

COLLEGE TOPICS.

A College newspaper, published weekly during Michaelmas term, is the Organ of the Undergraduate Union, in the interests of University and College students of Toronto.

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WHAT IS THE HAPPY MEDIUM?

University life is no exception to the general law that with advance and progress comes complexity of conditions. Every year adds some new feature. New societies, clubs, and committees are formed, new movements are introduced, and hardly a term passes without some experiment being tried to supply a want or to create one. The multiplication of societies until every branch of study has a representative society, the increasing of social functions until every class and every organization has a reception of some kind, the growth of various college publications, and the development of many branches of athletics all undoubtedly tend to make our life here more varied and in many respects more attractive. But on the other hand, this means that a great amount of time and labor is expended by those who are appointed to manage these various affairs and also to a less extent by those who participate in them. It is here that a much-discussed problem presents itself. What is our primary object in coming to the university, and can this object be best attained by extensive participation in these various phases of student life, or by abstaining from them?

We no longer hold the old idea that a man takes a university course in order to lay up a store of knowledge upon which he may draw throughout the rest of his life, and which will entirely suffice him in the future without any further effort. We believe that we come here to learn, and that we should come here to acquire a systematic method of gaining knowledge and the ability to put what we know into practice. If a man has acquired in his university course the power of concentration and the habit of working systematically, he is well equipped for life's work.

We think that, taking everything into consideration, this result can best be achieved by a close attention to studies. When we say close attention, we do not mean spending all of one's time in study, but that every man should hold his studies to be his primary consideration and make all else secondary to them. The danger is that one participating in too many affairs may come to hold his studies secondary, and work at them only when he cannot help it, and when there is nothing else to do. But at the same time, one must remember that a knowledge of our fellow-men is most valuable. As has been said, "Some men learn all they know from books; some from life. Both are narrow." The inference is that one should judiciously combine the study of both, and on this principle every student should participate to some extent in the social and athletic spheres of university life. How far one should go in this and how much of his time should be taken up by this is largely a question to be decided by the man himself. Provided a man always adheres to the principle of making his studies his first consideration, he can then decide what will interfere and what will not, and if he pursues a systematic method each day he will find that he can do what would seem an enormous amount

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of work to an unsystematic man. Everyone has met at some time a man of great mental capacity and possessing great knowledge, but who has never cultivated the acquaintance of his fellows, and thus is compelled to live in a cage of reserve all his life, communicating nothing to his fellow-men for their benefit. On the other hand, everyone has met those who never let their minds rest upon anything of importance, and who could not endure the labor of thinking seriously for half an hour. Their attention is altogether taken up with the amusements of life, and their time frittered away in the passing trifles of the hour. They may by the aid of a tenacious memory, finish their course and have the legend of B.A. inscribed after their name, but that they have received any education in the true sense of the word is hardly credible. We all have a tendency, either one way or the other, and it is our business to decide for ourselves what is our best course, in order to gain the true and valuable training which we desire. We do not affect to advise others, but merely to call attention to this question, and if those who chance to read this are stimulated to further thought upon the matter, the purpose of this article shall have been accomplished.

A POINTER TO VARSITY SUPPORTERS.

If there is one thing more noticeable than any other to one who makes a practice of attending university sports, and Rugby games in particular, it is the feeble way in which Varsity men support their own teams. Last Saturday's match was a good instance of it. In the first place the turn-out of students was not so large as it should have been, particularly in the Junior years, considering the importance of the game. We do not advocate the style of "rooting" followed by hoodlums who blackguard all opposing players, and find nothing too mean or offensive to say about them; but we do advocate an enthusiastic and sensible support of the teams. A characteristic of Varsity "rooters" is that as long as their own team is well in the lead, and to use a sporting expression, playing rings around their opponents, the air is shattered with cheers and blasts of horns, and no one spares his throat. But as soon as the other team gets the advantage and the Varsity team is playing hard to hold its own, then all cheering dies away, not a sound is heard from the bleachers or grand stand until some Varsity man fortunately scores a point, when all is excitement again.

