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KNOX COLLEGE

Not in many years has Knox College seen such great excitement. A few enthusiasts are strenuously endeavouring to introduce the party system into the Literary Society. The spirit of orthodoxy has so taken possession of others that they are determined to squelch these so-called progressivists—they wish to abide by the old system. There are others again who feel convinced that certain reforms are needed in the Society—yet they are opposed to the measure of responsible government that the first party ("Protestant") is seeking to introduce.

The election will be held March 5, and until that date even a conjecture, as to which party will be victorious, is out of place.

All those desiring a field under the Knox College students' Missionary Society will kindly confer with H. W. Lyons, B.A., Knox College, immediately, as no one can be assured of a field after this week.

FACULTY OF FORESTRY

Dr. Watt's lecture on "First Aid" was given on Tuesday afternoon last week, Wednesday being a holiday. This week it will be delivered at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, as usual.

Spring Camp this year will be held in Haliburton County, and will begin on May the first. The work will be to prepare maps and working plans, for a township of waste lands, mostly cut and burned over. It will be over in time to allow the men who are going West, under the Forestry Branch, to get away in time. This affects only III and IV Years.

Among recent contributions to man's knowledge of Natural History, should be noted a paper by Mr. F. McVickar, III Yr. Forestry, which appeared in the New York Sun. The material was entirely new, and the writer's style masterly.

The manner in which students of this Faculty excel in the very wide range of activities to which they devote their energies from time to time augurs well for the future of our own profession when it is finally placed in their hands.

APPLIED SCIENCE

Photographs of the model of the Quebec Bridge can be obtained at the supply department. There are views of it from different positions and some of the pictures are very good indeed.

A. J. Huff, 4th Year, is back with us again. Huff has been ill since the beginning of the term and we are glad to see him around again.

A crowded lecture hall greets Professor Chant in Astronomy every week. His discourses on the moon's fancies, full and otherwise, showing "My Beautiful Lady," and "The Sea of Affinity," have proven quite an attraction to the Spohs.

Prof. Anderson—A liquid has size, but no shape. Can any one give an example? Student—I am afraid to mention her name.
(Discovered later to be Ethyl Alcohol).

VICTORIA COLLEGE

The February issue of the Acta was distributed Friday morning. It is a very creditable production. "Some Aspects of Settlement Work in London" and "How Best Can Canada Promote International Peace?" by C. B. Sissons and John D. Robins respectively are very interesting articles. The Locals will also interest various people.

Friday afternoon saw the conclusion of a most interesting and exciting inter-year hockey series. The Sophs, having spanked the Freshmen and trounced the Theologues met the juniors who had dragged the seniors around the ice. Result an exciting game.

Very little combination was shown. The juniors having a little superiority in this line. The Sophs. were much better in rushing and shooting.

The Victoria College Glee Club will provide the musical part of the program which will be rendered in High Park Avenue Methodist Church on Tuesday evening, February 27. This will be the final concert in which the Glee Club will participate this year and the only one given by them in the city. From a musical standpoint the concerts furnished by the Clubs of 1911-12 have been of very high merit.

WATER POLO

The Varsity water-polo and swimming teams had a very successful trip to O.A.C. The former won out 6-5 and the latter 18-16.

Correspondence—Continued

To the Editor of The Varsity:

Sir,

Varsity students will wonder how it is that three Canadian champions are on the McGill swimming team. Some might be led to suspect that the swimming team went out and enticed these men into the University, but the truth is, that the city of Montreal is away ahead of Toronto from a swimming standpoint. This fact can be best understood when we look at the immense superiority of the M.A.A.A. as compared with the T.A.A.C. In Montreal the club has a swimming pool and the young men are trained in speed swimming, where as very few of the members of the T.A.A.C. can swim at all and the same is true of the T.C.C.; the Argonaut R.C.; the Parkdale C.C. While even the Toronto Swimming Club has no real swimmer and thus the high schools and other feeders of this university are absolutely without knowledge of scientific swimming. This is rather direct language, but does anyone know of a single swimmer who ever came to Toronto University? Very few of the boys that have played water polo ever saw a water polo ball before they entered the gym. swimming pool.

Then the Lawrentian Baths have been a great help to the youth of Montreal, whereas speed and scientific swimming is suppressed and not encouraged at the Harrison Baths. The four active swimming clubs at Montreal keep up a healthy interest in this branch of sport. But the future looks bright as three Y.M.C.A.'s, besides the University are building large and commodious pools where there will be plenty of room for spectators and then the art of swimming will no longer be smothered as in the past.

NATO.

To the Editor of The Varsity:

Sir,

What is taste? Surely it is the ability to select as objects of our admiration, the good and the beautiful in the works of nature and man from amongst that which is base or ugly.

The artist, whether of the brush or the pen, must first use his taste in choosing a subject worthy of his skill. Then he must develop his theme, infusing into it as it grows, his whole personality. Mere excellence of technique is not enough. He must make those who come after him see the subject through his eyes. If his eyes are clear and his ideals high; his work stirs a chord of sympathy and admiration in us—if we too have taste. Then and only then, is it a work of true art. Even though it be a very model of technical excellence, if it lacks these qualities it lacks taste, and can serve no other purpose than a text.

Taste in choosing what we will read and what we will use to adorn our walls with, calls for these same qualities. With most of us the time and space for this is very limited. Should we not then read those books and buy those pictures, that will afford us the greatest uplift?

Surely the student of Sociology is not to be called tasteless if he reads those graphic and inspiring stories of the everyday life of everyday people, at the expense of the old classics. Surely O'Henry's little stories will help him far more, to understand his poverty stricken and unlearned fellows, to comprehend intelligently their joys and sorrows and to see their nobility of character, so often concealed and even in danger of being crushed out by the load of privation and the darkness of ignorance.

Surely too, the Forester should not have to risk being called tasteless if he prefers to decorate his room with pictures, even if they are mere photographic enlargements, representing the beauties of nature as he knows her, instead of prints of the masters of a past age, with whose viewpoint he has not time to become properly acquainted. Is it not better for him to train his eye to appreciate the many beauties which he can see in his daily life, than to acquire a slight understanding of those which are beyond his reach a greater part of the time?

F. McV.

To the Editor of The Varsity:

Dear Sir,

While in conversation with, and listening to Dr. Frederick Cook recently, I was impressed with his modest simplicity of manner, and was fully convinced of his honesty, and genuineness. I believe his story implicitly.

F. M. BILL SMITH.

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An oversight on the part of the editor of The Varsity in Friday's issue may have caused some confusion in the minds of many undergraduates. A couple of pages of manuscript were omitted from the article on the history of the Parliament, causing it to appear that the representation of 3% of the undergraduate body gave the Parliament 21 members. Such is quite erroneous, of course. The article should have shown that since the representation of 3% gave rise to an unwieldy body the Parliament last fall, and again this winter made reductions in membership down to the present number of 21.

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