

College Topics

College newspaper published weekly during Michaelmas term in the interests of University and College Students of Toronto.

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SUBSCRIBE TO THE RED CROSS FUND.

All students should feel it their duty, as well as their pleasure, to assist those who are endeavoring to have the University of Toronto contribute an amount worthy of the institution for the Red Cross fund. Sacrifices for such a commendable and even necessary purpose, should be easy for all of us, and it is to be hoped that a large sum will be forthcoming.

LAST ISSUE OF COLLEGE TOPICS.

With this issue, "College Topics" closes its year in the field of College journalism. And the circumstance that we are a newspaper essentially is that which necessitates our ceasing publication now. During this term there is little happening, except the long, dreary, midnight "plugging" in order that we may be ready to face the "destroyer" next May. Few functions remain to be held, and almost all "outside" attractions have gone into winter quarters. Thus, it is that "College Topics" is forced to follow them.

We may be permitted to mention that "College Topics" has gone ahead this year, which is sufficient evidence that the one newspaper reaching all the Colleges is meeting with increasing favor. Next year we hope to feel strong enough to enlarge the paper, and trust that our many present readers, and many new ones, will be with us next year. In conclusion, we wish all every success with their examinations this spring.

Heard in the Halls.

Report has it that Mr. John Parry, B.A., has become a second Major Pond in the successful management of concerns.

Mr. L. E. Jones, '00, has once more returned to Varsity. Baseball enthusiasts are congratulating themselves on his return.

A man who wouldn't allow a third-rate physician to probe his lung, should take his watch to a specialist also, to insure good work.—Proctor.

The annual meeting of the University of Toronto Baseball Club will be held in the Students' Union on Friday, the 19th inst., at 4.30 p.m.

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—Proctor.

The Harmonic Club propose holding their annual concert sometime in February. It is understood the affair is to be unique this year, since it is rumored that foreign talent, of a high order, will be secured. The good work being done by the club itself will be no small drawing card.

We understand that through some hitch in the arrangements, "Sesame" may not appear this year. We sincerely hope such may not be the case. Last year's bright little book was a credit to our lady undergraduates, and it is too bad if the undergraduate body are to be denied the privilege of possessing another such enjoyable volume.

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VARSITY ATHLETICS TO BE REORGANIZED

Proposed Change in the Athletic Directorate by which that Body will be Abolished.

A RADICAL CHANGE

Will be discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Association next Wednesday.

During the last decade, Athletics have made immense strides, not only throughout Canada and the Continent, but at the Universities. The University of Toronto has been no exception, but rather a splendid example of a remarkable advance. Ten years ago our excellent Gymnasium was only under way, the Rugby and other Athletic clubs had not nearly the prominence and influence they now have. Beautiful tennis courts have been laid out; golf links obtained, a flourishing baseball club organized, and also a lacrosse club, with its enjoyable annual tour in the States. Moreover, a rowing club has been formed, and almost every other branch of sport, including cricket and hockey, flourishes at our University. Formerly, too, there was but one field for all games—the present front campus. Then the back campus was put into condition for sports, and finally, a few years ago, chiefly through the exertions and enterprise of Mr. T. A. Russel, the splendid University athletic field was laid out and brought to its present excellent condition.

It will thus be seen that we are admirably provided both with healthy and progressive organizations for the fostering of the many branches of sport and athletics, and also with every facility for the carrying on of each and all of these. The only exception that can be made at present is that of the newly-formed track team. We have no foot-track yet, but it is hoped that this want will soon be removed.

Considering the immense and important part that Athletics play in the life and education of the majority of University students, it would be reasonable to suppose that they should be governed by some central authoritative body, capable of guiding clubs that tend to stray, and of directing one and all for the common good. But, though some believe that this is accomplished by the present Athletic Directorate, there are, we feel sure, a vast majority who realize that such a cumbersome and obviously faulty organization could not govern Athletics, as it was intended it should, and as they ought to be governed.

As it always has been, the secret of control over any club is the control of the treasury. If the exchequer is prosperous, the club is prosperous, and vice versa. But the fact remains that many clubs in the past have taken so little thought of the morrow that they have incurred impossible debts, in the non-payment of which the good name of the University has greatly suffered. Apart, too, from the financial independence of each club, there was not, until last year, any body with powers to control the actions of any club. The various managements could play whom they wished, under the University name, without anyone objecting; but the wise move taken by the Athletic Board in forbidding any club to use the name of the University of Toronto, until it had presented its credentials, has had a very beneficial effect in cleansing University athletics.

