

assist in removing the doleful investiment, and will even with  
delight carry on your arm the hated thing!

T. A. H.

\* \* \*

THE DUDE.

The dude hath donned his silken socks,  
And devilled his flaxen hair  
Till it stands erect,  
With marked effect  
To catch the popular stare;  
For well he knoweth those radiant locks,  
Impart an æsthetic air.  
He now to his gay gondola comes,  
And twiddles his light guitar,  
Prepared to float  
On the castle moat  
By the light of the evening star,  
While snatches of opera tunes he hums,  
Or puffs at a choice cigar.  
'Oh, come and sail in my gilded boat—  
Come sail on the moat with me;  
By yon pale moon,  
By the Great Horn Spoon,  
I swear to be true to thee.  
The maiden lists to his amorous note,  
And into the boat steps she.  
But, alas! the tide was running high,  
And the gondolier was drunk;  
And the gilded bark  
With maid and spark,  
Deep under the water sank,  
And had it not been for a fisherman nigh,  
They had slept in an oozy bunk.

—Scholastic.

POET'S CORNER.

INNOCENCE.

A SONNET.

Not on the crowded plain she grew, this flower,  
This lily-stem, as yet not burst in bloom,  
Where hot and heavy-scented vapors fume,  
And crush of many toiling feet o'erpower  
And all too ruthlessly besmirch the few,  
The fairest; but this lily-stem in peace,  
In deepest, quiet glade of forest trees  
Sheltered, bloomed. Of love, of hate, 'tis true  
She heard; but the polluting breeze that brought  
To her so innocent ear these sounds, was reft  
In that pure forest glade, of all that sought  
To mar her thoughtless purity, and left  
No sight, no sound, no slightest tainting air,  
No speck to strike her fleck-less sepals there.

H.

COMMUNICATIONS.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

SIR,—I wish to draw attention to some complications and inconveniences which seem to arise from the motion of Professor Loudon reducing the number of examinations. When we read that the University examinations of the 2nd and 3rd years are done away with, and college examinations substituted, the query naturally suggests itself, what provision has the gallantry or thoughtfulness of our Senate made for the young lady undergraduates who may wish to take the examinations of the years in question? Those examinations are to be conducted by the professors of the college, and will naturally be based upon the lectures. Now, as the young ladies have not the privilege of attending those valuable lectures, must they then be examined upon them? It may be said, let them attend some affiliated college. But, aside from the difficulty of discovering any institution for ladies competent to furnish such advanced instruction, other causes may make it impossible to attend those institutions, and this removes us gently back to the first horn of the dilemma. The only explanation which seems to be compatible with the maintenance of the motion as it stands is

that our Senate is at last beginning to bow to the necessity for co-education. We suggest, however, that the better plan would be to remodel the motion by simply transferring the examinations back to the University. But more of this anon. However, before this matter is pressed, as it will be, practically next spring, it would be well if some measures were taken for a solution of the difficulty; and this duty devolves upon those who are responsible for the present changes.

Again, we would respectfully ask: Is not the motion as already passed tantamount to making attendance on lectures during the 2nd and 3rd years compulsory, and will it not accordingly be an added discouragement to persevering, aspiring young men who cannot afford the one or two years to spend in a college, and who nevertheless with commendable determination employ the hours left them after the occupation of the day in pursuing the regular course prescribed by the University? And would not our University be acting an unworthy part if it should be instrumental in hampering study which has already difficulties enough to contend with? Why not withdraw from this discreditable position by the simple method above indicated, of transferring the examinations of the second and third years back to the University, and of repealing that regulation which makes attendance on lectures for even one year compulsory—a regulation at once humiliating to the students, and insulting to the professors, from the implied insinuation of incapacity? To a challenge of this sort reply is usually made, Yankee fashion, by another question: What! would you have the University degraded to a mere examining board? Of course this is quite irrelevant. For we are not concerned with any University dignity apart from University usefulness. In this last quality alone lies its real dignity and beauty. And as to the insult implied in the epithet 'examining board,' it vanishes as soon as we have expressed the idea somewhat differently. One of the noblest functions of a University is to register the results of that independent study which is being carried on in many a far-off nook of our country. It is the study which is most fruitful of good to the individual and to the state, and in refusing it the encouragement of recognition, our University contracts the sphere of its own usefulness, loses the opportunity of acquiring a truly national importance, and degrades to the relatively humble position of head of a section. Let those who profess an anxiety about the dignity of our University see to it that she does not adopt this narrow and suicidal policy of isolation.

Let it not be imagined either that in assuming the duties of a national registrar of progress our University would necessarily abandon all positive efforts of her own. Let our University but have the confidence to do without the dishonoring support of compulsion, and rely for patronage solely on her own merits and efficiency, and no danger, if she possesses these merits, that they will lie unrecognized. Let our library be better equipped, and educators, conscientious, earnest and full of life, be secured, and University College will in short time be thronged with volunteers keen in the pursuit of knowledge, and then we may predict that true scholarship, at present mournfully deficient in our University, will blossom into life, and be a beautiful and perpetual ornament to our country. Yours, etc.,

B.

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