

WEEK BY WEEK

How many of us know the relation of the numbers of the members of the different faculties to the numbers of the students? Stroller ventures to believe that few would come near the mark if asked to guess. Taking the 1903-04 Calendar as a basis of calculation, we find that last year there was in Arts one instructor to every eleven students; in Medicine one to nine; in Engineering one to sixteen. In these three faculties of the University there was one instructor to every eleven students. As we assemble in large classes each day we seldom realize what a large staff is necessary to impart to us the wisdom of the past. The proportion of instructors to students in the important universities of the United States is both higher and lower than it is here. The University of Toronto travels, in this matter, a middle course. Johns Hopkins University has one instructor to four students; Yale, one to nine; Columbia, Harvard, Northwestern and Pennsylvania, one in ten; Princeton, one in thirteen; Michigan, one to fourteen, and Missouri and Wisconsin, one to fifteen. We hold a place, therefore, between the four Universities of Columbia, Harvard, Northwestern and Pennsylvania, which have one instructor to ten students, and Princeton with one to thirteen.

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Our Library is, generally speaking, managed with a view to the necessities of the students, and the greatest good to the greatest number, but occasionally there is reason to make, at least slight, complaint. At present the regulations governing the use of some of the seminaries are not satisfactory. When a student presents a request to the Librarian from his professor that he be allowed to use the seminary assigned to his department he is confronted with a demand for a deposit of two dollars. If he asks why he must make this deposit, he is told that there are books in the seminary (as, of course, there should be), and that this deposit is to cover a possible loss. In plain English, this means that a limited number of students (say twenty) of the Fourth Year cannot be trusted. It means that the students will probably steal about forty dollars' worth of books during the period in which they are using the seminary. This is not fair. Stroller feels certain that no student of the Fourth Year or any other year would steal any of the books. As a matter of fact, books may be more readily stolen from the reference shelves in the main reading room any day in the week. Stroller knows that books have in the past vanished from these reference shelves, but if a large number of books can be trusted to the general student body and to the public in the reading room, much more can they be trusted to a selected, small number in the seminary.

This deposit of two dollars is vexatious and annoying to the undergraduates. They already pay a library fee, which is supposed to give them all the privileges of the Library; the Calendar tells them that they may use the seminary, but they find that they must tie up two dollars more for this privilege. The sum, you say, is trifling. By itself it is, perhaps; but it must be remembered that the student has many calls upon what is as a rule a slender purse, and to deposit two dollars for the

use of a seminary means that the student is deprived of just so much money, and is inconvenienced to that extent.

Stroller believes the policy should be modified for two other reasons: First, the student has already paid for the use of the books in the seminary. Secondly, it is found that every year as the University grows, the number of readers in the main room steadily increases. Last year there were times when there was a condition which might almost be described as congestion, and at such times the ventilation is no more than adequate. As a matter of fact the main room was at times oppressively hot, and the air was what is commonly termed "stuffy." Anything that will reduce the number of readers there would be welcomed by the students, and the freedom of the seminaries to Fourth Year students, subject, of course, to a special enrollment, as at present, would assist in this matter. Lastly, I see no reason why one student should be made to suffer, if (which he thinks extremely unlikely) thefts should occur. The present policy puts a premium on stealing. If I am not to lose when a book is stolen by another, I must protect myself by stealing a book worth two dollars, as my deposit will be retained to make good the book stolen by another.

Stroller.

NOTICES

All matter for this department must be handed in, signed, before Monday at 9 a.m.

The first regular meeting of the Natural Science Association will be held in the Amphitheatre—northeast wing of the Biological Building, Thursday, Nov. 5th, at 4.30 p.m. The President, J. H. Faull, B.A., will deliver an address on "A Nineteenth and a Twentieth Century Conception of the Flower."

The Executive of the Union extend to the First Year students of the different faculties an invitation to an informal smoking concert in the rooms on the evening of Friday, Nov. 6th. A light programme will be presented, and refreshments will be placed within reach of the guests. It is hoped that a large number of the new students will accept the invitation.

The date for the regular Union Reception of the fall term has not yet been decided upon, but it will probably take place before the end of November.

There will be a meeting of the Editorial Board of THE VARSITY in the Undergraduate Union on Wednesday, Nov. 11th, at 5 p.m. It is to be hoped that every member of the board will be present. Important business will be discussed.

The Editor is regularly in receipt of anonymous articles and notices. It should be unnecessary to say that all matter for publication should be signed or come through one of the staff correspondents. The signatures are necessary, not for publication, but as a guarantee of authenticity.

THE GYMNASIUM.

The Gymnasium classes have now started. Prof. Williams is in the Gym Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 4.30 to 6 p.m. Instruction is given in apparatus, dumbbell and track work. Every assistance to beginners. Special hours are set apart for sparring and fencing classes. Those wishing further information should apply to R. Biggs, President, or F. J. Brodie, Sec. Gym Club.