

that, the careful training under efficient direction, a thing invaluable in itself wholly apart from its particular bearing on the contest. Yet in the past with a few exceptions the privilege of representing Yale in debate has been regarded as an honor merely and not in the light of a service to the University as in other intercollegiate meets.

If it is solely a personal honor to represent Yale in debate against Harvard or Princeton, it is highly commendable that those who have once spoken on a victorious trio should step aside at succeeding competitions and allow new men who are not their equals to receive the distinction. From the same point of view it would be well and good that the Thatcher prize should not be awarded twice to the same man. If, however, debating is to be put on a par with other intercollegiate contests, as a struggle where undergraduates may feel sure that their strongest team is always entered, such a policy is disastrous. The work of preparation for a University debate is undoubtedly a severe strain, but not greater proportionately than is called for along other lines of intercollegiate rivalry. Mr. Fisher deserves the highest praise for again entering the competition this Fall after debating against Princeton last Spring, and we congratulate him on having received for a second time the Thatcher prize.

It lies with the veteran debaters now in the University who have represented Yale on victorious teams against Harvard and Princeton, or who have had experience in intercollegiate Freshman contests, to decide the future policy of Yale in debating. If a green and inexperienced team is sent against Princeton next Spring, this continuance of last year's plan will undoubtedly result in defeat, for Yale will have to meet Princeton's veteran debaters. On the contrary, a competition for places on this team which included the majority of the men already experienced in University contests, with the certainty of only four being chosen, would give untold impetus to our debating prospects and the final selection could not fail to arouse the desired interest in the University at large.

THE ACADEMIC PAMPHLET.

The Academic Pamphlet for '97-'98 was issued Saturday. This contains the first official publication of the registration of the Academic Department for the present year. Comparing it with the Pamphlet of '96-'97 it is apparent that, while the Freshman class has fallen off by more than fifty, yet so many have been added to the other classes that the number of students in the whole Department is a trifle larger than last year. There is an apparent decrease in the registration from New England, outside of Connecticut, but it must not be forgotten that the number of such students entering in '96 was nearly double that of any preceding year. The representation from the Western and Southern States continues to increase. The only change in the composition of the Pamphlet is the arrangement of the names of the instructors on page 8-II, in alphabetical order, an innovation which will be gratefully appreciated by anyone who has ever attempted to find the addresses of these officers in the earlier pamphlets.

Mr. George L. Fox, delivered an informal address before the members of the Graduate Club, last Saturday evening. His subject was, "Norway," and a number of stereopticon views were shown.

MORE ROOM NEEDED.

A Plea for Adding to the Scope of Yale Field.

To the Editor of YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY:

Sir:

As a member of the Committee in charge of the Yale Field, I have had it on my mind for some little time, to refer in your columns to a matter which for years has been approaching a crisis, that crisis now having arrived.

I believe no one will dispute the statement, that the proper object of the cultivation of athletics in our colleges, is to give agreeable and stimulating out of doors exercise to the largest number possible. For some years, at our athletic Field, this ideal was fairly well realized. The track had its votaries; two ball fields served the two nines; and two football fields gave practice to the University and Freshman elevens, without interference with either diamond. There was also opportunity, though not as ample as could have been wished, for inter-class contests in baseball and football. But the wear and tear upon a much used football field is tremendous, and when the turf wears out, the casualties to players from holes and from slippery ground, are a costly matter, as our experience shows. This made a change of the University field necessary, and damaged the baseball outfield. It also curtailed in a measure the space available for play. By expensive returfing and constant shifting of the fields, these evils have been lessened. But now the time has come when the Field Committee cannot see its way. The demand that college games shall be played on college grounds has prevailed, and this Autumn, as every one knows, stands to seat fifteen thousand people have been erected. A quarter of the cost of this has been borne by the generosity of certain undergraduates, and this should receive public acknowledgment. To pay the balance will be a heavy drain upon the resources and credit of the Field Corporation and the Financial Union. But this is not the most serious result of the new era. These enormous stands, (in spite of the fact that a strip of adjoining land was bought, without which they could not have been erected,) have consumed so much of the available playing space, as to entirely destroy the old Freshman diamond, and no proper ground remains for Freshman baseball. Moreover these stands forbid further shifting of the football field to rest the worn spots.

The situation, then, is this. Everything has become subordinated to the uses of the two University teams. Of these the Nine is well looked out for. So is the Eleven, except that it should practice elsewhere than on the exhibition field, where the matches are played, to keep that in good condition. But the Freshman football field is a rough makeshift; no Freshman diamond can be located without crowding; and there is no provision for those inter-class and inter-club matches, and other informal but most desirable games, which are really what the Field is for. These often bring out crack players, and certainly give the maximum of fun and exercise at the minimum of cost. They are demanded by the policy of the athletic associations.

What, now, is the remedy for this lamentable condition? It is perfectly simple, and yet all these years, it has been out of our reach on account of our poverty. We have an unused portion of the Field, rough, unlevelled, in fact upon a slightly lower level. Five or six thousand dollars, according to the estimate of our engineer, would bring this tract into the same level as the rest of the Field, provide loam, and seed down. This with the scraps of space adjoining, now unavailable, would give three football fields or two baseball fields for general use.

Unless our athletics are to consist in the training of one University team each season, to the neglect of general college exercise in field sports, we are in absolute want of this extra space, and we want it at once. Who will grade it for us?

Very truly yours,
THEODORE S. WOOLSEY.
Yale University, Dec 1.

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