

The Trinity Tripod

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"THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN FRANCE."

Article by Professor Perkins.

In the Educational Review for March, 1911, an article appears by Professor Henry A. Perkins upon the subject of "The Educational System in France." A reading of this brief essay shows that the author has his material well in hand, and it is well worth the while, being clear and concise in its treatment.

The following extracts are given to show the nature of the article, and its intended application by the author.

"I have chosen this title for a somewhat wide field of observation, because it is precisely the system that most forcibly strikes an American, in French educational methods. Everything is systematized, from the infant classes of the communal schools to the great schools of medicine and law at Paris. The studies pursued are carefully systematized to meet a perfectly definite requirement—to attain most efficiently a given end. The school government is systematized to most effectually carry out this curriculum. The relations between the different grades of schools, colleges, lycées, and the universities are again systematized with equal care, and the career of each individual of the many thousands engaged in teaching throughout France is directed by a centralized power, in a way that is astonishing to one accustomed to our far more individualistic methods.

The central power directing this great system is primarily the minister of education, working with the committee on education of the chamber of deputies. These delegate certain of their responsibilities to lower officials, such as traveling inspectors, rectors of universities, and so on down. Thus we have a sort of educational hierarchy, that reminds one of the marvelous mechanism of the Roman Catholic Church.

Professor Barrett Wendell, in his delightful book on "The France of To-Day," describes with much admiration the working of this system, but he is chiefly concerned with the external management of it from an almost political standpoint. I should like to go a little farther on the pedagogical side, and show how the curriculum is arranged, what courses are open to the differing requirements of those in different walks of life and of different aptitudes, and explain the demands put upon the teacher, as well as the privileges before him.

It must be admitted that French education educates, whether it produces an all-around man as we understand him is another question; for it pays little attention to the social side of student life, or the sports we are so fond of, and the two or three periods a week of compulsory gymnastics are hardly the equivalent of our institution of football, for instance. But French education is intensely efficient in that it certainly succeeds in producing exactly

(Continued on Page 2.)

POINT SYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Propose Radical Improvements.

The committee of the Senate to consider changes in the point system, handed in their report at a recent meeting of the Senate. The report in full, as submitted by the committee, composed of Jaquith '11, Conroy '11 and Bird '12, follows:

The committee of three report the following recommendations concerning candidates for assistant manager of any athletic team controlled by the Athletic Association.

1. All candidates for assistant manager of any athletic team controlled by the A. A. shall hand their names in writing to the assistant manager of the respective teams not later than one week after the beginning of the college term.

2. The acting assistant manager shall divide the work equally among said candidates, prepare a written schedule of work expected and assign definite dates in so far as possible. The acting assistant manager shall hand a written report on the first of each month to the secretary of the Senate, containing the record of each candidate according to Section 3.

3. The standing of candidates shall be reckoned according to a point system, said credit to be given for work on the field and for selling A. A. tickets.

a. One point shall be given for each hour's work the candidate is scheduled to do. One point shall be given for each trip down town except where such work requires a prolonged stay, and then points shall be given in proportion to time spent. Such downtown work to be divided equally among the candidates.

b. Points shall be deducted as follows: one point for lateness, two points for failure to appear.

c. The secretary of the A. A. shall, at the beginning of each term, call a meeting of said candidates and acting assistant managers for the following purpose:

To divide the college body into as many divisions as there are candidates, such divisions to be made according to the alphabetically arranged college list and each candidate to be assigned a division by lot.

Each A. A. ticket sold in said division to count as if sold by said candidate.

4. At the end of the season, each assistant manager shall make a report in writing to the nominating committee and to the Association at time of election, of the percentages and general faithfulness of each candidate. No candidate shall be recommended for election unless he has obtained at least 90% of points possible in section 3 a, b, and a ratio of association membership in his division not less than 60% of the ratio in the college body as a whole.

ALUMNUS EXPLORER.

Wright Goes Globe-Trotting.

