

## YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY

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NEW HAVEN, CONN., MARCH 21, 1900.

## REFORM THE TENEYCK.

The suggestion to change the time of the TenEyck speaking to evening and the place of it to College Street Hall, is one worthy of most serious consideration. The speaking hardly ought to be continued under present conditions. The smallness of the attendance is pathetic and is a severe reflection either on the speaking itself, or the system of training for it, or the interest of the College in public speaking.

We think it includes them all in its condemnation and that the situation is a most serious one for a college which holds as its special work the training of American citizens. The speeches at the TenEyck are generally badly delivered and often the presentation is horrible. Academies and public schools would blush at some of the work done on the platform of Battell Chapel. A public speaker who showed any trace of the symptoms freely exhibited there would be hooted off the stump by any political audience, while his talk in a legislative hall would have less effect than a well managed phonograph. Yale must give much more and much better training for all before the few who win TenEyck premiums can be relied on to show much excellence.

As to the general interest, it would greatly increase with more attention to the matter by the Corporation as a part of the curriculum. Results in the way of real oratory would then appear. That is the only way to get general interest. If the College honor of public speaking is not as well rewarded as formerly, we must look to the reason for failure to appreciate it, and not rest with a general charge against the student body.

That the method of conducting the exercises could be improved on is quite possible. That the method of selecting the winners is without reasonableness is perfectly clear. Any member of the Faculty can vote on who is the best orator! How ridiculous! When the professor of English Literature is called upon to test the scientific student's investigations of the perhalides of the alkali metals, or the head of the Department of Rhetoric judges papers on "Least Squares," the present method of determining the best TenEyck speaker may seem rational.

## THE YALE FOREST SCHOOL.

One clear step forward has been made by the new administration in the consummation of the plans for a School of Forestry. The Pinchot family have placed Yale under a debt of great gratitude to them for coming forward, just at the time when their assistance was needed to make this step possible. Mr. Gifford Pinchot, the forester of the United States, has thus, with the cooperation of other members of his family, still further advanced a work of great importance to this nation, in which he himself has been a pioneer and a strong leader. The man chosen for the head of the department has been well trained in both theory and practice. Mr. Graves is the man next to Mr. Pinchot, in the administration of the Division of Forestry, and is in all ways an addition of much value to the teaching staff of the University.

## SOUTH MIDDLE.

The last word from the administration in regard to the preservation of South Middle is the best word of all. In a speech at Buffalo, of which a part is printed elsewhere, President Hadley said that he should vote for the preservation of South Middle as long as the bricks and mortar could hold together. That will be a good long time, especially if proper care is taken in the way of repairs. Now, the Corporation ought to vote to put back that old roof, and then we would have a fine old memorial.

Much "news" of Yale is startling and entirely unknown to those who are making it. The *Chicago Record* prints the following New Haven Dispatch: "The Yale Faculty has consented to the petition of the Junior class asking for the abolition of the Sophomore Society." Other papers tell us the Sophomore societies are existing under the ban of the Faculty and as being officially unknown to that body, which formally recognized them eleven years ago. In the discussion of what Professor Sumner did not say to his class about marriage the assumption is made with confidence in one paper that the eminent sociologist is a woman-hating bachelor. These are items picked from the exchange table in a few minutes reading. They can be multiplied indefinitely. When the "news" is not of things that are susceptible of plain denial by the records, and matters are treated in which opinion enters, one is wearied chasing error for ever so short a way. When

it is seen how far from the facts are many public prints when treating of matters of which one has knowledge, he becomes most suspicious of the contents of all the other columns and wonders where an accurate record may be found.

The graduate and Faculty authorities on athletics at Columbia University are to be most highly commended for the courage with which they have attacked a very uncomfortable fact and the frankness which they have shown in regard to it. An official statement that the eleven of Columbia University, which made such a brilliant record last Fall, was not an amateur eleven, is a very unpleasant anti-climax, but Columbia University, through its graduates and undergraduates and officers, faces the situation manfully and with a spirit which promises well for the standard of sport in that institution in the future.

## CURRENT YALE LITERATURE.

## "Boys and Men."

"Boys and Men," the new novel of College—and particularly Yale—life, by Mr. Richard Holbrook was published last Saturday by Charles Scribner's Sons. It has been received at New Haven with a great deal of interest and its first reception is distinctively favorable. A review of the book by a member of the English Department will appear in the next issue of the WEEKLY.

## New Edition of Prof. Phelps's Map.

The first edition of the literary map of England, published last month by Assistant Professor William Lyon Phelps, through the press of Ginn Co., has been exhausted and a new edition is being produced. The new edition contains twenty-five additional names of towns connected with the literary history of England, and is sold for 10 cents. It may be had at the Yale Coop.

## A State of Things.

[U. of M. Dally.]

The muddy pond of senior law politics is now agitated by the breeze of the approaching valedictorian election. It is said that "Charon" Conlon is oiling up the joints of his machine to ferry over some loyal heeler to the promised land. It is also added that his political timber has all been consumed or else dampened in the previous voyages of his ship so that now he cannot blow up sufficient fire to start his walking beam. "Communications" are rife and some startling disclosures are expected in a few days.

## GENTLE POVERTY.

Of all kinds of poverty this is, in some respects, the most pitiable. The families of laborers and mechanics, left to care for themselves by the death of their natural supporters, having no false pride with reference to honest labor, quickly accommodate themselves to their changed conditions, and one and all, of any age, seek some kind of employment. Boys and girls, young and old, become contributors to the support of the family, and often by their heroic efforts and practical good sense advance the interests of the family almost as well as the departed head.

How different is the case with many families moving in a little higher social rank, when left to care for themselves. Many fathers of no private income, but deriving good incomes from salaries, professions, or business, die and leave almost helpless families, who have not been accustomed to any kind of labor, who are not willing to be occupied in manual toil, and who are altogether unpractical. They are left with the most meagre support, and, in their false pride, the effort to keep up appearances leads to an uneasy and unhappy life.

Generous living may be justified by generous income, but, considering the uncertainties of life, he is actuated by mistaken kindness who does not train his family in prudence and economy, illustrated by his own example. Economy is associated with meanness only in the thoughts of narrow-minded people. The most prosperous and prominent men in every department of life have not been ashamed to acknowledge close economy of time and money; but, notwithstanding all these precautions and provisions for the welfare of others, unless a man has a large private income, like the man who has many ships and becomes his own underwriter, no man, however generous his salary or yearly income, can afford to leave his family without the generous protection of Life Insurance.

Let economy be inculcated, let practical views of life be instilled, let the boys as they become of sufficient age, be prepared for positions of life, and last, but not least, let the natural supporter of the family secure such insurance in The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

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This plate is the reproduction of a tablet recently placed in the Chapel at West Point by the members of the New York State Society Daughters of the Revolution. It is at the suggestion of officers and at the strong request of others much interested that the tablet is reproduced here. The feeling back of the request was that Yale's list in the last war was so long that her share in such a memorial is a great one. The regent of the New York State Society is Mrs. Charles Francis Roe, mother of the late Stephen Bogert Roe, 95 S. Mrs. Roe has taken much interest in matters connected with the late war; she built a memorial, it will be remembered, to her son, in the form of an Asylum for Orphan Cuban Children at Pinar del-Rio.