

The O. A. C. Review.


The Dignity of a Calling is Its Utility.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

HE letter in last month's issue on the Experimental Union has called forth a terse suggestive letter from J. G. Ross, '81. For ex-students to discuss this subject in short crisp letters is just what we desire. Let them tell us what will induce them to attend the Union. Mr. Ross asks a suggestive question, "What College with the influence and prominence of the O. A. C. has not an annual meeting and banquet," etc.? It is claimed that we lack College spirit, due to several causes, among these is the shortness of the course, which cannot be lengthened until the attendance is much increased; so we must try and arouse it in other ways. Would not a social rally once a year of ex-students greatly tend to arouse this spirit, and in this way alone repay the trouble which might be necessary to make it a success? Most of the present students are here through the influence of those of the past. Keep warm the feeling of ex-students for the institution, keep them fully in touch with it, and this influence will be much increased. How to do this is what we want to find out. Ex-students write and let us know your thoughts on the question.

Now that the Dairy School Examinations are over the regular students have entered upon the special two weeks of practical Dairy work. Three years ago when this plan was adopted it was supposed that the arrangement was but temporary. Such does not seem to be the case. Coming as it does immediately before the Easter Examinations, which are the heaviest in the whole course, this little scheme of being called to lectures at 6.30 a. m. in order to reach the Dairy in time for a day's work seriously disturbs the regular work of the College. Just at this season of the year too, when the Farm Superintendent is getting things in shape for the spring work, he can ill afford to lose the labor which earlier in the year he is at a loss to expend to advantage. The Christmas vacation has been felt by the majority of us to be too long. Four weeks with very little to do at home soon grows wearisome to the most ardent lover of vacations. Now, why not lengthen the term and shorten the vacation by having the two weeks' dairy work begin soon after the first of January, and close the school immediately their examinations are over, instead of dragging on for fourteen days, endeavoring in that time to do four weeks' work? We can see no reason why this plan could not be made to work, and we are sure that it would be more satisfactory to all concerned.

AGRICULTURAL.

Some Hints on Fattening Cattle.

our farm animals are kept with a view to profit, it is of the highest importance that the conditions and food shall be such as to produce the best results. Not only is this of the highest importance, but it is important that the feeder of that stock should understand the nature of the animal, and food he feeds, so as to adapt the one to the other, and so combine the different foods that the best results will be attained.

I do not say that in order to feed to a profit the farmer must understand the composition of the animal he handles, or the exact composition of the ration fed; because we know that there are hundreds of successful feeders throughout our Province who do not know the difference between albuminoids and carbohydrates, and who would sneer at the suggestion; yet at the same time these very men are putting scientific facts into practice every day. They pursue a certain course and feed a certain ration because they have found by actual practice and observation that these produce the best results.

The composition of the animal is very similar qualitatively to that of the plant. It was once supposed that animals had the power of changing and combining the elements of their food into such forms as their necessity required; but it is now known that they do not possess the power of even compounding the substance of the muscles from its elements, and can only appropriate from the vegetable what they find, ready formed, for their use—that the vegetable must elaborate, and the animal can merely appropriate. Food then must contain all the elements of the animal body.

The animal body is constantly undergoing changes, the substances of which they are composed are broken down or destroyed, and substances identical in composition in the vegetable foods are replacing them in the animal. These substances because of their nourishing properties are called nutrients. No two foods contain the nutrients just in the same proportions; but by intelligently combining them a ration may be obtained with these nutrients in such a proportion as not only to repair the waste but supply material for the laying on of flesh. It is in thus properly combining the foods, that the skill of the feeder is shown.

Pope says: "First follow nature and your judgment frame." This advice is just as applicable to cattle feeding as to poetry. Stock feeders often forget the natural habits of the animal, in their anxiety to make the most rapid progress, and