The ALMIGHTY QUIZ

Certainly the educational system at the Institute is not perfect. The emphasis upon quizzes and grades is detrimental to obtaining a thorough knowledge of a subject matter. At the present time this accent develops a group of mechanics, men who are aware of the formulas and tools of the trade but who lack the essential ideas that go into the making of their science or art. The emphasis upon quizzes has also led to the state where it is merely an addition to the regular four years resulting in more quizzes and books but little further understanding of the subject. Perhaps the degree of Master of Scientific Mechanics should be established.

In order to keep the Princeton System there are schools that are experimenting with new approaches to the problem of education. If they have gone too far it is only in the attempt to correct a situation that is becoming increasingly troublesome.

One method of weeding out often employed in European Institutions is the holding of comprehensive examinations. The system has rarely been tried in this state but has certain advantages. Under the European system a student who fails a subject will not be compelled to make it up or be held back from graduation. Admittedly this program makes it easier for the student to pass examinations but it also results in students taking all essential points in a course by learning to discern the structure upon which the study stands.

The emphasis is put upon individual initiative with the examinations falling at widely separated periods. It offers greater opportunities for self-expression while still motivating him in his studies. On the other hand it is often possible for him to cram for these examinations as for others with the sole purpose of retaining the knowledge until the examination is over.

EDUCATION IN REVIEW: PRINCETON

Noted last week was the article proclaiming Princeton's new system of awarding degrees and promotions. The new character of the plan is one not so much of marking as of inspection. The emphasis is put upon the student who fails a subject will not be compelled to make it up or be held back from graduation. Admittedly this program makes it easier for the student to pass examinations but it also results in students taking all essential points in a course by learning to discern the structure upon which the study stands.

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