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NOW that the spring exams. are once
more looming into sight, it is natural
that we should interest ourselves in the meth-
ods which are adopted by the university in
placing her mark on the faithful. And once
more the JOURNAL sees the necessity of plead-
ing for a more fair and equitable distribution of
medals.

A great advance was certainly made last
year when a university medal was offered for
competition in *every* department of Honor
work—even if it had to be done at the cost of
substituting bronze for gold. This overcame
the long-felt injustice of granting some men
medals who were not so deserving as others
who were given no medals, simply because the
former were fortunate enough to choose a
course in which a medal happened to be offer-
ed on that particular year. A year later he
might have found that the medal had been
transferred to some other department.

But since the use of bronze medals has over-
come the financial difficulty, which was the
cause of these former anomalies, and in the
confidence that it is the wish of the senate to
eliminate as far as possible the element of
chance in the distribution of her coveted
marks of distinction, we would suggest that
one more step be taken to remove anomalies
which still exist. Our suggestion is that a

university medal be given to every Honor man
who makes a certain high percentage in his
special course. Under the present system of
giving a medal to the first man only in each
department, a man's change of ranking as
medallist depends to a great extent on who
happens to be his rival in his final year. This
was demonstrated in a very marked way a few
years ago, in the case of an Honor graduate
in Classics, whose percentage, his professor
said, would have taken the gold medal on any
one of a number of preceding years, but who
lost it on his graduating year by having to
compete with an Honor graduate of the pre-
ceding year. Under the present system we
have the same possibility of a man being much
better up in his work than another graduate
of the same institution yet placed at a disad-
vantage as compared with him, by the very
mark by which our Alma Mater attempts to
distinguish her most worthy sons. Nor is this
all. To some extent the same inequality, in a
measure, may exist between two graduates of
the same year. It is an open secret that it
was very difficult to decide which of the two
highest men in Honor Mathematics last spring
should have the medal. In many cases a
mark or two, or a slight difference in the neat-
ness of form in the answers at the final
examination, results in the wide difference—
especially in the eyes of a board of school
trustees—between the man who holds a medal
and the man who does not. Such slight dif-
ferences, too, especially when the test is a
single examination, may be due to the merest
chance, possibly the difference in physical
condition of the candidates during the short
period of the examination. There is one more
element of chance and possibly inequality in
our present system. A man's chance of win-
ning a medal may depend to quite an extent
upon his external circumstances. Should he
happen to have his home in Kingston, or have
sufficient means, he can pretty surely secure
first place and the medal, by taking a year or
two longer at his special course than his less