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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1919

COLUMBIA TAKES DRASTIC STEPS

ONE college has taken rather drastic steps in an attempt to round out the college life of the average undergraduate. The students in Columbia College in the City of New York have adopted the Students' Residence Rule Petition submitted by the faculty by an overwhelming majority. As submitted to the students, it contains the following provisions:

"1. Every student who is a candidate for a degree in Columbia College must reside in a dormitory of a fraternity house for two years prior to receiving his degree.

"2. The freshman and Sophomore years are required as the period of residence unless the Faculty Board for sufficient reason allows the student to choose two other years for residence.

"3. Students matriculating this year, or having previously matriculated, will not be subject to this ruling, but are emphatically urged to promote and comply with it.

"4. The College shall make adequate provision, by means of scholarships or special exceptions to the Residence Rule, for a limited number of students who would be financially unable to attend college otherwise.

"a—The exceptions to this rule are to be authorized by a Faculty Board upon the presentation of satisfactory evidence that the student can not financially afford to meet the obligations."

It is a well recognized fact that the men living on the campus derive more of the benefits from their four years at college than the men who content themselves with the benefits they are able to gather in the class room, alone. No doubt, the Students' Residence Rule Petition aims to create a more distinctly college atmosphere than is possible where comparatively few undergraduates live on the campus, and if the rule is put in force it should be a decided benefit to every undergraduate activity, to the institution and to the students themselves.

The adoption of such a plan as this, is, perhaps, one of the most radical steps ever taken by any institution to promote college life and foster spirit, and will be watched with interest by colleges and universities all over the country.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO AT TECHNOLOGY

The freshman class (Class of 1898) held a meeting. It was voted that the constitution be amended so that one-seventh instead of one-quarter of the class should constitute a quorum. It was also voted that the class dinner should be over at 12.00 o'clock and that no wine should be served. The Andover club of Technology held a dinner.

ATHLETIC PROGRESS

SHOWN TO ALUMNI

(Continued from page 1)

was paying the coach \$5.00 per capita for individual construction. The point was emphasized that there was no club organization and that this money was voluntarily paid by the men as individuals for personal instruction. It was explained to Addicks that the usual practice in the formation of a new team has been for the team to demonstrate its worthiness for recognition. Inasmuch however as the new team would be handicapped in securing recognition by other colleges the question of a provisional recognition was suggested by the secretary and after some little discussion it was voted that provisional recognition be granted the Technology boxing team

subject to rules to be drawn up by the secretary in the near future. After further discussion of the needs of a boxing team it was voted that the Advisory Council on Athletics recommend to the Budget Committee of the Institute Committee that the sum of \$100 be granted for the coming season.

Discuss Eligibility Rules

After this, Ramsey made a brief and informal report for the "Gym" team, stating that a large amount of interest was being shown and a large number of men at work. He then raised the question of the eligibility of men coming from other colleges with the enforcement of the one year residence rule irrespective of previous conditions. The immediate case raising the issue is of a possible candidate for the swimming team. A lengthy discussion followed in which

PLAY REVIEWED

Roberts Writes on "John Ferguson" Now at The Hollis

The play "John Ferguson"—directed from New York—has been playing at the Hollis Street Theatre since Monday, December 8. That the play is worth while is evidenced by the fact that it has the recommendations of the English Departments of various New England colleges. It is a drama of the soil and the heart of the Irish that has shattered all stage traditions and theatrical records on Broadway. Mr. Penfield Roberts of the department of English and History has reviewed the play especially for THE TECH in a manner particularly interesting to Institute men.

By PENFIELD ROBERTS

"John Ferguson," now playing at the Hollis Street Theatre is the only tragedy by a living author and without a star in the cast which ever ran all summer on Broadway. It was produced last May by the Theater Guild, a sort of glorified stock company, originally for one week only. The critics were unreservedly enthusiastic over both play and actors. Yet nobody supposed that a tragedy of character, with an imaginative and philosophical background and only a few humorous and sentimental touches could attract the New York public

all of those present took part. The following points were elicited: First—that men who have graduated from other colleges and enter Tech are not to be regarded as "transfers" in the strict sense of the word and that therefore the one year rule should not operate against them; secondly—that in the minor sports none of the intercollegiate associations require one year of residence; thirdly—that the freshman rule was on the whole approved of by the undergraduate body. The two salient points are eligibility of college graduates for direct inclusion on varsity teams, and abrogation of the one year ruling as regards minor sports. As the Advisory Council was unwilling to alter its present ruling without more adequate data, the secretary was asked immediately to send out a questionnaire to such athletic councils and individuals as he felt expedient and wise, and that the report from these sources be collated by him and presented at a subsequent meeting. Officer was next called upon to report for the newly formed hockey team. The secretary was obliged to leave owing to a previous engagement and Hunter acted as secretary for the remainder of the evening, and a copy is made from his notes.

