

YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY

SUBSCRIPTION, - \$2.50 PER YEAR.

Foreign Postage, 40 cents per year.

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Checks, drafts and orders should be made payable to the Yale Alumni Weekly.

All correspondence should be addressed,—
Yale Alumni Weekly, New Haven, Conn.

The office is at Room 6, White Hall.

ADVISORY BOARD.

H. C. ROBINSON, '53. J. R. SHEFFIELD, '87.
W. W. SKIDDY, '65 S. J. A. HARTWELL, '89 S.
C. P. LINDSLEY, '75 S. L. S. WELCH, '89.
W. CAMP, '80. E. VAN INGEN, '91 S.
W. G. DAGGETT, '80. P. JAY, '92.

EDITOR.

LEWIS S. WELCH, '89.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

WALTER CAMP, '80.

ASSISTANT EDITOR.

E. J. THOMPSON, Sp.

NEWS EDITOR.

FRED. M. DAVIES, '99.

PRESTON KUMLER, 1900, Athletic Department.

DAVID D. TENNEY, 1900, Special.

Entered as second class matter at New Haven P. O.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., FEB. 3, 1898.

Please sign with your full name all your communications. THE WEEKLY can pay no attention to articles which do not bear the author's full name and post office address.

THE WIGWAM.

In forming the Wigwam, members of Nineteen hundred have taken a step which, in our opinion, promises more for the social life of Yale than anything done in that line for a long period. Time and experience will be necessary to tell just how correct their diagnosis of the situation is, and just how well adapted is their organization to the needs of the time. They are dead in earnest, and the organization begins certainly under most favorable auspices. The opening meeting was a success in every particular, and the popularity of the Wigwam is already so great that twice as many men wish to join it as its membership limit will allow.

But more of the practical side of it, after it has had a fair test. In the meanwhile, we can most enthusiastically endorse the spirit which prompted its formation and the good sense which has characterized its methods. Nearly every man who has wished to reform the social conditions of Yale life in the under classes has begun by thundering against Sophomore societies. If these reformers had their way, they would sweep these organizations out of existence. They generally fail to say what they would put in their place. Perhaps they don't realize that something must be in their place; but those who follow College life closely know that the mere casting out of this "devil," if you would please to call it so, might mean the forgathering of several other devils of much less attractive personalities.

The founders of the Wigwam have attempted to create, not to destroy. They seem to say that the trouble is not that some men get together and know each other well, but that a good many men who ought to get together and know each other well do not have the opportunity. They do not declare that organization and association of men of common interest is a bad thing. On the contrary, they know that the history of the Sophomore societies themselves proves that it is an excellent thing for these men to come together in this way. As has been

said, they want to secure for themselves and for their classmates more of just these advantages.

No one of the present Sophomore societies seems organized on such a basis as to allow its expansion to any considerable extent. The multiplication of societies of the same kind has some advantages, but other drawbacks. Besides, not only should those who don't ordinarily go into Sophomore societies now have the benefit of association with the best men of their class, but those who are in the different societies need to know each other better. And as for the Union, not all the best men can get together in the Union, any more than in the rowing tank or the football squad.

And so a new basis of organization is chosen. On this basis it is felt that all those who represent in one or more directions the best qualities of Yale student life, should be able to meet and know each other and give to each other what there is in each, and work together for the common interests of Yale students—for their class and for their College.

The basis chosen, that of a discussion of some topic of live and immediate interest to all, and the whipping it out in a good, lively debate, seems a good one. Men like debating, or else they are very directly interested in questions of College policy. In either case they can contribute to the evening. Our hope is that this side of the Wigwam will be kept up to the highest standard. We hope for the most severe disciplinary measures against those who fail to take their part well in the discussion. Suspension or prompt expulsion will, we trust, not be considered too serious measures in this line. No society which is much worth preserving lives on other than some such substantial basis.

The restriction of the number to forty is good. We do not see how the Wigwam could be wieldy, or could cultivate a proper esprit de corps, in very much larger numbers. If the Wigwam is a great success, there will probably be a call for a similar rival organization. So much the better. The more of such means there are of bringing together the true men of Yale, and bringing each to the fullest enjoyment of all the opportunities which Yale has for him, the better for Yale.

We have before suggested the formation of some organization in the lower classes which should bring all the most earnest and representative men of Yale together. It may yet be found possible to have some common meeting ground for all, and so keep the student body cohesive by mutual association. But no one is so foolish as to insist on any special way in which Yale shall work out her social salvation, and this Wigwam has so many good things about it, and is so plainly in the right direction, that we endorse it most heartily and bid it Godspeed.

ANOTHER CRUEL BLOW.

The Chicago Record, and we presume several Western papers, printed a dispatch from Berkeley, Cal., in which one Everett J. Brown, named as Track Captain of the University of California, in a few brief sentences disposes of all the professions of amateurism of Eastern colleges. Harvard alone is excepted, and of her it is said that that is the reason why she is so often defeated. Yale, of course, is picked out as the worst offender, and this athletic leader of California claims to have met football players from New Haven who boasted that they had not seen the College Campus during the football season. Of course, Princeton is picked out as the next worst offender. That is

in the natural order of the penalty of success.

