

With such a rider to the proposition, it is a foregone conclusion that the sympathy and support of the students will lose much of its spontaneity and zeal. We need a properly equipped gymnasium and need it badly, and it has been the cherished hope of the students that the next new building would be so designed as to meet this need. But if it were to come to a question between a low ceiled basement room and no gym. at all the most of us would vote for the latter, for we look to the day when our University shall possess a gymnasium equipment of the best possible nature, and we prefer to worry along with the present makeshift rather than encourage the erection of another, only less objectionable, and one which would but further defer the realization of the ideal which has for these many years past animated the boys.

* * *

"In time of peace prepare for war" is said to be very good advice in military matters, and it applies equally well to athletic affairs. It is perhaps not too much to say that the measure of success which we shall achieve on the football campus next fall will be to a large extent determined by the action of the A.M.S. during the present term. The personnel of the Football Executive and of the Athletic Committee constitutes two of the most important factors making for success or failure, for progress towards a high ideal of sport or a lapse into methods now happily discredited by a large section of the students.

Next to the ability and character of the men to whom this honor is entrusted (and we say "honor" advisedly) the most important factor is a distinct understanding as to the relation between the two committees and as clear and explicit a formulation as possible of the duties of each. This question of the relation subsisting between the Athletic Committee and the various sporting organizations is in the hands of a competent committee, which will no doubt report in due time, but as this is a matter which affects every student, a public discussion will no doubt be welcomed by the committee to which has been assigned this important work.

The first question is as to the principle on which the members of the Athletic Committee should be chosen. Should it be representative of all the sporting interests or should it be representative simply of the A.M.S., without regard to the sporting proclivities or affiliations of the men who compose it? The first of these principles is, we think, vicious and sure to lead to difficulties more serious than those which it seeks to avoid. The duties of the Athletic Committee are largely administrative, and during the football season, especially, men actually playing on the teams and spending much

time in practice ought not to be further burdened with the work and responsibility which these duties would entail. Moreover, it is quite conceivable that the power of a committee thus formed would sometimes be weakened by sectional or rival interests and thus afford a field for that log-rolling which invariably brings corruption and crookedness in its train.

The Athletic Committee should be first and foremost an Alma Mater committee, chosen from among students who show the most active interest in college institutions generally, and who have been proved to have the administrative ability and the probity and independence of character which give their fellow-students full confidence in them.

But that is not sufficient, as was seen from the difficulty which arose last fall. The interests of the various sports must be in some way represented, and the Athletic Committee must be kept in the closest touch and sympathy with the various sub-organizations. Our plan for this would be to reduce the committee to seven or even to five executive members, and then make the secretary-treasurer of each club or team an advisory member of the committee, to be notified of all meetings and to be privileged to sit with the executive members in the discussion of all matters, but without the right to vote.

The advantages of such an arrangement are obvious. The committee could never, under such a system, act without full knowledge of the opinions and requirements of a team, as expressed through its legal representative, and if the latter failed to attend there could be no legitimate ground for calling in question the action of the committee. Again, if the committee acted in a given case contrary to the advice of such a representative, and appeal to the A.M.S. became necessary, the appellant would not be hampered in presenting his case, by the necessity of submitting a minority report or moving a vote of censure. This would strengthen his position materially and also enable the society to arbitrate on a question of policy merely, and not on one complicated by the question of personal grievances.

* * *

The Conversat., which will be over before this meets the eye of our readers, is, let us hope, the last social gathering of the session. It is the one function in which all classes and faculties of students join in extending to personal friends and friends of the college such hospitality as they may, in return for many acts of kindness and social courtesies, and it should be the ambition of everyone to make it as worthy of the college and students as is possible with our present limited accommodations.

But this year we have had in addition the Freshmen's Reception, which has come to be an annual