

## The Varsity

Published Three Times Weekly by the Parliament of the Undergraduates of the University of Toronto.

Subscription Price, One Dollar per year in advance.

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TORONTO, OCTOBER, 4, 1911

### EDUCATION AS A PROCESS OF SELECTION

"The survival of the fittest is a phrase which has found its way even into the vocabulary of the illiterate, probably because it is so apt an expression of a universal fact. Analogies to nature's process of selection are not far to seek. If there be no royal road to learning—and the truth of the adage has never been seriously questioned—it follows that the common impediments which bestrew the student's way fulfil the same function in the economy of the race's mental development as do the sometimes apparently harsh-but really beneficently wise laws of the physical world in the economy of nature. It is no superficial test of a man to require him to sacrifice immediate achievement and current pleasures in order that he may be more effective at some remote period of the future. That attitude of mind, that grasp of relative values which will prompt to do this thing is the first great test of the student. Then come the years of patient concentration. Any element of the heroic which may have inspired the applicant for wisdom's honors successfully to pass the first barrier is absent in the case of the second. If depth of insight is requisite at the first testing the power of endurance is even more so at the second. Nor are these all. A ready command of one's faculties and of information acquired is essential for the passing of educational tests, in the technical sense of that term. A proper system of education is not at all merely a stamp which impresses the subject matter of a section of the field of knowledge upon the memory of the student. This it may do with more or less distinctness. But the true significance of such a system is found in its coincident functioning as a great test of character and as a favouring condition for the development of the traits of character which will satisfy that test.

The phrase to which we made reference above has a place both in the economy of physical nature and in that of mental development. But its significance is not or should not be quite identical in those two fields. In physical nature we discern the survival of the fittest—for what? Surely, only to survive. Those forms of life persist which have comparative advantages in enabling them to continue to do so. They may not be the fittest to beautify, the fittest for this purpose or for that. They are of proven fitness for purposes of surviving. But, if an educational system be true to its higher requirements, those who qualify in its testing processes will not merely be the fittest in point of mental ingenuity requisite in doing so but will also be the noblest and the best in point of intellectual vision and full-rounded manhood.

A veteran of the Civil War, having received from the government a new cork leg in place of the one lost in battle, perpetrated this witticism in his return letter of thanks:

"'T is sweet to be re-membered for what I have done."

—October Lippincott's

### THE GOOD OLD DAYS

(Contributed.)

The lady-like composure of the bleachers at last Saturday's game caused many to sigh audibly for the good old days. And these sighs lead many of us to turn our minds fondly to the memory of school stories in the magazines; and many more of us to the passages in the biographies of great men, where accounts of lively doings in undergraduate days stirred our blood. Now we venture to say that days are good old days only in fireside retrospect; and we claim that your own meagre adventures will some day be magnified by fireside magic into a long series that will constitute "good old days." All you have to do is to wait for retrospection.

And in reading of the college-days of other men, you will notice that more interest is attached to quaint personality than to actual adventure. So bear that in mind, and look to the characteristics of your fellow-students, and a lively interest in your college life will be created.

They tell of how Oscar Wilde, in his sophomore year, was seized by some seniors who objected to his odd passion for sunflowers and blue china, and they dragged him in the dust to the top of a hill. When they released him, he quietly remarked as he dusted off his finery: "By Jove, there is a fine view from here!" Many a practical joke has been turned by as neat a wit in our own University; and trust to the years to bring them out.

A little less of the philistine air, a little more tolerance of the other fellow, and the yesterdays, not yesteryear, will be "good old days."

### THE ONLOOKER'S CORNER

FRESHMEN TAKE HEED

In another number of this paper you have been accorded a welcome calculated to warm the very cockles of your hearts. The Outlooker in his kindly, paternal fashion would like to administer a mild but very necessary antidote for that effusion. You are welcome as a good set of history notes in May but there are certain pitfalls that you must recognize and avoid in the immediate future if your autobiography for 'Torontoensis '15 is to read like a college story by Ralph D. Paine.

Your name may be Phillip Augustus Smythe; you may be the illustrious son of the leading citizen of Smytheville, but you are not going to be any one in particular at Toronto University until you show yourself worthy of distinction by your own individual effort. The brass band may have been conspicuous by its absence from the reception ceremonies in the registrar's office, but you have four years at least in which to make something of yourself here. Start now.

One word more. Do not make your friends too quickly. The men with whom you are associated will make or mar your undergraduate life, so use discretion rather than celerity in your choice of friends. That will be about enough along that line but requests for further good advice may be addressed to 'the Outlooker' and if accompanied by a stamped envelope they will receive our immediate and careful attention.

### OUR QUERY COLUMN\*

Q.—If the sun's attractive power is known to be 496,721 cubits and a projectile travelling through the rare strata of Mars attains a velocity of 47 miles per second, how often within the first hour of its journey will it revolve completely on its solar axis?

Ans: We don't know.

Freshman: We could answer your question better if you were to send me a photograph of the young lady.

Diningroom Waiter: No, certainly not. No one has to take a button as a tip unless he wants to.

Onlooker.

\*Address all questions to the Query Column.

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NIGHT—AND—SUNDAY—PHONES

### SUGGESTION FOR THE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

To the Editor of Varsity.

Dear Sir:—As a spectator at the match on Saturday, when the new University Athletic Ground was opened, I would like to congratulate the Athletic Association and its Committee of management on the results of their efforts in securing a ground that is a great credit to the City of Toronto but while offering these felicitations, I would like to point out that the licensing of pea-nut vendors and newspaper boys to carry on their trade on the grounds and stand may be a greater inconvenience to those attending the games than is warranted by the amount received for such licences.

Surely the University finances are not at such a low ebb as to justify the increase of the gate receipts by such petty means. I trust my wail may reach the ears of those who are responsible.

Yours faithfully,  
"SPECTATOR."

### RULES FOR FRESHMEN

The University of Colorado Students' Association has adopted the following rules for the freshmen:

1. Every Freshman shall on and after October first of each school year provide himself and wear whenever appearing on the campus or any of the buildings, a postage (dinky) blue cap with a green button, provided that, if the freshmen win the annual class contest with the sophomores they shall be allowed to discard their caps at the beginning of the second semester.
2. The freshmen must organize their combined class and elect officers not later than the third week of the first semester.
3. No freshman in the University of Colorado on and after October first of each school year shall wear or display any high school insignia of whatever description either in the form of rings, pins, or athletic letter, numeral or colors.
4. No freshman shall indulge in the use of tobacco in any of its forms on the campus.
5. All freshmen in passing professors and instructors shall give the ordinary military salute.
6. All freshmen shall give right of way on the side-walk to professors, instructors, graduates and upper class men.
7. No freshman shall remain seated while a professor, instructor, graduate or upper classman is standing at any gathering of students at a University function.
8. Freshmen must present themselves at the Main building immediately after an intercollegiate victory in Boulder or news of a victory, either athletic or debating, from abroad and ring the chapel bell for at least thirty minutes.
9. Freshmen shall gather wood and build bonfires for any demonstration of the A. S. U. C. when ordered by the President of the Associated Students.
10. Freshmen must always bring up the rear in every parade and public demonstration of the A. S. U. C.
11. Any freshman who violates any section or clause of this act or its spirit or letter, shall, upon conviction by the proper tribunal, as provided in the Judiciary Act, be deprived of membership in the A. S. U. C. and all of its privileges or receive such punishment as the Court may deem proper.
12. A freshman is defined to be anyone who is entering this University for the first time, and who has not come from an institution of collegiate standing.



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