

THE VARSITY

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Our Privileges Was it a peculiar privilege to be a fellow-student of Sir Gilbert Parker and of Hon. Edward Blake and to know them with all the intimacy of youth? Years ago these men were Toronto undergraduates. But a year never passes in which this University does not graduate several students who afterwards become notable men. The student of the days when Blake and Parker were undergraduates had no advantage in this respect over the student of to-day, for, according to statistics, there are a dozen men now at College who will be big men of the future. It behoves the present day student to find these men and to know them—they can generally be found—and not to pass through College ignoring the privilege of their friendship, or it shall be said of him that he

"Like the base Indian threw a pearl away
Richer than all his tribe."

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College Clubs One of the professors in University College said the other day that where one got the greatest benefit out of University life was in the small informal student clubs about the College, where great questions were discussed without dogma and without prejudice. At such times, he said, one "seemed to grow visibly." There are a number of such clubs about University College already; but we venture to suggest that there is room for more. First year men especially would do well to form such clubs, with a view to continuing them throughout their course. They could model them on the plan of any of the existing clubs. The Thirteen Club, which we understand wears evening clothes, meets irregularly and is addressed by the guest of the evening, who is some prominent man. Professor Goldwin Smith entertained the Club at his home last term. The Speculative Club, which was named after the club to which Robert Louis Stevenson belonged at Edinburgh University, and was sug-

gested by Gladstone's Essay Club at Oxford, meets fortnightly for dinner together. After dinner, a subject is introduced and discussed informally, though the speakers are subject to the ruling of a chairman or "Dictator," as he is called. The Iconoclasts' Club has a similar constitution, as also has a fourth club which shall be nameless. The Historical Club hardly lends itself to imitation; it meets in the houses of prominent gentlemen in the city, and discusses present day political and international questions. All these clubs are exclusive and limited in membership, but there is no reason why those who appreciate the value of such clubs should not form ones of their own.

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Faculty or School? The Faculty of Applied Science as at present constituted occupies an anomalous position. Theoretically it is a faculty of the University, practically it is a separate institution. It is true that a few lectures in its curriculum are delivered by University professors, but, with the exception of the Discipline Committee, that is almost the only bond of union. Its management is practically distinct and the authority over it of the titular head of the University is as real as that conferred by the title "King of France," formerly held by British sovereigns. The result of this is a certain amount of confusion.

It takes, for example, three years in engineering to graduate from the "School," but four from the University, that is to obtain the degree of B.A.Sc. And there are many places where a graduate of Toronto University would be recognized while the degree (?) "Grad. S.P.S." would be as unintelligible as the School yell. It is time for some one in authority to differentiate the functions of a Technical School and a University Faculty.

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The School and the Physics Department There can be very little doubt that unless the "School" is brought into closer relations with the University, the reverse process must take place. Already a tendency in this direction has been shown. In the fall of 1904, a department of Physics was established in the "School" where engineering students now take their work in pure Physics instead of, as formerly, with University professors. No one would propose extending this to pure mathematics, but it seems almost as reasonable in one case as in the other. This process of decentralization is all the more regrettable at this time when a University Physics building is about to be built.