The Varsity

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TORONTO, DECEMBER 8, 1911

NUMBER THIRTY

With this issue The Varsity passes the half-way mark in its yearly course. This announcement may come as a surprise to many whose Christmas term has sped with such rapidity that the writing of term examinations seems wholly unreasonable. To one man in this University, however, "No. 30," appearing on the top of this issue will be a great relief. He has worked hard and unceasingly in the interests of The Varsity and his Alma Mater, bringing all the benefit of his four years' experience in newspaper work to bear on this undergraduate publication. We refer, of course, to Mr. LeRoy Johnson, the Managing Editor, who retires from his office at this

It is no easy task to manage the news end of The Varsity. The worries and disappointments, to say nothing of the ordinary details and the nervous strain connected with the supervision of news "write-up," call for unusual abilities and unusual perseverance; and that The Varsity is generally accepted as a matter of fact in our college life is a great tribute to the work of the outgoing Managing Editor. To his successor Mr. J. G. Bole (ex "Onlooker") will fall a difficult task yet one which he, more than any other undergraduate is fitted to perform. He will have a well organized and enthusiastic staff to support him in the production of his thirty issues, and the paper should proceed without the slightest break. To Mr. H. R. Alley, Associate Editor, and Mr. Alex. Marshall, who has so capably handled the Sporting Column, and to each and every one of the ardent workers on the reportorial end we wish to extend our deep gratitude. Rome was not built in a day, nor the Varsity in a year. It is only because active, unselfish men have been willing to give their time and energy in the past that the paper has developed and its future will depend on exactly the same conditions.

R.L.C.

SLANG

It has been growing increasingly noticeable, that the average undergraduate at Toronto is unable to express himself satisfactorily in the King's English. Slang is becoming more and more prevalent, and those addicted to it find themselves unable to make their meaning clear without it.. There is little doubt that to this carelessness of language in common speech is due the inability of the average man to speak fluently in public, where correctness is necessary, and also the paucity of language and lack of vigour of expression apparent in most of the writing done about the University. It seems to be generally considered pedantic to be correct in common speech. The use of good English, when there is a slang equivalent, is rather laughed at; and a new and catchy slang phrase is hailed with delight. As a general rule, these phrases are far from being any improvement upon those they supersede. Their greatest recommendation is that they are new. It is a great pity that such should be the case, but there is no doubt about it. The result, as we said, is only too apparent in our public speaking. Have we not all heard the undergraduate orator check suddenly, with a slang phrase at

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the tip of his tongue, cast about a moment for the correct English, and finally resort to lame and altogether inadequate Ianguage, correct enough, but absolutely lacking the vigour of spontaneity? Would not the common use of English, instead of a poor substitute for it, go far to eradicate this? Who has not often been asked by a budding essayist, the proper words to express an idea which he can only convey by means of slang? And have we not often been at a loss ourselves, and in the same predicament?

We pass over mere colloquial inaccuracies, such as split infinitives-though they are bad enough, and only too common. It is the actual misuse of words, to which we refer; the twisting of their meanings so that their mother-the language—fails to recognize them. The habit is far too common in the 'Varsity. We do not mean to imply that it is not common elsewhere; it undoubtedly is. But it is most to be deplored here, where we have advantages not possessed by the majority, and where purity and correctness of diction are naturally to be expected.

The worst of the habit—as with most bad habits-is its effect. Lack of fluency and vigour in speaking, lack of precision and force in writing, are its natural consequences. We lose by the use of slang the very benefits which a University course is most calculated to give us. To be able to get facility in writing and speaking, the undergraduate will have to be very much more careful in his ordinary conversation.

CORRESPONDENCE

CONCERNING FLAGS

To the Editor of The Varsity: Dear Sir,

May I supplement Dr. Rudolf's complaint in respect to the use of flags. It is, I believe, a rule that flags should be brought down at sunset. While the Duke of Connaught was here I passed our flag staff about 11 in the evening and the flag was flapping in the darkness.

GEORGE M. WRONG.

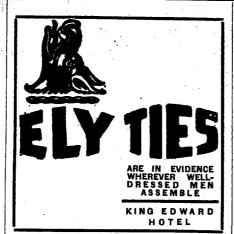
A CAD IN OUR MIDST

A letter was sent to the editor of Varsity on Wednesday last that was signed with the name of a prominent Victoria man. The letter was calculated to raise a certain amount of doubt as to the sanity of the writer and would certainly injure him among his fellow students. It would have filled this space if it had not been fortunately discovered that the whole letter was a mis-conceived practical joke and the signature was a forgery. It is possible to imagine a more contemptible, cowardly trick than this. We have a very good idea of the identity of the cad and there is trouble in store for him.

THE UNSIGNED LETTER

Will H. W. who wrote to the Editor of Varsity concerning organized rooting kindly come to the Varsity office and make himself known. It is absolutely impossible for us to print letters that are not accompanied by the name of the writer.

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ONLOOKER'S CORNER

ON LOQUACITY

Who will say a word in praise of the loquacious man? We have had enough of the silent man. Novelists portray their heroes nowadays as 'dark, silent men, and thrills of admiration are anticipated in the author's description. Poems are written about the brave hero who is chary of words. Dramas are played in which the hero says little. Silence to-day seems to be synonymous with great virtue, courage, and wisdom.

But I doubt if this be so. As to virtue, the silent man is usually plotting a murder. At least, he is sizing some one up in cynical uncharitableness. As to courage, my dear old Uncle Toby's last words to me as I set off for.College were: 'Me boy, look out for the talky, boastful man. Don't imagine for a minute that because a man talks big, he can't act big. Ten to one, me boy, he has the Irish temperament, and will bash your head as willingly as he tells a yarn,' And I think my Uncle Toby is right. As to wisdom and silence, Shakespeare has his word:

'O my Antonio, I do know of these That therefore only are reputed wise For saying nothing.

The loquacious man is always enthusiastic, the silent man seldom, because enthusiasm must be volubly expressed. You will find, too, that the talkative person is usually the more genuine of the two. Many a glum man is acting on some affected pose, or hairy maxim. In fine, put your trust in the loquacious man.

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The Yale Dramatic Club has announced the names of 240 patronesses for the production of "The Romancers" by the club.

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general public.

The College is a Government institution, designed primarily for the purpose of giving instruction in all branches of military science to cadets and officers of the Canadian Militia. In fact it corresponds to Woolwich and Sandhurst.

The Commandant and military instructors are all officers on the active list of the Imperial army, lent for the purpose, and there is in addition a complete staff of professors for the civil subjects which form such an important part of the College course. Medical attendance is also provided.

Whilst the College is completed one article Whilst the College is organized on a strictly military basis the cadets receive a practical and scientific training in subjects essential to a sound modern education.

The course includes a thorough grounding in Mathematics, Civil Engineering, Surveying, Physics, Chemistry, French and English.

The strict discipline maintained at the College is one of the most valuable features of the course, and, in addition, the constant practice of gymnastics, drills, and outdoor exercises of all kinds, ensures health and excellent physical condition.

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annually.

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The total cost of the course, including board, uniform, instructional material, and all extras, is about \$800.

The annual competitive examination for admission to the College, takes place in May of each year, at the headquarters of the several military districts.

For full particulars regarding this examination and for any other information, application should be made to the Secretary of the Militia Council, Ottawa, Ont.; or to the Commandant, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ont.

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