

"Slang Has Its Place, a Useful One"--Prof. Carter

By A. L. Carter
Department of English.

A few terms ago there was a man at Penn State whose ordinary conversation was larded with slang; to a casual listener he would have appeared helpless had anybody deprived him of a couple of dozen phrases. When he got and accepted an invitation to speak before a polite gathering, his friends somewhat reverently wondered what and how he would say. His fifteen-minute speech was a model of clean-cut English; I did not detect any sins against the King's English in his remarks; I shouldn't be surprised if Professor Ridenour has retained a copy of the speech as a pattern.

To my mind that man had earned a title to all the slang he chose. He used legitimate English with the force and certainty he did his slang. There is very obviously no cause and effect here to seek, though we may see the contrast of the student who when set to write a theme in slang turned to a library slang dictionary (1897), and laboriously copied down a few phrases which are now forgotten or perfectly good English. It amounts to this: slang is ingenious, amusing, stale, and flat as the mind that dictates it.

Youth More Daring

Young people are ever more experimentally daring in their speaking and writing than older ones. Shakespeare used several hundred more words in his early plays than he did later; there are exceedingly few new words in his latest plays. His vocabulary became smaller the more he wrote. The exuberance of youth predicates an effluence of slang. In the King James' Version we find the emphatic, "I say," which becomes, "I'll say--tell the world" and its variants. The English language has never tied down those who use it, it challenges whoever uses it to go as far as he likes; it invites new words from whatever source, new ways of saying the hundred and one obvious things of daily experience. Samuel Johnson's famous retort, "Sir, the English language has no grammar at all" has been quoted more in sorrow than in anger by grammarians; but those who have no axes to grind are, I imagine, inclined to murmur a fervent "thank heavens!" If English were hidebound, regulated, policed by a strict grammar, it would be inhospitable to the new, and instead of keeping up with the new develop-

Date Corrected on Cotillion Invitations

The date on the invitations for the Co-eds Cotillion should read Friday, April sixteenth instead of Thursday, April sixteenth. Town girls may secure tickets at Dean Ray's office this afternoon from two to four o'clock.

ments and maintaining its interest in every sphere of activity, it would now be in its dotage.

In no particular do we see the English language more thoroughly asserting its vitality and eager youth than in these thousand phrases which match current experiences. An enterprising student might epitomize much that has been typical of America by cataloguing the expressions which have tagged successive decades. These phrases are a remarkably short-lived commodity and the more diligently a phrase is used the more quickly it is exhausted. "You tell 'em, banana, you're one of the bunch" and its hundreds of variants were exhausted well under a year. It is obvious that only rarely will a phrase make itself indispensable to a language.

(Continued next issue)

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DR. TWEEDY TO SPEAK HERE SUNDAY MORNING

Appearing here for the first time in more than a year, the Rev. H. H. Tweedy, D. D., assistant professor of practical theology in the Yale Divinity school, will deliver the sermon at the chapel services Sunday morning. Dr. Tweedy will also speak before a special service which has been set for the same evening at six-thirty o'clock, by Secretary Kitchen of the Y. M. C. A., who is endeavoring to inaugurate a Sunday night meeting.

Dr. Tweedy is a graduate of Yale having received his degree of Bachelor of Arts in the class of 1891. He was minister at Union Theological Seminary, University of Berlin, and Lebanon Valley college, receiving the degree of Doctor of Divinity at the last-named institution in 1921.

STUDENT COUNCIL SETS CLASS ELECTION DATES

(Continued from first page)

candidates receiving the second highest number of votes shall be vice-president.

In the La Vie election, the two can-

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didates for editor-in-chief receiving the next highest number of votes shall be associate editors, and the candidate for business manager receiving the second highest number of votes shall be advertising manager.

In all other cases, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected to that office.

Nominations and elections. All candidates for offices herein shall announce in writing their candidacy to the secretary of Student Council during the time specified by the committee.

The names of all candidates shall be published in two consecutive issues of the COLLEGIAN prior to the date of election.

The election period shall consume two days, the hours of voting being nine to twelve-thirty a. m. and one to four-thirty o'clock p. m.

Ballot boxes shall be placed in the building of each of the schools. Each voter must vote in his respective school.

During the election two Student Council members shall have charge of each ballot box. Each voter shall be checked by these men from a certified student directory.

No votes shall be counted until all balloting is finished.

A checking committee composed of three seniors appointed by the president of Student Council shall review the ballots, making certain that the number of votes counted and the number

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ber of ballots distributed checked with the number of names checked off in the directory which has been used in the election.

Ballots. All ballots shall be numbered consecutively. There shall be a separate ballot for each school and each class in that school. The

ballots for each class shall be printed on different colors.

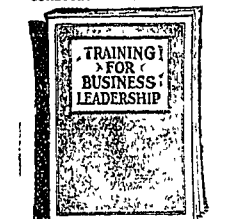
All other matters pertaining to elections shall be handled by the committee. The total results of the elections—including the number of ballots cast—will be published in the COLLEGIAN.

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