

# THE VARSITY

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## Editorial Comments.



THE appearance of the Residence Orchestra at the Literary Society last Friday, and the very enthusiastic reception their splendid playing received at the hands of those present, leads one to ask why there should not be a University College Orchestra as well as a University Glee Club. It is certainly not for lack of material; the very fact that Residence, with its thirty or forty students, can produce such a large number of good players is very good proof that there are many other such in college, and that if an attempt towards organization were made a much larger, and consequently a correspondingly much better, orchestra could be formed. Nor is such an organization without precedent in other colleges. Every exchange has some interesting note about the Orchestras and the Banjo, and Mandolin Clubs of Yale, Harvard, Cornell and U. of M. Why should the University of Toronto not have similar clubs? It might be well to make it a part of the Glee Club, so that when the latter appears in public both instrumental and vocal music could be given. Let some one interested make a move and there is no doubt but that an excellent orchestra could be formed next fall.

We cannot let this opportunity pass without noticing the fact that Residence, as it has done on many other occasions in other lines, has made the first step in this direction. We do this, first, in order to give honor to whom honor is due, and second, to use it as an argument for the extension of Residence. It is not because the men in Residence are different from those outside that they take the lead in athletics, and then they appear to be imbued with more of the University spirit; it is simply because they are in Residence. Any other company of students under the same circumstances would go and do likewise. It has often been said that the reputation of a college, as far as the great mass of the people is concerned, depends not so much on the scholarly attainments of the professors and graduates as on the romance that surrounds the student life. The victories of the athletic clubs in the great eastern American universities do more to familiarize the people with these institutions than all the lore within their walls. Now with a big Residence the interest surrounding our student life in the eyes of the people of Canada, which, unfortunately, is at present comparatively small, would be increased ten-fold, and at the same time the reputation of our College would increase at home and extend far beyond the borders of our own country. But it is needless to detail the many advantages that we fail to obtain through the lack of that which we have only in part. Every one recognizes the necessity but no one can suggest a means of supplying the lack. There doesn't seem much

probability of the Government spending any money in this line, and the University authorities probably have no funds at present. Our hopes must rest in the friends of the University. Would that another Edward Blake would arise to confer this boon on the University of Toronto!

Complaints have reached us of the scarcity of German dictionaries at the disposal of the students who study during the day in the Reading Room. On several occasions, it is said, men have applied for these dictionaries and have been informed that they were all out, and on further investigation have learned that all were being used by the lady undergraduates. Of course the ladies have a right to all the books they require; that they happen to need and more than that to obtain the five German dictionaries that are allowed out during the day is not their fault but rather the misfortune of the men. Be that as it may, it is hard on those who have to do without books indispensable to their study. It may not be a grievance at present, but it bids fair to become one; and then what an outcry there will be! In a moment of righteous indignation at what he considers an infringement of his rights, or perhaps some morning near the first of May when, after coming up early to get in a good day's reading with the aid of a dictionary, he finds them all monopolized, some student will write a letter to THE VARSITY and without thinking will put the lady undergraduates in an awkward position, one which they should not occupy but one which the aggrieved one imagines, perhaps not unnaturally, they do. To anticipate this we call the attention of the Library authorities to the matter; we understand the difficulty under which they are working this year and do not wish to appear peremptory. But we certainly think that something should be done to remedy the present state of affairs. More dictionaries, if possible, should be obtained, and a certain number should be placed at the disposal of the ladies and the rest retained for the men.

The new directorate of THE VARSITY, whose names are published in another column, is a good one. With the exception of the fourth-year men most of the old members were re-elected for next year; the experience of the past year will enable them to do their work even more efficiently next year. The new men appointed are the right men in the right place; they are all enthusiastic for the success of THE VARSITY, and are live, energetic men. Upon the directorate rests the very important task of electing the Editor-in-Chief. It will be in the interests of all concerned if they will appoint him before the last issue of the paper, the date of which will be March 24th. The directorate can be of great service to the Business Manager in the solicitation and collection of subscriptions, and on his behalf and also on our own behalf we have to thank the individual members for the very excellent service they have rendered THE VARSITY during the past year.