It is just as well to reprint some of the more humorous of the sweet things that are constantly in circulation in regard to Yale. Lots of Yale men keep scrap books, and not the least interesting of their contents are the different forms and styles of malediction to which their University is treated year in and year out. This particular kind of slander has an infinite variety, and very frequently reaches that humor which is always associated with the extremes of the ridiculous.

About this little incident, of course it is much the most charitable thing to believe that Mr. Brown has never been East at all and that he has never talked with a reporter. We don't know anything about Mr. Brown, and so we are reluctant to believe fool things about him. We know a good deal about some newspapers and we are obliged to admit that we are not surprised to believe anything about them.

DEBATING AT HARVARD.

Proposition to Unite the Forum and Union for More Strength.

[Correspondence of YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY.]

Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 1st, 1898.—During the interval between the intercollegiate debates with Yale and Princeton, there is seldom important news to chronicle in regard to the debating societies. But this year it is proposed to consolidate the two rival clubs, the Forum and the Union. This would mean a radical change in the methods which have hitherto been employed to develop debating talent in the University. For a few seasons after the Forum was organized—by some discontented members of the Union—the rivalry of the two organizations proved a stimulus to debating activity. The very fact that a rival organization could be successfully launched was evidence of the healthy vigor of the debating life in the College. With each season, the Forum has gained strength until it has, of late years, had among its members more than its share of representatives in intercollegiate contests. But the successive defeats of the Harvard debating teams at Yale's hands seems to have demoralized the debating forces, and the weekly meetings of both clubs have been poorly attended. Monthly debates between the two clubs were instituted this Winter, but have signally failed to revive the waning interest. Curiously enough, the Freshman club, which it was feared would suffer by the discontinuance of Freshman debating contests with Yale, has enjoyed a

NEW YORK LIFE

INSURANCE COMPANY.

JOHN A. MCCALL, PRESIDENT.

This Company has been in successful operation since 1845, and has now over 300,000 policy-holders and over \$200,000,000 in assets. It offers the most privileges and on the most favorable terms, of any Company. Under its new system of classifying and compensating agents, it offers to young men continuous employment and a life income. Its policies and agents' contracts will interest all students.

NEW YORK LIFE

INSURANCE COMPANY,

346 & 348 Broadway,
NEW YORK.

THE PRESENT SITUATION

in intercollegiate

ROWING

... is clearly defined in February ...



BY W. B. CURTIS.

The features of 1898 Bicycle Models are reviewed and illustrated. Ice Hockey, Ice Yachting, Winter Photography and Tobogganing are the winter pastimes which have a place in this issue.

OTHER FEATURES.

Self-Defense with the Single-Stick—The Revival of Falconry—Australian Aboriginal Sports and Wood-craft—Chicago to San Francisco a-wheel—Fox Hunting in the South—The Airedale Terrier—A Week with the Singhalese—Snipe Shooting—Doris, a Story of the Regulators—and the usual editorials and records of current sporting events written by the foremost authorities.

25 cents a copy. \$3.00 a year.

THE OUTING PUBLISHING CO.,
239 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Yale Law School.

For circulars and other information apply to

Prof. FRANCIS WAYLAND,

Dean.

healthy growth. A Sophomore society, organized to give the Freshman club a competitor, has been similarly well supported. This has led those who have the debating interests of the College at heart to conclude that similar clubs organized in the two upper classes to complete an inter-class league, would probably furnish the best solution of the problem of arousing greater interest. This plan will doubtless be adopted. The two old societies will then be united into an honorary society, to which men shall be eligible only by meritorious work in the class clubs. Other schemes have been proposed, but this one promises the best results, and its successful operation in part in the two lower classes, in spite of the restricted class feeling here at Harvard, is thought to augur well for the larger league. Under the new regime, the real work in debating will be done in the class clubs, to which all members of the several classes will be respectively eligible. Weekly meetings will be held, inter-class debates arranged, with a possible championship series near the close of the season. Class loyalty, as well as the reward of an election to the honorary society, will furnish incentive to good work. Whether the proposed plan proves successful or not, it is certain that the experiment must be tried and promptly, or the lessening interest in debating among the upper class men will be deleterious to the success of future Harvard teams, and more especially in the contest against Princeton's debaters late in the present year. Harvard has yet to encounter defeat in debate at the hands of the New Jersey college, and this clean record will be maintained, it is hoped, by means of the new stimulus of inter-class rivalry.

The problem of properly selecting the best speakers for the intercollegiate contests is attracting attention with the prospect that a change will be made in the near future. Under the present method of choosing the speakers, it is claimed the competitors are not thoroughly tested. Each speaker is allowed only five minutes, and there is no opportunity for rebuttal. It is proposed in the future to hold a series of debates on different evenings, at which the candidates will be weeded out and the best men given an opportunity in a final contest to show their ability in a longer argument and in rebuttal. This will be similar to the system which now obtains at Yale.

J. WESTON ALLEN.

Winner of the "Lit." Medal.

The gold medal annually awarded by the Yale Literary Magazine for the best essay in a special competition has been given to Isham Henderson, '99, of Louisville, Ky. The title of his essay is "Alphonse Daudet, The Provençal."

The judges were Prof. H. A. Beers, '69, and Mr. C. W. Wells, '96.