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The Varsity

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TORONTO, FEBRUARY 9, 1912

#### CRAMMING

Is the cramming process which will be in progress during the next few weeks at the University conducive to that higher education which the institution is supposed to supply. Most educational authorities will agree that it is not. Then why is it the common method of covering the University work? The answer may be found partly in the character of the students themselves. Civilization has not reached a stage in this country where culture is placed in general high esteem. Wealth is rather that to which the eyes of Canadians are directed. Hence, many come to the University, not to acquire culture, but as a pleasant place to spend a few years before entering on life's real work, making money. This element could not be expected to enter into the real spirit of a University no matter what the conditions of study were. It may be expected, then, that many students from this young country, will be certain to treat their studies as a joke until examinations are upon them.

But it may, fairly be asked if the man who really wishes to study has any incentive to do so. The chief incentive is interest in the subjects of study. Unfortunately it is almost impossible for a student to become interested in as wide a range of subjects as are to be found on most courses in Arts. The student finds that when he has studied a subject sufficiently to become interested he is forced to leave it and begin another. In this, he has no interest, and hence little incentive to give it thorough study. Knowing that he will not have time really to work out the subject, and that the examiners do not require thorough knowledge, the student is tempted to let the subject go until just before examinations, when he will cram it all up sufficiently well to slip through only a few days work. He is all the more likely to do this with subjects that do not interest him and on a wide course, there are bound to be some such. There are, consequently, students at the University who look with cynical indifference on the work of their courses, following their own inclinations throughout the year and depending on their ability to cram to pass their examinations. There are others either more conscientious or less courageouous, who struggle throughout the year, endeavoring to do the work laid out for them. In many cases a high class standing is obtained by an entire sacrifice of the student's powers of originality. Could not a system be devised where cramming would not be encouraged and full use made of all the student's mental powers?

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thing. If you stand on your head, the world is upside -down. Spires project down into the air. Marbles roll along the oeiling. Books drop up to the floor. You find a new point of view that surprise you. Now, it is the slavery to the custom of standing on one's feet that is the trouble with us. Let us change our viewpoint by standing on our heads, and we shall discover a new world. Old institutions that are still institutions because they are old, will appear to us in their true light. For instance: spires are relics of dead mediaeval days, when all men had one god. They were symbols of man's strife for the infinite. We have spires still on our temples, though they cannot truly symbolize our strivings. But stand on your head and the whole matter is plain. Then the spire is pointed downwards. It is a mighty symbol-it is a drill, which digs into the

Some are born in this world already on their heads (God love 'em!) We call them unconventional. They think nothing of brandishing a sausage at table, by way of emphasis. The world looks so grotesque from their point of view that their natural actions are surprising. Yet after all, the convention that forbids a man to brandish a sausage seems quite silly. (I believe I am turned.)

Let us then break nature's bondage of pedal procession and outlook.

HABITUAL HIGH-BROW

a buffet and borne off treacherous-looking salads to my lady; and then more waltzing, punctuated with vapid remarks on the decorations, the weather, and the good music.

I have fought like a fiend for my overcoat and sent out search parties after my errant Taxicab; now I am home-let me sleep.

But it was fated otherwise. My head was on the pillow; my brain was otherwhere. One cannot control absolutely his trend of thoughts.

"No," I reflected, "that is not College Life. For when the dance is over there is nought left but a memory. College Life must produce something that will live, or it has no virtue and itself must die away. When graduation day is gone behind we must know our College not by memory, but because it has made us what we are. Memory is of the past, and there is no past. College Life means something more lasting than the brilliance and harmony of the ball-room. I must seek elsewhere."

and slept like a child.

### MUSIC AT SERMONS

Two weeks ago the Medical Octette was advertised to sing at the Sunday morning service in Convocation Hall. Last Sunday morning the Victoria College Quartette was announced for the same work. On either occasion was the music given; the sufficient reason is that on the former of the two occasions two of the Meds became ill and on the lat, er one of the Vic men was most unexpectedly called out of town. Even the Colleges' Sermon Committee is not exempt from the "ills that flesh is heir to."

## CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of The Varsity: Dear Sir:

A modern Cincinnatus has spoken; but a man vastly different from the Roman Cincinnatus, who left the plough to serve his country and returned to his plough after the victory was won. He needed no military lectures, no blaring of trumpets to spur him on to the defence of Rome. Your correspondent will have it that we are cowards, we who do not shout our loyalty from the housetops. We are 'eager that the virtue of our ancestors shall cover up our own lack of virtue.' True, there are some of us-I am onewho will not fight for the extortionate demands of British Capitalists in South Africa, nor wage bloody war on honest Germans in order to keep down the world's population or to fill the pockets of Dreadnaught-builders. But let me tell Mr. Cincinnatus, that if ever our religious or civil liberty should be placed in jeopardy, we will show our teeth and do as good work as any of his flag-waving Colonels, or the tin-horn manslaughtering experts of the Queen's Own Rifles. Time was when no one walked on the

street without a rapier. And the time is coming when nations will walk without Sunday morning next, February 1 Professor G. A. Johnston-Ross, late Byrn Mawr, Pennsylvania, now of Presbyterian Theological College, Mc real, is to lead the conference. It consist of three sessions:

11 a.m.-College Sermon, Wycliffe C vocation Hall.

3. pm.—A meeting for University r in the University Y.M.C.A. building Professor G. A. Johnston-Ross will sp upon the subject "The Cross in Christ Experience.'

7.30 p.m.-Service in St. Andre Church, King Street. Sermon by I fessor Johnston-Ross. Dubject-"T Reasonableness of Christianity." R Crawford Brown has set apart this Sun evening service as "Students Night St. Andrew's Church and issues a cor invitation to all students to be presen

IN THE SWIM .--- A reviewer in the M York Nation illustrates his own comme on a certain new volume of essavs b story that is worth putting into circulat Three hearers, he says, of the admired X., were talking in the vestibule after sermon. "We must admit," remar the first, "that the doctor dives dee into his subject than any other preach "Yes," said the second, "and stays un longer." "And comes up drier," added the third.-Western Christian Advocate

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The College is a Government institution, de-signed primarily for the purpose of giving instruc-tion in all branches of military science to cadets and officers of the Canadian Milita. In fact it corresponds to Woolwich and Sandhurst.

The Commandant and military instructors are all officers on the active list of the Imperial army, lent for the purpose, and there is in addition a complete staff of professors for the civil subjects which form such an important part of the College course. Medical attendance is also provided.

Whilst the College is organized on a strictly military basis the cadets receive a practical and scientific training in subjects essential to a sound modern education.

The course includes a thorough grounding in Mathematics, Civil Engineering, Surveying, Phy-sics, Chemistry, French and English.

The strict discipline maintained at the College is one of the most valuable features of the course, and, in addition, the constant practice of gymnas-tics, drills, and outdoor exercises of all kinds, ensures health and excellent physical condition.

Commissions in all branches of the Imperial service and Canadian Permanent Force are offered annually.

The diploma of graduation, is considered by the authorities conducting the examination for Do-minion Land Surveyor to be equivalent to a university degree, and by the Regulations of the Law Society of Ontario, it obtains the same ex-aminations as a B.A. degree.

The length of the course is three years, in three terms of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  months each.

The total cost of the course, including board, uniform, instructional material, and all extras, is about \$800.

The annual competitive examination for admission to the College, takes place in May of each year, at the headquarters of the several military districts.

For full particulars regarding this examination and for any other information, application should be made to the Secretary of the Militia Council Ottawa, Ont.; or to the Commandant, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ont. H.Q, 94-5.

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