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Editorial Topics.

CONCERNING EXAMINERS.

THE mental and moral qualifications necessary to fit a man for the office of examiner in school or University are not few, and are rarely possessed. As Professor Clark observed in his admirable note on matriculation examinations in the October number of the *Educational Monthly*, many examiners attempt rather to display their erudition than to discover the fitness of a candidate. These words came with grace from Professor Clark, who is himself a model examiner. Indeed, Trinity in this respect is peculiarly fortunate, for our own professors and lecturers are in every way qualified for their office. It is well known that the more ignorant an examiner is the more difficult is the paper he sets; but it is not of the ignorant, puzzle-setting examiner that we now wish to speak, but of the inconsiderate and slothful ones. It is when we go abroad for our examiners that we sometimes fall into the hands of the Philistines, for the Philistines are many, and seldom have consideration for the affairs of others. By way of illustration, we may cite the delay which occurred in the sending in of the marks after the recent examinations. A number of men were kept waiting for days, and were prevented from attending lectures simply because certain examiners were too indolent to read the papers and apportion the marks. Clothed with a little brief authority, these individuals evidently wished to make the most of it; but an examination is a matter of altogether too much importance to be made the sport of indolent and inconsiderate examiners. With respect to modern languages, and especially to philosophy—but a nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse.

GIVE THE STUDENTS A CHANCE.

It has been the custom of the Toast Committee of the Convocation Dinner to put at the end of the list those toasts to which the students speak, and as the list is unavoidably a long one, this means, of course, that the students always speak at a disadvantage and in a half-empty hall. The students selected to speak at the dinner may not be so learned or so renowned as the worthy dignitaries who monopolize the best part of the evening, but their speeches are short and to the point—which is seldom the case with the aforesaid dignitaries. We have been afflicted at dinner after dinner with speeches that are not only of intolerable length, but of the most deadly dullness, and as we can see no escape from this yearly affliction, we beg to suggest that these weighty orations be relieved now and then by a speech from a student. Without the undergraduates, the dinner would be a failure, and to retain their presence it is necessary that something be done to lighten and brighten the speeches, and to give them some variety. To be practical, we suggest that the ladies' toast be placed where it ought to be placed—immediately after that of the Queen, and "College Institutions" immediately after the replies to the Trinity toast.

By this arrangement the speeches of the evening would not begin with the usual forty minute oration which plunges everybody but the distinguished speaker himself into the very depths of dolefulness and despair. Besides, to give any snap to the ladies' toast, it is necessary that the scene be graced by their gentle and inspiring presence—which is never the case under the present stupid arrangement, for the toast comes on about 2 a.m.—an hour when the gallery has long since been deserted. The eminently distinguished gentlemen who speak in the early part of the evening take advantage of the hour, and care not at all if their loquacity crowd out some later speaker. Selfishness must not be encouraged. Again, by placing the toast of College Institutions immediately after the replies to the chief toast of the evening—Trinity—a break is made in that series of speeches which begin and continue in a long and for the most part monotonous glorification of the learned professions. It should be noted that this proposed change in the order of the toasts will not delay the proceedings appreciably, for a student's speech is conspicuous in the way of brevity, if not of wit. Neither will this change detain, save perhaps for a few moments, those specially distinguished and learned speakers who at once leave the banqueting hall after they themselves have spoken, not caring to hear what anybody else may have to say.

CHARLES LAMB, in one of his witty essays, divided the human species into two great classes—the great race, who borrow, and the small race, who lend. Of these the small race is servant to the great race and serves it, and mightily inconvenient it is sometimes to them to do so; but of that the great race reckes not at all, indeed its greatness principally consists in a healthy indifference to the wants of others and to its own obligations to them, or is, at all events, much supported by it. "We," they say, "are really the best justification for the existence of these small people. It is a privilege to minister to our wants." And so they get money, and things which are bought with money and represent money to some miserable creature, such as books and newspapers, for instance, and don't pay for them or return them. "Base is the slave who pays!" says Ancient Pistol—he was a great man, was the Ancient, without doubt, and had his own views about ways and means and "conveying"; yet there were times when he did pay, notably when he was threatened with an inch or two of steel. It is the application for payment, however humbly made, which raises the indignation of these great men even more than the actual handing over of the cash. Sometimes, indeed, they say, "Why can't these people send us in their bills regularly?" but more usually the humble petition for payment, or a gentle drawing of attention to the fact that it is due, is taken as betraying a lack of confidence; and the insinuation that the debt has been forgotten, or that they do not care to discharge it, is galling to the sensitive mind of the great man. We confess to being numbered among the "small race," since we cannot help ourselves, and we wonder if any of our readers take these remarks as personal to themselves. Should this page meet the eye of any one who is conscious that he has been receiving this valuable journal without doing his part in paying for its production, let him not be unduly elated at finding himself in the category of "the great," and make up his mind to stay there; such pride, we are sure, is sinful and should be curbed, and the remedy is to condescend