

# The Varsity

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News Editor for this issue: W. C. Kester.

TORONTO, JANUARY 31, 1912

## THE VALUE OF SCIENTIFIC TRAINING

If there is one quality of mind more than another which the average man lacks and which it is the peculiar power of scientific study to develop, it is the ability to attack the problems of life with precision; to proceed with an orderly sequence of steps to a desired goal, and to discriminate between the essential and the incidental.

The reason for the haziness of ideas which is so rampant among the students of the Litterae Humaniores, is not hard to find. Literature deals with emotion, and one can search in vain for a theme which lends itself to more bewildering indefiniteness of treatment than this. Science, on the other hand, deals primarily with sense perceptions which are common to almost all men and which in consequence can be described with precision and reasoned upon with the certainty that the conclusion will be just as valid as the proof—a by no means common condition.

Another and almost equally important trait which a scientific training inculcates is the ability to make curiosity profitable. Nothing in the world is easier than to be curious but it is only the scientist who can make this feminine obsession a potent force for the advancement of human knowledge. How does he manage this? He simply replaces the universal query "Why?" by the vastly more fruitful one "How?"

When Newton attacked the problem of the falling apple he did not stop, (as would a woman) by saying "Now why in thunder does that apple fall?" but set to work to find out *how* it fell; and straightway announced the Law of Gravitation which made astronomy the most perfect of the sciences and the name of its discoverer immortal.

Again since the time of Noah there have doubtless been countless thousands of men who have wondered *why* there should be a rainbow—but it was not until they began finding out *how* and *when* the rainbow was formed that the mystery was unravelled.

Examples might be multiplied but perhaps these will suffice to indicate the supreme importance to men in every walk of life of the method of science.

Indispensable then as is Science to the practical man it supplies an even more exquisite satisfaction to the dreamer. Let no long-haired poet suppose that aesthetic delight is denied to the scientist. On the contrary the latter revels in a realm incomparably more beautiful than that of poetry or music—for the greatest of all beauties is order, and the order of natural law, surpassing that of either human law or divine, stands magnificently aloof from the caprices of the will.

Miracles ought not to be wonderful things—the greatest wonder of all is that there should be *order* and *law* and that *everything* is *NOT* a *miracle*.

It is only when one has grasped the significance of the last statement that one begins to realise the truth and beauty of Helmholtz's words when he defined science to be "the assertion of man's dominion over Nature in the form of natural law."

W. B. W.

## ONLOOKER'S CORNER

Gertie Hoffmann and her dancers caused me a peck of trouble. I took the seven members of the 'Last Nighters' Club' down to the theatre to view these strangers from a distant land (from Broadway, in fact, an obscure province of Russia). During the performance, my friends acted quite naturally. They smoked their entre-acte cigarettes with usual calm, and stalked up the aisle with old-time grace. In short, they showed not the faintest sign of the madness that was to come upon them.

But on the car home, Mac, (short for Machiavelli,) gave the first evidence of weakening. He hung from a strap, gazing blankly out a window, and whistled 'Hearts and Flowers' with intense emotion. The softening of the brain developed suddenly in our walk from the car to the house. Each of my seven poor dear friends attempted to walk the slippery distance on their toe tips. At the turn into our house, they whirled suddenly round and round, like What's-his-offski.

Our late supper was a mad scene from Loosie. I asked Jim to pass the cheese-dish. He tried to pass it tragically, as they did in Cleopatra's day, and came to grief by a chair-leg. He lay prone upon the floor, and Bill arose and covered him sadly with the table-cloth. Then Bill had a brighter idea: he drank his tea, and then with frightful contortions, he sank upon the floor and told them to cover *him* with the cloth. Then the other six vied with each other in dancing the most tragic pantomime of grief.

When we were retiring, Henry mounted a bed-post, and, shouting 'I don't care!' dived head-first into the floor.

But worst of all, poor old Jim, whose intellect I have always held in highest respect, has adopted Scheherazade as his middle name.

THE ONLOOKER.

## HABITUAL HIGH-BROW



In accordance with my two-day-old resolution, I started out to see College Life, in order to describe it accurately to my readers. Where should I begin? The Rotunda, my Muse suggested.

