

College have been just themselves. Much of the work was done by outsiders, but none the less when it has been a matter of those hostile or those friendly—especially themselves—to that board, we find ill-natured little slanders or equally fulsome adulations. I quote some of the remarks, first taking those about men who have been opposed to our little tin gods. I am about the only one who escaped.

No. 1.—“In the spring of '95, the ‘lust for office’ asserted itself in him. He never ran for Mayor of Greater New York, but there are few other positions to which he has not aspired.” We might observe in passing that the last time he was with great urging persuaded to run for office, he defeated one of the men on the Year Book Committee, which he has also done before.

No. 2.—“Devoted to his course . . . with no yearning but to stand first in his honor department, who will be surprised to learn that he has attained the summit of college glory (in his eyes) by winning scholarships, etc., etc.” Comment: the hard worker is almost invariably besmirched by the elegant dilettantes of the Board. It is a light thing to sum up four years of patient striving and endeavor in an ill-bred sneer.

No. 3.—“A good many of his class mates think — is a ‘crank,’ but in that they do him an injustice.” Comment: in the eyes of those who know inner history, this delicate witticism reacts very cruelly upon the board. Suffice it to say that we have been as yet unable to discover anyone not on it who “thinks — is a crank.”

No. 4.—“An halo of sanctimoniousness has wreathed his laureated brows.” Comment: he has given us poetry which will long be remembered by VARSITY readers, but when invited to win “a handsome prize” by contributing to the Year Book, he said most uncourteous things. But why go on? Almost all these petty meannesses are surrounded by statements which are at times quite flattering, to give plausibility I presume. But the nastiness of the attacks are only to be felt by undergraduates. Our self-chosen judges have hesitated at nothing. Physical defects and cruel ill-luck in examinations have been saluted by a joke or a jeer. In their clownishness they have rushed in where angels fear to tread. Often the innate caddishness of what has been said is felt only by the victim; he may writhe while the rest of us scarcely notice that he has been touched. There was not the slightest need to put any of these things into this outwardly beautiful souvenir of years which to most of us have been very sweet and happy.

Now, I had also written a brief inquiry into the way the gentlemen of the board have treated themselves and their immediate friends. Yet, unless they ask for it, it shall never be seen. I have had to dip my pen into gall too much as it is; but I have only tried to defend those who were contemptibly insulted. If any think I have been too harsh, the president of the year will no doubt be most happy to call the whole class together; there, I may be censured and impeached. But until the Editorial Board of “*Torontonensis*” have determined what is the general voice of the year, let them not attempt to say I speak alone. It is time for their impudence to be silenced.

In a volume which we must all want to keep for life, we find scurrility which has spoiled it for all time. With the best workmanship, we are given the disfigurements of stupid meanness. Let us purchase the book and give our best support to those who have made it the charming volume it is; but let us not pardon those who, to gratify their own vanity, to make it the instrument of their own small malice, have done no little to kill “*Torontonensis*.”

A. E. MCFARLANE.

THE SCIENCE OF THE ANCIENT GREEKS.

In spite of the uninviting weather Saturday afternoon, all the seats in the Students' Union were filled when Professor Baker ascended the platform. And all went away when it was over, feeling that the first of the University Saturday Lectures this year had been a treat well worth braving the elements to hear.

The lecturer, in his easy, dignified manner, plunged at once into his subject. It has been said that the Greeks had no science. Until very lately no attention had been paid to the history of science, but latterly its importance had been recognized. In Arithmetic the Greeks used finger counting and pebble-counting, from which we have the abacus. Awkwardness in arithmetic and correctness in calculating were improved by Archimedes and others. We classify numbers by the powers of ten, and according to position. We owe this to the Hindoos, but the Greeks were moving in this direction. Pythagoras began discussion on the Theory of Numbers. Euclid, in his seventh book, began to treat of numbers. But the study of Geometry became more popular, and for a time numbers did not advance. Then Algebra came and the symbols used were abbreviations. The lecturer averred that Geometry was as valuable for historical study as could be found. He then went on to show that we owed infinitesimal calculus to the Greeks. With regard to Astronomy, the Greeks used the inductive method in treating of the stars and universe. More than one believed that the earth turned on its axis and revolved about the sun. The Copernican theory was a revival of old Greek theories. Ptolemy's theory grew from the theory of eccentrics and epicycles in the second century of the Christian era. Had not Greek nationality been destroyed, they would have reached the conclusions of Newton, Kepler and Copernicus a thousand years before these men reached them. Optics, Mechanics, Hydrostatics are all products of Greek thought. The lecturer wound up with a brilliant peroration, in which he pointed to the Greeks as the chosen people appointed to advance the science of the world.

At the close, Professor Baker announced that on Saturday, Jan. 22nd, at 3 p.m., in the Students' Union, Professor Alexander would speak on “Novels: their Origin and Use.”

N.

PROF. HUME'S ADDRESS.

A goodly number of students heard Prof. Hume's address last Thursday evening on “The Reasonableness of Christianity.” The professor reminded his hearers that because bad and worthless evidence is sometimes given in support of Christianity, we should not therefore conclude that Christianity is not reasonable. He dwelt on the narrow and one-sided view that many ethical teachers take of Christianity, and recommended honest enquirers to turn from books about the Bible and Christianity to the Bible itself as it is and to Christianity as it is lived in any truly consecrated Christian life. All present enjoyed his talk very much, and were profited as well as interested by the bright and forceful points that Professor Hume made.

All members of the gymnasium who have not yet paid their fees are requested to do so immediately. The secretary or some member of the committee will be found in the office in the gymnasium, daily, between the hours of five and six in the afternoons. It may be said for the benefit of those who have not yet joined, but are thinking of doing so, that the fee for this term has been reduced to three dollars including locker.

W. M. MARTIN,
Secretary.