

The Trinity Tripod

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FRATERNITIES BUILD CHARACTER.

President of Southern University Makes Strong Address.

In the *New York Times* of last Sunday there was an address by President Alderman of the University of Virginia. In this address he defends college fraternities and calls them "builders of character." He typified the Greek letter fraternity of today as a home for college students. It is not, he declared, a centre for the wilder element of college men, but is a true home that builds character, increases scholastic standards and serves to strengthen a man for the right during a critical period of his life. At the University of Virginia there have been many cases where a man who was about to go to pieces morally has been influenced and strengthened by the guidance of the older men of the fraternity. President Alderman said the greatest influence in his own college career was his fraternity.

He defended the fraternity against the charge that it lacks democracy by declaring that if such a charge is true it is an expression of the national change. In its modern tendency towards co-operation, the organization is democratic in the true sense of the word. Its members are selected with care from the best material, and the association is of the best. It is not a clubhouse; it is something larger, it takes the place of the home.

At first, President Alderman asserts, secrecy was the feature of college fraternities and against this feature there was much antagonism. But now the American fraternity has reached its proper line of growth and during the next ten years there is to be a wonderful extension of fraternity influence. The two characteristic features will be a more perfect business organization and a more powerful influence to serve as moral and intellectual guides for thousands of young men living through the most critical period of their life.

COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of the Tripod:

Kindly change my address from Santa Barbara, Cal., to Iowa Falls, Ia. Have enjoyed the paper very much this year, and would appreciate the favor it you would send the last two issues to me here, as otherwise I will not get them.

Sincerely yours,

CORWIN BUTTERWORTH, '09.

(Mr. Butterworth, as his letterhead shows, is secretary and treasurer of the Iowa Falls Gas Co.—Editor.)

BOOKS BY PROF. GILL.

Several Editions of Modern Language Texts.

Henry Holt & Co. have just issued an edition of Valdes' "La Hermana San Sulpicio," edited with notes and vocabulary by Professor John G. Gill. The book is now in use in one of the Spanish courses.

Professor Gill is now at work on the preparation of a Spanish grammar and also in editing a book of selections from Murger's "Scenes de la Vie de Boheme."

WANTED: A LEADER.

To the Editor of the Tripod:

There has been a good deal of agitation relative to the subject of forming a dramatic association at Trinity. Every day we hear it said that we cannot hope to have the problem taken up seriously. Some smile in a superior fashion and say the thing cannot be done; they regard it as a terribly wrong sort of idea, anyway. But I do not see why we cannot have a dramatic organization here at Trinity whose work will compare favorably with what is being done by other New England colleges.

The alumni have expressed their regret that dramatics is not one of the phases of our activity. I am sure they will support us in any attempt at really serious work. We would not have to wait for a clear way to begin. Confidence in our intentions, and the right quality of work will bring in adequate funds so that we need not wait to arrange great financial resources before making a start. If we can have a little more boost the thing can be done. Let us buckle down and see it done. Everybody who is ambitious for all that will make Trinity a more far-reaching force will wish us all possible good fortune, I am sure.

Of course it will require nerve and courage, but it can be done without working anybody to death; and we need not worry about getting sympathy and support. There is interest enough, and there is talent enough, although a call for candidates for thespian honors might not bring out a crowd. But a sufficient number would be found who would pledge themselves to the work, and arrange for a public appearance of something worth while, but not on a large or doubtful scale.

Owing to a melancholy paucity of ideas, I could not map out any working scheme or suggest a medium for artistic

SCIENCE CLUB MEETS.

Talk by Dr. Yerganson on Bacteria.

The second meeting of the Science Club was opened Wednesday afternoon by an enlightening description by H. C. Holcomb, '13, of the machine lathe, its manner of operation and its various uses? The primary purpose of this talk was to give to those students who are not familiar with the machine an acquaintance with it, preparatory to the visit to the Pratt & Whitney machine shops.

Dr. Yerganson, of the medical department of Columbia University, gave an interesting and instructive talk concerning the part that bacteria play in shortening the life of man, touching particularly some of the evil effects due to the common colon bacillus.

