

Prexy's Preachment

Recently a newspaper asked me what habit or mental attribute I considered most essential to a boy or girl in college. I can over-perseverance, initiative, happy disposition, courage, persistence, common-sense and the like only to decide finally upon concentration. Many will not agree with me, but both in college and afterwards, I will choose the power of concentrating the mind and the will power upon a given task or a given object. "Day-dreaming" has caused more failures in life than any other weakness; for forgetting one's time is the father of idleness and mischief.

A man died a few years since in Pennsylvania of whom it is told that when still in high school he wrote down what profession he intended to follow, what house he intended to live in, for a residence, what farm he would acquire for a pasture, what political career he would follow and even the girl he would wed. It is said that he fulfilled every intention and reached Congress at almost the exact time he set. His concentration and will power were wonderful. His handiwork would have deserted most young men.

Sitting with a book before one, frequenting the library, getting one's own dirty in shop or laboratory or being secretary for any number of organizations does not indicate necessary production. The one who lessens his denominator and concentrates on a few things, who trains his mind to be oblivious of interruptions during mental concentration is the one who finally achieves.

We naturally like a good loser and we despise the winner who sets up his little "shin". When an athlete or debating team comes home with a cry of fraud or prejudice in decision, one thinks of throwing dust to cloud the real issue. When a man came back from a training camp during the war with a sad story about the officers who "had it in for him" and how he was defeated out of his rights, I usually replied that his complaint furnished the best evidence why he would not make a good officer.

In 1912 Taft jokingly referred to himself as the worst beaten man in history in running for the presidency. Later in Seattle a man in a crowd yelled, "Mr. Taft, I intend to vote for you for president again". Quickly Taft called back with that inimitable chuckle of his, "My friend, I hope you will have better luck than that."

Do your best or a little better than you think your best in the fight and having done that if you are liked, take your beating standing upright and never dodge or take refuge under some excuse. Both sides cannot always win. I frequently console myself with the philosophy of Mr. Wesley when he was worried in a contest, "We are not always doomed to success." But I am greatly concerned lest I shrink from future contests or try to trim to avoid an issue. That is an evidence of cowardice which in itself is damning and well-nigh fatal to success.

Did it ever occur to you that the captions used by current cartoonists apply frequently to your own experience?

When you are entertaining a stranger at the college during the evening he pretends the order and quiet prevailing throughout the community and thinks it well-nigh impossible that there could be three thousand students and no more noise and disturbance and declares he never saw the equal in any college community—well, doesn't that arouse in your bosom a grand and a glorious feeling?

BUT—

Just when you are induly inflated, your jubilant fire gets a puncture. A crowd of youngsters on the front campus or even on College avenue raises a shout of epithets not intended to be complimentary to the rodent inhabitants of Old Main and persist until some of the inhabitants toss back the shouts in terms befitting the "muckers"—well, there's always something to take the joy out of a file.

Query—Is there any relationship between the moon and the desire to shout? At full moon time the coyotes on the Plains pour forth their souls to the sky, apparently without rhyme or reason. Can any theory of arrested development be applied to account for the volubleness?

CRAB APPLE CLUB TO MEET

Mr. Horace Roberts of Moorstown, N. J., one of the most prominent horticulturists of that state, will speak to the Crab Apple Club on Thursday evening in 100 Horticultural building at 6:45 o'clock.

Sirloin Club Plans Big Livestock Show

Following an annual custom, the members of the Sirloin Club will hold a livestock show and mock sale in the pavilion on the afternoon of May first. The continued success with which this affair has met, has encouraged the club this year to prepare even more extensively for the occasion and to make it the "best ever". The very pick of the college herds will be entered in the exhibit and an enjoyable as well as an amply educating show will be conducted.

A committee composed of B. H. Williams '20, J. L. Stubbins '21 and W. H. McNew '21, is in charge of this affair and is supported by sub-committees which will have charge of fitting and preparing the various forms of livestock for the show and sale. The fitting will be done entirely by students and before the sale, "Felix" MacKenzie, college herdsman, and Professor Tom have, head of the Animal Husbandry Department, will judge the stock to determine which student had prepared his particular animals best. Following the judging of the stock, the mock sale will be held, which, as the committee plans, will be regularly conducted by a noted livestock auctioneer. The students will, at the sale opening, bid on the various animals, the highest bidder of course closing the sale. However, before the sale several members of the Animal Husbandry department will appear and bid at a certain theme and refuse to go above, may, if his estimate of the animal's worth is near the appraised value, win the prize over his more hasty competitors. A prize will also be awarded to the student who best fits his animal for the sale.

In connection with the show, a new feature is being added. Due to the courtesy of the National Stockman and Farmer, a leading farm periodical, the Sirloin Club is receiving free a very best booklet which will contain the latest prices of the various animals and notes of interest regarding them. This is the first time in the history of the club that such a booklet is being published expressly for the show and those who attend will be fortunate in securing one, not only for the educational value to be derived therefrom, but also as a pleasing souvenir of the Sirloin Club's best livestock show and sale.

