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Editorial Comments.



THE establishment of an honor course in History is on the *tapis*. Whether the time has or has not arrived when acknowledgment of the ever-increasing importance of historical research demands the institution of a separate course for this branch of study, we do not intend to discuss, but it is most unfortunate for the prospect of fair consideration that the scheme should appear under such conditions of time and circumstance as to give basis for the presumption that, contrary to the principle which should govern such matters, the course is proposed, not to meet a necessity, but to create a position for some fortunate man to fill.

Parturiunt montes nascetur ridiculus mus.

Stirred to action doubtless by the numerous representations, through petitions and in the *Varsity*, the Library Committee have framed a regulation permitting the taking of books from the library.

Though not in the same terms, a fair statement of the case is that books which a student does *not* want, he may have at *any time*, while those he *does*, are available on *Sundays only*. Truly the mountain has labored and the rodental offspring is of the most diminutive and distorted proportions.

That the committee with malice prepense contemplated a semi-coercive disregard of the Fourth Commandment, can hardly be held when one considers the grave and reverend seigniors who constitute that body and we can only suppose that circumstances which outsiders are ignorant of, have prevented the adoption of a system which might serve a better purpose than to provoke amazement and laughter.

With the departure of Prof. Baldwin, we lose a man who has done honor to our University, and whose decision to accept the offer of Princeton, occasions expression only of regret that we are not in a position to offer inducements equal to those of wealthier universities.

As successor to Professor Young, Mr. Baldwin came to Toronto under circumstances specially unfavorable to his hearty reception, and four years ago dissatisfaction with his methods was rife in the upper years, but this has changed so completely, that we have perhaps, in our University, no man more deservedly popular, than the Professor of Moral Philosophy. If anything can weaken our staff more than the removal of some of its able men to wider fields, it is the fact that no such means exists for the removal of the weakest. It could not be expected but that in so numerous a body of men as constitutes the Faculty of

Toronto University, some men unfitted for their position should find a place, and the facts we think are in accord with this expectation.

If unreserved condemnation by students, charges of inefficiency, superficiality, want of scientific arrangement form any criterion of merit or demerit, then we have men here, whose continued tenure of office can hardly be in the interests of the University.

To prevent such a condition of affairs should be the care of those who have the appointment, and, though the proof of the pudding is undoubtedly in the eating, it is not necessary that one should make a full meal of an unsavory mess to find out that it is unwholesome as well. A very moderate slice will often suffice, and a three years probation would probably serve a similar purpose in university affairs. When no system of temporary appointment exists it is practically impossible to rectify admitted errors in selection of men, and the permanent establishment of the man who loves an easy, comfortable existence is assured.

The compulsory attendance of men at lectures may have been designed to serve useful ends, but it has this disadvantage, that an excellent opportunity of judging the estimation in which he is held, is lost to the lecturer.

It must be remembered, that the men of whom one hears such criticism are very few in number.

If limited finances prevent our retention or securing of men who acquire international reputation, they have not prevented our maintaining a staff of zealous, hard-working, able men, at whose head is one whose sound practical sense and untiring industry is making itself felt in the administration of university affairs.

We regret the necessity, but duty forbids our ignoring the manner of conducting the Football Annual Elections.

With regard to the selections made in the Rugby meeting, we say nothing whatever; they may be the best or the worst that could possibly be made, the election proceedings would give an outsider equal reason for holding either view, but that there should have been admitted to the meeting and given the franchise, men who had no more claim to be considered members in good standing than has the writer, who never was present at a Rugby meeting, never paid a Rugby fee, or attended a Rugby practice, is evidence of such extraordinary spinal flexibility on the part of the chairman (if with him the decision rested) as to warrant the belief that any spare time he could devote to development of contortionist powers, would ultimately prove highly remunerative.

A chairman who finds that a meeting over which he presides, can not be conducted in accordance with admitted principles of fair-play and common-sense, has the alternative of leaving the chair to some one less scrupulous.