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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.

ORATORY AT YALE.

About a hundred people in Battell Chapel to hear the TenEyck speaking shows a pretty state of things. We respectfully ask those who know—what is the matter? Ten years ago, the literary spirit of Yale was declared moribund. To-day there are signs that it is convalescent and these signs are proudly and properly put forward on all occasions. Ten years ago, Battell Chapel was filled when the time came for the Junior Exhibition and the Campus was very keenly alive as to its outcome. The choice of speakers for the Junior Exhibition is based on purely literary standards. How do these things hold together? Is the interest in things literary and forensic genuine?

One thing everybody knows. Yale's debaters are a very comely set of platform performers nowadays, but it was hardly more than a generation ago when their presence tried men's souls. The metamorphosis has been due to the most heroic efforts on the part of coaches and men. Would it not be a good thing to have this kind of training more general? Should it not affect also those who are not chosen for inter-collegiate debating? Our athletic contests allow training in physical grace and soundness for many hundreds of men.

It is evident that the responsibility for this state of things does not rest on the man who is assigned to train the speakers for these occasions and to the superintendence of such work in elocution as the Faculty demands. These speakers are quite invariably enthusiastic in their commendations of the work which is put upon them. But, though orators may be made, they are not made while you wait. After all, are we training men much more effectively than we were in the days of consistent forensic defeat for platform service. If we are not, why not? A good deal of the talk that is liberally given to undergraduates on sundry occasions on the responsibilities of educated men in public service, seems a bit ridiculous, when we are doing no more for training men in a prime essential for such service.

EFFECTIVE MEN.

When Harvard is gathering herself for some particular effort, her students are very apt to invite Mr. Theodore Roosevelt for an address. He seems to have an intense conviction on the value of the best Harvard spirit, but evidently believes there should be more of it, and that it should more constantly impel to action and enthusiastic support all the members of the University. He seems to be very successful in pumping this feeling into the undergraduate mass. He always talks to them about the necessity of everybody turning in and doing his part, and is very apt to pay his respects in easily intelligible language to the indifferent and passively critical. His influence is of the kind one expects from the knowledge of the man as gained from his record and writings.

Yale men are always interested to see him working on his fellows at Harvard, and also follow with no little sympathy and approval his good work in political life. Whatever differences of opinion they have, they, with college men in general, feel that Mr. Roosevelt's way of going into the public service is a good example for all college men to follow, according to the measure of their means and time and ability. The spirit of enthusiastic work in the public service is certainly capable of imitation. The *Evening Post* thinks Mr. Roosevelt is blood-thirsty, but that is rather a mild adjective of disapproval for the *Post*; and it is of course to be expected that we will not all agree on ways of looking at national life and national duties. We have also heard Harvard men sneer at what they consider to be Mr. Roosevelt's superior way of carrying himself; but Harvard is not the only place to have sneerers, although they sometimes seem more numerous there than elsewhere and often contribute to Yale victories. There is a certain division of alumni of all our colleges and universities whose principal business in life is to sneer and say sarcastic things, and, through the smoke of the after-dinner cigar or the constant cigarette, flash a bolt of fierce judgment which annihilates men and parties and institutions and whole sections of the earth. These men always have important observations to make on the way things ought to be and are not. They do nothing.

We have been thinking about some of these people in reading the last little volume from Roosevelt's pen, called "American Ideals and Other Essays." He hits this class of people very persistently; not always with a great variety of blows, but always hard; and we have really enjoyed seeing such good slugging going on. There are not so very many people among Yale alumni who are indifferent, critical and inactive towards the affairs of their College, and all other affairs, but there are some; and there are a good many who might digest, with profit to their constitutions, as men who have relations to other men, the practical truths which Mr. Roosevelt dwells on in these essays. They are all sturdily put, and some with unusual strength. His is the gospel of action in a public life of which each one is a part; of persistent and patient endeavor in our political work; of practicality, consistent with an unyielding adherence to high ideal. He would have every college graduate be as speedily as possible an integral part of the political community in which he lives and have him help, according to his opportunities, to work out the political salvation of that community.

When reading such books and thinking of the possibilities of public service of college bred men, we feel all the more grateful for those men and in-

fluences that have made Yale a place pre-eminently for the formation of character; where men are trained to deal with men at first hand, on the basis of their individual worth, without regard to any other considerations than those which a man himself by his character and mind creates. May Yale never cease to guard, by all means and at any sacrifice, her college life, in its form of truest democracy.

THE YALE Y. M. C. A.

Election of Officers—Features of the Year's Work.

The annual meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association was held in Dwight Hall on Monday evening, March 28, and with the election of officers for the ensuing year the work of the present administration virtually ends. All of the men chosen to office for 1898-99 have been actively engaged in Christian work since entering College. Charles H. Welles, Jr., '99, the President-elect, was chairman of the Ninety-Nine Freshman Religious Committee, and is a Class Deacon. L. S. Treadwell, '99 S., and Matthew Mills, 1900, the Scientific and Academic Vice-Presidents are also deacons. Paul D. Moody, 1901, the incoming Secretary, is Secretary of the present Freshman Religious Committee and is a son of Mr. Dwight L. Moody, the evangelist. W. E. S. Griswold, '99, who was elected Treasurer, has been a leader of the Junior Bible Class during the past year.

