

YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY.

EDITOR,

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R. W. CHANDLER, 1900.TREASURER,
E. J. THOMPSON.
(Office, Room 6, White Hall.)

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THE FACULTY'S NEW MEMBERS.

The great increase in Yale's teaching staff in the last decade of unusual growth, has already been expressed in figures. It is more to the point, perhaps, to express the feeling of those familiar with the comparatively new members of the Faculty and their work here, that Yale has attached to herself men who are well qualified to take upon their shoulders the great burden of responsibility which comes with a share in the University's educational work. They are men of enthusiasm for their work, of excellent training for it, and of sympathy with the ideals and spirit of the place. We believe that the latest additions to the staff, chronicled elsewhere, will also prove to meet these high requirements of Yale's teachers.

THE LOSING OF THE CUP.

To Pennsylvania is due full credit for her prevailing score at the Intercollegiate Games, and we beg to offer her congratulations thereon. Her figures of superiority are unfortunately too high to be affected by any possible result of swiftness and strategic campaigning on wheels.

But there is nothing for Yale men to be sad about. They wanted to win, but they couldn't. To a team with more sure points in it, has gone victory and the cup. A hard fight is over. A battle must be lost as well as won, and Yale lost well. It is by no juggling with our palates, that we find sweetness in the fruit that is within reach. We have before said why there is reason for much satisfaction with the work of the Track Team of 1897. There is just as much reason for this satisfaction as there was at the finish of the games with Harvard. A team of general excellence, well trained and full of fight, is the most valuable result of any athletic management. To those who won points for Yale at New York the most cordial congratulations are in order. To the Captain and to all members of the Team of 1897, and to their excellent and modest trainer, it is in order to say that they deserve and have the respect and gratitude of the Yale community.

THE ATHLETIC TEAM CAPTAIN.

The Track Team have chosen an excellent athlete for their leader for another year. They have chosen also a man who will be an excellent representative of Yale, and will be sure to keep a high standard of sport in his management of the team. It is cause also for very general satisfaction, on the part of those who like to see things in their right relations, that Mr. Perkins is also one of the very best scholars of his class. That fact is very good for athletics in general and for Yale athletics in particular.

The University bicycle team went to Bridgeport on Monday, May 31, and won every event in the meet of the Rambler Cyclers.

CRIBBING.

Where the Trouble is at Yale—Remedies Suggested.

To the Editor of the Yale Alumni Weekly, Sir:—

Recognizing that one who ventures to express himself on the subject of unfair work in examinations lays himself open to the charge of having taken himself too seriously, I feel warranted nevertheless in making an appeal, through the columns of the Weekly to graduates and undergraduates alike, for a change of attitude toward cheating in Yale examinations.

We have had our attention called during the year to the prevalence of such straightway and prayed with the Pharisee, "God, we thank Thee that we are not as other colleges are," and yet any one who is at all observant will be very slow in regarding Yale a superiority in this regard that justifies boasting.

There is difference of opinion as to the amount of cheating, as to its cause and as to its cure; yet I presume all will admit that there is cheating done, and that it ought to be stopped. It is, of course, not sufficient to believe that there is no more cheating done at Yale than at other large universities (or perhaps not so much); if we are sensitive to our own honor the question is, rather, cannot this amount be very considerably lessened?

Now, I suspect that Yale men are unanxious in believing that the sense of honor and of high manliness is the supreme and dominant tone in Yale's athletics; that on the field a dishonorable act is absolutely discountenanced; that the man must win his place by his own endeavor and hold it by an exhibition of skill and fairness that cannot be challenged. An unfair advantage taken or a mean spirit manifested on the diamond or on the track is hissed into speedy retreat.

It is this spirit of hearty approval for that which is fair and generous and undisguised condemnation of that which is underhanded, comprising as it does the essence of that quality which we call Yale spirit, that ought to be carried into the classroom.

The question at once arises, Why will a man copy a neighbor's paper in an examination who would blush either to do, or to see done, by a Yale man, a thing equally mean at the field? Does it mean that the individual's sense of honor is merely that which the crowd is willing to express, and that he has no self-preserving notion of right in himself? Or does it mean that a different standard of morals prevails in the classroom, and that which is wrong in sport ceases to be blame-worthy in study?

