* of the main building and a large amount of apparatus, representing in all more than half a million of the capital of the University.

If the Geological and Chemical building is not commenced at once the fulfilment of the President's promise may seriously embarrass the finances of the University, as every week seems to add to the space occupied by this most aggressive of the sciences. When the plans for the new building were prepared, everything that the Department of Physics asked for was granted. It was hoped that the support of this department had been finally brought on behalf of the other schemes of the University. Since that, however, a separate building has assumed definite shape as the future home of Geology and Chemistry, and now Physics bids fair to be satisfied with nothing till the whole of University College is at its disposal, and every one, from the President of the University down to the boot-boy in Residence, is camped in a tent on the lawn, like the Convocation of '90.

At a recent meeting of the Senate the Professor of Physics applied for two additional rooms, which, along with those now in use, will put him in possession of sixteen rooms, and enable him to introduce solitary confinement among his students—a new departure in educational methods, though widely practised in penal institutions. Anyone not versed in University politics would be apt to suggest that one of the coveted rooms might be supplied by cutting the Professor's sitting-room in two, as it is at present just twice the size of that allotted to the President of the University. The room west of the private room might perhaps be subdivided, as it represents a floor space equal to two-thirds of the old Museum, which must have been a fair-sized room, since a similar one, the Library, was considered large enough for convocation. The solitudes of this chamber are to be peopled, we are informed, by "possibly as many as eight or nine students" at once.

Of the Amphitheatre which belongs to this department we will say nothing, save that there is only one other in the building, and it is the common property of Classics, Moderns, Political Science, Orientals and Philosophy.

Of the Rotunda, with its three available floors, the north-western wing and the large Laboratory, cut out of the first House of Residence, we shall only mention the existence.

That they do exist and are spacious and handsome used to be demonstrated on Conversat. nights, but since those times of festivity have vanished, the glories of the western wing have become a tradition of the Seniors.

Over the Amphitheatre are some fine rooms. Here in a nook Dr. Baldwin's Laboratory may be found. It is rumored that, had these rooms been up to the standard of the Physics Department when finished, Psychology would have had much ado to find rest for the sole of her foot.

We have not noticed any applications for larger space from the Department of Psychology, yet ye editor *did*

notice, last Tuesday, an overflow meeting from that popular professor's nine o'clock lecture. It had convened itself on a stepladder, and the two students who composed it, with their ears at the transom, plied note book and pencil with a zeal out of all proportion to the fragments of the lecture, gleaned amidst the hammering of surrounding carpenters. It will be noted that this tableau was visible at the door of one of the largest lecture-rooms in the building, though, unfortunately, one much smaller than that in the opposite wing dedicated to the mystic view.

That the Senate voted away a part of the College Residence for the use of this department is well known. There were, however, a sufficient number of senators who understood something of University life and University government to prevent the consummation of the sacrifice. It is to be hoped that when a tool shed is contemplated for the under gardener the Residence will not be the first thought of the Senate.

The attention of the committee which is looking for additional room might be called to the attic over the ladies' reading room, where there are two very "desirable apartments," or to the very commodious basement in the new wing. Still it would be unfair to relegate this department either to attic or basement, even if the heads of the Mathematical and Classical Departments express their content with rooms up two pair of stairs, and the students are in raptures at the thought of one underground.

That an addition to the main building occupying the site of the old Lavatory is contemplated by the committee is a fact too absurd to be believed by anyone not conversant with University management as practised in Toronto. The old engine room and lavatory were torn down to restore the symmetry of the quadrangle which they completely spoiled. This was done, although the lavatory had been in use only two years, and in spite of the fact that neither engine room nor lavatory had been in any way injured by the fire.

The demolition of the old building and the construction of the new cannot have cost less than fifteen thousand dollars. Yet at the mere nod of the Physical Department the Senate is prepared to render this large expenditure useless.

If this new building in the Quad. is permitted, the Senate will have to plead guilty to a charge of foolish extravagance, if not of maudlin stupidity.

We can only designate as scandal mongers those who attribute the vast influence of the Department of Physics to wire pulling, sectional jealousies, or ward heeling. It cannot be a matter for surprise that a department so popular as that of Physics, one whose lectures are so crowded, and one the results of whose original research are embodied in French and German text book should gradually absorb the lion's share of the endowment of University, but it is a matter worthy of serious thought.

We do not close with a comparison, in view of a certain adage, but we do venture the assertion that the demands of the Physics Department are on the increase, and also that there once was a sailor named Sinbad, who had an ancient friend who somewhat hampered his movements.

THE RAMBLER.

The *Quarterly Register of Current History* (Evening News Association, Detroit) gives us in the compass of an ordinary magazine a comprehensive review of the history of the past three months. We shall look forward with much pleasure to future issues of this new candidate for a place among the great American magazines.

Princeton Seniors will wear the cap and gown throughout the year.

Four college dailies are now in circulation. Princeton, Harvard, Yale and Cornell each publish one.

Syracuse University has the finest college building in America. It cost \$700,000, and was the gift of one man.