Only a few men deny the real value of this organization to its members and to the students as a whole, and these few men are probably afraid of being asked for a subscription. It is noticeable that they are always ready to come and bring their friends to enjoy an afternoon's entertainment at the club's expense. Of course the members are glad to have them come and enjoy the entertainment that is provided by the club for those that are members; but such visitors are like the men who avoid taxation but still enjoy public benefits.

The result of this status is that the free-handed men have to carry the whole burden of expense and labor of any scheme which may be proposed. Now, the meanness of the men whose selfishness will allow them to indulge in such "sponging" is utterly disgraceful to them, and to the institution to which they belong.

Contributions.

Some Wonderful Insects.

SOMEONE has said that the most wonderful bit of matter the world contains is found in the brain of an ant; certain it is that many of the ant's doings show an almost human intelligence, and make us pause in the proud assertion that we only are God's reasoning creatures.

Many of the stories told of them seem almost incredible, but those which I shall here bring forward have all been well attested.

It is well known that ants have a means of communication with each other in their long and sensitive antennae or "feelers," though how they manage to convey information through such a channel is a mystery. They have also considerable faith in each other's statements, if one can use the word here. When one of them discovers any food, he finds no difficulty, if the mass is too large for his unaided efforts, in making known his discovery or in persuading his friends to accompany and assist him.

One naturalist put an ant in a pill-box with a dead fly. The ant, after climbing out of the box, went directly to his nest, returning soon with seven friends, who climbed into the box and carried the fly away piecemeal. As the fly was out of sight, their coming showed, of course, their faith in their companion. Nothing shows the high intelligence of the ants more conclusively than their co-operation in labor. If they have to carry anything a long distance, they do it by relays; one relay taking it for a short space, then passing it on to the next. Frequently one ant may be seen stretching and pulling at the leg of a dead grass-hopper, while another gnaws the tendons at the point of greatest strain.

But it is in their military operations that their organization is most apparent. When, as frequently happens, a nest of one species determines to make war against that of another, scouts are first sent out, who discover the location of the approaches and entrances to the foreign nest. The attacking army then sets out under the guidance of the scouts, and commanded by officers who run along by the side of the marching column. The officers are readily distinguished by their smaller size and large heads. They possess in their jaws a powerful means of preserving discipline.

When the nest is reached, guards are posted at every entrance but one. Through this one the attacking party enters, and the fighting is chiefly under ground. Such of the defenders as try to escape by the other entrances are put to death by the guards outside, and it is usually not long before the nest is in the hands of the besiegers. Then if the victors happen to belong to one of the species which are known as the "slave-keeping ants," all the eggs found in the conquered nest are transferred to the other, where they are carefully tended until the ants, thus born in slavery, are hatched.

The duties of these slaves vary in the different nests. In some they have to fight; in others they care for the eggs, turning them frequently, and taking them into the sunshine in fair weather. One species of fighting ants have jaws of such large size and peculiar formation as to prevent their feeding themselves. They are therefore