

The Varsity

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News Editor for this issue:—K. Burgess.

TORONTO, OCTOBER 27, 1911

THE LIT.

It is gratifying to observe that both parties in the U.C. Lit. have come out strongly for debates on national questions. Of late years, the Lit. has not enjoyed that all important position which it once held in College affairs. New clubs have sprung up, new interests, social and athletic, have absorbed the undergraduate attention, and the Lit. has retired to the background. A contributory factor to this state of affairs has undoubtedly been that party disputes have too often prevailed to the exclusion of debates on important subjects. We do not condemn partyism, or sharp tactics; we believe that without them the Lit. would lose much of its interest and spice; but we do contend that a continuous diet of pepper and cloves is not healthy. Wrangling for three-quarters of an hour over the vast question of whether a motion for adjournment takes precedence over a motion of withdrawal may be excellent training for parliamentary trickery, but is hardly calculated to encourage broad thinking and clear speaking. Debates on national political issues will reduce these tactical manoeuvres to the subordinate position in which alone they can be appreciated, and will give every undergraduate, whether first year man or fourth year man, an equal chance to think and speak. We are sure that both parties working together the coming year will be the most successful in the history of the Lit.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Michigan Glee Club has been offered the opportunity of making a trip to Japan at the expense of the Japanese government. Make a reputation for yourselves, ye Toronto musicians. What an opportunity may be yours!

The McGill Daily gave the Varsity most flattering notice in a recent issue. The Daily says in part: As a tri-weekly college paper the Varsity is undoubtedly the neatest and most attractive sheet which we have had the pleasure of receiving. It is a positive pleasure to pick up such a well-written and well "made-up" sheet. It is free from typographical errors and the literary style throughout is of a high standard of excellence. We congratulate the "Varsity" on its being printed at the University press. This is a decided advantage for any college paper and must contribute in no small measure to its success or failure. Here's to you "Varsity" for your generous welcome and for the splendid spirit so characteristic of your columns! You have a firm foundation on which to build and your future development is assured.

Getting Civilized—In answer to the question "What are the five great races of mankind?" a Chinese student replied, "The 100 yards, the hurdles, the quarter-mile, the mile, and the three-miles.—Ex.

A man with hair (like you and me),
When in his freshman year,
Did mark with pain the many profs
With heads dry, bald, and sore.
"O prof!" said he, "why are you bald?"
The teacher made reply:
"All lunatics are blessed with hair:
No lunatic am I!"

CORRESPONDENCE

SCIENCE MAN SPEAKS

To the Editor of The Varsity.

In reply to W. W.'s letter of recent date I would like to offer some objections to his statement that gowns could not be worn on the streets or in the science buildings. In many College towns in both England and America gowns are regularly worn on the street and are respected. They are not the encumbrances W. W. suggests. At Trinity all men wear gowns at meals and do not find themselves hindered. At Wycliffe the same custom prevails and I understand it may be introduced at Victoria as soon as their residence system is in operation. No one would object to a science student laying aside his gown when at work and I do not think any reasonable science man would wish to break the uniformity of the thing by refusing to wear a gown on public occasions (University sermon, for instance) and in passing from one building to another. By all means let us have the gown back again in its old time glory as the universal garb of the university man which he should be proud to wear on the campus, the street, or anywhere else. Perhaps if an agitation is begun there will not be as much objection raised as is thought might be. At any rate these few remarks from a science man may help it on.

UNIVERSITAS.

THE COLLEGE BOY AND HIS GARB

To the Editor of The Varsity:

Dear Sir, I have been struck by the remarkable want of lucidity and sensibility in "W.W.'s" quasi arguments against the wearing of gowns in University College. Why anyone should imagine that the re-institution of gowns would necessitate parades of the feature "on the streets" is beyond my comprehension. Too much attention is paid, it seems, to the effect the student body is producing on the general public. The less said of this effect, or done towards it, the better. It is a pernicious Americanism which has crept into our Canadian 'Varsities, chiefly through the instrumentality of theatres and 'popular' songs, and is connected with the delightful use of that playful term 'College Boy,' which has made the word 'undergraduate' in America synonymous with 'ass.' There is unfortunately in existence here in Toronto University, at least in University College and most of the non-Arts faculties—a certain undesirable body of irresponsible idiots who insist on trying to impress 'Philistines' as the Germans say, with the fact that they are 'College Boys,' and who think, that in order to live up to their exalted position, so aptly summed up in that term, they must make fools and eads of themselves by raising Cain all over Toronto, but chiefly in those places where they think the admiring eyes of the fair sex may gloat over their daring deeds. "W.W." who probably isn't one of these 'College Boys' himself, is hovering dangerously near their doctrines in implying that if gowns were reintroduced, it would be necessary to arrange a display of them by parading along the public highways and thereby attracting the advice of envious(?) small boys and other non-combatants.

"W.W." argues that the gown is inconvenient. I have worn a gown for over two years, and have never found it so, nor have any others similarly placed. Oxford and Cambridge, to which we should rather liken ourselves than to American universities, have always kept this custom amongst their host of other traditions. Even University College, Toronto, once looked similarly respectably academic. Why should it ever have changed to a merely plebeian aspect?

Finally, says your correspondent of last issue, "the inconvenience would be further accentuated by the necessity of taking lectures in the medical and Physics buildings as well as in the Main Building." This is surely a novel effect of the use of gowns.

Yours very sincerely,
S. M. D.

"A competitive examination," Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M.P., told the Commons recently, "is no more a test of the capacity of a man to lead in the field than it is a test of the capacity of a man to lead in the House of Commons," and he raised a laugh by adding: "Most of the distinguished members of our universities still remain and I hope always will remain, on the back benches of this House."

—Public Opinion.



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UNIVERSITY PROBLEMS

What will become of the Union when the class '14 U.C. graduates?

Should not the humane society take radical measures to protect our cop? After six days of hard toil he is not even accorded the leisure of a Sabbath day. "The place of Pool in a man's work and development." General Course students are grappling with this question.

Should freshettes and Sophomores be admitted to the first year reception, or should a special function be held for their private benefit?

Should Sophomores treat Freshmen the demoralizing yells of the Ladies' College, or still further, introduce their guileless schoolmates to these ruthless man-traps?

Should not the girls of U.C. serenade the residences after their "Guy Fawkes social" of Nov. 5. Their costumes would be most appropriate.

Is the secretary of the Lit the proper man to preside at the Freshman nominations? We would suggest Christie and Prof. Williams (with his gloves on). They could not only act as marshals for the Freshies when disturbed by intruding Sophs but might also serve as a drawing card for Freshettes who seem to fight shy of 4th year men.

Adam Beck (to child in street car)—What is your name, little man?

Small Boy's Mother—Adam Beck Johnson, sir, but we call him Hydro for short.

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W. W. CORY.

Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.

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