So I stood under the clock and watched the students surging in after the ten o'clock lectures.

On they came, droves of them, and separated into groups when they reached the open space. The Rotunda is the Forum of the University. Some hovered near the Lit. notice-board, cackling and fuming over the blatant party announcements there displayed. Many more rushed to the Post Office and fought for copies of The Varsity. The Faculty notice-board attracted an occasional weary-looking individual, whose face lit up with a wan smile as he read the news of a special series of lectures in German.

In the centre of the tiled quadrangle were clustered the blue blood of the College, the fussers and the athletes, smiling at gossip which involved mild adventure and petty intrigue; while prowling round among the groups I saw a half-scared Fresh Soph, who didn't know anyone.

A bell rings and the place is empty again, for the clock records ten minutes past the hour.

"Surely this is not College Life," I soliloquised, "my readers will not be interested in this. I must seek elsewhere."

And I passed out into the open air.

## CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of Varsity:

Sir:

There is a rumour abroad around the halls of the School that there will be a number of subscribers to the Science dance tickets left out of the running. It is suggested that a ballot will be made but nothing definite has been announced as yet.

I wish to say, in this connection, as an upper year man, that a great deal of thought should be given in deciding the method of disposal in the case of an over-subscription. It is my opinion that the freshmen should suffer in a case of this kind allowing the men in the upper years to have the first consideration. Seniority certainly should hold its proper place.

I wish to say that, at least, all the fourth

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year men who have subscribed should receive tickets as they will not, in most of the cases, ever again have the opportunity of attending their Faculty dance. I trust the Engineering Society will give this matter their immediate consideration and announce their policy without delay.

R. FERRIS.

### WATER POLO

On Saturday afternoon, before a small crowd the Varsity Waterpolo team defeated a scratch team from the Toronto Swimming Club. Every man on the Varsity team played well. The shooting of the forwards was very accurate and the checking of the defence was hard and sure. The visiting team could not shoot very well thus keeping Milne in idleness most of the time. The half time score was 9-1 and at full time 17-2 in favor of Varsity.

The line-up was:  
Varsity (17) Goal, Milne; Defence, Qua, Rutherford; Centre, Simpson; Forwards, Brandt, Tillson.

T. S. C. (2)—Goal, Amoss; Defence, Nicholson, Atkinson; Centre, Anderson; Forwards, Verman, Atkinson.

### APPLIED SCIENCE HOCKEY

A game was played Saturday morning between the Electricals and the Mechanicals and Chemists of the 1st Year. This was the second game in the inter-section league and resulted in a win for the Electricals 4-1. The outstanding feature of the game was the work of McGie in goal for the losers. Thursday's postponed game will be played at the close of the present schedule.

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The College is a Government institution, designed primarily for the purpose of giving instruction in all branches of military science to cadets and officers of the Canadian Militia. In fact it corresponds to Woolwich and Sandhurst.

The Commandant and military instructors are all officers on the active list of the Imperial army, lent for the purpose, and there is in addition a complete staff of professors for the civil subjects which form such an important part of the College course. Medical attendance is also provided.

Whilst the College is organized on a strictly military basis the cadets receive a practical and scientific training in subjects essential to a sound modern education.

The course includes a thorough grounding in Mathematics, Civil Engineering, Surveying, Physics, Chemistry, French and English.

The strict discipline maintained at the College is one of the most valuable features of the course, and, in addition, the constant practice of gymnastics, drills, and outdoor exercises of all kinds, ensures health and excellent physical condition.

Commissioners in all branches of the Imperial service and Canadian Permanent Force are offered annually.

The diploma of graduation, is considered by the authorities conducting the examination for Dominion Land Surveyor to be equivalent to a university degree, and by the Regulations of the Law Society of Ontario, it obtains the same examinations as a B.A. degree.

The length of the course is three years, in three terms of 9 1/2 months each.

The total cost of the course, including board, uniform, instructional material, and all extras, is about \$800.

The annual competitive examination for admission to the College, takes place in May of each year, at the headquarters of the several military districts.

For full particulars regarding this examination and for any other information, application should be made to the Secretary of the Militia Council, Ottawa, Ont.; or to the Commandant, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ont.

H.Q. 94-5. 10-11.

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