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SOUTH MIDDLE.

There is no escaping the strength of the sentiment for the preservation of South Middle. It is some relief to know that it will not be immediately demolished, but that is a very moderate sort of comfort. If the authorities of Yale would say clearly that South Middle would never be destroyed, but that it would be both retained and restored, and be forever established upon the Campus, we believe there would be a response of enthusiasm that would be quite worth while. Whenever the subject comes up, the very name of the building is met with enthusiasm. Hardly any other name is so easy to conjure with. Mr. Beaman of Harvard, in his speech at the Long Island Alumni banquet, expressed the feeling for the old very strongly. There is something in such a memorial and the sentiment about it and the atmosphere that will cling to it and will be imparted by it to the whole University, that is not limited to those men who lived in it, or to their generation. It is not to be measured financially, or architecturally. It is very easy to make mistakes in putting up new buildings, but it is mighty easy to avoid mistakes in tearing down old ones. The destruction of South Middle would, in our opinion, be a very great mistake.

JUDGE TAFT'S APPOINTMENT.

The appointment of Judge Taft as the head of the new Philippine Commission does not add a new name to the list of the Yale men who are in the public service, for he was already conspicuously in public work as a Federal Judge. But it does add to the Yale forces in what might be called active political service, and is therefore an occasion for especial congratulation. The unanimous endorsement by the best public sentiment of the choice of the President of a man to do work which is of the very first order of importance, follows very naturally upon the record which the appointee had already made. Yale men will remember that Judge Taft was very conspicuous among the strong candidates for the Presidency of the University, although he with-

drew his own name very emphatically. When a man is both conspicuous for his Yale devotion and for his usefulness as a public servant the value of his example is all the more felt. Yale is keeping up her reputation for close contact with the affairs of the nation. From now on, as the responsibility for those affairs increases in gravity by the extent and complexity of the problems of the day, we hope the more to see Yale-bred men in the harness, whether working for the nation or for their own state or for their own city or town. The call is just as high for the filling by the best of men of the humbler positions as for the greater. The nature of the office is not of so much importance as the spirit which a man takes into it.

The Accident to Mr. Langford.

To the Editor of YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY:

I hardly recall a man that was so generally before the public in Yale aquatics as George Langford was during his years as stroke of the University Crew. It seems a cruel irony of fate that his noble form, the acknowledged exemplification of strength, skill, and grace, should be forever debarred from exercising again its natural prerogatives. All that know him will sympathize with him, and are truly grateful that the brute force spared his life.

G. St. J. SHEFFIELD.

Attleborough, Mass, Feb. 9, 1900.

1900 Social Science Meeting.

The American Social Science Association will hold its annual meeting for 1900, at Washington, D. C., from April 30 to May 4 inclusive. At the session of the Jurisprudence Department (of which Dean Wayland is Chairman) on Friday, a paper will be read by President Hadley. The subject is not yet announced.

The Druids.

The first meeting of the Druids for the present college year was held Wednesday evening, Feb. 7, in Room 162 in the Chemical Laboratory building. President Hadley gave a short talk on the possibilities of university development. The Druids is an organization, or club, of men from all departments of the University and was started about three years ago with the purpose of bringing the departments into closer touch. Several meetings are held during each year.

University Club Elections.

The University Club Governing Board held a meeting at the Club Monday evening, February 5, and elected the following members: T. S. Adams, 1901 S.; G. F. Allen, 1901 S.; G. E. Armstrong, Jr., 1901 S.; Jasper Bayne, 1901 S.; F. L. Belin, 1901 S.; W. K. Barnard, 1901 S.; G. N. Copley, 1901 S.; W. N. Conner, 1901 S.; Walter Duren, 1901 S.; E. H. Fisher, Special S.; W. E. Faithorn, 1901 S.; C. A. Foster, 1901 S.; J. A. Farra, 1901 S.; J. B. A. Fosburgh, Special S.; J. F. Ferry, 1901 S.; Montague Ferry, 1901 S.; W. M. Fincke, 1901 S.; Southard Hay, Special S.; S. L. Henger, 1901 S.; J. C. Humbird, 1901 S.; R. R. Lee, 1901 S.; Lesley McCreath, 1902 S.; T. A. McGinley, 1901 S.; L. P. Myers, 1901 S.; J. S. Ogilvie, Jr., 1901 S.; Henry Pearce, Jr., 1901 S.; T. K. Peck, Special S.; F. E. Perkins, 1901 S.; F. L. Quinby, 1902 S.; I. T. Ryerson, 1901 S.; C. C. Sprigg, 1901 S.; A. E. Smith, 1901 S.; B. M. Smith, Special S.; J. O. Tobin, Jr., L.S.; E. S. Toothe, 1901 S.; J. E. White, Special S.; F. S. Warmouth, 1901 S.; M. J. Whitely, 1901 S.; A. P. Wilde, 1901 S.

