

THE VARSITY

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TORONTO, January 14th, 1902.

FROM time to time these columns have voiced a certain amount of dissatisfaction among the undergraduates with the present system of conducting the annual examinations. The humiliation of having one's every movement watched by a hired "sup" is to most candidates very unpleasant, especially when the aforesaid "floor-walker," as is usually the case here, looks as if he would feel a great deal more at home digging a sewer. The system, to say the least, does not impart to the unlucky candidate that feeling of soothing calm which is so necessary if he is to do himself justice. But what the average undergraduate objects to most of all is that while he is considered unworthy to be trusted, a certain amount of confidence is reposed in the hired outsider. The man who is part of the university, whose interests for the time being are centered in this institution, and who naturally is expected to jealously guard its fair fame, is watched a good deal more closely than the hireling who is picked up on the street and for three weeks is paid to see that more honorable men than he do not cheat at examinations. It has been suggested many times that such a system, far from preventing dishonesty, rather encourages it, and this seems to be quite within the bounds of possibility.

But is there any substitute for this system which if employed will secure honesty in examinations? Student control of examinations seems to be the only one available. At the present time this matter is being threshed out at Cornell University, and it will be interesting to watch the outcome. At that institution they have what is called the "Student Conduct Committee," which is composed of members of the Faculty. At the request of the Faculty this committee arranged for a ballot by mail in order to give the entire undergraduate body an opportunity of freely expressing their views on the subject of student control of examinations. Two questions were submitted to them, viz.:

I. Do you favor conducting examinations in the university under a system of student control?

II. If such a system is established will you take prompt and effective means to prevent any sort of fraud or dishonorable conduct in an examination?

The *Cornell Daily Sun* says: "Should there be a large majority of all the undergraduate students in favor of the principle embodied in the above resolutions the committee will then proceed to hold a conference with a

representative committee of the student body, and formulate the details of a practical scheme to be submitted to the University Faculty." As yet no report of the result of the ballot has reached us, but it is quite probable that there will be a large majority in favor of student control.

There is no reason why some such scheme should not be put into operation here at Toronto. The Faculty would doubtless welcome any change which would take the burden of responsibility from their shoulders, and would co-operate with the undergraduates in any endeavor to secure honesty at examinations. In the meantime an expression of opinion in these columns by some of the undergraduates would be *a propos*.

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IN one respect, (and only one), editors are like transgressors; their way is hard. The new editor never realized that fact so keenly as he does at the present time. Viewed from afar the position which he now holds seemed an enviable one. "Distance lent enchantment to the view," but that enchantment has been gradually dispelled, until now he is face to face with the awful reality. But it is too late to retreat, so he hereby formally takes up the insignia of office, the famous editorial "we," and with the pen and scissors in either hand enters upon his duties. We realize that for many years "Varsity" has had an enviable reputation among college journals, and that that reputation must be maintained. The task is impossible unless the editor has the sympathy and help, not only of the Editorial Board, but also of the whole student body. "Varsity" is a student publication pure and simple, and for that reason deserves the hearty support of every undergraduate of University College and the School of Practical Science. If it receives that support it will continue to prosper and be a credit to the institution from which it comes.

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WHY is it that the hockey teams have not the enthusiastic support of the whole student body that the football teams have? Hockey is probably a better game from the standpoint of the spectator than Rugby, and yet as far as the undergraduates are concerned it draws not more than half the crowd. Is it because the hockey team is as a rule not so successful as our "grid-iron giants"? That should rather be a reason for increased support, because if there is ever a time when "rooting" is useful it is when the team is losing. We think the reason is rather to be found in the different seasons at which the two games are played. After the Christmas vacation the average undergraduate begins to realize the proximity of the examinations, and decides to eschew all frivolities. But this is apt to be, and undoubtedly often is, carried to excess. It will not lessen anybody's chances of a scholarship to come out of his shell occasionally to see the hockey team play. Let us give them the support which they undoubtedly deserve in their effort to bring Varsity to the front in Canada's national winter game.

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WE regret that a typographical error occurred in the article by Prof. McCurdy on "Athletics and the University" in the Christmas number. In the sentence beginning: "When the ball goes over the goal line from the post or the body of a defender"—the word "post" should be "foot."