

CAUSES OF REJECTION AT TRAINING CAMPS

Slouchiness, Inability to Speak Orders Clearly, Lack of Prompt Decisions and Tendency to "Throw Up the Sponge"

The following letter, which was received by President Sparks a few weeks ago, from Adjutant General McCain, will explain why so many of the candidates for the Officers' Reserve were rejected.

War Department,
The Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, Aug 28, 1917.

The President,
Penn State College,
State College, Pa.

Dear Sir: Believing it might be interesting and helpful to schools and colleges in the present emergency, your attention is invited to the following observations of a candidate at one of the reserve officers' training camps, as to the causes of the considerable number of rejections of candidates for reserve officers at the training camps.

Perhaps the most glaring fault noted in aspirants to the officers' reserve corps, and one that might be corrected by proper attention in our high schools, preparatory schools and colleges, might be characterized by the general word "slouchiness." I refer to what might be termed a mental and physical indifference. I have observed at camp many otherwise excellent men who have failed because in our school system sufficient emphasis is not placed upon the avoidance of this mental and physical handicap. In the work of the better Government military schools of the world this slouchiness in thought, presentation and bearing is not tolerated because the aim of all military training is accuracy. At military camps throughout the country mental alertness, accuracy in thinking and acting, clearness in enunciation, sureness and ease of carriage and bearing must be insisted upon, for two reasons; that success may be assured as nearly as human effort can guarantee it with the material means at hand, and that priceless human lives may not be criminally sacrificed only by the possession of the qualities referred to does one become a natural leader.

A great number of men have failed at camp because of inability to articulate clearly. A man who cannot impart his idea to his command in clear, distinct language and with sufficient volume of voice to be heard reasonably far is not qualified to give commands upon which human life will depend. Many men disqualified by this handicap might have become officers under their country's flag had they been properly trained in school and college. It is to be hoped, therefore, that more emphasis will be placed upon the basic principles of elocution in the training of our youth. Even without prescribed training in elocution a great improvement could be wrought by the instructors in our schools and colleges, regardless of the subject, insisting that all answers be given in a loud, clear, well-rounded voice, which of course necessitates the opening of the mouth and free movement of the lips. It is remarkable how many excellent men suffer from this handicap and how almost impossible it is to correct this after the formative years of life.

In addition to this physical disability and slouchiness is what might be termed the slouchiness of mental attitude. Many men fail to measure up to the requirements set for our officers' reserve because they have not been trained to appreciate the importance of thinking. Too many schools are satisfied with an approximate answer to a question. Little or no incentive is given increased mental effort to co-ordinate one's ideas and present them clearly and unequivocally. Insistence upon decision in thought and expression must never be lost sight of. This requires eternal vigilance on the part of every teacher. It is next to impossible for military instructors to do much to counteract the negligence of schools in this regard. This again has cost many men

their commissions at camp. Three months is too short a time in which to teach an incorrigible "beater about the bush" that there is only one way to answer a question, oral or written, and that is positively, clearly and accurately. The form of the oral answer in our schools should be made an important consideration of instruction.

I have further noted at camp that even some of our "better" military schools have turned out products that while many of them have the bearing of a soldier in ranks, yet their carriage is totally different as soon as they "fall out." Schools, military and non-military, should place more insistence upon the bearing of pupils all the time. It should become a second nature with them to walk and carry themselves with the bearing of an officer and a gentleman. This again is a characteristic that cannot be acquired in a short time and, when coupled with other disqualifying elements, has mitigated against the success of men in training camps.

As a last important element that seems to me has been lacking in the moral and mental make-up of some of our students here is the characteristic of grit. Not that they would have proved cowardly in battle, necessarily, but some have exhibited a tendency to throw up the sponge upon the administration of a severe rebuke or criticism. Their "feelings have been hurt" and they resign. They have never been taught the true spirit of subordination. They are not ready for the rough edges of life. The true training school should endeavor to inculcate that indomitable spirit that enables one to get out of self, to keep one's eyes fixed upon the goal rather than upon the roughness of the path, to realize that one unable to rise above the hard knocks of discipline cannot hope to face with equanimity the tremendous responsibilities of the officer under modern conditions of warfare. This idea of grit belongs in the school room as well as upon the campus.

Very respectfully,
H. P. McCAIN,
The Adjutant General.

NEW M. E. INSTRUCTOR
II J. Talley, of Baltimore, Md., has been obtained as an instructor in Mechanical Engineering to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of A. T. Brown. Mr. Talley is a graduate of Drexel. He was recently employed on conduit construction for the Bell Telephone Co. He will report Oct. 1st.

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DRUGGIST

REORGANIZATION OF AG. SOCIETY TAKES PLACE

The reorganization of the Agricultural Society took place on Thursday evening, when the various offices were filled that were vacated by the officers-elect being called into military service. C. E. Barrow was elected president; R. E. Harman, vice-president; P. R. Kraybill, treasurer, and P. I. Sprengle, secretary.

Plans for the annual reception to the Freshman students in the Agricultural School were discussed, and the committee to carry on the arrangements is composed of J. L. Way, chairman, B. F. Rider, G. H. Bullock. The Stock Judging Pavilion has been secured, and although the committee has no definite information as yet, it is expected that the reception will be held tomorrow evening at 7 o'clock.

