

## LETTER FROM MR. RUSSELL.

Editor of THE VARSITY:

Dear Sir,—Much discussion has appeared in your magazine of late respecting the Athletic Association and its failure to attain to that position of pre-eminence among the other Athletic Clubs which it was once hoped that it would. Criticism along this line was especially marked in a letter which appeared over the signature of James G. Merrick, who refers to the present work of the Association as of a routine character, compared with its activity at the time of its formation.

Consequently it is necessary for me, on behalf of the Athletic Association to make some statement respecting the position of the Directorate and its relation to the reforms suggested. In the first place the feeling that there was lacking in our Athletic organization at the University, some central body of control, able to speak finally on questions of Athletic policy, was felt last spring by the new Directorate, as soon as it assumed office, and an attempt was made to remedy the defect. But the conclusion seemed inevitable to the new Executive that the Athletic Association, as originally constituted, was unfit to assume the duties of a central authoritative Board of Control. Constituted of representatives from the different years and Colleges, it is admirably adapted for the management of such functions as the Annual Games, the Annual "At Home," Assault-at-Arms, etc., where it is to the interests of all the Years and Colleges to have an effective representation. But this very comprehensiveness of representation makes it too unwieldy a body to summon for the consideration of the policy of some particular club. Again, if it is still to carry out the functions mentioned above, and in addition to assume the responsibility of an effective control of other Clubs, too much work is thrown on its shoulders, and the probability is that much of it would be slighted. And finally, the Athletic Association, without a representation from the Faculty, has not the authority to settle finally on all questions of Athletics which may seriously affect the credit and honor of the University.

Without entering into detail, then, as a result of conference between President Loudon, on behalf of the Councils, and the Executive of the Athletic Directorate, the Athletic Board was formed, and received the approval at once of the University Council and of the Athletic Association.

The Board is composed of the President of the University, two other members of the Faculty, and three representatives from the Directorate of the Athletic Association, thus securing an effective means for students and Faculty to work together on the broader questions of policy in Athletic matters.

Its duties were to be two-fold, first the management of the University Athletic grounds, and their allocation for purposes of sports and the supervision of the financial arrangements of all public Athletic events on the University grounds, and second, the exercise of an effective supervisory control over all Athletic Clubs using the University's name.

The first division of the duties of the Board was fairly well developed during the fall term, and the arrangement was found to work most satisfactorily. But certain circumstances have as yet prevented the development of the relations of the Board to the other

Clubs, and this is the reason why a full explanation of the position of the Athletic Directorate has not appeared sooner. Thanking you very sincerely for the space which you have devoted to the discussion of Athletic topics, and for the valuable suggestions offered through the columns of your paper, I hope within a few weeks to be able to give you a full account of what the Athletic Directorate of 1898-99 has been able to achieve in the way of centralizing the control of our Athletic Clubs.

Yours sincerely,

T. A. RUSSELL,

Sec.-Treas., U. of T. A. A., and Sec.-Treas. U. of T. Athletic Board.

February 28th, 1899.

## ASSAULT-AT-ARMS.

Wednesday, March 8th.

This year the Assault-at-Arms promises to eclipse any past attempt of the Athletic Association in this line. The date has been fixed for Wednesday, March 8th, and preparations are nearly completed for the evening's entertainment. The events comprise the best features of the programme of the past few years, and some entirely new exercises have been added as well. There will be the Inter-Year and Inter-College tug-of-war and pick-a-back wrestling, as of old; the preliminary rounds in these events will take place in the Gymnasium, Saturday at 3.30 p.m. sharp. The Class, which is this year unusually large, and comprises Varsity's best Athletes, will give several exhibitions of Gymnasium work, including exercise on vaulting buck, parallel bars, horizontal bars and ground work.

The following contests will also take place, finals in Senior foils, bayonet vs. bayonet, sabre vs. sabre, sword vs. bayonet, and quarter staff. But the features of the evening will probably be the Musical Ride of the Scotch Greys, given by Bugle-Major Woods and the Buglers of the 48th Highlanders, and the Mounted Cockade Melee. These two events will be exceedingly interesting and exciting. Between the numbers on the programme the clever and popular clowns of the Class will give some amusing burlesques of gymnasium work.

In order to meet the expenses connected with the event, the Association has decided to charge an admission fee of twenty-five cents. Any further information will cheerfully be given on application to the Secretary, T. A. Russell, or to Instructor Williams.

## SCHOOL OF SCIENCE NOTES.

One day last week it was discovered by a few of the students that a member of the First Year used paints in order to improve his complexion; we would advise him to put the color on more evenly, and not touch up the end of his nose; but if he does not take the hint we will have to publish his name.

A regular meeting of the Engineering Society was held on Wednesday, February 22nd, at 4 p.m. Dr. Ellis gave a very practical lecture on "Junker's Gas Calorimeter," and Mr. W. Hemphill read a paper on the "Power-House at Decew Falls." After a vote of thanks had been given to Dr. Ellis and Mr. Hemphill, the meeting adjourned.