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SOPHOMORE SOCIETIES.

In another column appears the statement of the society problem as it appears at this writing. The WEEKLY is of the opinion, after a careful canvass of conservative opinion, that this action on the part of the Faculty is the least that the Faculty could do at this point, and that it will prove the wisest course provided the matter is brought to a practical solution during the present term. While the details of any change, which may be adopted, may properly be left over until the Fall and thus give abundance of time to work out that which is best, it is felt that the principles of final action should be laid down inside of the next three weeks so that there shall be no doubt in the minds of any as to where Yale stands.

It is our opinion that the developments of the last ten days have further demonstrated that the existence of a small secret society early in the course, is, in the present conditions of Yale life, detrimental to the general interests. The societies have shown that they are practically impervious to public sentiment, as far as their organized relations to the college are concerned. If this were not so, their members, who make up a large part of the best men in Yale, would have been the first to take up this matter of reform and put it through in a satisfactory way. A small society, shut off by a wall of closest secrecy from the rest of the College, without such means of keeping in touch with, and therefore true to, the best public sentiment, as is afforded the societies of the last year by their body of graduates, is bound sooner or later, unconsciously to its members, to drift into collision with Yale's best interests.

After a careful reconsideration of the whole matter, it is impossible to see how the present societies can be retained in any other form than that approved by the Conference Committee. Any change less radical than that, will at the best, settle the matter for a short time only. It would probably not do so much as that. The more thought is given to the matter, the more the best sentiment tends towards a single set of societies below Senior year. This can be accomplished by some consoli-

ation between the present Sophomore and present Junior societies. There must be societies in Sophomore year and that field must be so well taken care of that no illegitimate secret organizations or alien clubs have a chance. We would go into this matter of societies extending over two years and so arranged as to maintain rather than to weaken the class spirit, except for the feeling that the societies themselves will work upon this and other similar suggestions and bring the matter to an issue, satisfactory to the best Yale sentiment.

WEST POINT'S TRIBUTE.

The spirit of the soldier and the gentleman prompted the gift of West Point to Yale. The act and the spirit of it are deeply appreciated here. We have no better prayer for all intercollegiate athletic relations that they become as wholesome and as friendly as those between the United States Military Academy and Yale University.

DIVINITY SCHOOL GRADUATION.

The Address—Three Great Needs of the School Outlined—The Class.

The graduating exercises of the Yale Divinity School were held in Battell Chapel, Wednesday morning, May 16, before an audience that filled the body of the building. President Hadley presided, and there were with him on the platform, Dean George P. Fisher, and Professors Brastow, Porter and Curtis, of the Yale Divinity School Faculty, and Rev. Dr. Charles Ray Palmer of the Yale Corporation. After prayer and music five members of the graduating Class read addresses as follows: "The Elements of Vitality in Preaching," by William DeVerne Beach, Yale '97; "A Two-Fold Emphasis for Present Religious Teachings," by George Manley Butler, Amherst '97; "The Accent of Certainty," by Clement G. Clarke, Yale '95; "The Significance of Miracles in Revealing the Personality of Jesus," by Joseph Barwell Lyman, New York University '94; "Schools and Prophecy," by George Redington Montgomery, Yale '92.

The address to the Class by Rev. Dr. Alexander McKenzie of Cambridge, Mass., who emphasized the opportunities and responsibilities of the members who were now going out to work in the world, was a very striking one, and held the closest attention of the audience. In the announcement of the scholarships and prizes the Susan B. Dwight fellowship went to George M. Butler, Amherst '97. This fellowship, which is one of \$500, and entitles the holder to a year in graduate study at the University, was originally awarded to J. B. Lyman, New York University '94, who resigned. The Sanders Prize of \$50 was awarded to George R. Montgomery, Yale '92, for an essay on "Social Science." The Class graduates twenty-eight men, of which a number have been already permanently located. Nearly all the remainder have been provided with work for the present.

The alumni dinner of the School was held in the United Church Chapel at 1.30 o'clock in the afternoon. Rev. Charles A. Dinsmore, '88 T.S., of South Boston, Mass., presided and after speaking of the needs of the School introduced Professor L. O. Brastow, who said that among many things the Department needed were three that stood out above the rest, the first of which was a chair of Practical Theology. That, at present was combined with Homiletics and should be handled separately, as the burden was now too great for any one man to carry. The second need was of a department of Apologetics, which is now handled so far as any handling was attempted, by the chair of Systematic Theology. The third need was for a department of Comparative Religion. Professor Brastow estimated, roughly, that it would take \$300,000 to accomplish the improvements and broadenings of the School he had named. He did not expect it all at once, but he thought

an attempt should be made now to fill at least one of the needs.

Rev. Frank Luckey, '88 T.S., the next speaker, made a motion that a committee of three be appointed to appoint a second committee of five, who should undertake the work of canvassing the alumni and the friends of the alumni, with the end in view of raising the endowment named by Prof. Brastow. The motion was seconded and passed. Dr. W. J. Moulton, '93 T.S., was asked to report on the condition of the alumni associations of the School, which were being formed throughout the country. Dr. Moulton reported that three had already been formed, as printed in the WEEKLY, one at Boston, one at Springfield and one in Connecticut. He said two others were now in process of formation, one in Central New York and one in Wisconsin, the organization of which would be completed before July. Continuing, Dr. Moulton urged the increase of the endowment of the different chairs of the School so that the salaries of the professors there would be on the same level as those in the Academic Department.

After a brief address by Dean George P. Fisher, President Hadley was introduced and spoke of the increasing bond of sympathy and strength between the Theological and Academic Departments, and the growing spirit of cooperation between the two, in which there lay strength for both. Other speeches were made by Rev. Edwin E. Aiken, '81, of North China; Rev. W. W. Leite, '80 T.S., of New Haven, and Rev. Charles L. Morgan, '75 T.S., of Jamaica Plains, Mass., and it was not until 5 o'clock that the meeting broke up.

In the evening a reception to the alumni, the graduating Class and the members of the School was held in the Lowell Mason room, at which Mrs. F. C. Porter and Mrs. E. L. Curtis received. About 200 were present, including a number of the Academic Faculty.

At the business meeting these officers of the Yale Divinity School Alumni Association were elected for the next year: President, Rev. N. M. Calhoun, '74 T.S., Winsted, Conn.; Vice-President, Rev. E. A. George, '91, Willimantic; Secretary, Rev. H. A. Bridgeman, '81 T.S., of the *Congregationalist*, Boston; Treasurer, Rev. W. J. Mutch, '85, New Haven; Nominating Committee, Prof. George B. Stevens, '80; Rev. H. L. Slack, '77, and Rev. W. G. Lathrop, '97.

An Honor to a Yale Instructor.

George Grant MacCurdy, Instructor in Prehistoric Anthropology, has been made a corresponding member of the Society of the Institute of Coimbra, a society especially interested in developing literature, science and the liberal arts. Coimbra was once the capital of Portugal and is still the seat of its only university, an institution founded in 1290.

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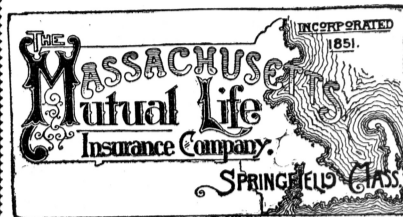
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