

THE VARSITY.

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The Office of THE VARSITY is at No. 4, King Street East, Room 10 (up-stairs).

ATTENDANCE AT LECTURES.

The letter of our correspondent, "Sophomore," calls attention to an annoyance to which the Senate's recent decree has subjected the undergraduates. No statement of the reasons for the step taken has yet been advocated; no information has been given as to the number of lectures necessarily to be attended, nor as to the consequences should the student fall short of the requisite number. Whether he who has failed to attend 50, or 60, or 75 per cent., as the case may be, will be debarred or not from taking the examinations in May is as yet a dark secret, on which the official announcement throws no light.

Such uncertainty is most unpleasant. The case of our correspondent shows how necessary is some immediate explanation of the Senate's position in this matter. The doubt as to its intentions may itself prevent some from taking up certain subjects which they would otherwise add to their regular course of study. It is certainly no encouragement to our correspondent to take up second year English, that he is left in uncertainty as to whether or not the work he may do will be recognized by the Senate at the end of the year.

THE UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM.

A very encouraging statement of affairs is reported by the committee who have in charge the collection of funds for the proposed University Gymnasium and Students' Club. A glance at our college news column will show, that by the report printed there, the sum of \$3,000 has already been secured with very little trouble by the Committee. Such being the case, it is reasonable to expect that when an active and thorough canvass of graduates and undergraduates has been completed, the Committee will have every reason for congratulation. The scheme is worthy of the enthusiastic and loyal support of every member of the University—past and present. No more worthy enterprise has engaged the University public for a long time than the building of a suitable headquarters for the literary, scientific and athletic associations which are connected with our University. Since these societies are among the chief factors of undergraduate development, and being controlled by them, it is only fair to expect that they will do their share towards realizing the hopes which the projectors of this University Students' Club have formed, and which should be, and are, we doubt not, shared by all students alike. The graduates will do their part, we are all well assured, and there is also every reason to believe that the University authorities, as well as private friends, will supplement the efforts of graduates and undergraduates in a manner worthy of the importance of the scheme. THE VARSITY bespeaks for the Committee the cordial and hearty co-operation of all, and will do its best to assist in a work which promises such genuinely good results for future generations of University students.

CHEAPER TEXT-BOOKS.

Professor Baker deserves the hearty thanks of all students of the university for his recent action in introducing into the Senate a resolution respecting the purchase by students of

text-books and books of reference at cheaper rates than are in vogue at present. The resolution in question proposes that for the furtherance of this most excellent scheme, the instrumentality of the Library be invoked and utilized. This has been secured and further reinforced by the hearty support and co-operation of Mr. Vandersmissen, the Librarian, who has thus been empowered by the Senate to use the credit and reputation of the University to secure for students those special and important privileges and facilities which the Library authorities possess in the European book markets.

There is no doubt that books form an important item of expenditure to students, and the mediation of a local *entrepreneur* naturally raises the prices. Co-operative ventures among students in Toronto have usually gone to pieces, from want of having competent officers and a permanent organization. Under the new proposal, the University Librarian will be enabled to make purchases of books for students on the same terms as he does for the Library, and at the published prices, instead of at any fancy price which circumstances might permit to be demanded here in town.

The Librarian will send his orders to Europe at the end of Michaelmas term, and at the beginning and end of Easter term. He will give two weeks' notice of the time for closing receipt of orders, and will thus enable students to order their books at the end of each year for the following year. Upon ordering books, 25 per cent of their value must be deposited with the Librarian, and the balance is payable upon the delivery of the books. Forms for the purpose have been approved by the Senate and are now being got ready for distribution. Professor Baker and Mr. Vandersmission are to be warmly congratulated upon the inauguration of a wise and generous policy, by which students will reap very considerable advantages, which we are sure they will not be slow to acknowledge and avail themselves of. We wish the new scheme every success.

"MANY HAPPY RETURNS."

On Wednesday last, the 28th of November, the Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy reached the venerable age of three score and ten. The event was made the occasion of a presentation by the students to Dr. Young, who for the last eighteen years has filled the Philosophical Chair in the University of Toronto. Of his distinguished service to the University and Province as an educationist, of his brilliant attainments as a scholar, and of his great abilities as a teacher, it is not necessary for us to speak. They are as well known as they are conspicuously great. It is allowed to very few public men to win and retain the respect and affection of others. But Professor Young has succeeded in doing so in a manner almost without precedent. THE VARSITY desires, therefore, on behalf especially of his former pupils, to wish him very many happy returns of his birthday. Long may he be spared to occupy his present position! Of him it truly may be said:

"He wears the marks of many years well spent,
Of virtue, truth well-tried, and wise experience."

CLASS ORGANIZATION.

We beg respectfully to call the attention of our exchanges to the following circular letter which has been issued by the Senior Class Society Committee. We shall esteem it as a special favour if those of our contemporaries who can, will send to the editors of THE VARSITY replies to the questions asked in the circular, together with any other information regarding Class Societies, which might be of interest and service to the committees of those Societies which are just now being formed in the University of Toronto. The following is the circular; it speaks for itself:—

The Secretary of the Graduating Class:

DEAR SIR,—Up to the present time no regular system of class organization has existed in the University of Toronto. During the past year, the matter has been much discussed and a strong feeling has been manifested in favour of such organi-