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THE Experimental Union of 1896 is a thing of the past and already arrangements are commencing for a big meeting next year. The ex-students returned to their Alma Mater in goodly numbers, but there is yet plenty of room for increase in the membership of the Union. Why should we not have together at this occasion four or five hundred of the old boys? Surely of the thousand or more who have attended this institution within the last ten years, enough of the loyal ones are within reach of the College to meet together once a year, see the improvements made in the buildings, etc., and talk over the grand times spent here during their own course. Then it is desirable that the present students should become acquainted with those who have "gone before" them, and thus keep up the union which should exist between those of the past and those of the present. This year was noted for the warm feeling of fellowship which was shown everywhere among the large number present. Though the rooms and beds were all occupied by the students themselves, yet in plenty of cases was there a "doubling-up" process undertaken to make room for the visitors.

It was proposed at the meetings that the fee for the Union be reduced and probably an increase in the membership would result. This suggestion would hold good for the students at least. After paying up the subscription to the numerous societies already in existence here, many of us feel that our purses have become light enough, and therefore when the Union Secretary calls for his fee of one dollar he may meet in many cases with a decided refusal. Then those who come here from a considerable distance feel the expense of travelling and are not altogether willing to part with another hard-earned dollar. Probably something will be done before the next meeting, as a committee was appointed to see the Government, chiefly concerning this matter.

Under the present arrangements those who attend the annual meeting are about the only ones who pay the membership fee. The farmers who receive the material for the experiments bear none of the expense, while they are in many cases able to turn to profit the product of the new varieties of grain or seeds sent to them. Why not charge a nominal fee of twenty-five cents, the payment of which would be necessary in order to share in the distribution. This would check, perhaps, for a year, the rapid increase in the number of experimenters, but such a result might not be altogether an evil. There is

a danger of being led away by the desire to make a good showing of the number engaged in the work. Accuracy, however, is essential to render the results valuable, and with new and unknown experimenters this cannot always be obtained.

The need of more accommodation consequent upon the increased attendance at the College was touched upon at the meetings. On this point there may be difference of opinion. The erection of a new building for the library and museum, and the refitting of their present quarters into dormitories would mean the extension of the residence system which is now subject to so much criticism. If something were done to establish suitable boarding houses near the College a choice would be given of remaining in residence or outside. At present there is practically no choice, for a student boarding outside does so at an increased expense, and with considerable inconvenience in the way of attending roll call, lectures, and work.

This month much of our space is allotted to the report of the Experimental Union meeting. The supper of Wednesday evening, the 9th, also demanded a page or two, but so many good things coming together could not all receive attention, so it was decided to leave a report of the latter over until next month, when we may expect to give some of the speeches delivered on that occasion. In the short synopsis of the papers read at the different sessions of the Union we have attempted to give the gist of any good points brought out either by the reader or by those who took part in the discussion. The value of these addresses does not always lie in the facts that are presented, but rather in the spirit of inquiry which they arouse and which prompts the members to think for themselves. Some of the ideas advanced might very properly be discussed in these columns, and we should be much pleased to hear from any of our readers who have any comments to make on the subjects which were under consideration.

The December number of Farming has several articles on the Agricultural College and its work. Many illustrations of buildings, class rooms and laboratories, showing the professors and students at work are interspersed through the pages. An article written by Mr. Bryant contains many comments concerning the system of instruction followed here, and offers a few suggestions for the improvement of the course. He evidently has a thorough knowledge of the workings of the institution and of educational principles generally.