

## NEW SYSTEM OF CUTS.

**How it Has Worked in the Freshman Class—Its Merits.**

The new system of cuts and marks described in the Weekly a short time ago, which has been introduced with the class of 1900, this Fall, has now been in operation long enough, so that to a limited degree, its merits can be discussed. According to the older system six cuts in each term were allowed the students with the idea that they should be taken for illness and other minor causes for absence. However, by degrees, excuses for sickness came to be granted with considerable leniency, and the six regular cuts were taken generally for the convenience or pleasure of a student. This result was of course strictly at variance with the object of the rule, and this year the plan has been tried of allowing no cuts at all without a positive excuse.

At present, therefore, in the Freshman class, no man is entirely excused for any absence of less than a week, it being considered that any illness of shorter duration is not of sufficient consequence to warrant his absence from the class room. Inasmuch as absence from work is a distinct loss to the student, and those whose attendance is regular deserve to be credited with a higher mark, the penalty of a deduction of one point from the stand of the subject in question is made upon such absence. Any student who is excusably absent for a week or more can maintain his stand by making up his lost work in the usual manner.

It is generally considered hard upon the students that they should lose from their stand for absences of shorter duration than a week, no matter what is the cause, for it really does often occur that a student is prevented from attending class room exercises for a day or two by an illness, not serious in its consequences, but yet of a nature to incapacitate him for any work. While this rule may bear hard upon some whose stand is not sufficiently raised above the standard required, yet its general effects will certainly be in the direction of producing more regular attendance of the students who most need to give attention to their work, and of preventing the superficial granting of sick excuses for minor causes. As a matter of fact the attendance in the Freshman class so far this term has been more regular than ever before and the number of warnings given out has been less.

Those men who in any case would maintain a moderately high stand will not be seriously affected by this rule. It is only those, who are seeking scholastic honors, or those who make it their highest aim merely to remain in College, that are apt to find fault with the new system, for in each of these cases a small difference in the stand is productive of the greatest consequences. Thus a high-stand man, because he has missed half a dozen recitations during the term, owing very probably to legitimate causes, may in this manner just miss gaining the appointment sought for, and those students, who are at the lowest limit, may find the loss of a few points in their stand sufficient to drop them into the class below. The main principles of the rule are clearly in the right direction and the attendance of the poorer scholars is of much greater import-

ance than that of the high-stand men. Up to this point the rule has been found by the Faculty to work with great success, and it is very probable, although no official statement has yet been made, that this plan will be adhered to in all following classes.

### Kiskimnetas Club.

A meeting of the men in the University who prepared for College at the Kiskimnetas School in Pennsylvania was held on November 18 and a club was formed. Officers for the year were elected as follows: President, Charles S. Evans, '97; Secretary and Treasurer, Samuel A. Gilmore, '99. A banquet was held at Heublein's in November in honor of Professor A. W. Wilson of the school.



THE TERM ENDS.

### "Yale Consolidated Team."

It has been announced that a company of football players, to be known as the Yale Consolidated Football Team, will make a tour of the South during the Christmas holidays. At present writing it is not known that any member of this University will be on the team. It is quite sure that no student who has been one of the University Eleven will go on the trip. Despite the fact that the trip is under the direction of Mr. Sanford of Waterbury, a former Yale player, the enterprise is strongly opposed by the regular football leaders and by the students generally, who feel that any use of the word "Yale" by any other than the regularly constituted teams

of the University, hurts Yale and injures the cause of legitimate athletics. These enterprises assume a mercantile phase and verge on professionalism, at least in appearance. Besides that, the indiscriminate nature of the contests does not help, but hurts, the game of football. Many people—probably the majority of the spectators—do not have any other impression than that the regular Yale Eleven is playing, and the inference is fair, from the wide extent of these trips, that the business of athletics is being much overdone at the New Haven institution.

As the WEEKLY goes to press (Wednesday noon) negotiations between Yale and Harvard remain in an unfinished condition and there is no ground for any definite prediction.