Hockey Prospects Bright

Officer, manager of the hockey team, spoke about the prospects of hockey, stating that the rink of the Pavilion Ice Co. in the Tech Block which is nearing completion would make possible the revival of hockey on an active basis. He stated that the manager of the rink would permit the team to use the rink for practice providing the home games are played there, on suggestion of Dr. Rockwell, who suggested that Officer communicate with Worcester and arrange for Worcester to accompany him as advisor on their visit before concluding any binding arrangements. Officer stated that outside practice had brought out seventy-four men for the varsity squad and twenty-two for the freshman squad. Officer suggested a tentative schedule for Tufts, Dartmouth, Brown and Harvard at home, and Williams, Cornell and Springfield away, the dates running through January and February. The point was raised that the Pavilion Ice Co. would expect to charge admission to the home games which would bar out the students coming in under their student tax tickets, and this might interfere with the hockey team receiving an appropriation from the budget. The question was raised as to whether there could be a "stander" admission granted students on presentation of their tax tickets with additional charge for seats. It was informally stated that the Budget Committee had approved an appropriation for the hockey team. Officer had a tentative budget of \$600 for the varsity and freshmen and he was advised that probably it would be necessary to scale down this budget substantially, cutting out some of the more expensive games. Officer stated that he was conferring with C. L. Foote '16 as respective coach, but no definite arrangements had been made with Mr. Foote. The selection of Mr. Foote was acceptable to the Advisory Council as far as they were acquainted with him. Mr. Bawden spoke of the favorable prospects for the track team, particularly for the relay work during the winter; he stated that two of the records made last year had already been tied in practice.

in summer. The play had been rejected as impossible by all regular managers both in England and the United States.

St. John G. Ervine, who wrote it, has published several other plays, and three admirable novels. But a play can be published at a profit if there are two thousand readers for it scattered all over the world, whereas if it is to be produced at a profit there must be at least fifty thousand people in a single city willing to pay to see it.

The complications of the plot of "John Ferguson" all turn on one of "Life's Little Ironies." Uncle Andrew in Boston forgets the day mails close for Ireland, and his letter for his brother, John in Ulster province is delayed two weeks. It contains the money to pay off the mortgage, and meanwhile a rape and murder, for which an innocent man is imprisoned until the real criminal owns up, have resulted by the haphazard yet ruthless logic of circumstances.

John's comment, "Andrew was always a forgetful man," shows that the saying, "Character is fate" might be taken at the motto and the moral of the play.

The characters are Scotch-Irish peasants, instead of the kings and demi-gods of classic tragedies, Mr. Ervine has obviously read and profited by Sophocles and Racine. Nor is the Fool in "King Lear" forgotten. Poor half-whittled Clutie John is the same person. The plot is plausible, and it holds the audience attentive, but it is the character that make the play a tragedy and not a melodrama. They are sharply individual and yet typical of whole classes of people. The fool, the coward, and the saint are the three most difficult to conceive, and to act. Clutie John with his whistle may perhaps to Mr. Ervine symbolize the place of fantasy and poetry in the modern world. John Ferguson, the old farmer who believes the Bible and the world of God, and therefore loves his enemies, but without the stiff-neck sentimentalizing on the subject is the only real flesh and blood saint in all dramatic literature. His religion is so real that he never boasts about it nor patronizes unbelievers. He is human enough to collapse once and try to hide his son, who has murdered his sister's ravisher. But when he regains his self-possession he is willing to let God's will be done, and only puzzled as to what great sin of his own has drawn down all these calamities on his head.

The coward, Jimmy Caesar, who wants to revenge the wrong done the girl he wishes to marry, tries to do it and finds he doesn't dare. This indictment of human weakness comes home to many in the audience, though to the thoughtless he is a joke. The moral tragedy in some of his lines is almost unbearable. Most of us, if we stop to think must admit that in the eyes of an allwise and impartial judge our lives would look almost as petty and contemptible as Jimmie Caesar's, though our failings may be different from his. Lack of will power is almost incurable, and this is his defect.

The play is capably acted, though the present company, which contains but two members of the New York cast, ran too much in crises as the original did not. The single setting, the living room in an Ulster farmhouse, is admirable. The company deserves special praise for never breaking the illusion by acknowledging applause until the end of the play. Any one who wants to see the best that American theaters offer cannot afford to miss "John Ferguson." More about American audiences can be gathered by careful watching of the effect of this play than is readily discoverable otherwise. It is the obvious calamities not in irony nor the moral earnestness nor the cowardice that really hold the crowd.

COLLEGE NOTE:

Following the custom of many other universities, Columbia has recently formed a club composed only of men who have won their "C," or who are captains of a minor sport. Its purpose will be to advise on matters of athletic policy, and to stimulate athletics by attracting prominent preparatory school players to Columbia.

NOTICES

For Undergraduates

News Meeting of THE TECH—All newsmen working on THE TECH during the vacation period are required to report to the News Room at 5 o'clock, Monday, December 29. Several assignments have been posted, and must be called for immediately.

Letters for Activities—Letters addressed to the treasurer of the Class of 1922, and to the Cosmopolitan Club are being held by the Superintendent of the Walker Memorial. The letters may be obtained by calling at his office in the basement of Walker.

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