

THE VARSITY

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Editorial Comments.



SOME time ago a motion was brought before the University Senate to substitute for the terms Pass and Honor, as applied to the two courses open to undergraduates, those of General and Special. This resolution never passed the preliminary stages, and in the curriculum of 1890-95, the customary terms are retained.

Under the odium arising from a misleading title, the pass course has fallen into undeserved disrepute. It has become the fashion to sneer at pass men, and it is not unfrequently insinuated that a conscious lack of ability is the potent determining factor in the choice of such course of study.

This is not necessarily the case. Leaving out of consideration those men who with ability yet choose the easier course, that they may devote their time and talents to the attainment of less worthy objects, there is, we think, a fair number of able, persevering and ambitious men who find the pass course affording them the best opportunities of attaining that knowledge which they deem most essential to success in their future calling.

Let a man enter the mathematical course, and he finds himself precluded from giving any due measure of attention to language or literature. The same is true in a more marked degree of Natural Sciences. There are many who maintain that such special and narrow training is not the acknowledged ideal of University education. These men believe that there are positions in life which may be best filled by those who in their university days did not attempt to fathom the height and breadth and depth of one little inlet in the ocean of knowledge, but rather explored it in all its parts, even if more superficially, who, if they have not themselves drunk most deeply of its waters, know where the refreshing springs abound, where the waters are pure and wholesome, where they can with assurance of right say to the thirsty seeker after wisdom: "Here let down your bucket, drink and be glad; these waters are truly the waters of intellectual life."

And so we have men taking the pass course, because they believe in it, because they think it better to leave the university equipped to pursue any branch of knowledge successfully rather than to have made considerable progress in one while practically ignorant of all others.

We think that the university owes it to such men to relieve them from the annoyances which these misleading terms entail by substituting therefor those which will express the distinction involved with exactness. One is a general course and the others are special courses; this is the real distinction which the names chosen should express.

There is besides, as far as the class lists go, no inducement to a pass man to do his work thoroughly; should he receive ninety per cent. he is classed on a level with those

who have obtained the minimum twenty-five. He may be industrious, may have studied diligently from October to May, there is nothing in the class list to show that he has worked better than the veriest idler who loafing and drinking for six months yet manages to eke out a miserable twenty or twenty-five per cent. by a few weeks' "cram" in the spring. With a suitable designation, with honors granted to those who obtain a good percentage, we might expect to find the present pass course, without detriment to the special courses, rise rapidly to that position of respect to which it is entitled.

We think this matter important and deserving of immediate attention from those who have the welfare of the university at heart. We should like to have some expression of opinion from the students in the matter.

We have selected from *The Varsity Annals* a few of the most noteworthy dates of the last few years:—

1888.

Moss Hall pulled down, to make way for the Biological Building.

October.—J. S. Gale, B.A., '88, sent out as a missionary to Korea, to represent the University Y.M.C.A.

November.—Agitation in favor of class organization.

December.—Hazing forbidden by resolution of College Council. (The entry is made in red ink.)

1889.

January 18.—Mr. A. T. Hunter moves, in the Literary Society, for the establishment of a court for the trial of persons possessing "a certain insolence of bearing, otherwise called 'cheek.'"

January 26.—The class of '89 adopt a constitution.

February 2.—The class of '91 organize. The formation of the class societies is probably the most important event in the year. The growth of class spirit has greatly changed the undergraduate life of the College.

February 15.—The conversazione. (To be remembered because it was the last.)

February 26.—Death of Dr. Young, Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy.

March 22.—Literary Society elections in St. Vincent's Hall. Federals vs. Party of Progress. Whole Federal ticket elected by large majorities.

November 1.—'91 hold the first undergraduate class dinner.

November 29.—It is decided to introduce the Mock Parliament into the Literary Society.

AB UNIVERSITATE CONFLAGRATA.

The *Annalist* dates all the more recent events from the night of The Fire. Probably he is justified by the importance of the event.

A.U.C. I.—A.D. 1890.

February 14.—Our great Alas!

February 25.—Glee Club concert, in the Pavilion Music Hall, in aid of the Literary Society.

February 28.—Literary Society decide to revive THE VARSITY.

March 21.—Elections of the Literary Society, held in St. Andrew's Hall. Federals vs. Outside. Polls open from 8.30 p.m. till 10.30 a.m. Result declared at 5 p.m. the next day. A mixed ticket and small majorities.