

NEWS FROM HARVARD.

New Movement to Unite the Graduates in Support of Athletics.

[Correspondence of YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY.]

Cambridge, Jan. 10.—After a holiday recess of rather brief duration, the University entered upon the Winter term last Monday. The six weeks following the Christmas vacation are always the busiest of the year at Harvard. The approach of the mid-year examinations and the absence of athletic distractions offer incentive and opportunity for hard work in the curriculum. For this limited period the wheels of the great intellectual factory fairly hum with industry. Everything is run at forced draft and the men work long hours to meet the unusual demands of the mid-year period.

GRADUATE INTEREST.

But, while the undergraduates are busied in scholarly pursuits, a movement has developed among the alumni, looking to the organization of the graduate body in the interests of university athletics. The movement had its inception a month ago in a meeting of prominent graduates to consider ways and means for concentrating the graduate interest in athletics, unifying graduate opinion, and effecting greater permanency in Harvard's athletic policy. During the past week a circular letter has been sent out to all living graduates of the University, whose addresses are known, explaining the purpose of the movement and the scheme of organization. This letter, which is reprinted in full in another column of the WEEKLY, shows the function of the proposed organization in regard to the conduct of university sports, to be merely advisory. Among the graduates it is to serve as an information bureau and supply the machinery for collecting funds in support of athletic enterprises.

THE PLAN'S PRACTICAL VALUE.

The practical value of the proposed association remains to be demonstrated. Its usefulness depends entirely upon the existence of genuine and wide-spread desire on the part of the alumni to give attention to the athletic interests of the University. If there is indifference on the part of the graduates, no amount of machinery will alter this condition. The insertion of another cogwheel in the already complicated mechanism of "athletic Harvard" will then tend only to render its working more involved with the chance of added friction.

When the Athletic Committee was organized here, it was asserted by its advocates that it furnished a remedy for the evils which up to that time had negated all efforts to manage and control University athletics. The scheme of the Harvard Committee has been imitated at other universities in one or two instances. To what extend has its working verified the claims made for it? An editorial in the *Harvard Crimson* of last Thursday, supporting the proposed Graduate Organization, is significant in this connection. The editor writes:

"The great weakness of Harvard athletics, a weakness which extends through every department of sport, and indeed through the whole of the less serious side of the University life, is an utter lack of permanent organization. The policy of the Faculty and the other University officials is to leave the regulations of athletics and of social questions so far as possible to the undergraduates themselves. The Athletic Committee's function is not to guide and develop, but to restrain. Its work is in a sense purely negative. In many respects this policy of non-interference is wise, but it has a distinct disadvantage, for it makes a permanent policy an utter impossibility."

This, if true, is a startling confession. The stock argument in favor of the Harvard system has been that it gave permanency to the athletic policy. The Athletic Committee was, in effect, a court of highest resort, with provision for the filling of all vacancies which might occur. Men might come and men might go, but this Committee went on forever. Matters of detail were left to the various teams and coaches; matters which affected the

general athletic policy of the University were controlled by the Committee. Now we are told that the great weakness of Harvard athletics is an utter lack of permanent organization, and that the Committee's policy of non-interference makes a permanent policy an utter impossibility. It is difficult to see how a graduate organization, acting only in an advisory capacity, is to succeed in accomplishing this desired result where a permanent Athletic Committee with unlimited powers has failed.

PROBLEM NOT SOLVED.

The failure of the Athletic Committee to solve the problem of managing University athletics lies in quite another direction. That it has, to a degree at least, given permanency and definiteness to the athletic policy of the University, can hardly be denied by one who carefully considers the course of Harvard in the different branches of intercollegiate sport during recent years. The present movement to effect an organization of the alumni indicates the direction in which the Committee has failed. The nine members are chosen in equal proportions from the undergraduates, the alumni, and the Faculty. Theoretically it is an ideal board. But, so far as representing the three constituencies from which the members are chosen in concerned, it has been an emphatic failure.

The three members of the Faculty have in a sense represented their body, because on matters athletic, the majority of the Faculty take little or no individual interest and acquiesce in the opinions of the committee members. Yet, in one notable instance, when the Faculty voted to abolish football, the Faculty members of the Committee stood squarely for a continuance of the game in opposition to their constituents.

That the members of the undergraduate body have in any real sense represented their constituency is not compatible with the conditions which exist at Cambridge. The lack of cohesion between individuals or groups here at Harvard makes it difficult to feel the pulse of the body politic. But the voice of the students is not sought. These three representatives of the undergraduates are not even chosen by those whom they represent. They are appointed to membership on the Committee. Of late, steps have been taken to increase the student representation on the Committee.

An equal difficulty is encountered in the case of the graduate members of the Committee. They, too, are appointed, and their scattered constituency has no voice in their selection. It the Committee acts without consulting the body of graduates, there is no recourse but to protest. If under the existing system the consensus of graduate opinion found expression in the Committee, there would be little occasion for the proposed organization. The movement for organization speaks the inadequacy of the present order of things.

