

zation. This feeling has now taken definite shape in the appointment of a provisional committee of the fourth year, to collect all obtainable information and to draft a constitution under which the class of '89 may be permanently organized as a society.

As secretary of the Provisional Committee, I am asked to write you regarding the constitution, aims and methods of such societies in connection with your college. We should be glad if you would give us what information you conveniently can as to their methods of procedure before and after graduation; and as to their success in

1. Preserving a degree of intimacy among members of the classes after leaving college; and

2. Fostering a spirit of loyalty to the college.

We are specially desirous of obtaining information regarding the following points of practical importance:

3. Whom do you admit to membership? Are only those *graduating* together admitted; or are any others eligible?

4. What provision, if any, is made for lady members of the classes?

5. What officers do you elect?

6. How often, and at what times, do your class societies meet (a) before, (b) after graduation?

7. What form do such meetings generally take?

8. What methods are employed to keep track of members of the classes?

9. What publications, if any, are issued by the classes?

In short, any information you can give in regard to such organizations, we shall be very glad to get.

### COMMUNICATIONS.

THE Editors are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents. No notice will be taken of unsigned contributions.

### THE POLITICAL SCIENCE CURRICULUM.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY:

SIRS,—You may enter my name on your list of renewals. A few words with reference to the Political Science curriculum may not be out of place. While recognizing the inexpediency of criticizing the new curriculum just now, I may indicate what it appears to me should be the proper line to pursue by students in this department. The multiplicity of books presented will have a tendency to cause "cramming" and superficiality if not carefully guarded against. Permit me to suggest that it is much more important for the student to acquire habits of thoroughness than to be able to say he has read a host of authors. Hitherto, not much has been exacted from students in Political Science at examinations, beyond a knowledge of book-work; now, the student of the higher years should be able to grapple with questions demanding independent thought and original investigation. He should study the *subjects* presented, and read the authors as *aids* in mastering the subjects. No valuable results will be attained in knowledge or culture unless the graduate in Political Science can, after leaving his college, grapple with the living problems of the day; and this can be done only by a severe mental training during his college course. *Take nothing for granted* is a good motto in this study, as in Metaphysics and Ethics. Do not simply *absorb* the theories of others; investigate for yourself, and especially investigate those problems in the political and commercial sphere which lie close at hand, and have a living interest for us as Canadians and Americans.

W. J. ROBERTSON.

St. Catharines.

### THE SENATE AND COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY:

SIRS,—The recent resolution of the Senate, making attendance at lectures compulsory, seems to need more definite ex-

planation of its intention than has yet been given. Are we to understand that no student who has not attended a certain percentage of the lectures in a given subject will be allowed to take the examination in that subject at the close of the year?

In a recent editorial you recommended that every student in every year of his course be required to pass an examination in English. Some of us, without the stimulus of Senate regulations, are ambitious of keeping up the study of our mother tongue, and naturally desire to get credit for that study at the annual examinations. Many of us, too, who are taking the honour course in Metaphysics, Science, or Mathematics, with the intention of teaching after we leave college, would like to qualify as specialists in English according to the regulations of the Education Department, which require the honour work of the Second Year, together with the pass work of the Third and Fourth Years, as laid down in the University curriculum. Must we be debarred from taking the examination in English because we choose to miss the lectures in English for those in our own department, or because we could, with a great saving of time, get up the work at least fairly well without attending lectures? Students attending training institutes during the fall term are often granted dispensation. Are not those actually in attendance at the College entitled to at least equal consideration?

Surely the Senate will explain just what is meant by the regulation in question.

SOPHOMORE.

### MUTILATING NOTICES.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY:—

SIRS,—Although not a regular undergraduate of Toronto University, I hope I shall be pardoned if I draw attention to an abuse which seems very prevalent at the College. I come up to the building every day to attend lectures as an occasional student, and in looking over the notices in the vestibule, or in perusing the manifestos in which the Professors or Lecturers set forth the time-table they propose to follow, my eyes have frequently been offended by additions made in pencil, and by a different hand, apparently, from that which drew up the original document. I am not now so young as some of those whom I meet in the halls of University College, but it seems to me that when I was at the age of the ordinary student (though I was then unable to take advantage of the benefits offered by the University, a defect which I am now endeavouring to remedy) we would never have been guilty of such undignified conduct.

I do not refer especially to the fact that some of the students take pleasure in mutilating notices which have been posted by members of their own order, and obviously for their own benefit; though surely, when a notice of a meeting is posted and students are *urgently* requested to attend, there is very little wit shown in erasing the first syllable and leaving the word to read *gently*. Such tricks are worthy of boys in a public school, but surely not of young men who are striving after culture and truth.

But that, in a notice of resolutions passed by the venerable body which governs the University some impertinent hand should have seen fit to write the word "fossils" after the word "Senate," seems to be another proof, added to the already overwhelming body of evidence, that reverence for old age and grey hairs is becoming rare in the present generation. Again, that a Professor, who has but lately come to the University, and who has at least the right to expect the courtesy usually accorded to a stranger, should be insulted by having criticisms of his caligraphy appended to his notice, will surely give him cause to think disparagingly of the young men of this country.

I do not know whether the body of the undergraduates discountenance or approve of this vulgar proceeding, or whether it will be considered as presumption in one who has no direct connection with the University to refer to the subject, but I hope at least that these few words will do something to abate the nuisance.

AN OCCASIONAL STUDENT.