What is the use of cheering only when our own team is ahead? If they are winning, that fact alone is a sufficient encouragement to them. It is when luck seems to turn against them, and the hope of winning grows fainter, that they want to hear the shouts of encouragement and approbation from their supporters, which will tell them that they still have the confidence of the spectators, and that there is still plenty of time and chance to win the game. Varsity supporters should have enough enthusiasm, enough confidence in their own team and enough grit not to turn with every tide of fortune in a game, and not be jubilant when their team is winning and down in the depths when things go wrong for a few minutes. Keep up the cheering when it is most needed. Encourage the players, and do not wait for them to encourage you.

THE DINING HALL.

The University of Toronto dining hall is one of the most important features in our university life. Here the men can meet one another, and in this way the social life of the student is advanced. The dining hall has the patronage of students from the various federated and affiliated colleges. It is through the above medium that the union between the students of the various colleges will be intensified. The dining hall merits the patronage of the students, in the first place because of the social advantages which it offers; in the second place, because anything which conduces to the making of a great university deserves patronage; and, lastly, because good, wholesome meals are provided. They are well served, and with despatch; in this way unnecessary waiting is obviated. The dining hall is at present well patronized, but there is room for more boarders. Every student not resident in the city should see it as his duty to patronize the hall. The House Committee deserve the greatest credit and the support of the student body for establishing this important branch of university life. Tickets may be had at the secretary's office in the dean's house, and from the secretary of the University of Toronto Union. Twenty-one meals for \$2.50.

MR. YIN'S ARTICLE.

We would call attention to an article in this issue by Mr. Yin on Medical Prospects in the Far East. Mr. Yin is a medical student in the city, and a native of China, so that a peculiar interest is lent to his article, and he speaks with authority on the conditions of his native land. Next week we will publish a full and interesting account of the ninth jubilee

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celebration at Glasgow University last June and the reception given to the delegates sent from the University of Toronto Union. Don't fail to read the account of this unique and memorable celebration, as it is of peculiar interest to all students of our University, and especially to members of the Union.

CORRIDOR ECHOES.

Considerable interest is being taken by the university students in the Toronto World's editorials on the "King's English." The articles referred to are certainly worthy of careful perusal.

"Bob" Smille, formerly of '01, will return to Varsity this week and join that august body of physicists in the banner class of '02.

The many friends of H. M. P. Deroche are pleased to see his smiling face around the club rooms. "Pat" is attending Osgoode this year, but still takes a lively interest in our charming freshettes.

M. A. Buchanan, '01, has a fellowship in the University of Michigan. He is still deeply interested in the class of '02, and will hear of our doings each week through the columns of "College Topics."

Dr. C. A. Chant, the popular lecturer in physics, who has been in Germany during the past year, has resumed his work at Varsity.

Among those who went tandem to the Rugby match Saturday we noticed Messrs. Wilson, Gillies, Deroche, and last, but not least, J. Reginald Bell.

A. E. Hamilton, the constitutional guardian of the Literary Society, knows a good thing when he sees it. After giving our last number a careful perusal he added his name to our already large list of subscribers.

E. M. Wilcox, formerly editor of The Varsity, who took such a lively interest in the formation of the Union last year, is at present a secretary in the Manufacturers' Association. He renewed acquaintances at the reception Saturday evening.

F. A. McDiarmid is already setting a very fast pace in mathematics in the senior class. If "Fergy" does not spend too much time writing letters this year he will be a warm proposition next May.

W. H. Rutherford has resumed his regular trips to Brampton. He will be accompanied on his route as far as Parkdale by MacKenzie and Hamilton.

G. A. Hackney, '01, renewed acquaintances about the halls last week.

The Freshman class at Varsity this year comprises many young men who will soon make their influence felt for good about the halls and in the club. Among those who are already prominent we may mention Messrs. Heyd, Jermy, Thomson, Moore, Preston, Boyd, and many others.

