

CONTEMPORARY COLLEGIATE COMMENT

A DISTINCTION

From the *Yale Daily News*

In a spirit of independence not uncommon to the sex, a senior at Vassar recently distinguished herself by declining an election to Phi Beta Kappa. What might ordinarily be considered merely another example of feminine perversity in this instance has a very different significance. The rejection of the offer was a protest against the tendency among scholars to consider a high stand a goal in itself rather than a proof of a goal already achieved. Viewed from this standpoint, the extraordinary behaviour of the female in question becomes less difficult to understand.

That the modern system of awarding marks does to some extent obscure the fundamental purpose of education is a universally accepted fact. That it is nevertheless the best system available is equally possible of demonstration. No professor, however intuitive, can grade a class according to the varying degrees of intelligence displayed in the faces before him. Until the educational millennium comes, the marking book will be an unpleasant but necessary adjunct of university instruction.

In the meantime most of the disadvantages of the present system can be overcome by an undergraduate change of attitude. If the Phi Beta Kappa "heeler" is to be made an extinct species, less interest must be placed in marks as *marks* and more in the studies themselves. That fortunately rare type of individual who tutors to improve an already exalted stand is infinitely more to be pitied than his less gifted classmate who relies upon tutoring to keep him off the hooks of probation. If some of the time now utilized in converting "eighties" into "nineties" were given to collateral reading, the results would be evident in a less material but no less real satisfaction.

In making these suggestions, the aim is not to initiate a movement for the abolishment of Phi Beta Kappa, honor rolls, or any other rewards for "excellence in scholarship." It is merely to emphasize an easily-confused distinction between high marks and high culture. For undergraduates who have not sufficient mental versatility to be able to master all of their subjects, the best policy is to concentrate on one. Preeminence, whether in Economics or Art, is preferable to general mediocrity.

INTERCOLLEGIATE NEWS

Yale Advances Motion Pictures

Yale University has announced a novel step in the advancement of motion pictures. Incidents in American history will be picturized for classroom work in American schools and colleges in a series of 100 reels. The work will be supervised by the History and Education Departments and the Yale University Press. R. E. MacArthur, formerly production manager at London for the Famous Players-Lasky Company, will be general manager of production for the company called the Chronicles of America Picture Corporation.

Much investigation about details will be necessary, since the screen must be exact in many points which textbooks need not mention. Already two years have been spent in search through museums, libraries and private collections. When completed, the film will be subject to the approval of Dr. Max Farrand, professor of American History, and Dr. F. E. Spaulding, head of the Department of Education, who will receive information and opinion from educational institutions throughout the country.

Russian Professors Allowed Food

Even the Bolshevik government has finally realized that professors work and has decided that they may eat also. It is reported that the Communists will allow 7,000 professors and intellectuals the most generous rations permitted by the Soviet food schedule—regular workers' rations. The report has called forth the observation that red Russia is following not far behind America, that the college endowment campaigns of 1919 were the first real evidence that this country accepted the idea of the professors having stomachs as well as brains.

German Students Revolt

University students of Austria and Germany have developed a Young German movement (*Deutschen Jugendenschaften*) which seems to be a general revolt against ancient authorities, traditions and customs. Among the ideas and habits attacked are militarism, monarchy, class distinctions and alcoholism. The movement is idealistic-patriotic for the development of a better self and the aid of the nation in the day of trial. It takes on different forms in different localities, but the general spirit seems the same.

Farmers Meet at Cornell

Six hundred ninety-eight guests were registered at The New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, on the opening day of Farmer's Week, Monday, February 13.

The purpose of this annual get-together of farmers at Cornell is to keep the college and the men who actually till the soil in closer relation, and to provide an intensive practical training school of a week's duration, in which time any individual problems may be brought to the attention of experts. The plan is of benefit both to the college and to the men and women who take advantage of this opportunity, and the large attendance on the first day of Farmer's Week is proof of its success.

Lens Nearly Causes Fire

Recently a Professor at Cornell happened to go into another Professor's office. He saw a small tongue of flame rising from the surface of the desk. Such was the size of the flame that he remarked that he could have lighted his pipe from it. Upon examination, he discovered that the sun's rays shining through a nearby magnifying glass had focused on the desk, causing it to ignite.

Says College Girl is All Right

Miss Jean M. Richards, Dean of Women at Syracuse University, finds the modern college girl no worse than the modern girl in general, according to a statement recently made by her. She said, in part:—"No one who has really seen the college girl of today could assert that she has any resemblance to the Victorian miss. She has tireless initiative, she thinks selfishly and altruistically—but she thinks. In the main, college women fill me with hope."

Vassar Girl Declines Key

Basing her refusal on her opinion that the awarding of high or low grades to students was not right, Miss Caroline Whitney refused the honor proffered her by the Vassar chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Throughout her college course, Miss Whitney has protested against the practice of gauging scholastic ability by comparative grading. She is said to be the first student to decline the honor.

Girls in No Hurry

Girls at the University of Arkansas are not in any rush to marry. To a questionnaire asking the suitable age for matrimony, the majority replied 25. Most of the girls considered that it takes a woman until 25 to finish her education and to judge what she wants.

Inter-room Phone in Dorms

At Iowa University, every room in the dormitory is soon to have a telephone connected with the local exchange and listed in the directory. This is the first dormitory in the country to have such a system.

Indiana Will Play in Japan

The baseball team of the University of Indiana has accepted the invitation of the Waseda University of Tokio, Japan, to play a series of games there. Twelve games will be played against the Japanese team.

Golf is to be taught at the University of California in answer to demands of students.

SHERWOOD EDDY WILL SPEAK IN 10-250 TODAY

(Continued from Page 1.)

burden of two terms of work on the June examinations. he has chosen, which he calls "Human Engineering."

A Practical Christianity

Although this address will be religious in nature, no doctrine or creed will be promulgated, nor will any spectacular methods be employed. His religion is simple, practical, and may be employed directly to help solve personal problems, and in industrial psychology.

For the benefit of those who were fortunate enough to attend Mr. Eddy's lecture last year, he wishes to announce that the material and subject of this address will be entirely new.

Mr. Eddy has been lecturing at the colleges in Maine this last week and is coming to Boston from Bates College. He will speak at Harvard on Thursday night under the auspices of the Liberal Club, and will be at Boston University until 1 o'clock on Friday.

TWENTY VACANCIES TO BE FILLED IN T. E. N.

(Continued from page 1.)

ment of paper from the start according to the ability which they show.

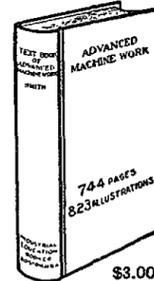
Board and Staff Will Banquet

Those connected with the T. E. N. believe that it offers the opportunity of being on an activity which is closely related to the school work and that working in their office will be beneficial for the office is being run according to plans laid out by an industrial organization school.

A banquet will be given next Thursday evening at 6 o'clock at Healy's restaurant for the Board and staff of

The Tech Engineering News. To this, all candidates who have shown a desire for some department and seem interested in the work will be asked. At this banquet many of the ideals and secrets of The Tech Engineering News will be put forward. A similar banquet will be given near the last of May for the successful candidates. The Tech Engineering News management states that it expects to give one or two banquets every term.

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