

The Varsity

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TORONTO, MARCH 13, 1912

THE YEAR

It can hardly be expected that in looking back over a single year, we should notice any great progress—or retrogression—in the more important and less noticeable features of academic life. Most of us have attended a certain number of lectures, read a certain number of books, and written a certain number of essays; and it is difficult to see just how we have benefited thereby. A few more facts accumulated, and a few more forgotten; we are practically where we began. But are we, really? On second thought, is not our outlook broadened, our grasp of things increased and strengthened? Has not the freshman learned that there really is something left to learn, after all? The second-year man realized that there is some hope of his getting hold of the large ideas? the third year man that a certain amount of attention to detail would be at least an advantage? and the fourth-year man—what has he not learned? His head is fairly swimming in a chase of new ideas, which he is striving to get into some kind of order before May.

But the University—has it gone ahead in this way during the year? It is almost impossible to say, looking at the matter, as we must, from the inside and from below. But there seems to be a growing number of men who realize, as some have done for some time, that too much work is attempted, if a man is intended to do any of it well. We attempt to be encyclopaedic, and succeed only in being slipshod. The realization of this defect is a great step towards its correction, and in this last year, we think that it has been more generally realized than ever before. It may be that in the near future the undergraduate will get a little time to think, between the hours he spends in collecting other people's opinions ready-made, whether in books or at lectures.

But in spite of the crowding of timetables, there is a marked increase in the interest taken in national questions. There are more discussion clubs than have been in existence for some time; and particular attention has been drawn to the interest taken in current issues by the women undergraduates. With a further reduction of lectures, we may look for a great increase in discussion and debate on these large questions. There is really some thinking being done, in spite of the fact that there is not a great deal of encouragement given; if the men were, if not encouraged, at least not hindered by a quantity of academic work so great that it, by itself, cannot be done thoroughly—then, we are sure, not only would there be more thinking done, but the academic work would be done better.

If the record of the University's undergraduate publications be at all indicative of intellectual advance, we may congratulate ourselves upon a much greater degree of breadth than ever before. "Arbor" has served its purpose with unusual success. The high standard of that periodical is a constant source of delight to the friends of the University. The Varsity has extended its influence numerically by over one-half, and has proven conclusively its usefulness in undergraduate life. Through both these mediums a wealth of literary talent has been exposed, and the coming year should see still further developments of skill.

In athletics this year's record has been such as to occasion profound satisfaction.

In the intercollegiate struggles we were, on the whole, beaten by better teams from the other universities. To our friends of McGill and Queen's we extend our hearty congratulations on their victories over us in most of the intercollegiate sports. Old McGill especially has performed marvels. This year's record will be long one of the brightest spots in her athletic history.

And while on the subject of the successes of other colleges we should certainly pay tribute to the wonderful growth of McGill, with her Daily, her campaign which netted moneys whose amount runs into seven columns, and her "Greater McGill" spirit.

Queen's has been well to the fore in all affairs of intercollegiate interest, and shares with McGill the reputation of good sportsmanship.

To ourselves the fact that only two senior Championship cups (rugby and soccer) will grace the Student's Union next year is of little moment compared to the fact that 900 men took active part in organized outdoor sport and some 325 men in such indoor competitions as swimming, basket-ball, boxing, wrestling, fencing, and curling. In one year we have had an increase of nearly 50% in the numbers of those who are deriving health, strength and decision of character from participation in physical contests.

However, the most notable and satisfactory feature has been the almost complete disappearance of the "win-at-any-cost" spirit that is so characteristic of the "rooters' stand" of to-day. Well-known officials have repeatedly expressed themselves to the effect that college games are the least troublesome to handle. Rugby indeed does a player presume to question a decision; and there is a complete absence of any tendency to what is known in football circles as "dirty work in the scrim." This of course, is no recent development, but a similar attitude on the part of the onlookers, most certainly is. Never before has the sense of courtesy due a visiting team been so well-defined or the spirit of "may-the-better-team win" so prevalent.

In the largest sense, the athletic year has been one of unparalleled progress.