We will not discuss the organization of the present Athletic Directorate, for its very unwieldiness and lack of tangibility and directive authority are sufficient justification for its abolition; but we will consider the position which the Athletic Board is in with regard to athletics at the University. It is at present formed by three Faculty members and three undergraduate representatives, and has constituted itself, with the sanction of the Council, the governing body of the University in athletics. But although it can set down rules of conduct, etc., it has no definite, satisfactory powers over the various clubs, and cannot possibly have, under its present organization. It may, as it does, order a club to outline any special line of policy, such as a contemplated tour, and may require any club to obtain its consent for any policy, but it still has no control whatever, over the money taken in or disbursed, or for debts contracted by the various clubs. Thus we see a nominally governing Board, whose organization is such as to prevent its effecting the very things necessary for the proper carrying out of its most desirable functions. The key to effectual organization is centralization, and this can only be effected by a somewhat radical change in the whole constitution of the Athletic Board, and of the various athletic clubs at the University. The following plan, briefly outlined, has been suggested:

In the first place it is essential that Faculty representation should continue, and, consequently, three members at least would represent the Faculty on the Board. One of these members would be the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer. The student representation would probably consist of five men, who would be elected by delegates, either from the various athletic clubs or from the different faculties. This Board of eight would thus be thoroughly representative, and large enough without being cumbersome. The Board would formulate general rules of conduct, and would consider lines of policy in athletics. Through its Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, it would

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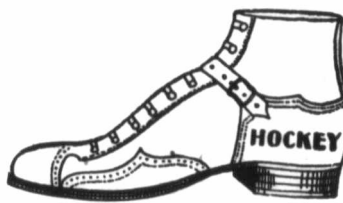
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But this Board has not yet obtained any definite control over the many athletic clubs, controlling, as they now do, various branches of sport. That is easily effected by the following simple plan: Instead of the Secretary-Treasurer of each club being elected at a meeting of the club, the Athletic Board appoints a man, preferably from the particular club, and he is the representative of the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer to the said athletic organization. He, however, can only contract debts or disburse money on the authority of the Honorary or Central Secretary-Treasurer. All money, too, would thus come into a central fund, and the stronger clubs would aid the weaker, whilst no debts would remain at the end of each academic year.

This, in brief, is the outline of the proposed change. That it would be effective in securing the centralization desired, and effectually controlling athletics in every way, no one will gainsay. Its whole success, however, seems to rest on the securing of a competent man to act as Hon. Secretary-Treasurer. He would obviously be from the Faculty, or else some young graduate with experience. It is to be hoped that the proposed change will meet with the approval of the undergraduates at the annual meeting to be held Wednesday next, at 4.30 p.m. in the Students' Union, at which all students are earnestly requested to be present.

From all that can be learned at present, the Century Class have given up the Year Book. It was hoped that the Varsity Meds. and S.P.S. would join in the undertaking, and indeed the former had agreed to do so. The whole affair now rested on a man they were unable to find—someone who would sacrifice a great deal



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- APR. 17.—Annual meeting of the Ontario Educational Association at Toronto. (During Easter vacation.)
- 25.—Last day for receiving applications for examination of candidates not in attendance at the Ontario Normal College.
- 26.—Art School Examinations begin.
- MAY 1.—Notice by candidates for the High School Entrance Examination, to Inspectors due.
- 23.—Notice by candidates for the Public School Leaving, Junior Leaving, Senior Leaving, University Matriculation, Commercial Specialist, Commercial Diploma, and Kindergarten Examinations, to Inspectors due.
- Empire Day (first school day before 24th May).
- 25.—Examination at Ontario Normal College, Hamilton, begins. (At close of session.)
- 26.—Inspectors to report number of candidates for the Public School Leaving, High School Leaving, University Matriculation, Commercial Diploma, Commercial Specialists, and Kindergarten Examinations to Department.
- JUNE 21.—Kindergarten Examinations at Hamilton, London, Ottawa and Toronto, begin.
- 27.—High School Entrance Examinations begin.
- JULY 3.—Public School Leaving, High School Leaving, University Matriculation, and Domestic Science Examinations begin.
- 4.—Commercial Specialists Examinations begin.

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of his time for the managing of the undertaking. It is a pity that no Year Book will be published this year.

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