Richardson Little Wright III. '10, started on Wednesday the 25th of January on an extensive trip through Asia for the Knickerbocker Press Company of Albany, N. Y., of which Wm. R. Cross '08 is editor-in-chief. The trip as outlined by Wright, should prove most novel and interesting.

He and a fellow reporter will walk from Amsterdam, Holland, across Holland, Belgium and northern France to Paris, from which city they will go directly to Moscow, Russia. Here they will take the weekly Trans-Siberian "limited" which traverses the 5,449 miles to the port of Vladivostok, and alighting near Tomsk, the capital of Western Siberia, they will affect the peasant dress and proceed on foot some three hundred miles southward. Here continuing along the foot of the Altai mountains, which divide Siberia from Thibet, they will reach the city of Irkutsk about ten weeks later. After crossing Lake Baikal and taking the Trans-Siberian 200 miles east, they will again leave the railroad, and journey southeast to a point near the northern frontier of China. Thence across the Gobi desert, they go through Manchuria to Vladivostok. From here they will travel south to Korea, and visit Port Arthur and some of the bloody battle grounds of the recent Russo-Japanese war. The next few months they will spend in China, or the northern islands of Japan inhabited by the "hairy Ainus."

Though Wright does not anticipate any special trouble on his journey, he will by no means be free from danger. The expedition is a daring one to say the least, for a large portion of the proposed route is through a wild country, containing settlements in which a stranger has never before been seen, and where the wolf, the bear, and the tiger roam at large.

Wright has already submitted his first article to the Knickerbocker Press depicting a London stage novelty known as the "Wordless Play."

CHESS TOURNAMENT.

The chess tournament, which has been under way for a long time, came to a close yesterday with Barnett '13 the winner. A chess club will be formed if practicable, and, if enough interest is shown, matches with outside clubs will be arranged. The summary of the tournament is as follows: First round, Barnett '13 defeated Dooman '11, 2-1; Rosebaugh '11 defeated Haight '11 by default; Bird '12 defeated de Ronge '14, 2-0; Moses '14 beat E. Ward '13, 2-1.

Second Round, Cook '13 defeated Brown '13 by default; Barnett '13 defeated Rosebaugh '11, 2-1; Moses '14 defeated Bird '12, 1-0; Adkins '13 defeated C. Ward '13, 2½-½.

Semi-final round, Barnett '13 defeated Cook '13, 2½-½; Moses '14 defeated Adkins '13, 2-1½.

Final round, Barnett '13 defeated Moses '14, 3-0.

SENATE RESOLUTION HAS AMENDMENTS.

College Meeting Decides Tuesday Night.

The resolution adopted by the College Senate with regard to "deals, inter-fraternity understandings and the like" has undergone two important amendments to date. One was proposed and accepted in a late Senate meeting, consisting of the clause "any party, or parties, against whom charges may be made, may appear in their own defense." The other clause was proposed and accepted in a college meeting held last Tuesday night, which provides that "all college students, undergraduates, and freshmen upon entering college, shall sign a written declaration to abstain from deals, inter-fraternity understanding and the like." This is by far the most radical step yet to be taken, and seems to be one which will do the most good, if it acts as is intended, to nip matters in the bud, rather than allowing them to stand and undergo a relapse.

In the college meeting held last Tuesday evening in the History room, Sherman '11, president of the Senate, presided, and called upon Yates '11, secretary of the Senate, to read the proposed amendment to the by-laws of the Senate. A sincere and dignified discussion followed, in which Harriman '05, Ramsdell '11, W. A. Smith '11, Feingold '11, Gildersleeve '11, Brainerd '11, Bird '12, Craik '12, and Howell '12 took part.

According to the by-laws of the Senate, after the reading of the proposed amendment, and discussion, the matter was posted upon the bulletin board for one week, and another college meeting called for next Tuesday night at 6:45 o'clock, in Alumni Hall.

