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THE TERM IN REVIEW.

There is a goodly balance on the credit side when St. Elihu comes to reckon up his term accounts this Christmas-tide. The thrifty old gentleman may well chuckle to himself in comparing his present prosperity with the depressing state of his affairs last June. A year of athletic defeats, the seriousness of which was greatly augmented by a critical spirit manifest among the undergraduates, filled the debit side of his ledger and had already weakened the confidence of the outside world in his abilities. But despite these difficulties the good saint had undaunted pluck and took courage; his sons rallied from far and near to his assistance. Though their self-sacrificing efforts he not only finds himself ahead on the present term accounts, but has been able to lay up a snug sum for the future.

The year of '97-8 opened very inauspiciously for Yale. The College was pervaded by a spirit of self-depreciation and criticism; victory in football seemed impossible; the team was raw and inexperienced. As the season advanced the work of the eleven in practice games was uniformly unsatisfactory. But little by little confidence was restored until finally Yale was again united when the faithful efforts of Captain Rodgers and his assistants culminated in victory. The success in debate closely following was but another means toward the same end. The College continues to rejoice in these victories, not as triumphs over rivals, but because of the enthusiasm which they have awakened at home.

The term has been marked by the unusual interest shown in Interclass Football matches, a fact which serves to emphasize the importance of the appeal made by Professor Woolsey in the last issue of the WEEKLY for better facilities for this sport and for baseball in the field. The track team has shown unusual vigor in its efforts to develop new material before Spring, through hare and hound runs and a hammer throwing contest. Candidates for the crew who were not busy at football were given daily practice in rowing on the harbor as long as the weather permitted. At present negotiations are under way with Cornell relative to a race with that University next June, but as yet no definite conclusion has been reached.

Among other innovations of the Fall

may be mentioned an important move made by the '98 News Board which greatly lessens the amount of work required from contributors. The men are now rated for the quality rather than the quantity of articles submitted. This step, which was effected by means of a systematic division of department work among associate editors will make News' competition much less burdensome and less fatal to scholarship.

Two small fires on the Campus during the term have perhaps caused some anxiety among parents who are unacquainted with the general structure of the College dormitories. Although it is surprising that fires are not more frequent on account of the proverbial carelessness of students, it is safe to say that, excepting the Brick Row there are no buildings in the city so nearly fire-proof as the University dormitories. Such was the opinion expressed by one high in fire-department circles not long since.

The generally increasing severity of the Faculty in regard to cheating in examinations will undoubtedly meet with the general approval of the alumni as it has with that of the majority of undergraduates. It has been announced by instructors in the class-room that hereafter the minimum penalty for this offense will be complete separation from the class. The attitude of the students toward cribbing has changed greatly during the past few years. Discussion of the Honor System in the periodicals and among the men has resulted in a growing sentiment that a good man is always on his honor whether under oath or not, no matter in what circumstances he finds himself.

Since the Faculty has allowed the use of Osborn Hall for class elections, the meetings have been conducted with dignity and decorum and have been far more business-like than formerly. Still the College sorely needs a larger place for these gatherings. Even if Alumni Hall were adopted for the purpose, its valuable collection of College paintings, many of which it would be impossible to replace in case of accident, render it likewise unsuitable.

So the Fall term closes and with it another year. The present Senior class has already done much for Yale; but there are many College customs which need reform and others which might well be abolished altogether. There is much which the class must still do to make '98 a banner year in Yale history.

A National University.

A bill providing for the establishment of the "University of the United States" has been introduced in both Houses of Congress. The bill in general terms provides for the establishment of an institution of the highest possible type for the graduates of accredited colleges and universities only, with a special reference to the work of original research and investigation in all important fields of inquiry.

The government is vested in a board of Regents and a University Council. The Board of Regents embraces the President of the United States, the Chief Justice of the United States, the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, the President of the National Educational Association, the President of the University, and nine other citizens to be appointed by the President. The University Council consists of the Regents and twelve other members from among eminent educators, with a like impartial distribution. All courses and officers of instruction are to be determined by the Council, also all regulations governing the internal management of the institution.

Congress is now asked for enough means to enable the Board of Regents to organize and practically inaugurate the institution. Gifts and bequests are

to be deposited in the United States Treasury in trust and invested in bonds of the United States bearing five per cent. interest.

Neither sectarian nor political preferences in any form are to be allowed. Authority is given to establish with other institutions of learning such co-operative relations as are deemed advantageous. Provision is made for the use of what is known as "University Square," the site set apart by General Washington himself for University purposes. It has lately been occupied by the Naval Observatory.

In 1895, the National Committee of One Hundred formed an executive council to act in behalf of the National University, both in the framing of a bill and in promoting its passage. This council after several meetings prepared the pending bill and in due time the Senate Committee submitted a favorable report including letters or endorsement from many eminent educators and leading public men.

It is the intention of the National University Committee that the government shall cooperate in the establishment of the proposed University and it is intended that the bill shall be pressed to an early passage.

College Instruction in Insurance.

[Max Cohen in Views.]

According to an article in the Yale WEEKLY, published in the interest of Yale College, "a course in life insurance" at colleges looms up as a future possibility.

That the subject of insurance, especially of life (which has a literature of its own and mighty technical terms), should be made evident to students, would merit our approval were it not for the fact that their secret and Nu Duteron societies won't be in it in rushing them nearer to the gulf of mysticism. The intellectual splitting of hairs, and the doubts that will assail minds in the presence of this weighty curriculum, will be apt to make these students keenly recognize their utter emptiness.

Let us but consider for a moment. They will be required to digest the meaning and the difference of the "interchangeable term" for the "renewable decennial term," "convertible term," "continuable term," "various years term" and "various distribution term." They will wrestle with the "non-forfeiting free tontine," "dividend tontine duplex," "tontine installment," "limited payment life tontine," "participating," "non-participating," "ordinary life," "annual distribution," "five-year dividend," "five-years distribution," "accumulative dividend," "deferred dividend," "survivorship dividend," "dividend investment."

There is also strong reason for fearing that before the students in this class have received the benefits of the "life endowment" or "semi-endowment," or caught on to the surgical assistance afforded by the course in unknotting the problems of the "guaranteed accretion,"

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"guaranteed increasing," "guaranteed privileges," "guaranteed investments," or "guaranteed dividend," they will surrender to "the unconditional accumulative" or "allotment plan," and, without further participation in the course seek a more joyful and rollicking "mutual investment" on the football field.

Consequently Yale's promised insurance curriculum may prove but "a limited premium return," and cause a "surplus impairment" of brains.

New Infirmary for Cornell.

Cornell University has recently been presented with a magnificent gift, in the shape of the Sage mansion, together with an endowment of \$100,000, to be used as an infirmary for the students. Before the donors, Dean Sage and Wm. H. Sage, turn the house over to the University, it is intended to have it altered to suit the purpose for which it is to be used. The value of the property is about \$100,000. The hospital will be under the charge of a matron, with an adequate staff of assistants, and the endowment will be used to pay them and to defray the general running expenses of the institution. The students will pay the cost of their own board while in the infirmary, and it is expected that this will not exceed one dollar per day. The late owner of the building had, at various times made gifts to Cornell amounting to about \$1,000,000.

The examinations for the Fall term closed yesterday at noon, and many hundreds of the students have left the city for the mid-Winter vacation. College will convene again on Tuesday, January 11th.