

THE VARSITY

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Editorial Comments.



OUR undergraduates are not responding creditably to the requests of the gymnasium committee. Down town the work of subscription getting is progressing fully as favorably as could be expected, but in our own midst, where the best results were looked for, very little has been accomplished. In the upper years there might possibly be found some palliation for such a state of affairs, but in the lower years there can be none whatever.

This fact is both discouraging and hampering to the committee. Never in our history, we venture to state, has a committee displayed more persevering energy and tireless effort than the one to whom the gymnasium interests have been entrusted. From the president down the members have pushed the work with a self-sacrifice that must deserve our warmest commendation. Obstacles, in many cases almost insurmountable, have been dealt with efficiently and satisfactorily, until they have put before us a tangible scheme and a reasonable request. But we, while according them the highest praise for their efforts, are deplorably slow in doing the one thing without which those efforts must produce not healthful fruit but veritable Dead Sea apples.

We have said that nothing unreasonable is asked of the students. The amount required from each of us is not sufficient to embarrass our purses. The man who when he can afford to contribute is unwilling to do so surely cannot exist in our college atmosphere, but if he does we have nothing to say concerning him; he is a species which our vocabulary of disagreeable epithets does not include. The man who honestly cannot afford it deserves and receives our consideration and respect. Not a single unkind word will be uttered to his deprecation. We do not think, however, that any student who is really unable to contribute will be pressed to do so, albeit the fact that the editorial exchequer has suffered an onslaught might incline us to hold the contrary opinion. Surely, however, those of us who have not any superfluity of means could mortify some of our pet extravagances sufficiently to enable us to do our share in this important matter. And that it is important there is no need of our amplifying, for we all recognize not the importance but we might say the necessity of having our gymnasium properly equipped.

We wish accordingly to appeal to our students on the grounds alike of generosity, justice and expediency. To our seniors, who will not reap the actual returns of their outlay, we appeal in remembrance of what good we have derived from our course in other respects, in regret for the lack of the virile influences of the gymnasium, and also on the grounds not yet untenable, we hope, of doing good unto others. To the men of the other years we appeal on these grounds and also on the grounds of casting their bread on the water and having it float back to them in

hunks of buns, which if not philanthropic is at least a practical view of the question. It is then absolutely necessary that our undergraduates do their duty in this matter. The expense is large and we must provide for it adequately, which can easily be done by making our subscription as large as our means will allow. Moreover, let us do our part willingly and cheerfully, and not as if we were conferring an overwhelming favor on the person soliciting our subscription. If we do this we shall first and last be consulting our own interests; we shall practically forward a laudable project; and we shall feel the warm heart-glow of satisfaction which comes even to the most unselfish and unassuming from the consciousness of a good deed done.

We have received an open communication touching the Public Debate on which we wish to make a few comments. The letter comes from one whose words demand our respectful consideration, and runs as follows:—

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:—

DEAR SIR,—As an ex-President of the Society I was greatly disappointed at the behavior of some of its members at the Public Meeting last night, to which I had the honor of being invited.

I noticed more starched shirts and white "chokers" than in my day, but I missed the old-fashioned gentlemanly treatment that guests have a right to expect at the hands of their hosts. The members, I regret to say, paid no regard to the Chairman—a past President and a Don of the College. They paid less respect to the President, scarcely a word of whose interesting address could be heard where I sat. They insulted the essayist whom they had asked to speak on the occasion, and grossly offended many of the ladies as they entered the hall! At this stage I left.

We were not saints in our day nor do I care to moralize, but such proceedings do the Society and the College a great deal of harm, and if order cannot be preserved at these meetings I would suggest their suppression or the *hose*. Yours etc.,

FRED. F. MANLEY.

In the first place let us point out the mistake into which the writer may possibly have fallen. In all our playful cheerfulness we intend no disrespect to anyone, and least of all to the Chairman or the President. The present incumbent of the presidency, we venture to state, is, if not the most popular and respected the Society has ever sat under—as we believe he is—at least not a whit less popular and respected than any of his predecessors. Ample proof of this may be found at any time in our regular meetings or in private conversations among the members, and as a particular case we need only refer to his inaugural address at our first meeting, when the students veritably hung on every word he uttered. Again, we did not intend to insult the essayist, and we hope the essayist did not regard our conduct in that light. To be selected to write the paper for this occasion is always considered an honor, and we do not consider we dim it by the encouragement we give him from time to time. Nor, finally, did we mean to offend any of the ladies entering the hall.

We have stated the case as it appears to us who know the inner reality of the proceedings and the Society's heart of hearts, but it remains for us to point out that Mr.