

THE "LIT." COMPETITION.

The Record and Quality of Some of the Contributors.

With the issue of the February number of the *Lit.* competition for places on its editorial board by members of the present Junior class ceases. At first the competition gave signs of being very strong, but of late it seems to have unfortunately and quite inexplicably lost in keenness. The work of the men has, however, despite inevitable lapses into the commonplace and the mediocre, been on the whole of a high quality, especially in the field of essays.

The first place among the competitors is indubitably held by James W. Barney, by reason of the quantity and quality of his work, which is of unusual excellence. Men of cultivation and literary aptitudes are numerous at Yale, but there are not over many who show in their work a high culture, and an appreciation of the finer, loftier side of literature, seeing that writing is an art, and endeavoring to make their articles conform to that standard.

Mr. Barney has of course done some mediocre and even poor things, but in the majority of his essays he shows a highly cultivated taste, a thorough acquaintance with art, and considerable original thought, combined with a real grace of expression. He possesses sympathetic insight and ability to judge from the point of view of the subject discussed which makes criticism just, together with that enthusiasm which gives life to writing. His portfolios really belong to literature, not being mere fragments, but showing an appreciation of the "prose-poem" as a form of art. His manner of writing, while it lacks at times ease and polish, has a real charm and individuality. He possesses the beginnings of a true style, which is unusual in a college man, and this work is of a kind the increase of which at Yale is highly desirable.

Hulbert Taft represents the best type of the usual kind of college literature. His work is more typical than distinctly individual, for it represents what the undergraduate of ability can do, and that as seen in Mr. Taft's articles is highly creditable. The greater part of his work is made up of stories, which are remarkable for their freedom from that exaggeration and bad taste, sprung from inexperience, which are apt to mar college stories. Those which he has written are interesting, carefully worked out, and well expressed. They are not wooden, as is often the case with college stories, but are life-like and convincing. "The Legend of El Cantara, The Singer" in particular is a really very charming story told with considerable dramatic skill. Lately he has written several essays that are even better than his stories. They are more dry and evidently worked up, but are well constructed and interesting, showing power of analysis, sympathy and no little force. This style, while not distinctive, is easy, correct and pleasing.

Owen M. Johnson is a man whose work it is somewhat difficult to estimate. He possesses a faculty of character-drawing and an ability to give life to his personages that is quite unusual in a college man. He has also a certain facility and almost maturity in writing. But his work is marred by bad taste, wordiness, and a lack of concentration. His articles are on the line of the magazine stories of the day. He has perhaps attained his end more nearly than the other competitors, but it is not quite so high or so truly literary.

John M. Hopkins is an example of what determination and industry can accomplish. Originally without much literary ability, he has learned how to write, steadily improving. In his case one can expect his next article to be better than his last. His sketches of southern life are interesting, and his essays, while in no way brilliant, are pieces of good work.

Samuel G. Camp is a man who writes, although he shows no literary taste. His stories are forceful and original; never being reminiscent. But they often show bad taste and a lack of those qualities which distinguish literature from writing.

James P. Lombard is a case of one who might have been. His articles have shown culture, insight and literary aptitude. His failure to do more work is greatly to be deplored.

The same thing is true of Frederick H. Winters. His "Melea" is one of the most original essays that have appeared in the *Lit.* in some time. He has marked vices of style, but they could have been overcome, and his failure to do more work is much to be regretted.

Below is given a list of the contributors from the Junior class and a complete summary of their published articles:

	Essays.	Stories.	Poems.	Portfolios.	Total.
James W. Barney..	7	1	1	9	17
Kenneth Bruce....	..	..	..	3	3
S. G. Camp.....	4	1	2	7	
P. H. Hayes.....	..	1	3	4	
T. M. Hopkins....	..	4	3	7	
Owen M. Johnson..	3	6	1	10	13
W. S. Johnson....	..	1	..	1	1
James P. Lombard.	1	..	2	3	
Hulbert Taft.....	3	6	1	10	14
F. H. Winters....	2	..	..	2	

CRITIC.

The election of members to the Nineteen Hundred *Lit.* board will take place Monday, Feb. 20.

The Value of Education.

[From an address before the Men's Club of New Haven, by Myron T. Scudder, Principal of the Hillhouse High School.]

The value of education in advance of that given by elementary or common schools is strikingly shown by the following: Dr. Charles Thwing, President of Adelbert College, counted the names in the six volumes of the Appletons' *Cyclopedia of Biography*, which sketches the careers of about 15,000 of the most noted Americans. He found that more than 5,000 of these are college men. Estimating the total number who have graduated from college to be 200,000 and the total population of the country for the century at 100,000,000, it appears that where one out of 40 of the college men of this country became sufficiently noted to receive mention in this *cyclopedia*, only one out of 10,000 of those who had not college training was equally fortunate. That is, according to this remarkable showing, the chances of the college man to become eminently successful and distinguished as compared with the non-college man is as 10,000 to 40, or 250 to 1.

Again, Professor Jones of the University of Missouri publishes an interesting statement to this effect: He shows that only one out of every 100 of the men of this nation have had a college education; then he goes on to say that if, as a rule, the college graduate because of his education is no better fitted for positions of trust and responsibility than those who have not had college education, then we could not expect to find that more than one per cent. of these positions were filled by college men. As a matter of fact, however, we find college men proportionately far outnumbering the non-college men, besides furnishing a majority of the most distinguished names in American history.

For instance, in our national Congress, instead of only one per cent., 36% of the members are college graduates. Of the speakers of the House during the past fifty years, 55% have been college men. Fifty-five percent. of our presidents were graduated from college; 63% of the secretaries of state; 67% of the attorney generals; 69% of the associate justices of the Supreme Court, and 86% of the chief justices were college graduates.

Professor Jones says that the percentage of college men in national public affairs is increasing in every branch except the United States Senate; "and," he adds significantly, "are there not those who think that there has been a corresponding decrease in the efficiency of the Senate?"

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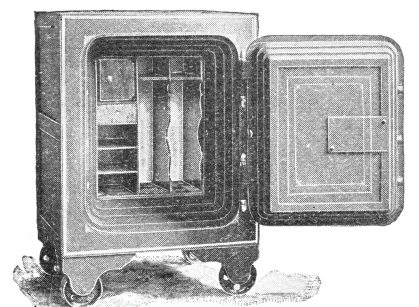
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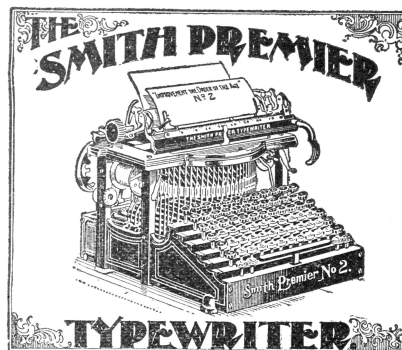
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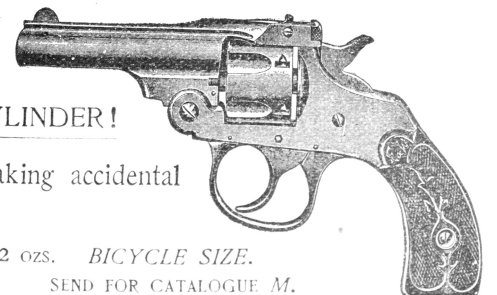
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