DR. HOLLIS DELIVERS INTERESTING LECTURE

Dr. Ira N. Hollis, president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute at Worcester, Mass., and Chairman of the A. S. M. E. Committee on Relations with colleges, delivered two interesting lectures here on Friday, one at four-thirty in room 209 Engineering B, on the possibilities and the value of an engineer in the world's work.

In the afternoon, Dr. Hollis said that the engineer must play an important part in the settling of the present difficulties which exist in this country. He also explained the origin of the age of industrial development which was responsible for the establishing of the engineering profession. At the evening lecture he enlarged upon the subject of the afternoon and entertained his audience with various phases of his life, of his naval experiences and of some of the men he had known intimately. The speaker displayed excellent control of his subject, and his ability to introduce new instances, was remarkable.

SENIOR FORESTERS ARE ON WESTERN INSPECTION TRIP

The Senior Foresters are now on a tour of inspection of the wood using industries and lumber operations of the western part of the country. The trip takes them into Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and includes stops at Madison, Wisconsin, Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Chicago. They will later camp at Crossmont, Kentucky, where they will do valuable work on a large lumber tract. The camp will end in June.

FOOTBALL CANDIDATES BEGIN SPRING PRACTICE

Spring football practice opened in full swing on Old Beaver Field last week under the direction of assistant coach Harbo, who will supervise the work for the entire practice period of six weeks due to the fact that Coach Tezak is fully occupied with baseball. A large number of varsity men and members of last season's Freshman squad turned out in uniform and passed the majority of the time in kicking and receiving punts and generally becoming acquainted with the oval once more. Numerous backfield candidates were given an opportunity to show their ability in kicking but few showed up to much advantage, although Tezak, a stocky line-man of the Freshman team, exhibited particular good form in punting and will probably develop into an excellent kicker.

The first two or three weeks of practice will consist mainly of light work such as kicking, forward-passing, shagging punts, including the dummy, falling on-the-ball, etc., but gradually the work will increase as the men become hardened until finally actual scrimmage will be held. Since the practice only lasts six weeks, every man who has any intention of trying out for the team in the fall should get out now as the knowledge and experience gained during this short period will be invaluable later on.

OFFICIALS ELECTED FOR PENN STATE FARMER STAFF

At a recent meeting of the members of the Penn State Farmer staff, elections were held for the new staff, at which time: J. E. Weber '21 received the position of editor-in-chief; P. L. Coates, associate editor; E. L. Burrus '21, business manager; J. L. Kling '21, circulation manager; Miss Dora V. Passmore '21, Home Economics Editor; and Miss Margaret Glosner '21, Assistant Home Economics Editor.

The elections of the minor officials will be held later in the year. The Farmer has for years been the official organ of the students in agriculture and has met with continued success. All appearances point to a bigger, better magazine in the next year.

PROFESSOR FESSENDEN ON A. S. M. E. COMMITTEE

Professor E. A. Fessenden, head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, has been appointed on a special committee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers by the president, Fred Miller. The committee is to investigate the permanency and accuracy of calibration and changes in accuracy of gauges, indicator springs and other similar devices. The work of the committee will be a very important contribution to the engineering world.

OFFICERS CHOSEN FOR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

The new Pennsylvania State College Volunteer Fire Department was organized at a meeting on Wednesday evening, March seventeenth. About thirty men reported in response to the call issued by Chief A. S. Barnhart '20, and from this group were chosen the officers for the remainder of the college year. Aside from the chief, who in this instance was appointed by the Student Council, the men chosen were: Secretary, F. E. Ruckey '22; Treasurer, R. W. Campbell '22; Hose Captain, C. L. Clark '21; Chemical Captain, R. W. Campbell '22; Police Captain, F. E. Ruckey '22; Salvage Captain, W. A. Morrow '21.

The organization is built around a nucleus of ten men living in Old Main, with representatives from unit and fraternity groups making up an aggregate of fifty men. In this manner all sections of the student body and here will be represented, the members electing men from those recommended by the various districts in which they live. In explaining the nature and organization of the Department, Chief Barnhart pointed out that were men taken from every unit and fraternity the total would be much larger than necessary.

or desirable. Hence the plan of having units and fraternities in certain districts nominate their representatives, from whom the department chose its personnel.

All men attached to the department will be assigned to work under one of the four captains. The Chief also outlined the duties of the several divisions, and enumerated the various conditions relative to equipment and its use. He urged every man to cooperate in the performance of duty and with the bare fire company. In the near future the College Department will be furnished with a fire-house in which the chief and two or three of his captains will room, in addition to the housing of the old and new equipment, part of which is to be motorized.

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