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THE NEW ELECTIVES.

The space this week is very largely given up to news about the elective courses. There is nothing more vital at any time, and there is nothing more interesting at Yale at this particular time. The work which the Administration has laid out for itself is being done with energy and with many results already appearing. These changes are significant, as indicating the controlling motive in the Yale policy of education for the new century. It is plain that much has already been added to make the education at Yale, from any standpoint, more valuable. It is also plain that more system is appearing. The end is not yet, but the course is beginning to appear.

THE TENEYCK.

The authorities have consented to a change of the TenEyck speaking from Battell Chapel to College Street Hall, but they retain the speaking in the afternoon. The change is to be welcomed, as indicating a desire to do something to redeem this most important event from the condition into which it had fallen. It gives hope that more effective measures may be taken in the future.

A marked change in the elective system is most properly attended by such an excellent and helpful talk as President Hadley gave to the Freshman class in regard to their choices for Sophomore year. In fact, such a talk is in order for every class. With help of this kind, the dangers that some fear from the freer opening of the course will be largely averted. Those who read the report of the talk, given elsewhere, will notice a significant emphasis placed on the study of classics.

Yale is to have a post office of her own. This is to be undoubtedly a convenience and advantage to the whole College community, and the Treasury Department is to be commended for this attention to the practical needs of the University.

Plans were made for the formation this week of an organization of the

Connecticut Alumni of the Yale Divinity School, and the report of the meeting will be made in another issue of the paper. This is a move of no little importance to the School and to Yale. We watch for its results with much interest.

CURRENT YALE LITERATURE.

"Boys and Men."

[A review of Mr. Holbrook's novel of Yale life, written by Professor Charlton M. Lewis for the Yale News, and reproduced by permission.]

College life could not be fully described in a single book, nor perhaps in a whole library. It consists not only of the life that a thousand or more men lead together, indoors and out, and in the eye of the multitude, but also of the inner life that each one of the thousand leads alone. Most of the stories that profess to tell of college life tell only of the life of the crowd; and most of them treat even that as if it were all a farce. College is described as the place where we laugh and sing and drink and seek whatever pleasing perdition the writer thinks he can make most amusing; and the credulous outsider reads the ridiculous nonsense, and thinks we are all going the primrose way to the everlasting bonfire.

Mr. Holbrook has happily chosen to give us a very different kind of picture. He does not overlook the farcical aspect of things—witness the delightfully reprehensible chapter in which Uncle Toby acts as the angel of peace—but he sees the community life as something deserving serious study, and he sees that the individual life is an integral part of his subject, too. College is not only the place where a man is found out by others; it is the place where he finds himself. The strength of "Boys and Men" is largely in its thoughtful representation of the development of boyhood into manhood; it is to most other books of the sort as the kinoscope is to the kaleidoscope; and there is always a healthy picture of the college at large in the background.

The construction of the plot is excellent. At the start there is some confusion, owing to the too rapid introduction of a dozen or more characters; and it is a little hard to keep one's attention properly focused; but the beginnings of college life are so cleverly described that the reader's interest does not suffer, and the leading *dramatis personae* emerge from the confusion in due time. In only one instance is the reader inclined to find fault with the author's development of his material. One of the heroes shows at the end of the story some peculiar traits of character which take the incautious reader by surprise; they are important in the working out of the solution, and one feels that they ought to have been more clearly disclosed in the earlier chapters. Still, no one will quarrel with the author over any of his male characters. They are all plausible, and not a few of them impress us as actual. Our favorite, though, is not either of the two heroes, but the mercurial and altogether lovable "Billy," and every one will wish there were more of him.

The heroine—for such persons, it seems, are found even in college stories—is not so easy to accept. She has charm, and is as interesting as the knotty problem that she sets for her lovers to solve; but are such nice girls so very liberal with their confidences? After she has told her brother all about the German nobleman who twice proposed to her, and all about her distress at his desperate unhappiness, it is a distinct relief to read, when she is chatting with two of her brother's classmates, that she "avoids any mention of Graf von Hohenhausen or others who had paid her court." All this suggests that the author's eye was on the Yale Campus when the book was written, and that it is only the male heart that can be studied there to advantage. Such an impression fades, however, if we turn from the leading lady to the *ingenue*, who is thoroughly convincing; and who, by the way, is convinced in just the way the reader wishes her to be.

But it is the picture of what we have called the community life of college that will arouse most interest, and most discussion. Is it true? Is it fair? These questions would be easier to answer in a volume than in a paragraph. Of course the book does not attempt to

be complete, but within its limits it seems to us to give a typical picture of Yale life. Each reader will doubtless find some matters of detail that will surprise him. We were not aware, for example, that Yale men were in the habit of calling one another "chaps"; but that is probably because we did not observe their habits in the early Nineties, and it is a trifle, anyhow. The important things are pictured faithfully. If the muss of college politics is a little too much in the foreground, at any rate the good men are judiciously represented as keeping their hands clean; and if the author's comments are sometimes a trifle too pessimistic, his story and his characters eloquently refute him. Nobody will think the book absolutely correct, for the subject is one on which no two men absolutely agree; but nobody will think it very far wrong. Moreover, nobody will regret reading it, and nobody, for a long time at least, will do the thing better.

Dr. Pomeroy for Law School.

Dr. John Norton Pomeroy, Yale '87, has been appointed to take the courses in Equity in the Law School, of the late Professor E. J. Phelps. He will begin work about April 1.

Dr. Pomeroy was born in Orange, N. J., in 1866 and prepared for College at the Boys' High School in San Francisco, Cal. During his course at Yale he was Chairman of the *Literary Magazine*, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. After a year of post graduate work in political science here, he went to the Columbia Law School and studied two years, becoming in that time an editor of the *Columbia Law Times*. Before completing his course, however, he removed to San Francisco and was admitted to the bar. In 1891 the University of California gave him the degree of LL.B. Until 1898 Dr. Pomeroy practiced law in San Francisco with his brother, but in that year he settled in Washington, D. C., where he had a course of lectures in the Washington and Lee University. Within the last ten years he has edited and revised the following books written by his father: "Pomeroy's Jurisprudence," "Pomeroy's Code Remedies" and "Pomeroy's Specific Performance of Contracts."

University Club Elections.

At the annual meeting of the University Club of New York, held Saturday evening, March 17, the following officers were chosen:

For Council—To serve until March, 1904, James W. Alexander, Otto T. Bannard, Yale '76; T. Frank Brownell; Henry E. Howland, Yale '54; B. Aymar Sands.

For Committee on Admissions—To serve until March, 1903, William K. Draper; Edward C. Henderson; Francis C. Huntington; William A. Meikleham; A. René Moën, Yale '89 S.; A. Henry Mosle, '89; Arthur P. Sturgis.

The Treasurer's report showed a cash surplus for the year of \$56,403. The total membership is now 2,973.

Graduates Club Notes.

A proposition recently made to increase the dues of the resident membership of the Graduates Club of New Haven, from \$20 to \$30 per annum, with a view to a change of the Club to larger and more expensive quarters, has been unfavorably acted upon.

Arrangements have recently been made for serving grill room dishes during the day and evening.

Mr. Edward Cary, editor of the *New York Times*, and member of the Executive Committee of the National Civil Service Reform League, spoke to the members of the Club, Saturday evening, March 17th, on the subject: "The Future of Civil Service Reform."

Harvard's new launch "John Harvard," which is to replace the "Frank Thomson" destroyed by fire last December, is almost ready for delivery. She will be one foot longer than the old boat. Her contract speed is 14.5 knots an hour, but it is hoped she may be faster than that.

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