

THE VARSITY.

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TORONTO, December 3, 1902.

AT a recent meeting of the Senate it was moved by Professor Wrong and seconded by Professor I. H. Cameron that the following be a committee to consider and report upon the best means of extending in the University the system of residence for students: Vice-Chancellor Moss, President Loudon, Dr. Primrose, Dr. Hoyles, Mr. Z. A. Lash, Sir John Boyd, Mr. A. B. Aylesworth, Mr. J. Lorn McDougall, Hon. Mr. Justice Street, with the mover and seconder.

The announcement that the Senate has seriously undertaken the consideration of the best means of extending in the University the system of residence for students will be warmly received by the latter.

The void left by the discontinuance of the old residence, inadequate and ill-appointed as it undoubtedly was, has not been filled. The success of the dining-hall experiment and, later, the popularity of the Undergraduate Union, while evidencing the hold the residence idea has on a large body of students, has, perhaps, only emphasized the lack of the third element of residence life, common dormitories. This glimpse of what academic life might be, each year brings home to the student mind with greater force the extent of the deficiency.

The time is passed when suitable lodgings may be readily had within reasonable distance of the University. Every year with the growth of the city the "down-town" element is encroaching upon the territory once the peculiar haunt of the student. The migration of the Senior Medicals to Queen's Park with the new year will accentuate the difficulty in this already congested quarter. The district around Queen's Park no longer suffices to accommodate the students, and each year the growing enrollment in all departments of the University will increase the difficulty and discomfort.

The remedy which is most readily and naturally suggested is to add dormitories to what we already have, viz., the dining-hall and the Undergraduate Union. The success of these experiments should encourage the taking of the final step in giving Toronto a complete residential system. Indeed, we are among the few great American universities not thus provided.

The beneficent influence of a well-ordered residence upon university life has been well established. The best judges of the benefits of an institution should be those who have made a trial of it, and, one and all, you will find old residence men enthusiastic in their praise, some, and most eminent at that, going so far as to value the life in residence above the life in the lecture room.

The great advantage of the residence is the close personal contact it brings about among the students and Faculty. The intellectual stimulus resulting from such a commingling of eager, pliant intellects can hardly be overestimated. University culture does not consist in the mere absorption of books, but in such stimulation of the intellect and enlargement of the sympathies. Academic association should vitalize academic instruction. The professor whose personality does not affect his students is an incubus. Facts could be much better and more conveniently acquired from text-books than from his lectures. The student who has modified none of his views in deference to the opinions of his fellows has much to unlearn. The residence system fosters an intimacy which makes the personal equation count. The boarding-house system tends to individualization and isolation.

The University of Toronto is doing a great work. We are proud to claim her as our Alma Mater, but there is a strong feeling that she would be much more *alma mater* if she could take her nurslings in her own fond arms instead of being compelled to let them out to *les creches*.

The committee appointed by the Senate is a remarkably strong one. There is no doubt but that they are in earnest, and that on their part they will leave nothing undone to bring the movement to a successful conclusion. In this work the students will have their part.

In the past there has been much vain talk and writing about a residence when there was no prospect of getting one. We may now have a chance to do something practical. At a social gathering last spring a prominent business man and friend of the University, as some readers of THE VARSITY will remember, remarked that when the students of the University of Toronto showed they wanted a residence they would get one.

Now is the time for us to show we are in earnest. Let us individually and collectively make known to the public the fact that we both need and desire a residence, and that we must have it. The project is one of such magnitude that only a strong committee, such as has been appointed, could hope to compass it. But their success must largely depend on the loyal support of the student body, and such support we must be prepared to give.

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A couple of weeks ago THE VARSITY had occasion to notice the first appearance in The Oxford Union of our Flavelle Scholarship man, Mr. E. J. Kylie, B.A. '01. Apropos, The Oxford Magazine of November 12, 1902, just to hand, has this to say: "Mr. E. J. Kylie (Balliol), who made his first appearance on the paper, brought into the debate the earnestness and the conviction which we had so far missed. We do not exaggerate when we say that Mr. Kylie's panegyric of Oxford clothed in vigorous and classical English the sentiments which the average Undergraduate feels, but which it is given only to a few to have the courage to confess or the ability to express. His speech was noteworthy in all respects, most of all because he dared to speak what was in his heart, and one had only to watch the house and listen to its applause to feel that, after all, epigrams and cynicism are not the only acceptable fare at the Union. A humorous comparison of Oxford with the ideals of Plato enlivened a brilliant and wholly admirable speech."

The University is proud of Mr. Kylie.