

The Varsity

Published weekly by the students of the University of Toronto. Annual subscription, One Dollar, payable strictly in advance. For advertising rates apply to the Business Manager. Address all communications for publication to the Editor-in-Chief, University College.

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TORONTO, MARCH 1, 1899.

THE ATHLETIC DIRECTORATE.

From several things that have transpired during the past week, we have been led to believe that an altogether unexpected interpretation of the attitude of this paper towards the Athletic Directorate is held by many. It seems that the feeling among a number of undergraduates is that we have been indulging in an adverse criticism of the officials, who have either filled the important executive offices of the Association in the past, or those who are to do so next year. Now, however much such an interpretation may have been justified by any thing said in this paper, we wish to state on the "Referee's" behalf, and our own, that such was not in the least degree intended. In fact, a perusal of our editorial of three weeks ago reveals exactly the reverse. We heartily congratulated the officers of the Athletic Directorate for their excellent and progressive work during the past season, and moreover, explicitly complimented the incoming Fourth Year on the excellence of the choice of their officers for next year. In fact, it seems to us almost absurd, either that anyone should question the excellence of the work of the officers for 1898-99, or the probable efficiency of such good men as Messrs. Gibson, Telford and Harrison. Our whole position was, not that these men were inefficient, but, that being prominent athletes, it was unfair to demand their services on the field as well as in the office.

Concerning the Athletic Directorate, any criticism offered was not intended as "destructive," but rather "constructive," and was conscientiously offered in the hope that some change would be made towards effecting a centralization of Athletic authority. This is now being effected through the efforts of the progressive and energetic Athletic Directorate Executive, and we have great pleasure in congratulating it for accomplishing such an important change, leading towards the above-mentioned centralization of Athletic authority.

THE RESIDENCE QUESTION.

Ever since any of the present students of Varsity can remember anything of the University, the important question of a suitable Residence has been under discussion. With this issue we publish an article by Mr. S. J. Robertson, B.A., '93, taking up the matter in a definite business-like way, and this is, indeed, one great reason why we should all welcome Mr. Robertson's letter. We venture to say that after the heart-breaking struggle many students have to obtain even satisfactory lodgings and board, that hardly any will be found who would question the superiority of a Residence over such places of refuge as many boarding-houses undoubtedly are.

Residential life is regarded by many of the best educationists as being of infinite educative value to students, and doubtless there are few who would question this. There would be no better opportunity offered in University life for the association of student with student, and to a certain extent of student with professor, than in such an institution as a well-ordered, comfortable Residence. Another feature of boarding-house life has forcibly struck us, and is briefly this; the total lack of any semblance of home-life engenders home-sickness, resulting, in many cases, in, at least, embryonic pessimism, and all will admit that there is no disease more destructive of the best in human nature than pessimism.

Mr. Robertson has gone to great trouble to learn exactly how much it would cost to provide an addition to the present Residence, after the plan he suggests, and his figures must be taken as authoritative because they are provided in each case by experts. He shows, finally, how such a Residence as he proposes could be made, not only to pay the interest on the capital, but to more than do so. It is to be sincerely hoped that the authorities will not pass over this matter lightly. As Mr. Robertson suggests, it is hardly likely that the Government would refuse to go security for such an undertaking, and it would appear that all that is now needed to accomplish the building of the proposed addition to Residence would be the undergraduates signifying their sympathy in some conclusive manner in order to enable the authorities to feel confident of their support in event of carrying out the project.

The question of a Women's Residence has been also before the public for a number of years, and although the growth of the sum of money needed to carry out the project has been slow, it has been steady. It moreover speaks volumes for the energy and persistence of the Alumnae in this difficult undertaking, and we have great pleasure in congratulating them on the success of their efforts. The Women's Residence Association was responsible for the carrying out of