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NEW HAVEN, CONN., MARCH 10, 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.

GOOD SPEECHES.

There have been some excellent reports made about Yale University at recent alumni banquets. Facts have been cited and pleasant comparisons made with the past. In general, these banquets have been useful in spreading knowledge of Yale. Not only President Dwight, but different members of the Faculty, have done excellent service in this respect. Now and then criticism has developed, but the general result is only to excite more interest in the institution and bring out more of its good points.

While we are speaking of University reports, it may be in order to commend the very frank address of Professor Phelps at the Orange dinner, which was printed in full in last week's issue. The WEEKLY makes special effort to secure for publication these more important addresses. It seems to us the paper's particular field to furnish Yale men reading of this sort which is not given elsewhere (at least until it is used here) and which was hitherto in large measure inaccessible. This particular speech probably did not escape any careful reader of the paper. It told things that were of interest, and so most certainly did Professor Hadley's at New York. That address was a most commendable one from every standpoint. Its wide circulation has done Yale a large amount of good. Far and wide throughout Yaledom there has been the keenest response to the sentiment that the interest of the officers of Yale is centered very little in the figures of registration, but rather in the quality of the life here.

MR. BROWN AND THE I. A. A.

The *Daily Californian* comments on the alleged threat of the Intercollegiate Athletic Association to expel the University of California, unless Mr. Brown, the Football Manager of that University, proves his charges against the purity of Eastern college athletics. The *Californian* takes the ground that the Association should welcome the criticism if it is true, or show Brown

how he is mistaken if he has been misled. The *Californian* doubts the correctness of the report, refusing to believe that the Association has gone on record as demanding that those who make charges against its members, or, as this paper expresses it, "its favorites," shall show that these charges are true, or shall be expelled. It, however, declares that the University is not a party to the controversy and that it is a matter between Mr. Brown and the Association.

It is only due to truth to say that nobody here has lost sleep over Mr. Brown's comments. We are free to confess also our doubts as to the propriety of making the entire University suffer for false and unjust criticism on the part of one of its members. It seems to us, however, the Association can do nothing less than to inquire of the University authorities whether they are responsible for Mr. Brown's statements, and whether they are willing to cooperate in an attempt to find out the truth about them. If they wash their hands of the matter, then Mr. Brown appears as simply an individual critic. As the matter now stands, his criticism is given importance simply on account of his position. It would otherwise hardly be noticed.

Between the Association and Mr. Brown, it is evident that it is eminently unfit that the latter should in any way enjoy the privileges of membership in the Association, unless he is willing to make to the proper authorities of the Association and in proper form, the charges which he has thrown out so freely in the public prints; and unless he can show, in following up these charges, at least that he was acting in good faith and had some reasonable ground for preferring his sweeping indictment. When a college man suspects his fellows, it is not only the part of dignity, but of common sense for them to decline to enter into any association with him.

INFORMATION FROM ITHACA.

This is a year of unexpected athletic events. The last football season was full of them. When we were promised a Winter of diplomatic discontent from apparently insuperable obstacles in the way of certain contests on the water and a disposition on the part of many uninformed people to make use of words on the subject, the whole scene shifted in a minute and a peaceful solution pleasant to everybody was produced. Now that we are getting ready for an event thus provided for, even more startling things seem to be in store. We learn from our very much esteemed contemporary, the *Cornell Daily Sun*, that a policy for training Yale crew candidates has been adopted which makes every plan formerly used seem like child's play. "Yale's University candidates," says the *Sun* of March 1st, "have already been rowing a week in a cedar barge used last year and will have a certain advantage over her two rivals, in practicing on the Thames from now until the race in June."

It is one of the agonies of management in ordinary years to secure the unwilling submission of the Faculty to the cutting off of half a dozen days on the end of the Summer term, when there is nothing to be done here, and the holding of a few last examinations at New London. Mr. Cook has had a very remarkable record in his connection with Yale athletics, and Mr. Whitney in his short career as Captain has shown many of the excellent qualities of Yale leadership. But the most enthusiastic partisans of either of these gentlemen never claimed for them the

ability to bring about practice on the Thames from March 1 to June 1. Has the extraordinary privilege been granted in view of the poisonous moral atmosphere of New Haven, and is it the first step in the surrender of the Yale government to a yellow newspaper? Or does the *Cornell Sun* need to discipline its athletic editor?

THE VISIT OF M. DOUMIC.

M. Doumic was a very welcome visitor at Yale, and he will be even more welcome when he comes this way again. It is not only as a scholar and critic that he left his impression here, but as a man of genial personality whom it would ever be a pleasure to meet.

It goes without saying that such a visit is of great value in offering opportunity to French students to meet a man whose works they are destined to read in the course of their studies. When in the future those who are working in the French Department of Yale meet with the written opinion of M. Doumic in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, or in his books, what he has to say to them will be doubly interesting through their acquaintance with him as a man, a man who in his quiet inquiries about our own life on the Campus showed power of acute observation, sober reflection and ability to perceive the true bearings of things. Take the single detail of pronunciation: the privilege of hearing the accurate speech of such a Frenchman as M. Doumic cannot be overestimated. One of the interesting features of the Frenchman's visit, which has come under our notice, has been a certain discussion of particular sounds in the French language on the basis of M. Doumic's speech.

The whole Department, instructors as well as students, and the University circle in general, are sure to benefit from meeting with men like M. Doumic and M. Brunetiere, who came last year. The opportunities for social contact are offered at the informal receptions at the Graduates' Club. There is more and more a tendency in graduate work in the Romance Languages, towards the opinions that prevail at the Sorbonne. Instead of to Germany, the drift is to French sources themselves, so the more gratefully are men like M. Doumic and M. Brunetiere received here.

The French Department is very hopeful that the new French Club may devote itself, among other things, to establishing a fund which will make it possible to have such men here oftener. It would be hard to perform a better

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From a Pupil of Prof. Beers.

To the Editor of YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY:

Sir: I am interested in the words of Prof. W. L. Phelps concerning English at Yale and at Harvard. As one whose education has been derived from the same institutions, permit me to corroborate his testimony concerning the Harvard methods. I may also quote the remark of one whose memory is very dear to me—the late Prof. Child of Harvard. The concluding section of his great collection of ballads is but now completed. Any one who wishes to understand what intellectual powers the great collector possessed should bear in mind that for a great many years (I think he said fully twenty) a vast amount of his time was consumed in correcting compositions. "He never liked such work," said to me a person closely related to him; "he used to say, 'Well, now, when there are so many good ideas in the world, what is the use of sending these poor youngsters groping in the corners of their brains for the miserable things they find there?'"

Now my own studies at Harvard were principally philological, and I can give nothing but unstinted praise and thanks for the benefits received from them. Nevertheless, among those sources from which I have received literary help, I reckon Prof. Beers second to none, unless, possibly to the essays of Matthew Arnold and of James Russell Lowell.

HENRY B. HINCKLEY.

Northampton, Mass., March 4th.

Prof. Chittenden at Columbia.

Russell H. Chittenden, Ph.D., Professor of Physiological Chemistry in the Scientific School, has been elected lecturer in the same subject at Columbia University. Columbia is opening a new department in Physiological Chemistry, and Prof. Chittenden will deliver a lecture there every two or three weeks.

R. Sheldon, '98 S., has left College and has entered the Class of Ninety-Nine in the School of Arts of Columbia University, New York City. Sheldon won the shot-put in the intercollegiate games in 1896 and second place last year. He also won first place in this event in the Yale-Princeton dual games in 1896.