The order of the meeting was concluded by a brief sketch by Professor Barrows of the history of gold mining in this country.

endeavors. But just look about and see what is being done!

This year the Amherst dramatic association is appearing in its 28th annual production. They are giving Twelfth Night. For years they have continued in Shakespearean work, and have to their credit such plays as Romeo and Juliet, The Taming of the Shrew, Much Ado About Nothing, and As You Like It. Think what such an organization would do for Trinity!

One of the Princeton clubs is preparing Marlowe's Jew of Malta; and one of the fraternities at Harvard is at work on a revival of the Elizabethan play Ralph Royster Doyster.

Others are doing great things in this direction. Why cannot we do something at Trinity? The problem does not present insurmountable difficulties. What the present situation needs is a leader who will get the proper ones together, and tackle the work in a real up-and-at-them spirit.

A say, we need a leader and then a call for volunteers. Things would soon be running merry as a Mardi Gras.

Yours very truly,

THALIA.

INTERCOLLEGIATE NOTES.

An announcement comes from Wesleyan to the effect that the faculty has voted to put the six-months' residence into operation, beginning next fall. As a result of this freshmen will not be able to play on the football team. Two reasons are given for this action: first, because the first term's work is the hardest, and, second, because the records show that in the last 15 years, 48 freshmen who won their "W" in football left college before graduation to go to some other university.

The annual intercollegiate gymnastic meet to be held this year at the Haver-

SOPHOMORE SMOKER.

April Nineteenth set for Date of Annual Event.

Ramsay and his committee have decided on April 19th for the night of the sophomore smoker, and all the necessary plans have been completed. The feature of the evening will, of course, be the minstrel show which has been cleverly arranged and conducted by Rosenbaum with the aid of Mr. Harrison, '11. Mr. J. A. Greene, '91, will be toastmaster of the evening. The speakers have not yet been selected.

CONFERENCE AT SEMINARY.

All Invited, whether intending to enter Ministry, or not.

The eighth annual conference of Eastern college and university men, concerning the Christian ministry, is to be held at the Hartford Theological Seminary, March 22-24, 1912. The purpose of the conference is to present to college men who are now deciding upon their life work definite and reliable information concerning the challenge and opportunities of the Christian Ministry. All college men are invited to attend this conference whether or not they have any thought of entering the ministry.

ford college gymnasium, is scheduled for Saturday, March 22.

The meet promises to be unusually large owing to the fact that ten colleges and universities have already entered.

The following institutions will be entered: Amherst, Columbia, Haverford, Illinois, Lehigh, Pennsylvania, New York University, Princeton, Yale and Rutgers.

Of the senior class at Princeton, one-twelfth are eligible to be elected members of Phi Beta Kappa.

At a meeting of the 'varsity basketball squad, W. L. DeWitt, '14, was elected captain for the next year. DeWitt played guard on this year's team.

A rule has been passed by the faculty of the University of Washington forbidding the fraternities to pledge high school students.

A plan has been evolved at Cornell for making the life of the freshman brighter. Beginning next fall a committee of upperclassmen will regularly call on the new men to see that they get started right and to give what advice is needed. The plan is being carried out on a small scale this month, with an upper-class committee calling on the sixty men who matriculated in February.

The Trinity Tripod

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throughout the college
year by the students of
Trinity College.

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 10.00 a. m. on Monday; for Friday's issue, before 10.00 a. m. on Thursday.

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OFFICE—1 SEABURY HALL.

"NOW THEN, TRINITY."

We remember reading somewhere the statement that "He that contemneth small things shall fall by little and little." Instantly the idea of the new game, lacrosse, occurred to us. Here are men in college—often of the sit-around-with-a-pipe type, who delight in casting a gloom over any efforts which may be made in the athletic line excepting football and baseball. Already, lacrosse is finding its scoffers. "There are enough sports at Trinity already; it's absurd to introduce any more." To these we say, "get out and try it, or shut up." The confident remark that lacrosse will never find a footing here, is the really absurd thing. Lacrosse is a fast, clean, open game, and it draws big crowds. The club has already scheduled a game with the Harvard freshmen, and instead of looking on from the outside with skeptical smiles, we ought to get out and do some cheering.

