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A DEPARTMENT OF ORATORY.

President Schurman of Cornell has said of a Department of Oratory that it is one "without which no American university can be considered complete." Cornell has acted on this principle. A recent number of the *Alumni News* sketches very interestingly the history of the department there, showing its growth, the very sound principles on which it is conducted, and its influence on the men. Over two hundred are now in the various courses, and the value of the training which it gives is shown whenever there is general competition calling out the best public speaking of the University. The main courses, and those which have been longest established, are those of Oratory and Public Speaking. These include study of the masters and masterpieces of oratory. They are conducted on the principle that "there can be no right speaking without right thinking and that right thinking can best be promoted by increasing the powers of reasoning and observation. Especially is stress laid on originality in the interpretation of thought and emotion. Imitation finds no place in the system and elocutionary theories are but little followed." A single building, White Hall, is the center of the various departments of activity in public speaking. In this building the different debating societies have their meetings. One of the rooms is called the Hall of Oratory. Here are hung the portraits of great orators, as well as of students of the University who have distinguished themselves in Cornell public speaking.

Yale must develop some more definite and comprehensive system very soon, or in this almost prime essential for citizenship training it will fall behind a great many other institutions, which already have their departments of this kind. Whatever is said on this subject does not involve any criticism of such training in speaking as is now given. Everyone knows that there is very little of such training, and that it makes no impression on any appreciable number of students. It is crowded into such a short time, and crowded on men who have had so little idea of the subject before, that when the public test comes, the effect of it appears in various stage motions, which seem to have been an-

nexed to the speaker at certain passages in his oration, and concerning whose propriety or meaning he apparently has no idea. It is often urged that it is difficult to secure sufficient instruction of the highest kind in this line, as it verges so easily into the superficial and the declamatory. This is, of course, no sufficient reason for omitting something which is so indispensable. May Yale not be much longer without a broad, thorough course in public speaking. A very good argument can be made for making some of it compulsory.

THE LAST SPEAKING CONTEST.

On the whole there was considerable good speaking,—for Yale—at College Street Hall last Friday afternoon. The change of place is good, the speakers appearing much less lonely in the more compact hall. Let the hours now change to evening, as it doubtless will, another year, and their will be a still further improvement. The people who listened were very much interested in the good things said and the good saying of them. The attraction of the orator is just as strong as ever. When all the speaking is at a good level, and some of it goes far up towards real oratory, any hall will be full.

But six speakers are enough. Eight makes quite a pull on the most interested. And there must be a better way of selecting them. A long list of possibles, as in debate, may be well selected at first. Some members of the Faculty are already considering this change. These in turn could speak for places on the final list. There must be the judging of a man as a speaker, before he is allowed a place at the contest.

Of the TenEyck speakers this year, two came from Connecticut, and one only of these from New Haven. Of the other six, there was one each from Iowa, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia. That is a fair illustration of the distribution of a representative Yale crowd.

UNIVERSITY LITERATURE.

The New "Princeton Alumni Weekly."

The first number of the *Princeton Alumni Weekly* appeared Saturday, April 7. Mr. Jesse Lynch Williams is the new editor, as has already been announced, and the paper has been transferred from the hands of the *Daily Princetonian* to the Princeton Publishing Co., a corporation whose shareholders are Princeton men. John D. Davis is President; James W. Alexander, Vice-President, and George W. Burley, Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. Williams, the editor, who was a Princeton graduate of '92, is assisted by Frank L. Janeway of the present Junior class at Princeton, who is called undergraduate editor, and John L. Rogers, also of the Junior class, who is business manager. An executive committee, apparently to act with the editor for the Company, is made up of M. Taylor Pyne, James W. Alexander, Charles Scribner, Robert Bridges, C. C. Cuyler and Frank Presbrey.

