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SECRETARY'S NOTICE.

The WEEKLY again desires to urge upon the Secretaries of class and alumni associations the necessity of sending to this office all news of the organizations which they may represent. Our aim is to print as news and for the preservation of complete record the doings of the individual, and the organized bodies of Yale graduates. This is impossible without the coöperation of the secretaries. It is gratifying to see that the numbers of those who do coöperate is on the increase, but the opportunity for an improvement is great.

THE NEW YORK DINNER.

It is not necessary to offer any apology for the length of report of the New York dinner, and none will be made, for, considering the speakers and the character of the speeches, it is doubtful if any better material could be obtained, even after long and diligent search. The spirit of good fellowship that brings together hundreds of graduates in such a meeting covering a range of three score years, is perhaps not entirely confined to Yale men, but it would seem to bear its best fruit among them.

AN OBVIOUS BLUNDER.

The report of the speech of Professor A. T. Hadley at the New York dinner Monday night, which was sent out over the country by the press associations, contains a serious blunder which, however, could not have failed to show on its face that there was a mis-quotation. It was nevertheless a somewhat puzzling statement that "Yale's annual income was $600,000, contrasted against Harvard's comparatively insignificant income of $12,000." What Prof. Hadley did say is correctly quoted in the course of his speech which is printed in another column. As reported, there was a discrepancy of something over a million in Harvard's actual income.

It would be safe to hazard an opinion at least that the reporter was not closely acquainted with the financial affairs of either of these Universities.

VACATION SCHOOLS.

European Establishments for the Study of French Languages.

[William Henry Bishop in Nation.]

"Vacation schools for French are of late being founded in considerable number in Europe. They are for the benefit of foreigners, and the natives are debarred from attending them. I had occasion to visit most of these schools the past Summer, and printed reports from several have now come in. The courses given are usually divided into two series; as, at Paris, one includes the month of July and the second the month of August, and at Geneva one extends from the 17th of July to the 30th of August, and a shorter one follows from October 1st to the 21st. Each is complete in itself; they mean to cover about the same ground, but at the same time the texts and other matters are not duplicated, so that any one might profitably follow both. I could not help being favorably impressed with the doings at all of these schools alike. Too much should not be expected from so brief a period of study, but all of them present an excellent opportunity to find out what the language is in its real dignity and importance, in its traditions and its literary development, as contrasted with the light smattering—to which no disparagement, as far as it goes—usually got from the ordinary French teacher abroad.

"It is now the requirement in the progressive European countries, as it will perhaps become the requirement some time with us, that the instructor in a modern language shall be able to conduct a recitation in the language itself. Some of those in attendance at Paris, during the last Summer, were Russian and Bulgarian teachers sent at the expense of their own governments The majority seemed to be connected with education; the college principal from Copenhagen would elbow the English governess from Allahabad; but there were also army offiecrs, doctors, editors, and some for business men.

THE ALLIANCE FRANCAISE.

"The vacation school at Paris, under the auspices of the Alliance Française, though founded only in 1894, has become the most important of all, as is natural enough, considering the advantages of the great metropolis. The Alliance Française is a patriotic association—with many distinguished persons in its management, and branches in all parts of the world—for the propagation of the French language.

"The exercises were held in the bright new edifice of the Ecole Coloniale, which is on the quiet Avenue de l'Observatoire, close by the Luxembourg gardens. The cheery look of the building was a pleasant augury that was not belied by the event; from the first a very cordial and considerate spirit, which is by no means the invariable rule at Paris, was manifested towards the large group of strangers. They represented every sort of nationality: Russians, Danes, Hollanders, Italians, Bulgarians, Czechs, were all there. The bare list shows the cosmopolitan character of the assemblage, and its possibilities for good. Germans were largely in the majority, as I found to be the case in all these schools. They were 216 out of the 370. There were 54 English and 44 Americans; the Russians followed next in order.

"A busy round of lectures began, at the rate of about three a day, with conversation classes by small groups of persons, in the evening, and also (thrown in, during the day) visits, under a competent conductor, to the monuments and other art works of Paris. The French language of the seventeenth century and of the nineteenth were treated of, Gallicisms and popular speech; classic literature, and contemporary literature; Lamartine, by himself; the dramatic theories of Diderot; comedy after Molière; the Romantic drama. There were besides recitations in diction and dramatic reading and in elocution and pronunciation. The series is divided into two courses, elementary and advanced, according to the ability of the student, and there is also a common course, open to all alike, treating of the institutions of France, and of art. At the end of the term, examinations were held and diplomas issued. As to the matter of expense, it is moderate: the whole two hundred exercises, of all sorts, can be subscribed for for the sum of 150 francs, or twenty-five tickets can be taken for 25 francs—this is required as a minimum—and, after that, such single tickets as may be desired.

