

CURRENT YALE LITERATURE.

Professor Farnam's Liquor Problem Study.

As mentioned in a recent issue of the WEEKLY, Professor Henry W. Farnam of the Scientific School Faculty, Yale '74, writes in the current *Atlantic* on "Some Economic Aspects of the Liquor Problem." Professor Farnam is one of the Economic Sub-committee of the Committee of Fifty, which has just completed an investigation into some of the economic aspects of the problem. This will soon be published by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Professor Farnam gives in this article some of the main findings of the Committee which is, by the way, looking after facts. The Committee of Fifty has not yet devoted itself, as we understand it, to the consideration of means of controlling the liquor problems or correcting the evils in its use. Professor Farnam's article is decidedly sane and fair in its tone and rather hopeful, too.

The figures secured by the Sub-committee were evidently gathered in the most conservative way and are on the safe side in their statement as to crime and pauperism that are directly or indirectly attributable to the use of liquor. The almshouse study, which was very representative, showed 37% of the cases could be traced to liquor in one way or another. Of 13,402 criminals, whose life histories were studied, it appeared that their crime stood in some direct or indirect connection with liquor in 50%, but in only 31% of the cases was liquor set down as the first cause. "These figures indicate that many of the current guesses regarding the effect of liquor upon crime are exaggerated as far as they apply to offenses which do not in themselves involve liquor as a necessary element." It is shown, by the way, that in the study the effect of nationality in this matter is a feature which is very interestingly worked out. Of course, these figures, even though less than many estimates, show a serious enough condition of things, and so the reader is looking all the while for such means as the Committee could suggest for restricting this evil. The Committee could not enter into this part of the investigation in detail, but it does make report on certain main features which are interesting. It supports with figures the generally accepted statement that the increase of light drinks has reduced the product of heavy drinks and the evil effects of the latter. It cites also the increase of various forms of outdoor sports as important competitors of the saloon, in its function of club-house and general source of amusement. Still more im-

portant is the attitude of the employers of labor on this question, where the rule is being more and more established of forbidding the use of liquor on the part of the employees or of treating very summarily any evidences of its abuse. The labor organizations, trade unions, benefit associations, as well as the constantly increasing army of policy holders in regular insurance companies, are all economic forces which tend towards moderation. "The facts set forth in this paper," says Professor Farnam, gives us a partial view of some economic forces which, in the evolution of society, have come to stand for moderation, and suggest that the moral agencies of reform may yet find in purely economic elements their most powerful allies."

Arthur Colton's "Elder's Seat."

To the Editor of YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY:

Sir:—Your notice of Arthur Colton's contribution to the current *Atlantic Monthly* was good as far as it went, but it did not go far enough. In my humble opinion the piece deserves still more commendation. It is a bit of real literature of a very delicate and a very high order. If the name of Arthur Colton had the circulation of some other names before the reading world, all reading folks would be talking about it now. Well, a good many of them are, as it is, and if Colton keeps on doing work of that kind, it will not long be necessary to call any particular attention to his productions. I hope, for one, that he will keep up that standard and will be ever exacting of himself.

Here's hoping for a new Yale name in literature.

ALUMNUS.

One can stand most anything in the way of bad editing in current publications which are made up and published on express trains schedules, but there are some publications which we expect to come out letter-perfect, no matter how fast a pace of development they set or how advanced a leadership they take. One of these is the *Atlantic Monthly*, and when that publication shows that it does not know how to spell the name of the Rev. Joseph H. Twichell of Hartford, it discourages people.

Attempts to follow the personal fortunes of 10,000 Yale men, more or less, in all parts of the globe, many of whom are excessively modest, have led us to appreciate the difficulties of infallibility in the personal side of journalism. We do not therefore charge ourselves with that contumelious indignation which a certain class of arm-chair critics always visit upon reportorial or typographical vagaries. Besides all that, the *Critic* is a good paper, a very interesting one, published by responsible people and edited by scholarly and also intelligent persons. We suppose, also, that by this time at least a half a thousand people have called their attention to a certain page in their last issue. We didn't at first like to say anything about it. In turning over the leaf again, we couldn't quite restrain ourselves. If the subject were any less conspicuous than the career of the late Professor of Palaeontology at Yale, and if there had been only a modicum of self-congratulation over the excessively fine portrait of this distinguished scholar which the *Critic* had been able to secure, one could have smiled and waited for the apology which was sure to follow.

The Corporation Withdrawals.

[Hartford Courant.]

All the men informally nominated were excellent selections, and it is a pity that any of them have stepped out. This competition should take the form of a free-for-all. Special regret will be felt in Connecticut that two such available and desirable possibilities as Colonel Osborn and Eli Whitney should retire. Many graduates will read the fact with real disappointment. Mr. Whitney, one of the leading business men of New Haven and the State, was brought out as a candidate late by his friends, but the suggestion was received with enthusiasm, while Colonel Osborn has been considered the likeliest of all

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men named to be chosen. His untiring energy and his boundless enthusiasm fitted him especially for the place. The ALUMNI WEEKLY says that in view of the competition the Colonel was advised by his friends to get out, as "the game was not worth the candle." This does not sound just right. Colonel Osborn's candle is never in danger. Any game is better for its light. Nobody will put that out, nor is he in the habit of turning aside when there is a row on. He did not consult all his friends, and very likely does not know how many they are.

Professor Wheeler of the Cornell Athletic Council has announced that the charges of professionalism preferred against Edwin R. Sweetland of the 1898 football team were entirely unfounded. Sweetland has been completely exonerated and has joined the rowing squad.

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