

sium will be in order and ready for the use of the students. Lieut. Wolfe, Lieut. Pague's successor, is said to be a competent instructor in gymnastics. Why, then, can't we have an athletic tournament next year, of a size and quality that will far exceed any previous contest held at Pennsylvania State College? It has been suggested that attendance and exercise by the Freshmen and Sophomores be made compulsory by the Athletic Association (a sort of rule of eligibility) and we are sure that the next year's Senior and Junior classes will do their part in systematic training also. Besides, many of the students have now awakened to the pleasure such a contest would create and are "in for it" at any cost. Let men go into training as early as possible next term and we are sure that in one year from now the "annual sports" at Pennsylvania State College will be one of the leading features of commencement week. We anxiously desire that the Athletic Association will take an immediate step in this direction.

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THE systems in vogue in this country for calling delinquent students to account are almost as numerous as the educational institutions themselves. The merits and demerits of many of these have been frequently discussed by those who are anxiously and hopefully looking for a change in the policy, which for a long time has been dominant at this institution. Among all the fossilized ideas that hold sway in the minds of the authorities, no other is so antiquated as our present "Censure Mark System." The fondness for what has been made sacred by age, especially in matters of discipline, will doubtless prevent any innovations unless there is an overwhelming demand for a change. What the FREE LANCE wants to bring to the notice of parents, guardians and faculty in behalf of the misrepresented students is the startling form of the customary notice sent to the parent for the incurrence of "sixty censure

marks," which in reality means only three absences in a term of twelve weeks. Although the form is familiar to all, yet for the purpose of calling especial attention to the wording, it is given below:

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE.

STATE COLLEGE, PA.,.....188

DEAR SIR:—I regret to inform you that your son has received.....censure marks, on account of unexcused absences from duty, which, under the rules of the Faculty, places him on probation, and requires a notification of the same to be sent to his parents.

This notice is sent in the hope that you may be able to bring such influences to bear upon him as to prevent him from incurring any further censure or discipline; otherwise, he will be in danger of suspension.

Your attention is respectfully called to the following extracts from the rules.

Yours very respectfully and truly,

.....President.

To this is appended a few extracts from some unwritten rules of which one never knows the existence until they have been broken. From this indefinite notification one, who is unacquainted with the fact that absences are incurred for non-attendance at daily chapel and Sunday service, lectures and rhetorical exercises, would naturally imagine that the guilty party was neglecting his studies and regularly absenting himself from his recitations. Such may not be, and in fact, very seldom is the case. When parents receive notice that their son is on probation and unless they bring a strong restraining influence to bear upon him he will be in danger of suspension, they do not consider that his offence in ninety-nine per cent. of the cases is the absences from some of innumerable college exercises, but at once decide that he is becoming dissipated and reckless and has been neglecting his duties. This naturally causes great anxiety, and in several cases serious trouble has arisen from the interpretation that parents almost invariably put upon it,—expecting daily to hear of their son's expulsion. It often takes several closely written pages of fools-cap to eradicate from the parental mind the false impression given by this misleading notice.