

Penn State Collegian

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Wednesday, October 29, 1913

The Outlook of August 16, 1913, contains an article "Is the College Making Good?" This article has been very ably discussed and refuted by the editors of the F. and M. Weekly. The writer of the Outlook article experimented by sending a letter, containing a stamped envelope for answering, to the 1913 graduates of the five leading colleges. The Universities of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Wisconsin and California were selected, and a total of 1,875 letters were sent. The letter asked the graduate to state what, in his opinion, college had done for him physically, socially and intellectually. Four hundred and forty-nine replies were received, which on account of their illegibility, misspelling, bad grammar and worse punctuation, lead the writer of the article to assert that the college is not making good.

This article is answered in the following way: "Besides the many arguments pro and con which can be advanced on the question, there is one essential point which the investigator failed to consider—individuality. He appears to conceive of a college as being a sort of grist mill where men, alike in every particular, are fed in and ground out after four years, each one improved alike in intellect, ability and morals. True, each one undergoes the same process, but owing to the fact that no two individuals are alike in character—an essential point which this indicter of colleges overlooked—just so no two will be affected alike by the process. A college is no magician's realm; it cannot change human nature. Every man who goes to college will not become an intellectual wonder, nor will every man who studies law become a great lawyer. Is that the fault of our colleges, or of human nature and individual characteristics?"

But the article is correct in its criticism of the deplorable use of the English language by college

men. This is a point which all critics of colleges have harped on continually, and moreover, it bears more than a grain of truth. Taking our own college, for example, how many students could write an essay which would be free from grammatical errors, mistakes of spelling and punctuation, and above all, legible? An investigation might give startling results.

In striving to meet this argument of college critics, many uphold that the primary and secondary schools are at fault. But why shift the blame? The English language is the largest and most versatile language of the world. It cannot be mastered by two or three years at the primary or secondary schools. It requires years of practice. College is the most important link of all in the development of the ready pen. There are many who have natural abilities in wielding their mother tongue and they are afforded constant opportunities for practice in college life. But what of those who lack the natural talent? They can only become proficient through hard work and concentration.

It is time for the colleges to awake to the realization of this state of affairs. It is time for the colleges to establish a new course in English, a practical course in the art of expression. Relegate Shakespeare and the other poets, to a more advanced stage, and substitute a course to teach students the art of expressing themselves intelligently and in a manner grammatically correct. What an absurdity to study Shakespeare with an attempt to analyze and appreciate his art and beauty of expression when one does not know how to express one's own self even intelligently".

It may be well to call the attention of students to our system at Penn State concerning "cuts". According to faculty regulations "each student is expected to be present at every regularly scheduled class or practicum in his course"—however, the matter of excused absence is left to the discretion of the individual instructor. Perhaps the idea which prevails is that no one shall take more inexcused absences than the class in question occurs per week—that is, three hours, three cuts. Yet no instructor is bound by the rule. In addition to vacations men are excused for at least two out-of-town football games.

This is our system—or is it our lack of system? In many other colleges the regulations concerning cuts are very severe.

A man is allowed a certain number of cuts; if he wishes to take a football trip, the cuts count as part of his regular allowance; if he exceeds the allotted number, he automatically severs his connection with the college; in many cases, if he cuts the last session before a vacation, or the first session after, he is suspended.

The contrast above is obvious. Men should be careful in not going to extremes; they should not take advantage of the lenience of our system, to abuse these privileges. In other words, why make to much

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of a "good thing" and compel a re-adjustment on more stringent lines?

Owing to the inability of Associate Editor E. S. Ladley '16 to return to college this year, there is still a vacancy on the editorial staff to be filled at once. There were a number of 1916 men competing for this position last spring, and as these men spent considerable time and care in submitting material, it has seemed only fair, in the opinion of the Collegian staff, that competition for the same position this fall be limited to those same men. If all sophomores who were out last spring will hand their present address to the editor, assignments will be given them, and election to the staff will take place as soon as possible.

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No.	No.				No.	No.	No.
1:00	9:00	1	1	LA NEW YORK AP.	2:15	10:15	4:17
4:15	11:35			LA PHILADELPHIA A.	6:23	7:50	4:10
7:50	4:10			Lv HARRISBURG A.	5:55	5:15	1:37
7:55	3:00			LA PITTSBURG A.	2:15	6:52	
11:42	7:15			LA ALTOONA A.	11:00	2:52	
12:25	8:15			Lv TYRONE A.	10:25	2:15	
1:10	7:10			Lv WILLIAMSPORT A.	12:15	2:55	10:55
12:10	8:15			Lv LOCK HAVEN A.	10:30	2:10	9:30
12:00	10:15	6:30	6:30	Lv BELLEFONTE AP.	8:50	12:50	6:00
2:07	10:20	6:35	6:35	COLEVILLE	8:40	12:40	5:50
2:12		6:38	6:38	MORRIS	8:37		5:47
2:17		6:43	6:43	STEVENS	8:35		5:43
2:21		6:46	6:46	HUNTERS PARK	8:31		5:40
2:26	10:34	6:50	6:50	PHILMORE	8:28	12:38	5:35
2:35	10:45	7:00	7:00	BIHARLY	8:24	12:30	5:30
2:50		7:12	7:12	WADDLES	8:20	12:20	5:25
3:10	11:10	7:25	7:25	LA KRUMRINE LV.	8:07		5:07
		7:27	7:27	STATE COLLEGE	7:50	12:15	4:50
		7:31	7:31	STRUBLES	7:45		3:30
		7:35	7:35	BLOOMSDORF	7:40		
		7:35	7:35	PINE GROVE MILLS	7:35		3:25
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