

in a day, but we should all labor towards that end, and it will come in time. One great means towards the realization of this seemingly Utopian scheme is to create harmony among the students in the different branches; and the best means of bringing this about is to have one society which will include all that are in any way connected with the University. This may be considered too theoretical—altogether too theoretical to be successfully put in practice; still there would be no harm in doing all in our power to bring about such a noble end—and if we fail we fail. It may seem to some a sort of Imperial Federation fad and just as airy, yet we cannot see why the prospect of the realization of such a glorious scheme should not warrant the exercise of all our energy on its behalf.

We are in the midst of the January Supplementals—or rather Supplemental "Supps."—which, to some of us, recall very pleasant memories of an expected interrupted course. There must be something radically wrong in the Senatorial Statutes, which, like those of the Medes and Persians, alter not, else there would be no need for such unpleasant recurrences of a most unpleasant reminder or duties neglected or unperformed. Why were there so many "plucks" and "stars" last May? Does the whole fault lie with the student? Let us consider.

According to the present Statutes an Honor man, if "starred" in more than one Pass subject, is plucked out-and-out, and is compelled to write his whole examination over again the following year, and gets no credit whatever for past work. Tests of knowledge should not be so mechanical. Such hard and fast rules are well enough for school children trying an entrance examination or candidates writing for Provincial Certificates, in which cases the persons so writing are spread over a whole Province, which necessitates the mechanical part of the test. But for a University it seems somewhat ridiculous, where each student's knowledge is supposed to be tested, to a certain extent, throughout the term.

Under existing regulations what inducement is there for a man pursuing an Honor Course to devote his time and energies to Pass subjects which are tagged on to his main course like manacles to the foot of a Sing Sing reprobate. We do not say these Pass subjects are unimportant, but they are treated as such by the Senate, and, of necessity, by the student. There is no stress laid on them in examinations, only in so far as they constitute the drive-wheel of the plucking-machine.

Take, for instance, two men in the Natural Science Department: each is contending for first place in the Honor Roll, each is manacled in the same way by Pass subjects, of which he can see no use except as Senatorial stumbling blocks cast in his way by the judges in this mimic obstacle race. One man devotes his time to them and gets them up well, the other, treating them as bug-bears, neglects them till the latter part of the academic year, when he crams them up and just skims through in these, what he considers, unimportant subjects. While the former has been dealing with these side issues, the latter has been concentrating all his energies on the main theme. May comes. Each goes up to Pilate's judgment-hall for cross-examination. The latter has got the start of the former, by many hours, on his specialty. As a result of his neglect of Pass work, he is far advanced in his

Honor subjects. The former takes 100 per cent. in the Pass subjects, the latter only 33. What matters it to the devotee at the shrine of Specialty? They are both ranked the same—in alphabetical order. How have the Honor Departments fared? The latter, on account of having spent more time on these subjects than his rival, not on account of his possessing superior ability, outstrips him in the race and is ranked far above him. Why it should be thus we cannot see. Let a man be ranked in Pass as in Honor work, according to his stand, if the regulation referred to above continues to be kept in force. Of course, we may be accused of selecting extreme cases: we have done so to show the absurdity of the present regulations. As long as matters exist as they do at present men will neglect their Pass subjects and devote their time to the different branches of their Honor Departments.

Still we are not in favor of ranking students at all in the different Honor or Pass Departments. Let there be two classes only—viz., First and Second—and do not attach so much importance to class stand, nor let so much depend upon mere exigencies. Let all years be governed by the same rules as the present Fourth Year, then there would not be so much cut-throat plugging—more education and less cramming.

We wish every person who takes an interest in the welfare of VARSITY would contribute any local items concerning the whereabouts and movements of graduates or undergraduates which may escape our notice. We are always pleased to receive such contributions, either at the office or by writing. If this is to become an ideal college journal, it should have means of obtaining information regarding those who have gone through the mill, and thus keep in touch with our ancestors in University genealogy. As we have no direct means, at present, of obtaining such information, we are forced to depend on the students to furnish us with it.

Prof. Goldwin Smith, at our solicitation, kindly furnished us with a small book of his poems, which have not yet been made public as these volumes were published last year for private distribution. He regretted not being able to give us something "wet from his pen," on account of scarcity of time. These poems are chiefly verse translations from Latin authors; those from Lucan and Lucretius are especially good. It is needless for us to say anything in the praise of this renowned literary man, as he is not only known in Canada, but throughout the whole literary world, as one of the purest writers of English prose. With his kind permission we have sent several selections to the Press, knowing the avidity with which they will be perused by THE VARSITY readers.

UNIVERSITY LECTURES.

The Easter Term of Saturday lectures in connection with the University of Toronto will be as follows, in each case at 3 p. m. in the University hall:—January 16th, William Dale, M.A., "The Greatness of Ancient Rome"; January 23rd, Prof. Ashley, M.A., "Methods of Industrial Peace"; January 30th, Sir Daniel Wilson, LL.D., F.R.S.E., Tennyson; February 6th, Prof. Hutton, M.A., "Phases of Athenian Politics"; February 13th, Prof. Baker, M.A., "History of Astronomy, The Systems of a Great Problem"; February 20th, Prof. Ramsay Wright, M.A., B.Sc., "Corals and Coral Islands"; February 27th, H. Rushton Fairclough, M.A., "The Ancient and Modern Stage"; March 5th, Prof. Loudon, M.A., "Ampere; His Life and Work."