PROF. BRUNOT LECTURES.

"Prof. Brunot of the University, author of an historical grammar of the language, was the lecturer best known among scholars. He is spoken of, too, as the soul of this work, on account of his great interest in it from the first. He gave us his regular product in all the minute details, so that the result was as if one had had a month's section or supply of what he would have taken a year or more to develop at the Sorbonne. René Doumic of the Lycée Stanislas, but also the distinguished literary critic of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, was the most interesting of the lecturers. The amphitheatre was large—for the purpose in view—and the front seats were much in demand, but he was the one who could always be heard without difficulty. It is gratifying to know this, as he is coming here in the Spring to lecture at some of our universities, following in the footsteps of Brunetière, last year. He seems to have formed himself upon Brunetière in many ways, but his sentences are much shorter than Brunetière's, and hence easier to follow. He has also much humor. He dwelt on the need of actually being in a foreign country and knowing it, in order to try to understand its literature. All the speakers were not as entertaining as M. Doumic; some of them mumbled under their breath, and some of them were dull.

"The conversation classes were really very well done. I could not but admire the polite ingenuity with which the bright young professor, in one of those sections, combatted the reluctance (or the native slowness) of some of his auditors in being led into talk. Some of them had had very little previous practice in speaking. 'And, you, monsieur,' he would say, extending a courteously appealing hand towards, for instance, the dark South American, 'will you tell us something about the system of suffrage in your country?' 'And you, mademoiselle,' again, to the blonde Swedish girl, whose pleasant high color at once became more rosy still with a flush of modesty, 'have you been to the theatre sometimes in Paris?' The theatre was always a resource; Richepin's play 'Le Chemineau' was on at the time at the Odéon, and nearly everybody had seen it. He would have the plot of it narrated and commented upon. Again, Zola, what with the differing moral ideas from so many parts of the globe, proved a source of such lively discussion that all self-consciousness was, for the time being, thrown off.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS.

"The final examinations consisted of the writing of a dissertation, in French, on some subject based upon the work gone over. One of those for the superior course was: 'What was the end aimed at by Molière in writing 'Tartuffe'?' One of those for the elementary course: 'An interview between the King and a critic belonging to the classic school, who wished him to forbid the representation of Victor Hugo's plays.' I note that but one American passed the examination for a diploma, while sixteen diplomas were awarded to the English; but I think this merely shows that the Americans have not yet begun to enter for the examinations; they content themselves, for the present, with the incidental improvement.

A GRENOBLE SCHOOL.

"At Grenoble they are planning a school of the same kind. They would be glad to draw foreign students to their University. This small city, of 60,000 inhabitants, will most likely have a program of studies arranged for the coming season, and then it should present great advantages. My attention was first called to it by the statement of Michael Bréal, the distinguished philologist of the Collège de France, that, if he had his life to live over again, 'he would be a student nowhere but at Grenoble, within sight of the Alps, beside the swift water of the Isère.' I spent some three weeks there, and came to know it quite well.

"From there I went on to Geneva. I found some two hundred and twenty members in the Summer course, with every appearance of being actively interested. The greater number were still Germans. There were but two from England—more exactly, Scotland—and none from America, though there have been Americans in former years. The fees are a little lower that in France—that is, forty francs for six weeks, at the rate of eleven lessons a week.

"The studious audience, in the spacious halls, had a rather more hard-working air than that at Paris; there were many elderly persons present—one grave, turbaned, Oriental among them—and the shirt-waists and sailor hats might have been a trifle less trim than at Paris. The instructors, chiefly from the government lycées, were young, energetic and very competent in their subjects. Prof. Thudicum had in connection with his class in Phonetics a successful Section de Chant, in which the popular ballads of Switzerland were sung; singing being an excellent promoter of accurate pronunciation. Prof. Bouvier, the founder and director, was admirable. Still young, of a fine and thoughtful appearance, a man of ideas and an excellent speaker, he had, too, that obligingness of manner, combined with force and efficiency in management, that constitute the highest type of deportment for the civilized man. Saturdays were kept free for excursions, and surely there was no lack of excursions, when you could go one day, for instance, to see Voltaire's fine château at Ferney, and another down the lake to Madame de Staël's charming home at Coppet.

"Further along on the lake, at Lausanne, housed in the new chemical laboratory of the quaint University, high on the very steep hill, is another of the vacation schools. And still another is at Neuchâtel, on the lake of the same name, the town where Agassiz was once professor."

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