A sum amounting to nearly \$100,000 was placed in the hands of the Corporation of Harvard University by the will of the late Caroline Brewer Croft, to be used in the investigation of the disease of cancer.

UNIVERSITY IDEALS.

The First and Highest Work for the University of the United States—A Study of Other Nations.

[Being the speech delivered before the Brooklyn Institute, Feb. 5, by President Arthur T. Hadley of Yale.]

Every great nation has developed its own conception of a university and its own ideals of what university life should do for those who come under its influence.

In France the university is simply the sum total of organized higher education, regulated from the center by the central government and forming a recognized part of the machinery of that government in preparing men for the higher walks of professional service.

In Germany there are separate universities, with a greater diversity of life. They are indeed regarded as a part of a system of public instruction, but they have more independence of initiative. There is less effort to make them conform rigidly to a common plan. The training which they impose in their several faculties, although designed with the idea of preparing men for public positions, has less of the distinctively technical character than is seen in France. In England this independence is carried much farther. The English universities are chartered corporations, separate from the government and subject to very slight control from the public authorities. The courses of education which they arrange for their students are not as a rule specially arranged with reference to the needs of professional examinations. The non-technical and non-professional work, which in the German university life is but an incident, becomes in the English university course the dominant feature.

THE LIFE OF THE STUDENT.

The same difference is seen in the ideals of the several countries with regard to the conduct of the student. In France university life is purely and simply one of professional preparation. Of course the students at a French university may attend lectures not bearing on their own specialty, and will have their own means of enjoyment and recreation outside of their studies. But these things are not identified with university life in the French public mind. The lectures which do not bear on professional advancement are regarded as having little or no part in the student's course; and the amusements, whether innocent or hurtful, are something wholly apart from the educational system—an evil to be tolerated rather than a means of training to be utilized.

In Germany the case is somewhat different. Not until the later part of his four years' work does the German student apply himself to that technical preparation for examinations which occupies so much of the French student's attention from the first. He is encouraged at the beginning to attend the lectures on a wider range of subjects than those which deal with his own profession exclusively; and within the range of his professional work he is given every chance to lay broad foundations rather than narrow ones.—preparations for wide scientific understanding of his life work, rather than for mastery of its technical details.

Still more marked is the contrast in connection with the outside amusements. The German student's *Corps* or *Burschenschaft* forms in many cases a recognized part of his university training. Whatever its extravagances and its misuses, its inordinate beer drinking and its grotesque duelling code, it yet remains an educational influence of great importance. To a very large part of those who enjoy its privileges it means opportunity for close acquaintance with men of their own age, such as they would never have otherwise. It means watchfulness in the formation of character and in the development of a code of honor which, though readily subject to caricature, is better than no code at all.

However easy it may be for outsiders and for pedants to condemn it, it nevertheless remains true that this German society system has been a means of inspiration to the individual

student constantly, and in critical emergencies to the German public as a whole, and that it furnishes an element for whose absence the French schools, even with their unrivalled system of technical training, can offer no adequate equivalent. The ideal German student life is one which is not only a professional training, but a means of broadening for the whole man.

THE DIFFERENCE IN ENGLAND.

In England the divergence from the French system is still greater. From the ideal of English university life, as it is represented in Oxford and Cambridge, the element of professional education drops out almost wholly. It is not simply that the student's instruction is

[Continued on page 203.]

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