Under the system which now obtains it is natural that the Faculty members should dominate the Committee. If the proposed organization of graduates is consummated, it will be interesting to note the results. It is difficult to see how the graduates will gain by the increased opportunity to express their opinions if the Athletic Committee does not see fit to act in accordance with such advisory suggestions.

J. WESTON ALLEN.

Track Athletics at Brown.

The Board of Directors of the Brown University Athletic Association has voted to discontinue the track athletic team this year unless a sum equal to unpaid subscriptions to the Association is paid on or before Jan. 25. The directors thought it best to contract no debts until the way to pay them is clearly seen. If a team is organized John F. Moakley, official handicapper of the New England Association of the Amateur Athletic Union, will probably be engaged as coach.

The candidates for the Brown baseball team will meet on Wednesday. Fred Tenney, first baseman of the Boston nine of the National League, and a graduate of Brown, will instruct the members of the team.

CORNELL'S REPLY COMING.

Believed She Wishes to Name the Conditions for 1899.

[By telegraph to The WEEKLY.]

Ithaca, N. Y., Jan. 12.—The Athletic Council reached a decision Monday night and sent communications embodying this decision to Yale, Columbia, Pennsylvania and Harvard. Nothing regarding the contents of the communication, however will be, officially given out until these communications have reached their destinations. The general impression here is, however, that Cornell replied to Yale saying something like this: "We will accept your invitation to join the Yale-Harvard race to be rowed over the New London course on date named, but in doing this it is understood that inasmuch as Yale named all the conditions for this year's race, Cornell shall be allowed to name the conditions for next year's race." In other words Cornell does not ask for an agreement, but merely an understanding like that between Yale and Princeton. The question whether the race be rowed is, if this version be true, left to Yale. If Yale consents Cornell will row her other triangular race with Columbia and Pennsylvania at New London. If Yale refuses to row with this understanding as to next year's race, it is believed that Cornell will arrange for an open regatta probably the Poughkeepsie course.

Later.

The above report was confirmed by the arrival at noon of the official reply from Cornell. It states that "Cornell accepts the proposition of Yale for a triangular race at New London provided Cornell be allowed to name the place and time of a similar race for next year." It is not possible to say what Yale's answer will be, but it will be made at once.

Hockey Team Beaten.

The most important game of the Yale Hockey Team during the holidays was that with the St. Nicholas Skating Club at the St. Nicholas rink, New York, on Saturday night, Jan. 8. The Yale team, though playing a strong, fast game, was beaten by the score of 6 to 1.

Yale started the game with a snap that surprised the St. Nicholas players for a few minutes. Barnett captured the puck in the face-off and passed to Cox, who dribbled the rubber as far as Wrenn. The latter lifted it to Hall, who, in turn, started down the ice with the speed of an express train. His shot for goal was blocked by Robb, who carried the puck half way back and passed it to Wrenn, who drove it between the flags for the first goal. Yale again won the puck on the face-off, but quickly lost it to Barron, who repeatedly tried for goal. Collender also tried several times with no better success. After fourteen minutes of fast play Larned shot the second goal for St. Nicholas, on a pass by Barron. The former repeated the feat, without assistance, one minute after the rubber was again put in play. The score at the end of the half was 3 to 0 in favor of the home players.

At this point Hall captured the puck and made a brilliant run the entire length of the rink. His shot for goal, however, was stopped by Hewitt.

Yale now worked desperately, and with barely two minutes more to play Cox saved his team from a "white-washing" on a pass by Stoddard.

The team also met defeat the previous night at the hands of the Skating Club of Brooklyn, before a crowd of 1200 people, at the Clermont Avenue rink in Brooklyn. Yale's only goal was made by Hall, who captured the puck in the second half in front of Yale's goal and with splendid protection and judgment dribbled close to the Brooklyn goal. Here, although the tender point and coverpoint were guarding, he shot the rubber between the flags. The referee was George Sheldon, Yale, 1900.

ALREADY A STRONG TRADITION

Yale is a place full of tradition. Traditions not only govern the conduct of Freshmen, the relation of classes and the status of institutions, but also the business dealings of the new comer. They direct him where to go for the necessities and the luxuries of life.

Some of these traditions become strongly entrenched in a few years, and there is generally a very good reason for it. We think if you will communicate with our store by a personal call or by correspondence, you will see why the tradition has become so strong in a few years among Yale men to get their furnishings of

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"Medical Journal" Contents.

The contents of the January number of the *Yale Medical Journal*, beside the usual medical society reports, alumni news and editorials, are:

On the Parasites of Malarial Fever, William Sydney Thayer, M.D.; Fashions in Gynecology, Henry J. Garrigues, A.M., M.D.; Ophthalmic Clinical Notes, David Webster, M.D.; Koch's New Tuberculin, Edward R. Baldwin, '90 M.S., M.D.

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