It is true that men are more or less governed by the code of morals which the college world sets up, and I do not think the statement will be challenged when I say that the college sentiment toward cheating is not one of uncompromising hostility. It is, rather, one of semi-indifference; a man may avail himself of another man's work and yet be a good fellow, not debarred from the honors which the class have to dispense. Ask individual men if they justify cheating, and most men will say no; but these same men do not sufficiently despise the practice to hold in dishonor those who do not scruple to do it. A man who is dishonest through and through is everywhere despised, but it cannot be denied that these so-called little acts of dishonesty, which go by the name of "cribbing," do not receive from the student body prohibitive condemnation.

This point deserves especial emphasis, that we, graduates and undergraduates, are to a certain large extent responsible for the dishonor which attaches to individual men who are implicated in its actual performance. As long as the student body is indifferent or only quiescently hostile, many men will not feel scrupulous in doing what on second thought they are surprised at themselves for having done. As one man said to me: "The morals of this cheating business doesn't bother me much, for I know that I am not disgraced in the eyes of the class for doing it." Now no such statement ought to be possible, nor would it be possible if we would stop talking of the "cleverness" of a man's "cribbing" and begin to remark upon the meanness of the cheat.

Furthermore, it is no doubt true that a somewhat different standard is allowed to prevail in the class room, and we meet the old sophistry that the question of individual honor is removed by the fact that the student is under supervision. However much such talk may be indulged, I do not think many men believe in it. Its fallacy is

too apparent. No police court excuses a culprit on the ground that patrolmen are walking the streets. Yet it is true that men argue in a half serious way to this effect: "The whole thing is a game; if I can crib and not get caught, I prove my cleverness and deserve the higher mark." And, though aware of the weakness of their position, men talk themselves at length into a partial persuasion that there is no harm in it after all. Men know in reality that they are always on their honor; that a dishonorable deed is not changed in nature by being done in an instructor's presence; that in every examination they are writing their individual character down as much as anything, and if, to get a mark of 2.25, they must copy from another man's paper, they know that they do it by recording for their manhood a mark well below 2.

The cause of cheating is, it seems to me, very largely attributable to those two things. The feeling that the class will not hold a man seriously in dishonor for so doing, combined with the bolstered up notion that a different standard admits of different conduct, the men forgetting for the time that a thing is being done no less mean than signing one's name to that which is not his own, posing for what one is not, and thereby enacting a lie.

If this be a correct opinion as to the cause of cheating, the line along which its cure is to be effected does not seem difficult to suggest. There must be in the first place a recognition that the practice is dishonorable; and in the second place the resident spirit of Yale against all dishonor must be evoked in the interest of its suppression.

It seems to me that both Faculty and students have a part to perform in the accomplishment of these two results. To the Faculty there belongs the task of characterizing the practice by its true name and insisting that every known instance of its occurrence shall be visited with the severest penalty, to the end that all unfairness be absolutely stopped. This is the first and essential step toward bringing about an actual belief in and open recognition of the real nature of cheating; and, with that established, the native spirit of Yale men against all dishonor will not be long in expressing itself. I do not believe however, that this sentiment will assert itself in a controlling way among graduates and undergraduates, until the Faculty take the initiative in declaring that cheating is of the essence of dishonor and must be stopped.

The exact method of procedure would, no doubt, receive many different suggestions. For my part, I am sufficiently optimistic to believe that this result can be achieved by an honor system. But, in proposing an honor system, it should be in fact an honor system, having no compromising appendages in the shape of affidavits to the effect that the signer has indeed been honorable. If it were officially stated that all supervision of examinations would be withdrawn after a certain date, and an appeal were made to the personal honor of the men to make the effort successful, I believe that the undergraduate spirit, supported as it would be by graduate sentiment, would do for the classroom exactly what it has accomplished for the athletic field—establish there a sense of chivalrous honor.

If, after thorough trial, this plan could not be shown successful, no opposition could then be made to a return, with increased severity, to the method of supervision. But, whether the method be the honor system or the system of supervision is not the thing of supreme importance; the vital point is that cheating should stop.

We may or may not agree with the method which Harvard has adopted for putting a stop to this practice; but we can scarcely fail to admire the recognition they have shown of the real nature of the offense, and the fact that they have set themselves face to face with the problem, calling the evil by no polite names and sturdily demanding its extinction. This should likewise be the end to achieve at Yale; if possible, by working through the spirit of the men in question, but, if necessary, by no less severe a measure than a resort to the rigorism of Harvard.

We all know that, under the present circumstances, there are occasional

(Continued on eighth page.)

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