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THE 'VARSITY.

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Editorial Notes.

At Johns Hopkins there are 275 students. Of these, 125 are known as "graduate students," viz: those who have completed their regular college course elsewhere, and are devoting several years to studying for higher degrees. The result of this, as a writer in the *Evening Post* remarks, is to produce an atmosphere of mingled geniality and hard work that is very attractive. The favorite studies are the different branches of the sciences, philology, history, political and economic science.

In a recent address to the Edinburgh Association for University Education of Women, Sir Herbert Oakeley told women that interpretation rather than composition should be their aim, as nothing remarkable in the way of creative art has ever yet emanated from "lady composers." One often hears statements and advice quite as absurd in relation to the ordinary university work of women who desire something higher than a common school education, and more solid than the course in a ladies' college.

At a recent meeting of the Modern Language Association of Columbia College, New York, a resolution to the effect that French and German should be regarded as an equivalent for Greek at the entrance examination, was voted down. We have gone far ahead even of this resolution in the University of Toronto, for by a recent statute of the Senate, French and German have been made an equivalent for Greek all the way through the course, as well as at the entrance examination. This arrangement seems to be generally regarded as a sensible one *per se*, and as being in accord with the general tendency of university progress.

American campaign humour displays itself in a singular tendency to coin names and phrases which have no apparent etymological connection with the objects to which they are applied. In the great campaign of 1876 there appears the terms "bulldoze" and "roorback"; in that which closed a few weeks ago the term "mugwump" was the ordinary designation of the Independent Republicans who refused to support Blaine. To American election humour we owe such veteran words as "platform" and

"plank," "bolt" and "scratch," "slate" and "ticket." The "mugwump" in the Blaine-Cleveland contest was a Republican who bolted the party nomination, scratched the party ticket, and broke the party slate.

A "Modern French Method" has been published by Appleton, the author of which, M. Guillard, adopts the physiological method of teaching pronunciation. This plan is by no means a new one, as the best teachers of English now make use of it in imparting to their pupils a knowledge of correct pronunciation. Defects of utterance, such as the lisp, may be effectually cured in this way in the case of children, and even of adults, who cannot learn by mere imitation. The essence of the system consists in directing the pupil how to place the vocal organs while emitting the sound required of him, and this can now be so effectively done that children whose dumbness is due to deafness and not to physiological defects can be taught to speak fluently and correctly.

Prof. David S. Jordan has been appointed to the Presidency of the Indiana State University, in the place of Rev. Dr. Lemuel Moss, whose indiscretions rendered his removal necessary. Prof. Jordan occupied the chair of Natural Sciences in the institution over which he has been called to preside. Though but 33 years of age he has won for himself a name as an authority in zoology, botany, and geology. His special researches have, however, been in the department of ichthyology. Prof. Jordan is the author of several scientific works, the most important of which is his "Fishes of the United States." Though a specialist in the natural sciences, Prof. Jordan possesses a wide literary culture, being familiar with many modern languages, including Chinese.

In the Washington University a novel but exceedingly interesting and successful method is pursued in the study of the English language and literature. The professor rarely delivers a set lecture on the subject, but occupies a position similar to that of the "Autocrat" or "Professor" in Holmes' charming "Breakfast Table" series. Easy discussions are carried on between the professor and the members of the class and among the members themselves, the professor simply retaining the right of exercising the functions of leader and critic. In studying an author or a period, the professor assigns to each student some special feature of the subject, upon which he is required to prepare a short essay. A number of these essays are read the next day in the class, and then the professor calls on any member to criticise the writer's statements. He himself, following the method of Socrates, seeks rather to educate than to instruct his students. The system is reported to arouse great enthusiasm in the students, and to produce such a development and cultivation of literary taste as are not attained by the usual methods.

The lengths to which political prejudice and partizan feeling are carried in the present day is exemplified in the case of the President of Kansas University. Some of the politicians of that state are attacking President Canfield, alleging that he is teaching Free Trade. Efforts are being made to force the Legislature to withhold its appropriations until he is removed. "On the other hand it is declared," says the *New York Independent*, "that his instructions are at all times free from partizan bias, that he is a man of broad views, thorough scholarship, and extensive information, and that his utterances on political economy are in ac-