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THE PROM PROBLEM.

Problems at Yale are thick, nowadays. And they are unusual, as college problems generally are. We expect unusual situations, rapidly developed. But we are not a little surprised to have this Prom Girl problem on our hands all at once.

Where is the Prom girl? Why does she stay at home? She was here, of course, some this week and she was just as invincible as ever—resistance was probably more thoroughly hopeless than ever. The University capitulated promptly. It was all joysome and everyone who could get enough dances was very happy. There was nothing mournful about Nineteen Hundred's Prom. We are not making infelicitous remarks about these gay and cheerful times.

But there is a problem and it must be treated. The fact is that, relatively speaking, there was this year much absence of this visitor. One of the WEEKLY's staff has put the facts together and presented them elsewhere in this paper. They make, as it seems to the WEEKLY, a very interesting chapter of current Yale history. We invite a discussion of these things. One ex-Promenade Committee man has written to the WEEKLY already about it, and we print his letter, without authority:—

"I submit, that the present inflated expense attending bringing one's best girl to the Prom is really the cause of falling off in demand (which the papers attribute to the grippe) for the boxes. It's time it was killed, and a simply attired debutante introduced, in place of this over-dressed old dowager with her gray-haired maids of honor, consisting of germans and Heaven-knows what to fill up a solid week and break a solider bank account."

Reading Dean Wright's statement of the comparative absence of money in the student body this year, this correspondent may feel more sure than ever that he is right. The undergraduate replies that the decrease of Prom visitors is coincident with the cutting down of the program of gaieties by the Faculty, and adds that the early functions of Saturday are not expensive and that the longer stay in New Haven means only bigger board bills,—for the visitors, not for the students. To which the graduate will probably answer that any functions are expensive and that carriages and violets (which are still

bought) are apt to cost as much on Saturdays and Sundays as on any other days, and that it is plainer than ever that the success of the Prom, as it has developed up to this year, rests on the presence in College of a goodly number of rich men, who can pay the big bonuses and generally bear the heaviest end of the burden of bringing visitors. As for ourselves, we don't quite know about it.

AN EXCELLENT ACT.

The action of the Yale Navy management in selecting Dr. Edson F. Gallaudet as the director of crew coaching for the current year, with the coöperation of old Yale oars of proved ability and loyalty, makes one of the bright spots in the not otherwise cheerful athletic situation. We commend the step unreservedly and with the utmost enthusiasm. When the Captain of the Crew began months ago to quietly canvass all the rowing sentiment of Yale, with the idea of securing such counsel as experience could give and such support as loyalty would offer, on the principle of mutual coöperation for the common good, the friends of Yale felt that the thing was moving in the right direction. It has culminated more successfully than we dared to hope.

It is not fitting to speak too much of personal matters, but it is only due to truth to say that the head coach is one who embodies those qualities which make Yale strong. To put it still more plainly, one could hardly select a man who would so worthily represent this great University before the public or before other colleges, and whose personal relations to students, in a position of great influence, will be all that anyone may desire.

With Yale drifting apart in so many other ways, it is particularly refreshing to see another strong move for unity, for coöperation, for the subordination of personal interests and reputations to the common good. It is the expression of the Yale instinct—the instinct which has long been more or less impeded in its expression and which has seemed to be sometimes almost smothered, and which is now working freely in only a few directions.

But it is an instinct which needs only a decently favorable environment to make it effective, and this step, taken by the rowing management, points the direction in which Yale men may successfully move in all branches of athletics, if they would only show half as much common sense in meeting new conditions, as they did when they took advantage of the different circumstances of the earlier Yale era and adjusted the natural forces of Yale to the situation, and made Yale invincible.

MR. ROBERT J. COOK.

Mr. Robert J. Cook is apparently outside of Yale athletic affairs for the present and for an indefinite future. He has told friends, who met him in Paris, that he will be there for two years studying law. His plans after that do not seem clear. For the present, at least, others must take up the work which he has carried. Whether or not he ever participates in Yale athletics himself again, he has certainly reached that point where he has a right to lay down his burden.

It is idle and unprofitable to say that Mr. Cook was universally successful in his work. It is almost, if not quite, humanly impossible, for a man to carry on, generally as labor crowded on to other labors and put into hours and days which other men use for recreation, a work of such delicacy and requiring such intellectual skill and such

executive tact in the handling of men, as the selection and development of crews, and have that work invariably accomplish its ideal. There is one point especially, in the later years of Mr. Cook's athletic work here, which we did not like, and of which we expressed our dislike, both in the paper and in personal interviews with him. That was the fact, that rowing friends of Yale were not united in her support. While one worked, others doubted or criticised, and these latter were, in turn, sharply dealt with for work which they had done. It is not right to have this feeling and this state continue, but we do not hold any one man entirely responsible for the situation. It was the evolution of unfortunate circumstances and a result which could have been foreseen five or ten years ago.

But neither that nor the altogether inconsequential fact that the last two or three crews with which Mr. Cook had connection were not winning crews, can take from the credit of his work. Who, of all the coaches of all departments of Yale, and of all the coaches of all other colleges, has given service of such quality as his for so many years? His career is without parallel in college athletic annals. Yale thanks and praises him, and wishes him well in all the ways of life that are before him. She promises him that his work will not be forgotten. We have always spoken of him with familiar unconventionality in the Yale family, and in such terms will he always be spoken of on the Campus and fields and courses of Yale. When another shall be seen who knows, as he knew, how to select and to guide, how to add the exquisite finishing touch, and who can give again the confidence that the Yale stroke cannot be beaten, then the boys of Yale,—the students and their grandfathers—will say: "It is Bob Cook come again."

GOOD HARTFORD SPEECHES.

Pres. Dwight and Captain Goodrich,
U. S. N., at the Alumni Dinner.

Aside from the qualities of enthusiasm and good fellowship that always characterize Yale gatherings, the dinner given by the Yale Alumni Association of Hartford at the Hotel Hartford, in that city on Friday evening, Jan. 20, was marked by a somewhat unusual display of patriotic sentiment. This was largely due to the fact that, as Toastmaster William Waldo Hyde, President of the Hartford Association, remarked in introducing Captain Caspar F. Goodrich of the Navy, "we have succeeded in producing on this

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occasion a real naval captain." Aside from President Dwight's remarks, Captain Goodrich may be said to have made the speech of the evening. It was of especial interest not only because such a speaker and such a subject were out of the ordinary run of collegiate after-dinner speeches, but because of the force and charm of the speaker himself—two qualities, by the way, that are not always found together.

This patriotic tone was foreshadowed by the decorations the guests found on entering the large dining room, where the national colors and Yale flags were intertwined in various decorative designs. A large Yale banner hung directly behind the toastmaster's chair at the north end of the room. On Mr. Hyde's right sat His Excellency, Governor Lounsbury, and on his left President Dwight. Other seats at this table were occupied by the speakers of the evening, by Col. Jacob L. Greene, President of the Connecticut Mutual Life Ins. Co., Charles Hopkins Clark of the *Courant*, Professor Arthur T. Hadley, and others.

During the dinner an orchestra played at intervals and the instruments were frequently and informally reinforced when certain popular airs were played, by the voices of the younger men present. An excellent double quartette from the Glee Club was present and the old and the new songs were vigorously applauded and encored.

When the coffee and cigars had been reached Mr. Hyde rose and after a few remarks introduced the first speaker, President Dwight.

PRESIDENT DWIGHT.

The President was enthusiastically greeted, with cheers and applause, all standing. After the applause had subsided he began in a characteristically happy way, to evoke a good deal of

[Continued on 149th page.]

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