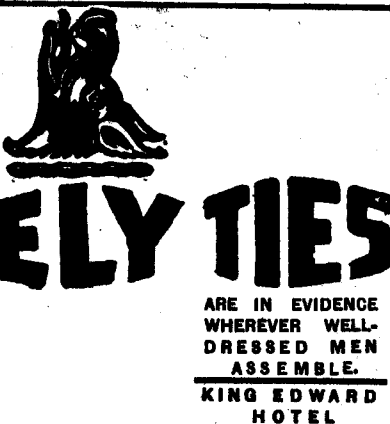
All the various societies around the University report successful years, and the musical and women's dramatic clubs have done remarkably well.

The control of feelings in times of jubilation the past year has been at least fairly successful. Parades after the football games were conducted with an order which elicited the unstinted praise of the city officials.

In the affairs of government we can boast unprecedented success. The Parliament of the Undergraduates, long a body unknown; because of its unwieldy nature very unpopular, and by reason of its financial failures and powerlessness to command money very little respected, has, through the efforts of its vigorous Executive, placed itself in a position of authority in University life. Only gross blunders on the part of the men elected for the coming year can weaken this central body. The Referendum on Student Control of discipline which brought out a vote of 54% of the enrollment, a remarkable showing as compared with municipal or provincial records, has not only given the Parliament an indication of the sentiment for and against the vesting of authority in the student organization, but has quickened the sense of responsibility in every man. The spirit of true greatness in the individual and in the mass is rapidly developing and we are seeing ourselves more clearly in relation to the main tendencies of Young Canada. We are realizing more fully the place of plan and government in our lives, and are not unduly influenced by the bustle and scramble of a commercialistic environment.

But there is room for great improvement. What undue bustle there is in our University can be eliminated by the introduction of proper machinery. Activities which at present take an enormous amount of time from the purely academic life can be handled by specialists in the various lines. Organization is badly needed. The proposal of the Parliament to secure a Secretary who would devote himself exclusively to the business details of the majority of our enterprises is excellent.

We are in a period of transition. We have not reached full development in any one line, but are laying foundations for a superstructure whose nature we know not. Is our University to become more strictly academic, or will it be a working part in all the activities of political life? Will our organization be used as an indirect, or a direct energizer of the nation?



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Time will tell, meanwhile we have the satisfaction of feeling that in the past year we have broadened and strengthened the basis on which the greater University will rise.

CORRESPONDENCE

"F. M." UNBURDENS HIMSELF.

To the Editor of The Varsity:
Dear Sir:
The last few days have been red letter days here at the University. Among the many good things said and done, two impressed me most.

One was a lecture on a vital and interesting subject, delivered by a "live" man, a man with open eyes, and a man with a wonderfully clear and broad insight into the mind and feelings of everyday man.

The other was the last piece by High-Brow. Like Mr. Gilbreth, he realizes that it is a very important thing, that we who will one day be dealing with, and employing men who have not had our opportunities to acquire education, should be able to understand the feelings and mentality of these people and be able to gain their co-operation and goodwill.

Although much to be regretted, it is a fact that many, if not most of us are inclined to regard those who perform the mechanical details of our work as a peculiar species, which we can't understand and therefore lump under the rather vague term "working class." We don't seem to realize that they are individuals, with different thoughts and tastes, and as Kipling says of the soldier, "most remarkable like you."

So like High-Brow, I say get out and sweat this summer, chum up with the section men on the railroad and the log-

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gers in the bush, and you will learn things you can't learn at college. Break down that feeling of distrust and suspicion that the worker has for the man of means or education, and you will discover intelligence that will surprise you, and a rough kindness and generosity to a fellow in trouble, whether accidentally or through his own fault, that will make you ashamed of yourself.

F. M.

A DUBLIN GRAD.'S VIEWS

To the Editor of The Varsity:
Dear Sir:
The article entitled "The College Journal" in the last edition of "The Varsity" has prompted me to write a few lines.

T.C.D. (Trinity College, Dublin) runs a weekly magazine called "The T.C.D. Miscellany." I have read the Varsity with intense interest throughout the College year, and I feel that the members of the Staff who run Trinity's magazine could take many a hint from the University of Toronto Tri-weekly.

Every man who has any love for his Alma Mater should feel it his bounden duty to support the Varsity by subscribing his dollar in the fall.

Yours etc.,
Ex.T. C. D.

If you have not paid that one dollar to The Varsity for your subscription don't put off sending it in to the Business Manager while it is in your mind.

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