The Agricultural Society, in conjunction with the "Penn State Farmer" is offering membership in the society for \$1.00. The idea of this offer is to get all agricultural men in college interested in the work the society is doing. The regular membership fee is five cents. The work of the society will be the same as in the past years, and it will be the endeavor of those in charge to secure noted speakers on agricultural subjects to address the body throughout the year.

MORE FACULTY MEMBERS HAND IN RESIGNATIONS

Since the opening of college, five resignations of members of the faculty have been received and acted upon by the Executive Committee, and five more have been granted leaves of absence. Those who have resigned are—

- W. C. Gillespie, instructor in experimental pomology
- J. B. Churchill, professor of industrial chemistry
- H. R. Kraybill, instructor in agricultural chemistry
- G. D. Robinson, instructor in electrical engineering
- R. E. Shumaker, instructor in engineering drawing
- The following leaves of absence have been granted—
- J. P. Adams, assistant professor of botany
- T. S. Sligh, Jr., assistant professor of physics
- M. C. Allen, instructor in military science
- W. R. Ham, professor of physics
- F. H. Struthers, instructor in zoology

DR. RITENOUR GIVES ADVICE ON COLDS

Dr. J. P. Ritenour, the college physician, recently gave the following advice to students with regard to "colds." At present there is an epidemic of "colds" among the students. It may not be amiss to inform the students that "colds" are contagious and every precaution should be taken to avoid their spread. Upon the appearance of the first symptoms, such as a feeling of fullness in the head, headache, sneezing, sore throat, general aching in the joints, soreness of the muscles, cough and indisposition, consult the Health Service. If you are already sneezing, or coughing, protect your fellow-student by covering your mouth or nose with a handkerchief during the act, and thus prevent its spread, as the germs producing the disease are disseminated by not doing so. "If you would protect yourself from the annoyance of a 'cold' avoid those who are suffering from one. Remain away from public gatherings, during the epidemic, as much as possible. Avoid improperly ventilated and overheated rooms, protect the body from draughts and sudden changes of temperature, and do not over eat or undress."

NEW COURSE OFFERED IN FORESTRY SCHOOL

Professor G. R. Green, of the School in the Schools of Forestry and Engineering, D. C., in consultation with Major Gray, U. S. A., an alumnus of Penn State, class of '85, who has in charge the constitution of material for aeroplanes. The purpose of Mr. Green's trip was to arrange for the establishment of a course in wood technology, at Penn State, in order that this college will be able to furnish men for importations in this branch of the service. Although this course is not established by the United States Government, it is sanctioned by them. The course will be open to all Junior and Senior students in the Schools of Forestry and Engineering, and to such other students as have the necessary qualifications. A meeting was held last evening, in the Forestry Building to discuss matters and to set the hour for classes.

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ENGINEERS AGAIN CONSIDER MAGAZINE

The project of a technical magazine to be published by the engineering students was again brought up at a combined meeting of all Senior and Junior engineers and a great majority of the engineering faculty on September 19 in the Electrical Engineering laboratories. Although nothing definite was decided upon at that time, the various departmental societies were authorized to select two members to a committee to arrange for the formation of a combined engineering society and for the rejuvenation of the "Penn State Engineer." However, each departmental society is to retain its autonomy.

The possibility was also considered of admitting Sophomores to membership at the beginning of the second semester. A luncheon was provided by Dean R. L. Sackett and members of the faculty gave short addresses. President Sparks dropped in during the course of the evening and gave quite a lengthy talk. The general trend of the speeches was optimistic regarding the future of the engineer. The opinion of all seemed to indicate that the engineer is coming into his own again.

WEEKLY MEETINGS RESUMED

The Cercle Francais resumed its weekly meetings last evening in Room 226, Old Main. The programs will vary but slightly from the past years, and all who have completed beginners French are asked to join Tuesday evening has been selected tentatively and it may be necessary to change the meeting night at a later date. The meetings begin at 7:30.

Can You Replace a Broken Lens Without the Prescription?
I am often asked, "Can you replace a broken lens without the prescription?" Yes, no matter how complicated the lens may be, I can duplicate it exactly from one of the broken pieces. With the instruments and system I use there is no possibility of a mistake being made. Come in and see me when in trouble with glasses.

DRL EVA B. ROAN
522 E. College Ave., State College, Pa.

BAND AND ORCHESTRA HAVE BRIGHT OUTLOOK

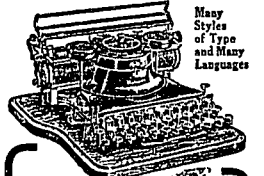
The first call for candidates for vacant positions in the band brought out a wealth of material that promises much for the future of that organization. The new candidates met with the old members of the organization in the band room in Old Main last Thursday evening, and Bandmaster W. O. Thompson estimated that there were at least fifty candidates from the Freshman class and Two-year Agricultural course. It is the opinion of Bandmaster Thompson that the band will be as good, if not better, than at any time in past years.

Immediate preparation will be made for a benefit concert for the Penn State Band, which will be held during the Pennsylvania Day celebration. The bandmaster is already at work with the arrangements and a part of the evenings now devoted to band practice will henceforth be devoted to rehearsals for the concert. The band

will meet for practice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the band room in Old Main, as was the case in the past year.

The first call for the Drum and Bugle Corps was held last Monday evening in the band room, and was answered by a large number of candidates. The call for candidates for the College Orchestra is set for this evening in the band room. The band and orchestra have lost none of their officers, as far as Bandmaster Thompson is able to ascertain at the present time.

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IN

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IN

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