

The Varsity

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TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 29, 1911

VARSLITY WILL BE USEFUL

The Parliament of the Undergraduates is not strong. Every student admits the fact. The President, in his opening address on Wednesday, emphasized his very strong desire that something should be done to make this body the powerful unit it should be.

It is comforting to know that the incoming executive is composed of sterling men: men who have the will and the energy to put into effect whatever reforms may be necessary. But behind their work must be the power of the whole undergraduate body. Good men must be sent to the Parliament at the approaching election, and every student should be thoroughly informed as to the problems which lie before his representative.

Herein this paper may perform a good office. Not only will The Varsity publish all news and comment on the progress of the work of reorganization, but also letters from undergraduates upon the points at issue. As the President hinted, the Parliament should be less a place for talking, and more a place for doing. When the issues are so confused one good pointed letter to The Varsity will effect more crystallization of thought than hours of discussion.

In such affairs as this the paper will be to the undergraduate democracy even more than the commercial press is to the world outside.

STUDENTS HAVE BEEN BUSY

The students are said to be returning from their vacation. In reality, it might as truthfully be said of a large number that they are entering on their vacation. The majority of the students have put in busy summers. They have worked, not so much from the necessity of earning money as from the simple desire to be active. The Canadian University students display the spirit which pervades their country, that of constant activity and energy plus. Throughout Canada men are doing big things—constructing railways, building cities and developing natural resources. The students are eager to take part in this great national work and hundreds of them have been doing their part during the summer.

Passing groups of students in the halls, one finds that almost all are exchanging stories about their summer's work. Seemingly, there is scarcely a part of Canada, no matter how far away or how obscure, where the University student has not been during the past few months. Many have been very unwilling to leave their positions as early as they have to resume the university work.

The atmosphere of the busy world in which the summer has been spent is very different from that which should prevail at the University. The transition cannot be made at once. Some time will be required to get into the spirit of University life. In fact, our students never get that spirit as it is to be found in the universities of other countries. It is impossible in the Canadian environment where ability to construct is more appreciated than learning.

ACTA VICTORIANA

The renewal of college activity finds its immediate echo in the renewal of college journalism. *Acta Victoriana*, the monthly magazine represented of the various aims and interests of the Victoria undergraduate enters this autumn upon its thirty-sixth consecutive year of publication by the Union Literary Society of that college.

As an exponent of college journalism *Acta Victoriana* combines in magazine form the dignity and assurance proper to an academic publication, with the variety and originality characteristic of a true college paper. The literary section of the magazine has become the repository for some of the best Canadian undergraduate work that has heretofore been published while in its special Christmas number the contributors are almost invariably known throughout the Dominion. In its departments likewise this journal reflects the best in the various outstanding features of college life. The magazine is indeed comprehensive in its scope but it is to the consistency with which each feature is worked out that its phenomenal popularity is largely due, and this in turn is made possible by the elections of a large and representative staff.

The office holders for this present year are as follows: Editor-in-Chief, F. G. McAlister, '12; Literary Editors, Miss Kelly, '12, and F. A. A. Campbell '12; Scientific, W. B. Wiegand; Missionary, and Religious, B. H. H. Robinson, B.A., Personals and Exchange, J. D. Robins, '13; Locals, Miss Whitney '13, A. L. Smith '13; Athletics, Miss Gilroy '13, J. V. Stouffer '13. The board of management is composed as follows:— Business manager, H. W. Manning '12; associates, R. T. Birks '13, J. W. Moyer '14, C. C. James, M.A. and Professor L. E. Horning, Ph.D. compose the supervisory Board. We learn that among the special features to appear in the October number are several Vacation sketches and a series of items of special interest to freshmen.

Y.M.C.A. AND THE SETTLEMENT

Whatever organizations may later lay claim to the allegiance of the freshman it is the Y.M.C.A. which first wins for itself a place in his heart. It vies with the registrar's office in interest to him and far surpasses that place in the spirit of true student camaraderie. A large staff of helpers has been busy since Friday last in meeting the demands of those newly arrived for room lists and handbooks. The receptions to be held next week might well take a lesson in geniality from the reunions witnessed every few moments.

Students who have as yet failed to register for a handbook should not further postpone the satisfaction of possessing the neat little volume presented this year by the Association. It is an all-University publication, the Varsity Press having been enabled for the first time to undertake its printing. The workmanship is excellent and the information thoroughly revised and up-to-date.

Inspired by the pride of life and desire for effect the Meds constructed unto themselves on Saturday a booth of variegated hues and uncertain stability in the big reception room. The color architects of rival faculties assert that their bunting was drawn upon in order that this booth might be called into being. But, buttressed behind their silken barriers, the disciples of Aesculapius treat such jealous imaginings with the scorn which they merit.

The Settlement Campaign will be conducted in the month of October. After a thorough training in social work in United States centres Mr. M. B. Hunt, of Chicago come to take up the Secretaryship of the Settlement. Already he has made himself a force in the district around 467½ Adelaide W., and the most promising prospect exists for a vigorous and telling winter's work. An endeavor of this kind is new in Canada, and that of the University of Toronto is attracting some attention. The building is open to student visitors at any time.

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The free dispensary with a student and physician in attendance each evening has proved by its growing attendance its needs in a community where free medical aid is not available. The boys' clubs working with boys of all ages who are on the streets in small gangs a menace to property and the bother of the officer on the beat, show a possibility to be seized and developed. The educational classes started for working persons wishing matriculation work and for foreigners desiring a knowledge of the English language have shown a lack of such facilities for those who cannot afford to pay a professional tutor for such work. All of these lines of activity will be taken up and developed and new branches of work as soon as need is felt.

Milton B. Hunt a graduate of Brown University and a resident for two years in settlements of Chicago has assumed the duties of resident secretary and will continue the policies already in operation. The work offers the student an opportunity to observe at first hand some of the fundamental social problems of our civic life and will amply repay in experience and knowledge. Any student who can assist in any way may reach Mr. Hunt at the settlement at almost any time by phoning to Adelaide 736.

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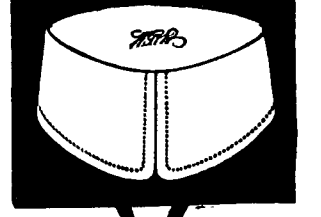
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