The articles to be voted on, now stand complete as follows:

Proposed Amendment to the By-laws of the Senate—Resolved that—

"The Senate shall do all in its power to prevent deals, inter-fraternity understandings, and the like in class and college elections.

If the Senate shall have reason to suspect a deal, inter-fraternity understanding, or the like in any class or college election, it shall be empowered to make any such election null and void by a majority vote of the members present, and shall call for a new election.

The procedure shall be as follows: Any one or more parties suspecting such an understanding shall so state in a Senate meeting held not later than four (4) days after the election concerned. Reasons for suspicions shall be stated. Any party or parties, against whom charges may be made, may appear in their own defense.

And furthermore, all college students, undergraduates, and Freshmen upon entering college shall sign a written declaration to abstain from deals, inter-fraternity understandings, and the like."

Trinity Tripod

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Subscribers are urged to report promptly any serious irregularity in the receipt of The Tripod. All complaints and business communications should be addressed to the Circulation Manager.

The columns of THE TRIPOD are at all times open to Alumni, Undergraduates and others for the free discussion of matters of interest to Trinity men.

All communications, or material of any sort for Tuesday's issue must be in The Tripod box before 10 a. m. on Monday; for Friday's issue before 10 a. m. on Thursday.

Entered as second class matter, Sept. 24, 1909, at the Post Office, at Hartford, Conn.

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Wm. A. Bird IV '12, Managing Editor.
Samuel S. Swift '13, Alumni Editor.
Chapin Carpenter '12, Athletic Editor.
James S. Craik '12, Assignment Editor.
T. G. Brown '13, News Editor.
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"NOW THEN—TRINITY!"

EDITORIAL.

The Tripod is extremely glad to note at this time that active steps are being taken in the right direction by the undergraduates for clean politics, both in class and college elections.

Too much attention cannot be paid to a subject of such vital importance to the very life of Trinity, and we feel that a free and open discussion of the matter around college would help the object in hand to a great extent. What is needed most is absolute publicity with regard to the entire situation, and the arousal of an indomitable spirit which will culminate in the passage of such acts by the undergraduates, as will effectually terminate "all deals, interfraternity understandings, and the like."

While the present articles, as presented by the Senate, and now under consideration by the college body, may not be, *in toto*, all that is to be desired yet we are of the opinion that even a single step taken at this time, in the right direction, will be fruitful of great results, and that future legislation will put body upon the framework thus far erected, if necessary.

Therefore, we cannot see either in what way or for what reasons any loyal, open-minded, and honest Trinity undergraduate can possibly set himself up in opposition, in a direct or indirect manner, to the resolution now in hand, and furthermore, we feel strongly that any such opposition should, before voting upon the matter, speak publicly in the

college meeting next Tuesday night, stating the whys and the wherefores of the position to be maintained.

Finally, let every member of the undergraduate body do his best to ascertain the views of every other man on the subject, and if as we suggest, the entire matter is fully gone over and made public, there can be but the smallest shadow of a doubt as to the ethical side of the question. Let matured deliberation influence the balloting, and let the balloting be right!

The Educational System in France.

(Continued from page 1)

what it aims to produce; a specialist thoroughly equipped for some calling in life.

If football were found to be a necessary pre-requisite to some career, I have no doubt carefully planned courses in the game would be at once offered, and there would be less time wasted in talking about it than is often the case with us.

Where their system undeniably gains over ours is in the essential continuity of it; by which each year's work is a preparation of all the years that are to follow. This is a pedagogical advantage that is possible only when a choice of vocation is made early; and, as I have pointed out, this is almost invariably the case in France.

It is this general spirit of effectiveness that seems to me the most admirable in the French educational method. We can not, and should not, copy the system of any other country, but we should be broad-minded enough to recognize what is fine in systems other than our own, and when we find a method or idea better than ours, and fitting in with our own traditions or needs, let us not be too proud to admit our inferiority in any particular, and to borrow even from the "effete" nations of the old world. France is constantly borrowing; she borrows ideas from the German gymnasium, from the great English public schools, and lately she has been copying some of our ideas in the laboratory teaching of elementary science, which she considers better than her own.