The *Weekly* bears out in its appearance many of the things which one might expect from its new editorship. It is original and artistic in form, finished in its typographical appearance, and very well and very readably done, from the editorial standpoint, from beginning to end. There was not any type at the Princeton printers' that satisfied the management, so it is said, as late as Tuesday of last week; and between that time and Saturday, a special font (Caslon, 11 point) came from the founders and was set up for the paper.

The form is that of a magazine with a cover. There are some excellent

things in the prospectus and in the opening number about the place of an Alumni Weekly. It is plainly said that the ignorance of the average Princeton graduate about his Alma Mater is shameful, even when he has a great deal of enthusiasm. This is true of not a few other graduates. It was only a year or two ago that the spokesman for a Yale class which had been thirty years out of College, went into Alumni Hall and protested that the University kept its sons so ignorant of what it was doing. This critic had had several opportunities to try the source of information supplied by this paper, but he was one of a great many who had not found time for any such publication.

Mr. Holbrook's Story.

The *Literary World* (Boston) gives its readers this information as to Richard Holbrook's "Boys and Men": "A Story of Life at Yale. By Richard Holbrook (sic). Large 16 mo (sic). Pp. 277 (sic). Charles Scribner's Sons.

"A novel in thirty-one chapters, which is more true and vivid in its delineations of college and manners than it is refined in atmosphere or uplifting in influence. It does not leave a pleasant taste in the mouth."

The *Boston Journal* is more cheerful: "Boys and Men," it says, "is a remarkable book in many respects. In the first place, although a Yale book, it is not bound in blue. Secondly, it has a very clumsy title. Thirdly, it is the peer of any college story ever written. The only indelible Yale feature of the book is the regularity with which the athletes from New London or Springfield, triumph over the athletes from Cambridge. This is the strain in the story that will appeal strongly and in an especial manner to Yale men. Surely no Harvard man could stand it for a minute, even though he should know right well that it is all fiction. However, 'Boys and Men,' as it may be called for short, is a story that Yale men, at least, should welcome heartily and be proud of. It is a pleasure to repeat that 'Boys and Men' is a college story that will be hard to surpass. But are Yale men taught to write 'honour' and 'neighbour,' and so forth?"

Rev. Edward Mortimer Chapman, '84, has an article in the April number of the *New England Magazine*, on the subject of "American History and English Historians."

Other Notes.

Ex-President Cleveland's two addresses on the "Independence of the Executive" at Princeton, April 9 and 10, will appear in authoritative form only in the June and July issues of the *Atlantic Monthly*.

For American Students at Oxford.

Realizing how difficult it is for an American, contemplating study abroad, to find out the conditions of study that prevail at Oxford, the American students of the University (about twenty-five, have organized the American Club of Oxford, for the purpose (1) of putting definite and pertinent information with regard to Oxford at the service of the intending student, and (2) of becoming sufficiently well-informed to advance any project on foot for adapting Oxford conditions to the needs of the American members of the University. To accomplish the first object, which is of more immediate concern, the Club intends to print a circular in which it will try to anticipate the questions likely to be asked about the Oxford University system in general, the opportunities and conditions of study in the University, and the advisability of connecting one's self with one of the colleges. The difficulty of obtaining precise information about graduate study from a University which concerns itself primarily with undergraduate work, will make the compilation of facts for the circular a matter of some time; yet it is expected that the circular will be ready in the Spring. If possible, it will be made to include Cambridge as well as Oxford, but it is doubtful if this can be done during the present year.

The officers of the Club are: President,

H. A. Overstreet, B.A., University of California, Balliol College; Vice-President, S. S. Seward, Jr., A.M. Columbia University, Exeter College; Secretary and Treasurer, R. S. Huidekoper, A.B. Harvard University, Trinity College. These men will be glad to answer any correspondence addressed to them. Information may also be obtained from the Club's Honorary Advisers: Louis Dyer, of Balliol College, A.B. Harvard, M.A. Oxon; and F. C. S. Schiller, of Corpus Christi College, M.A. Oxon, formerly instructor in Cornell University.

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