

The Varsity

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TORONTO'S EXAMINATION SYSTEM.

IN the opinion of many, Co-education and the Examination system in Toronto are like unto the great horn and the little horn of an apocalyptic beast. Others think the College beast a unicorn, and acquit the women students from any charge of bringing trouble on the University. Be that as it may, the Examination System is the only horn which the students have any hope of pruning, just at present.

Professor Hutton's delightful and able article on University Examinations in last week's VARSITY should be read and studied by every undergraduate in Toronto. There are few who will disagree with his general conclusion "that our present system, with such modifications as are contained in the extension of the credit already given for term work and terminal examinations, and perhaps in some extension of oral examination, is the only system practicable under present conditions." The question now is: what shall be the character and extent of these modifications?

If the students are to effect any reform in Toronto's system of examinations, they must act promptly, intelligently, unanimously. In order that they may do this, VARSITY invites a free discussion of the whole question in these columns.

In the next issue of VARSITY will appear a carefully written article on the subject, by Hugh Monroe, '98. He will deal with examinations and their effects, their advantages and their faults, as he has observed them in Toronto University. Before formally proposing any new scheme for conducting the work of the examiners, VARSITY is desirous of having these two articles fully discussed. In this it is being seconded by the committee of the Literary Society, which has arranged for a debate to-morrow evening on "Competitive Examinations."

Although it would be hard to find a parallel to the elongated time-table of the May examinations, many universities have systems almost as cumbersome and far less

effective. Toronto may say with Pittacus, the famous Greek philosopher, "Each of us has his evil; happy the man who has mine." Still, that evil should be obviated as far as possible.

Two weeks ago, when VARSITY denounced the Ph.D. course, it did not state its whole case by any means. It simply presented a few aspects of the question worth considering, and invited discussion. Next week it will have something further to say on the subject.

VARSITY would like someone (preferably H. H. himself) to arise in the night of his intellect and declare unto the anxious reading public one single argument advanced in Mr. Narraway's letter in another column.

ANOTHER VIEW.

If VARSITY wished to wander a trifle from the real question under discussion, it might ask if half this talk about "original research" on the part of Ph.D. candidates is not "tommy rot," pure and simple. It might even quote the words of a well-known writer: "Nothing so much tends to blur moral distinctions, and to obliterate plain duties, as the free indulgence of speculative habits. Would it not be better for most people, if, instead of stuffing their heads with controversy, they were to devote their scanty leisure to reading books which are crammed full of activities and heroisms, and which force upon the reader's mind the healthy conviction that, after all, whatever mysteries may appertain to mind and matter, and notwithstanding grave doubts as to the authenticity of the Fourth Gospel, it is bravery, truth and honor, loyalty and hard work, each man at his post, which make this planet inhabitable?" Think it over.

There are some men, both in the student body and in the faculty, who would like to see Toronto University sneeze, every time Johns Hopkins or Leipsig or Chicago takes snuff.

In its editorial columns VARSITY does not pretend nor does it wish to represent the views of the student body. Its aim is to direct and mould those views.

NEW YELL WANTED.

Of all the pleasing features of the Athletic procession this year, none was so favorably commented upon as the absence of all "class yells." It shows no small advance when ninety-eight's "razzle-dazzle" and ninety-nine's "zippity-hoop" are forgotten, and all join in the rousing Varsity chorus.

As a college yell, however, the Varsity chorus is certainly deficient. It is not distinctive nor characteristic. As the word "Varsity" is but a vulgar abbreviation of the word "University," every such institution has as much right to the name as Toronto has. One reads in the cablegrams of the Varsity boat races from Putney to Mortlake;