

## Exchanges.

THAT newspaper work is more and more attracting the attention of college men as offering great opportunities for making their influence felt, is shown by the increasing frequency with which it is discussed in the college journals. In the *Varsity* we find a practical article on "Newspaper Work for University Men." The writer has evidently had much experience in the work and sees both the danger there is in a press controlled by narrow, uneducated men and the great opportunity there is for the well-informed and broad-minded. The average newspaper man of to-day is not a well educated man, but has risen from the position of printer's devil by dint of his own exertions. To this fact must be attributed many of the evils for which the modern newspaper is notorious. "Reared from childhood in such an atmosphere, and educated in this narrow sphere, these men in turn promote the same narrowness, and neglect or are ignorant of the broader aims and higher ideals." Here is the opportunity for college men. "Let the university men of this continent take hold of its great newspapers: let them bring the press to its own, a mightier ally of state, of church and of school."

A novice is usually taken on as a reporter. To be successful he must possess at least industry and a "news nose." His salary is usually from six to ten dollars a week at first, with rapid increase if he "makes good."

Reporting has a great advantage over agency work in that the reporter has behind him always the weight and prestige of his paper. "Be he a veritable pigmy, he may 'quiz' the grandest minion of the law (I mean a cop) with impunity." For a student of human nature the work is most fascinating. The reporter comes into contact with persons of every sort and every condition. However, the work is quite laborious, as much of the writing must be done at night.

The larger part of the newspaper staff are desk men, or inside men, who supply news other than local and put it into final form for the press. The best illustration of inside work is found in the exchange department, which is bound up with the other departments and quite essential to their existence. The large newspaper receives exchanges from all the leading newspapers, as well as magazines, periodicals and the latest books. The chief duty of the exchange desk is to supply "padding" for the paper. "The fund of news is not constant, but varies directly as his Satanic majesty is busy among men." The exchange department must provide all deficiencies. All the exchange must be read and the informative stuff and the best stories and jokes clipped out and stored away for future use. The exchange editor must also supplement the telegraph service, supplying the details of an occurrence of which merely the bald statement is given by wire. So widely is he forced to read that his daily occupation is one ceaseless education.

"It is this last aspect of newspaper work which appeals to me most. So many of the callings tend to narrow and warp the intellect; to make men un-