CONCERNING HOLLAND SCHOLARS.

To the Editor of the *Tripod*:

The argument of "Intelligence" in his recent communication is not a new one. But I venture to say it is not borne out by the facts. I have had the curiosity to go over the list of "Holland" men from 1897, when the present system was adopted, to 1907. I do not believe "Intelligence", or anyone else, can put out a list of names from their respective classes whose subsequent records suggest that they were really better scholars.

And what your correspondent says should apply at least equally to the Optimis. But the majority of these are to-day recognized outside of Trinity as having achieved real distinction as scholars.

The aggregate of marks is not an ideal test of scholarship. But we do not find perfection in anything human; and I doubt, whether in this case anything better can be devised. The true scholar is well-balanced. In college he will select courses in all of which it is worth his while to try to excel.

The inference that excellence in one line requires indifference to others is a fallacy, against which the faculty may well make this pointed protest.

I think I am a fit person to pay this tribute to the "Holland" men, as I stood next to those of my class, but a safe distance behind them.

On the other hand, I admit that after seeing their ability I did not try to rival them, while under some other system I might have divided the honors. In but one class during my time in college, were there more than two men actually stimulated by the prospect of the prize (after perhaps the first term).

More than once the winner had no real competition. From this point of view, it does seem as if the college was not getting much return in scholarship from its remarkably large investment in these scholarships.

Perhaps a division, giving say \$300, \$200 and \$100 as first, second and third prizes would be more effective.

RECENT ALUMNUS.

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Tennis—Captain and Manager, A. E. Pulford, '12.

1912 *Ivy*—Business Manager, T. F. Flanagan, '12.

1913 *Ivy*—Editor-in-Chief, W. S. Marsden, '13; Business Manager, A. B. Cook, '13.

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Alumni Notes.

'97—Capt. John H. Page, Jr., U. S. A., formerly stationed in the Phillipines, should now be addressed in care of 21st U. S. Infantry, Vancouver Barracks, Oregon.

'06—Henry Gray Barbour, who was a distinguished scholar at Trinity, winning several prizes, graduated from John Hopkins Medical College with high honors and was immediately appointed faculty assistant. For the past year he has been pursuing research work in Freiburg, Germany. The fact has just been made public of his election as assistant professor of pharmacology in Yale Medical School.

DR. LUTHER TO SPEAK AT BROWN.

At the initial session of the tenth annual conference of the Brown University Teachers' Association, to be held at the university in Providence, R. I., Friday and Saturday, March 29 and 30, two Hartford educators will make addresses on the general subject of "Moral Standards in School and College." President Flavel S. Luther of Trinity College will speak on, "Moral Standards in the Colleges," and Superintendent Arthur Deerin Call will talk on "The Growth of the Moral Life." The first session of the conference will be held in Manning Hall, at 2.45 o'clock Friday afternoon. President W. H. P. Faunce of Brown will give the address of welcome.

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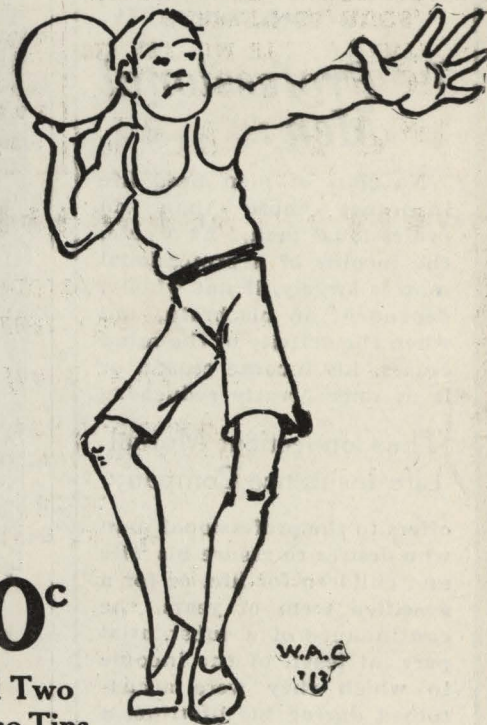
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