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GLIMPSES OF A GREAT WESTERN UNIVERSITY.

II.

AS in my former article I devoted myself altogether to the more general matters of interest pertaining to the University of California, I propose in this second chapter to assume the main outlines of the picture as understood, and to attempt to fill in some of the details in so far as they are supplied by student life at Berkeley.

There are three main heads under which this part of the subject may readily be considered. Every student who is anything whatever of a university man has three great interests in life, his studies, his games and athletics, and his social enjoyment, and this is a very convenient system into which one may pigeon-hole thoughts when writing about student affairs.

It is not my intention to investigate at great length the question of studies in the Western student's life, but it will be well to give some hints of what the undergraduates are expected to do during their college course. The basis of reckoning to ascertain a student's standing is the *unit*, which consists of a single hour's work weekly throughout one semester or half year. To secure the degree the undergraduate must have secured 125 such units, and whenever this total has been reached he is ready to get his diploma and be set loose upon society. Of these units 65 are compulsory, while the remaining 60 are free electives; in making up these latter a person selects a definite group of studies and makes his own choice among the different courses presented under that group. The University of California presents, therefore, in its system a compromise between the rigidly prescribed course such as we have at Toronto and the plan of absolutely free elective studies such as prevails in some American universities. The idea seems extremely reasonable, and we manage to approximate to it pretty largely at Toronto by the liberal addition of "pass subjects" to the regulation honor courses. These units, it should be added, are determined on the basis not only of written examinations at the end of the term, but of daily recitation as well, so that it is practically impossible to "cut" very much here without endangering your academic standing.

The courses given are much the same as our own and so need no description. As to the quality of the work done, while comparisons are proverbially invidious, it may be safely asserted that our work at Toronto is on rather a higher level, both in quantity and finish as far as I can observe, largely owing, I think, to the superior nature of Ontario's high schools and collegiate institutes.

There are many at Toronto who will be more interested in hearing of athletic affairs on the Pacific coast. The great branches of this form of activity in which Stanford and California indulge are first and foremost football, and then too, track and field athletics. Baseball also is a somewhat prominent feature in the spring term.

The devotion with which the collegians at Berkeley give themselves to football either as players or "rooters"—an enthusiasm duplicated at Stanford by the way—is to the newcomer both amusing and amazing, but it finally becomes engrossing and engaging. The process is after

this fashion: When the University has opened for the fall term, not many days elapse before the knights of the grid-iron make their appearance in coats of mail and leather helmets such as the American Rugby demands; and simultaneously with their *début*, the rooters make their bow to the public. For it must be remembered that the giving of yells and cheers has been here reduced to a science, and that the college slogans are delivered with the precision of a carefully prepared oratorio. Day after day from the first of September till the end of November hundreds of students occupy the bleachers and give noisy encouragement to the towsy-headed youths who writhe below them. The number of youths who are willing to writhe is generally large, reaching this year, I think, to about seventy. Three teams are formed out of this number, the Varsity team, the College or "scrub" eleven, and the Freshman team, only first year men being eligible, of course, for the last named. A good many are weeded out of the bunch that first presents itself for trial, until a fairly small residue is obtained, who then go into training quarters under the management of two coaches drawn from eastern colleges, this year Cochran and Kelly of Princeton. These men, who live in the training house, are under rigid discipline: their diet is limited, their smoking eliminated, and their retiring hour fixed at ten o'clock.

The season has not long been opened when the manager announces as far as possible the games that have been arranged as a preliminary to the two great struggles of the year, the Freshman game and the Thanksgiving game. These practice matches are eagerly watched by followers of the game as being straws which show the way the wind will blow on Thanksgiving Day and the day when the Freshmen meet. Meanwhile the rooters go on perfecting their organization and composing new yells and songs for the great games.

This year the Freshman game went to Stanford 6—0; the Thanksgiving game still remains to be played, and as we are now within ten days of the event the excitement is getting intense. The University of California has, however, a veteran team who have made a fine record in their preliminary matches this season, and have already won "on form."

Of the track athletics and the baseball I do not know very much; they are comparatively out of sight this term, being quite overshadowed by the colossus of football. But I am told, and can well believe, that a good deal of the same enthusiasm is displayed in connection with them as with the pigskin game.

I should like to emphasize for the benefit of VARSITY readers the fine spirit which the men and women here display in supporting college athletics. We have every bit as much college spirit at Toronto, but we fail somehow or other to bring it into visible form. The rooters here sit in one place in the grand stand and do not distribute their energies; the result is some very inspiring vocal exhibitions which Varsity boys might imitate without injuring their dignity at all.

When one turns to the social side of student life at Berkeley, he is at a distinct loss for a beginning. What first to tell of? Ay, there's the rub. The most prominent feature of all, however, is undoubtedly fraternities and