

# THE VARSITY

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## Editorial Comments.

**M**ISS ELIZA BALMER, one of the newly-appointed examiners in German, has the honor of being the first lady to fill the position of examiner in Arts. Miss Balmer will reflect credit, we believe, on the men who were liberal-minded enough to make the appointment.

In a paper read before the Alumni Association last May, the President of the graduating class advocated the appointment to the Senate of a member to represent the undergraduates.

The fact that the Senate and Council frequently have under consideration matters in which the wishes of the undergraduates is (or at least should be) taken into account, would itself, justify the presence of a representative qualified and authorized to express that wish.

We have heard of a case in which those who negatived an application of the students, admitted that they had been forced to do so because the circumstances were not sufficiently well-known to justify their supporting a measure introducing features which, however worthy of support, were not so manifestly advisable as to warrant their adoption without discussion and deliberation.

With every request or petition of the whole or any considerable body of the students to the Senate, is attached the necessity of securing some person of influence to advocate its adoption.

In our Literary Society Presidents, past and present, we have fortunately had the aid of able and energetic men, who have spared no pains to further our interests, and who have generally succeeded in their endeavors. This may not always be the case, and even if it should, would furnish no reason why recognition should not be given them as members of that body whose work they are in reality performing.

But perhaps the strongest argument for representation is not that of utility. If there be any basis for the system of representation at present in operation, it must surely have some relation to the interests which the electors have in University affairs. Assuming this, and estimating the number of graduates in Arts at 2,000, the undergraduates in the same faculty would, on the basis of numbers alone, be entitled to seven members. That is, in electing one member, we should individually be exercising one-seventh the power which will fall to us as graduates. Now the interest which we take in University affairs, and the importance to us of Senate action can hardly be said to increase seven-fold by the mere act of graduation; in fact,

the reverse is probably very near the truth. It is more-over, quite in accord with the spirit of the present time—a step in the direction of increased self-control—a substitution of directness for circumlocution, of responsibility for irresponsibility. Considered from any standpoint, it has still something in its favor, and from that of utility and fairness, everything. Let the students take hold of this matter, bring it, by petition, before the proper authorities, and ultimate success will undoubtedly be attained.

In another column appears an unofficial account of the Glee Club concert. While agreeing in the main with our correspondent as to the success of the affair, we must dissent from the view expressed by him in common with the Saturday papers, that any measure of that success was due to Mrs. Johnstone-Bishop. The members of the Glee Club themselves are not so apt to hear unfavorable criticism, nor so apt to criticise unfavorably the efforts of any artists secured by them and whose favorable reception they wish to insure, and we write from a sense, that the committee in congratulating themselves on the success of their concert are apt to attribute, are in fact attributing, this to other than the proper causes, and are thus apt to perpetuate in future concerts a practice which must eventually deprive the Club of much valuable patronage. Mrs. Bishop's singing was a disappointment, we think to the majority; all the more so, because liberal advertisement had heightened expectation, and the fact that the excellence of the other numbers more than compensated for her deficiency, would not justify her engagement and advertisement as the leading attraction. If the annual concert requires the engagement of a soloist, some one of really first-class ability should be secured. It is due however to Mrs. Bishop to remember that she sang under most disadvantageous circumstances. In every other respect the concert was above expectation. This is to say a good deal for it, and we regret that any adverse criticism has been necessary. But one other matter we allude to briefly. When the ticket-holders assembled at Suckling's to receive their checks they found that a considerable number of the best seats had already been secured. The committee had assumed the right to reserve these beforehand, but the fact that they, so far as we know, refrained from exercising this liberty for the benefit of their own personal friends, leaves room for objection only to the principle of the matter. Although it may be a courtesy which should be extended to college ladies or members of the faculty, some other means should be adopted to secure the result intended. Those who make it a point to be present at the opening of the plan have a right to expect that every seat shall be without distinction, open for selection.