The Association also took steps at this meeting to incorporate itself under the laws of the State, so as to be able to hold property. The need of such action has been imperative ever since the acquisition of the building at 138 College street last Spring, now used by the Scientific branch of the Y. M. C. A. The incorporation was effected through the assistance of Samuel H. Fisher, '89, a member of the Graduate Advisory Committee. Under the newly adopted arrangements the graduate advisors and the undergraduate officers will constitute the Board of Directors of the new corporation. The Graduate Committee at present consists of Richard C. Morse, '62; James B. Reynolds, '84; Samuel H. Fisher, '89; J. G. Phelps Stokes, '92 S., and William Sloane, '95.

Mr. D. Stuart Dodge, '57, who has served as the Treasurer of the Committee ever since its establishment, presented his resignation as a graduate officer at the meeting, and it was only after a vigorous protest that his wishes were finally acceded to. No name was submitted to fill the vacancy. Announcement was also made that Henry B. Wright, '98, the retiring President, would act as General Secretary for the coming year to succeed T. F. Archbald.

It is deeply regretted that Mr. Archbald could not have been prevailed upon to retain his present position for

LIBERALITY IN LIFE INSURANCE.

A case in point is the recent announcement of the New York Life Insurance Co., concerning the effect on policies in this company held by those who might enlist in the army or navy of the United States, in case of war. The company has sent out a notice that all those now holding its policies and all who may secure its policies between now and the actual outbreak of hostilities, if that time ever comes, would receive the full benefit therefrom, without the payment of any other than the regular rates now in force.

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Prof. FRANCIS WAYLAND,
Dean.

another year. It will be remembered that he left Auburn Seminary last Spring, where he was pursuing studies preparatory to entering the ministry, in the middle of his course, in order to take the place left vacant by the departure of Mr. Sallmon to Australia. A severe illness early in January broke in upon his duties somewhat. Notwithstanding his administration has been one of marked success. He has contributed to the work two very essential elements, broad sympathies and a deep consecration.

The most apparent growth in the work of the Association during the past year has been in the Sheffield Scientific Department. The building so generously presented by Mrs. Cochran has been put to good use and the meetings have been well supported. Last Wednesday evening the Sheffield Freshman class met and elected its three class deacons to serve for the remainder of the course. The men chosen were: Horace S. Brown of Longmeadow, Mass.; Howard Richards, Jr., of New York City, and O. H. Shell of Harrisburg, Pa.

Unusual interest in the rescue mission at East street has led to steps to broaden its present scope. The attendance at the Sunday evening service has grown to an average of nearly one hundred a night, a remarkable showing considering the unfavorable location of the building. It is a question whether the work should be extended to a new field and two missions be run or a more favorable situation be secured.

On April 7th and 10th the annual conference of the Presidents of the New England College Y. M. C. A. will be held in the rooms of the Springfield Training School, at Springfield, Mass. Yale will be represented by C. H. Welles, Jr., '99, the President-elect, and T. F. Archbald, the retiring General Secretary.

The "Lit." Banquet.

The sixty-second annual banquet of the Yale *Literary Magazine* was held at the Tontine Hotel, on Wednesday night, March 30th. F. A. Lord, '98, acted as toastmaster. The list of toasts was as follows:

The Outgoing Board, F. A. Lord, '98.

"Queevy, quavy, Spanish navy,
Spinkle-um, spangle-um,
I-O-U-Out."—*Youngster's Rhymes*.The Incoming Board,
H. A. Callahan, '99."Up to you!"—*Brick-layer's Confessions*.

Harvard, R. S. Dunn.

"Oldest and largest."—*Statistics*.A Bird's-eye View—From Olympus,
Professor Perrin."Gods are human, if you know them."—*Euripides*.

The Spirit of '76, Professor Hadley.

"Like a dutiful son he stayed at home."—*Plutarch*.X. A. O. The Uninitiated,
Professor Beers."Poor Tom's a-cold."—*King Lear*.As You Like It,
Professor W. L. Phelps."Just as easy!"—*Interpolations of a Juggler*.

The following were the guests:
Professor H. A. Beers, '69; Professor B. Perrin, '69; Professor A. T. Hadley, '76; Mr. C. M. Lewis, '86; Professor W. L. Phelps, '87; Mr. H. A. Smith, '89; Mr. C. W. Wells, '96; H. Borden, '98; H. E. Butler, '98; E. I. Butler, '98; C. D. Cheney, '98; R. M. Crosby, '98; M. Delano, '98; W. F. Dominick, '98; M. U. Ely, '98; R. S. Dunn, Harvard; M. L. Fearey, '98; L. Fitch, '98 S.; R. H. Gay, '98; P. W. Hamill, '98; J. J. Hazen, '98; E. Howe, '98; F. Ker-nochan, '98; A. C. Ledyard, '98; J. Q. Lockman, '98; T. S. McLane, '98; J. C. McLaughlan, '98; R. Martin, '98 S.; J. S. Mason, '98; R. L. Munger, '97; G. Parker, '98; E. C. Perkins, '98; J. A. Ripley, '98; J. O. Rodgers, '98; E. Sawyer, '98; G. G. Schreiber, '98; J. H. Scranton, '98; W. Scranton, '98; F. H. Simmons, '98; H. K. Smith, '98; I. N. Swift, '98; R. J. Turnbull, '98; D. C. Twichell, '98; P. Whitney, '98; F. Wickes, '98; F. E. Williamson, '98; Chauncey W. Wells, '96; N. A. Smyth, '97, and G. H. Nettleton, '96.