"Leo" Embury, a former '99 man, and now in his final year at Osgoode Hall, was at the reception Saturday evening.

A. H. Rolph, the popular business manager of the year book, is engaged "touching" the boys for a subscription. Every student, not only in the senior year, but in each of the others, should co-operate to make this sou-venir of our undergraduate life a great success.

H. A. Lazier of '01 is attending Osgoode this year. "Hastie" says law would be all right if one didn't have to hustle so much.

F. J. Butler, '01, is enrolled among the medical students this year, where it is expected he will distinguish himself as much as he did at Varsity.

P. A. Carson of '01 now holds a pleasant and lucrative position in the Meteorological Department, Ottawa.

A. H. Montgomery, graduate in Arts and Medicine, has a fellowship this year in Princeton University.

"Lexie" Isbester is back again at Varsity. He played with the Rough Riders this season.

Boys, don't be foolish virgins and come without your "chinese lanterns" on Halloween night.

Drop into Burgess' Drug Store, 278 Yonge street (corner Alice), for anything you need in his line. He carries a complete stock, and is a great friend of the boys.

F. G. T. Lucas of '01 fame is in a law office in Port Steele, B.C. He is doing well, but is lonesome, and would like to hear the Varsity yell.

"Jack" Younge at Y. M. C. A. Reception: "I am very sorry that we have to separate to-night."

F. V. Potvin, '01, is engaged in

The Toronto Sunday World

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manufacturing in Midland, Ont. "Frec" called on some of the boys this week and greeted them with the old genial smile.

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Some of our freshies are very progressive young men. One of them was introduced to two pretty girls at the reception the other evening, and immediately proceeded to show them a portrait of his best girl, which he carried in his inside pocket on the left side. Probably he wanted to show that he was already spoken for, and that any competition in his case would be unnecessary.

A. J. Fisher, '01, well known in Parliamentary circles, is at present in the Department at Ottawa. "Alec" will probably be at Osgoode next year, to pursue the study of his chosen profession.

Freshman, to MacKenzie, '02: "Good morning. What might your name be? Oh, thanks. Mine is Smith. Very pleased to meet you, Mr. MacKenzie. You will like Varsity all right I am sure after you have been here a while."

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Why is it that political science men are the greatest devotees of the billiard-room at the Union? We propose to hold a guessing contest upon this question. The sender of the best answer before Thanksgiving day will receive a photograph of the undergraduate billiard champion and a package of Derby cigarettes. Enclose 25 cents with each guess.

It is said that there are no more "blue stockings" around Varsity since fancy striped hose have come into style.

To get rid of that mean feeling which you experience when you read College Topics and remember that you haven't subscribed for it yet, drop a quarter in the manager's hand, and he will give you a receipt which is guaranteed to cure.

Freshman, doing the lancers at the Union dance: "By gosh! This beats the dances we used to have last winter at Punkin Hollow. What would Jemima think if she saw me now?"

Junior, to staid Senior (Y. M. C. A.): "Say! I saw in the paper last night that the ladies are not wearing stockings any longer in Paris." Senior: "Goodness gracious! That wicked city! How did they come to do such a dreadful thing?" Junior: "Because they are long enough now."

"Some men have greatness thrust upon them," remarked the little man in the street car, when a jolt sent the fat lady into his lap.

UNION NOTES

Reception to the Ladies a Grand Success—Membership Increasing.

LITERARY AND CLUB NOTES.

The membership list is still increasing, and it seems that the expectations of the executive, viz., that the membership will reach five hundred before the end of the month, will be realized. At present there are over three hundred members on the rolls, and many more are expected during the next week.

Our library, however, is not progressing very well. Dr. Reeves, president of the Alumni Association, formed the nucleus of it by presenting to the Union beautiful editions of the works of Ruskin and of Scott. From Dr. McLennan we received a fine edition of George Eliot's works, and many miscellaneous works from Morang & Co. The executive beg to state that all contributions will be gladly received.