I do not presume to point out in what particulars we might advantageously borrow from France; but I am sure there are such points, where we are distinctly inferior, and where we could copy, or adopt her methods for our use, to our own very great advantage."

S. D. C. BANQUET.

Last Saturday night the Sophomore Dining Club held a banquet at Bond's Rathskeller. In spite of the fact that only nine members were present, the affair was a great success, being by far the best banquet the S. D. C. has had this year. Woodbury '13 was toastmaster. Toasts were responded to by Moore '13 and Thomas '13. The menu was as follows:

Martini Cocktail
Celery Olives Salted Almonds
Oyster Cocktail in Green Pepper
Consomme Royal Printaniere
Crab Meat Newburg in Remekins
Punch au Kirsch
One-half Broiled Squab Guinea Chicken
on Toast
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ALUMNI NOTES.

'91—The Rev. William C. Hicks has
been chosen chairman of the Committee
on Press and Publication in the newly
organized Board of Religious Education.

'95—The Rev. John M. McGann has
become rector of Trinity Church,
Chicago.

'95—The Rev. S. Harrington Littott is
editor of the first number of the
Chinese Churchman's Annual.

'08—James K. Edsall has been transferred
from Minneapolis to the Milwaukee
office of the Washburn Crosby Co.
and his address is now 651 Marshall
street, Milwaukee, Wis.

'09—Welles Eastman has completed
his studies at Harvard and on March 8th
he sails from New York on the "Celtic"
for Naples. From there he will travel
over Europe and England, remaining
abroad for about six months.

Intercollegiate Notes.

At the annual banquet of the Berkshire
County University Club held in the
Hotel Wendell in Pittsfield, Mass.,
Thursday evening, February 23rd, Trinity
was represented by the following six
alumni: R. P. Parker '94, W. H. Eaton
'99, H. D. Brigham, '03, P. R. Smith
'07, H. O. Peck '09, and W. F. McElroy
'10 Messrs Brigham, Smith and Peck
were members of the entertainment
committee, and they were also elected
to the executive committee for the
ensuing year.

The Annual President's conference of
the student Young Men's Christian
associations of the east will be held at
Amherst from April 6th to 9th. All the
newly-elected presidents of New England,
New York, New Jersey, Maryland
and Delaware including the newly-elected
president of Trinity's Y. M. C. A.,
and the vice-presidents of associations
who are directing the work in university
departments will attend.

Investigations conducted by Dean
Sills, of Bowdoin College, respecting the
comparative standings of men prepared
at large in high schools, small high
schools, and academics, give the following
results: Men from large high schools
attain the highest scholarships, those
from small high schools come second,
and academy graduates are last.

At Hamilton College it is a rule that
diplomas are withheld from all who do
not know how to swim. Wouldn't it
be nice if some kind-hearted alumnus
would give us a swimming tank, so we
could have the chance of losing our
degrees that way? The Gym courses
would surely be more popular than at
present if Trinity had a pool.

According to the recent catalogue, the
University of Virginia is a national
institution. Only a little more than half
the students are from Virginia, the rest
of the South provides less than one-
fifth, and the remainder of the students
are from the North and West, with one
per cent. from other countries.

Williams College is to award a loving
cup annually to the best all-round athlete.

The first college to adopt a standard
flag authorized by its corporation, is
Pennsylvania, whose new flag consists
of two red and one blue vertical stripes.
With Pennsylvania's arms on the blue
stripe in the center of the flag.

Washington and Jefferson College
relinquished claims on a bequest of \$40,-
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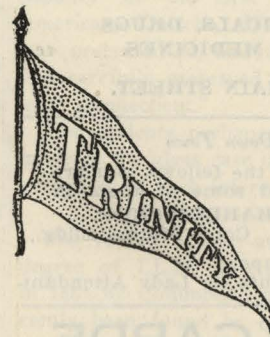
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