

Pity is for the poor; but no poverty-stricken man ever merited pity more than the Oxford don. Of course the undergraduate fully sympathizes with the unfortunate don, and I'm sure this feeling prompts the production of a meagre discourse to minimize the agony of the seldom impatient tutor. But no amount of corporate sympathy from the students has ever moved the 'congregation of the righteous' to cast out this 'thorn in the flesh'. Either they question undergraduate sincerity or else they have resolved upon martyrdom in the interests of higher education. I'm inclined to favor the latter interpretation—that deep down in the character of an Oxford don is embedded something of the martyr spirit which causes him composedly to stretch himself in an arm chair before his fire and listen with scarce a wince, while his soul is slowly tortured and consumed by the fiery contribution of some ardent young monarchist to the subject of the 'Genius of Julius Caesar.' Lecturers in our own Canadian universities know little of the gruelling process. They always deliver their lectures unchallenged. Frequently they cause minor annoyances to over susceptible undergraduates. Never are they obliged to submit to this living death of the tutorial system. They too, should send out a great wave of pity across the Atlantic to their distressed brothers in Oxford.

But if the don allows free speech during his tutorial hour he certainly makes up for it in the assertion of his authority in college administration. Marching orders are issued from the Senior common room. The unfortunate undergraduate who takes it into his head to disobey, has a hasty interview with the head of his college and is mulcted for a large sum by the bursar in his weekly battels.* The aristocracy which rules in Oxford is kindly disposed on all ordinary occasions; but attempt to establish anything approaching democracy and you will at once discover the 'mailed fist'. The college is a sort of artificially constructed home; the parental element is essential to it. Most Rhodes scholars feel the restraint of living under close supervision; of having a 'moral tutor'; of being locked up within the college precincts after nine o'clock in the evening; of being heavily fined or even 'sent down' for remaining out after midnight. They are accustomed to the greater freedom of colonial and American universities, where the undergraduate is the product of a different up-bringing and is also con-