On Saturday evening last the Union gave a reception to the ladies. The host and hostesses were Mrs. Loudon, Principal and Mrs. Hutton. The guests were received in the reception room, where the orchestra played from 8 till 8.30. The orchestra was D'Alessandro's, and consisted of a leader and four pieces. During the early part of the evening a musical program was rendered in the Union, Messrs. Klotz, Kilmaster, and Rolph being the contributors. Dancing commenced in the dining hall about 8.30 and lasted until 12 o'clock. Among the members of the staff present that were noticed were Professor and Mrs. Fletcher, Professor and Mrs. McCurdy, Mr. Carruthers, Dr. McLennan, and Dr. Wickert. Many prominent graduates were present. Among them were Misses Deroche, Loudon, Wright, and Taylor, and Messrs. F. E. Brown, W. Martin, J. F. M. Stewart, W. Wilcox, H. Lazier, C. Garvey, and H. M. P. Deroche. The refreshments, which were from Coles, were served in the reading room of the union, from 9 until 11 o'clock. The old dining hall, which was decorated magnificently with the University colors—royal blue and white—presented a very gay appearance on Saturday evening. The billiard room was not forgotten, as many ladies gathered here to learn the mysteries of pool and billiards, un-

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der the able guidance of Mr. D. B. Gilles. This was the first reception and dance of the year, and was voted a huge success by all those present. Many of the girls, although they were in the majority on Saturday evening, asked for monthly receptions. About three hundred were present, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The thanks of the executive are due the House Committee and Dr. McLennan for their kindness in allowing them the use of the dining hall.

The Intercollegiate Debating Union held its first meeting in the writing room of the union on Monday evening for the purpose of electing officers for the year, and for the transaction of other business.

The Students' Central Organization Committee held its first meeting in the Union on Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock. President Zavitz was in the chair, and had a full attendance of representatives. They discussed plans and arrangements for the Halloween demonstration.

The Inter-College Club held its first meeting in the parlors of the Union on Thursday evening, when important business was transacted.

To-night (Tuesday), the 22nd inst., a reception will be given to the students of the School of Practical Science, and on Thursday evening, the 24th inst., a reception to the Medical students will be given. A large attendance is expected.

To the large list of magazines and periodicals already in the reading room the Graphic and the London Illustrated have been added this week.

Since the billiard and pool tables have been installed such good material has been developed that the executive hope to run off a billiard tournament soon.

So many members of the Union are camera "fiends" that they are talking of forming a club. Look out for the notice.

The University of Toronto Chess Club, which has its home in the Union, is being organized for the season, and with very favorable prospects. Tuesday evening, commencing this week, has been decided upon as the club night, and all members and those desiring to learn chess are urgently requested to be present. Many prominent graduates, who are old members of the club, will be present on these club nights and give valuable assistance to beginners. It has been decided to arrange matches with other universities and colleges in the city, and also to run off a series of inter-year matches. The Chess Club is a member of the City League, which is composed of the City Athletic Club, the Y.M.C.A., and the U. of T. Chess Club. Last year it won the championship of this league, and this year hopes to duplicate its performance.

NOMINATIONS FOR '02 EXECUTIVE

- Pres.—Messrs. E. Coffin and G. F. McFarland. Vice-President—Misses B. King and F. Ross. 2nd Vice-Pres.—F. McDiarmid. Sec.—J. W. Cunningham. Treas.—A. L. Chipman. Athletic Director—F. H. Broder. Musical Director—W. E. Klotz. Judge—N. R. Gray. Critic—W. T. Green. Orator—W. O. Walker. Prophetess—Misses A. May and L. Peers. Poetess—Misses F. Amos and M. Phillips. Historians—Messrs. W. Addison and W. Rutherford, Misses M. Downing and A. Campbell. Councillors—Messrs. D. Campbell, D. Cranston, W. Lougheed, C. MacRae, T. Phelan; Misses M. Marshall, E. Selton, J. Eason, and Miss Bibby.

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