

[Continued from page 266.]

the new board. The desire to encourage originality has led to the acceptance of much fiction which is doubtless original, but nothing else—or worse than nothing else. Why the critical essay should not be considered original is hard to understand. It may be the worst kind of hack work. But there is as much opportunity there for a man who is reading into himself, thinking his own thoughts and writing out of himself, as in any other line. If properly handled, it is the best means of doing good work that is open to college men. The explanation is hazarded that *Lit.* editors allow themselves to be influenced somewhat by the contributions that do not appear. Giving the critical essay more space may mean letting in upon the *Lit.* board a load of wooden stuff which depresses in the mere contemplation of it. But to know that such pieces will be well considered will induce a good deal of excellent work by men who are now rather withheld from effort.

**Halleck's "History of English Literature."**

Reuben Post Halleck, M.A., Yale '81, has issued through the American Book Co., a "History of English Literature," whose aim is "to furnish a concise and interesting text book of the history and development of English literature from the earliest times to the present. Especial attention is paid to literary movements, to the essential qualities which differentiate one period from another, and to showing the animating spirit of each age." The writer in his preface says a long period of teaching English literature and of superintending the instruction of others in that branch, show the great desirability of connecting the masterpieces of English literature by a general knowledge of the history and development of the literature of which they form a part. At the end of each chapter is given a list of what are called required readings. There is added to this an optional list of work for further consultation and study. The writer closes his preface as follows: "While the writer owes much to the great masters of criticism, he has written this work only after long and careful original study of the authors under discussion. From one source he has received such valuable assistance as to demand emphatic mention. During three years of the time in which this work has been in preparation, he has had the constant assistance of his wife, a critical student of English literature. To her is due the entire treatment of certain authors in periods that she has made the subject of special study."

**The Late Edward J. Phelps.**

The following minute has been adopted by the Yale Corporation in regard to the death of the Hon. E. J. Phelps:

"In the decease of the Honorable Edward John Phelps, LL.D., since 1881 the Kent Professor of Law, the University suffers a great, and irreparable loss. The Corporation desires to place upon its records an expression of its appreciation of his exalted character, his distinguished usefulness as a jurist and an instructor, his eminent public services. His gifts and acquirements, his high scholarship and liberal culture, commanded universal respect. His urbanity

and unflinching kindness, his quickness of sympathy with what is finest in sentiment and noblest in action, his truly magnanimous spirit, were admired by all who had the happiness to know him. His learning and accomplishments, his acumen and resourcefulness, won distinction in a most honorable and exacting profession. When chosen to be the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States in Great Britain, his blending of gracious dignity with statesmanly and chivalric conduct added not alone to his personal reputation but also to the prestige of his country. His independence and courage, his fidelity to his convictions and loyalty to the claims of righteousness and truth as he saw them, made his example an inspiring and uplifting influence in private and in public life. He will long be remembered by his associates and friends as an admirable illustration, in conspicuous spheres, of what the scholar, the citizen, the lawyer, the Christian gentleman ought to be in the manifold exigencies and opportunities of modern life.

"In token of its profound respect for his memory, the Corporation adopts this minute, and directs the transmission of a copy of it to his family."

**Sophomore Elective Choices.**

The members of the Freshman Class have chosen their electives for Sophomore year as follows: Greek, 124; Latin, 203; Mathematics, 157; Chemistry, 48; Physics, 202; History, 202; English, 259; Elementary French, 64; Second Year French, 53; Advanced French, 75; Elementary German, 95; Second Year German, 53; Advanced German, 30.

[Editorial in Yale News.]

The broadening of the range of courses offered in Sophomore year is a movement decidedly in the direction of progress. The addition of such sensible subjects as Chemistry and European History to the list of electives makes one wonder why these haven't been offered before in Sophomore year. This action augurs well for the extension to Sophomores of the full privileges of the elective system now enjoyed by Juniors and Seniors. We think that undergraduates are heartily in accord with this tendency provided it stops at Sophomore year. The required work of Freshman year should never be abandoned.

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**A BIT OF HISTORY.**

[From Woodward's "Insurance in Connecticut?"]

The Aetna escaped the fire of December 16th, 1835, in New York City—the first in the series of great American conflagrations—which destroyed property to the value of \$15,000,000, and bankrupted twenty-three out of twenty-six local insurance companies. It entered the city the following year, having for agent Augustus G. Hazard, afterwards the organizer and president of the Hazard Powder Company of Enfield. It was not so fortunate in the fire of 1845, which swept \$6,000,000 of property from the business center of the metropolis, and cost the Aetna \$115,000. When the news reached Hartford, Mr. Brace called together the directors and told them that the calamity would probably exhaust the entire resources of the company. Going to the fire-proof vault, he took out and laid on the table the stocks and bonds representing its investments. Little was said, each member waiting for some one else to take the initiative. At length the silence was broken by the question: "Mr. Brace, what will you do?" "Do?" replied he. "Go to New York and pay the losses if it takes every dollar there," pointing to the packages, "and my fortune besides." "Good, good," responded the others. "We will stand by you with our fortunes also."

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