

THE COURANT'S WORK.

A Critical Year Passed—Its Editors and Prospects.

The last issue of the Yale Courant, published by the present Senior Board, will appear next Saturday, March 13. On the evening of the same day the new Board from the class of 1898 will meet to organize and elect its officers. There is at present one vacancy on the Junior Board, which if not filled before next Saturday, will be decided upon by the '98 editors. The retirement of G. S. Haydock, '97, leaves a vacancy which is open to the competition of all classes. The control of the paper will be formally handed over to the new Board at the annual banquet, which takes place March 19 at the New Haven House.

The present Senior Board consists of the following: R. L. Munger, '97, chairman; A. F. Judd, Jr., '97, business manager; Norman L. Barnes, '97S.; Cornelius P. Kitchel, '97; Charles E. Thomas, '97, and Frederick Tilney, '97. The Junior editors are Gouverneur Morris, Jr., Sidney R. Kennedy, Forsyth Wickes, Thomas S. McLane and Arthur D. Baldwin. Of these the first and last named are also editors of the Yale Literary Magazine.

The past year has been an especially significant one in the history of the Courant. The Ninety-Seven Board of Editors took up the management last March, with the determination to make every effort to put the paper on a higher plane.

With this purpose in mind, the form of the publication was first assailed. From the old square, with conventional cover, the paper was changed to pocket size. The design for the cover has not been fixed, but each new issue has appeared with a new design. These covers were all made in the poster style with considerable color effects. To add to the general attractiveness, from time to time various line drawings have been inserted in the text and the editors have tried to make the typographical appearance of the paper equal to that of any of the college publications.

At the same time the literary standard of the paper has been greatly raised and in some respects has equaled the excellence of the "Lit." This has been quite possible by virtue of the efforts of the Ninety-Seven Board, which includes three of the regular "Lit" editors, and which, in order to preserve the high standard set at the opening of the year, has been forced to furnish most of the contributions itself, instead of relying upon the contributors for them. Underclass men, who have sufficient literary ability, are naturally more anxious to spend their efforts in competition for the "Lit" rather than for the Courant, so that the latter immediately falls into second place. An effort has been made to draw a more distinct line between the fields of the two magazines, but inasmuch as the "Lit" editors are beginning to accept articles and stories of a lighter nature than was formerly the case, and the Courant has been steadily increasing the caliber of its articles, it will be readily seen that the two fields, instead of becoming differentiated, are tending more and more to coincide with each other.

It is hard to foretell exactly what will be the fate of the Courant during the next few years. If its boards continue to be composed of in part of "Lit" editors, who are willing to divide their efforts between the two papers there is no reason to suppose that the standard of the Courant will decline. But the fact that most of the articles published are written by the editors themselves is in some respects a bad sign, and the lack of sufficient support in both quantity and quality from the underclassmen may ultimately weaken the paper to a very considerable degree.

A SHARP BATTLE.

Attack by the Chap Book and Defense by Courant.

In the Chap Book of February 15 appeared the following:

"The curse is upon the college magazines at last. They have started to become 'miniature' and sprightly and contemporaneous. Some time ago the Yale Courant gave up its old form of comparative dignity, and appeared in Jensen type and a poster cover. Bowdoin has The Quill, Columbia The Morningside, and the Normal School of Oklahoma has the Normal Philomath—mere variants in outward form of the Courant type.

"Outside, the Courant is the most gorgeous; inside, the others are less depressing. Their editors have, for the most part, read only the other college papers, while the Courant editors

have read The Quest of the Golden Girl. They have also read the literary magazines and reviews, and they comment on them in the editorial pages. The complaint is, not that they write badly about them, but that they should write about them at all. It is taken for granted that the college editor has read his classics, but if he goes on with contemporary writers this way, the supposition will soon be proved false.

"University life in this country has so far preserved something of the cloistral suggestion. It has been the only period when men with a taste for reading have been allowed to browse among old writers without being forced—for conversational purposes—to keep up with contemporary events. Every man with a love for letters came from college with a certain more or less solid foundation of reading. After graduation, if he liked, he filled in the chinks and polished off the corners and made himself a well read man. But the skeleton frame of his culture was put together in those leisure days when the modern novelist was no more than an occasional flickering light on his horizon.

"It is unwise to risk a 'symposium,' yet it would be interesting to know whether—after the distressing manifestations of the Yale Courant and the Normal Philomath of Edmond, Oklahoma—the college man reads Mr. Le Gallienne and is coming to have a 'miniature' and sprightly mind for modern fads of literature. It would seem a deplorable thing. If our public judgment is not to topple over altogether, there must be a good part of our readers whose literary knowledge extends to men who wrote at least before the war."

The Courant's Answer.

(Editorial in last issue of Courant.)

In human nature there is no element more capable of disgusting manifestations than conceit. And yet there are persons who possess the quality to such a marvelous degree that what is generally disgusting, becomes ludicrous.

It is our pleasant privilege to call the attention of our readers to certain writings of an anonymous scribe—unknown, be it said tearfully, to an appreciative world. These writings are easily accessible; they appear under the heading of "Notes" in The Chap-Book, by far the most influential, cleverly critical, ruthlessly caustic, and serenely infallible of all magazines, periodicals, or publications of any kind printed upon this planet. The Chap-Book can be bought for ten cents, but there are on file in the office of this paper two copies of recent issue which are at the disposal of all who wish to enjoy a hearty laugh.

We have read carefully the "Notes" of the last issue, especially that portion of them which treats of the Courant, and feel that the writer might well say with Socrates, "As for me, all that I know is that I know nothing."

The Chap-Book is pitifully paradoxical. For many years it dealt out its dainties to the world without discovering the "curse" of the "miniature"; it slurs upon the poster-cover also as a curse, and still contains the drawings of Mr. Frank Hazenplug; it has enlarged its size to obtain dignity and immediately stoops down from this dignity to slur upon a college periodical. O, most redoubtable Chap-Book, O dignified and notable editor!

It is no doubt a heinous thing for a college paper to write about "the literary reviews," it is a lamentable thing that college men should read any modern novels, much more that they should dare to form any opinion, and we are glad to be able to say that such an evil will not be long without a remedy. It is rumored that The Chap-Book is soon to issue an injunction preventing the majority of publishers in this country from sending books to be reviewed by the college magazines, and that fine and suitable imprisonment are also to be visited upon any person who does not agree with the editor of The Chap-Book. The Chap-Book says that the Courant editors have read "The Quest of the Golden Girl." We have—we are very sorry—we did not mean to do wrong—we swear that we were innocent—we did not know of The Chap-Book's opinion of it—we are humbled and penitent, and please, if the editor of The Chap-Book will only let us off this time we will be good in the future.

We have been told that the writer of these Chap-Book "notes" is a young man. We refuse to believe it. It is not possible that a man under seventy

(Continued on eighth page.)

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