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Saturday, December 4, 1909.

A Plea for Democracy.

There is a stage in the development of a college when, growing too large for intimate acquaintance between all students, its forces are likely to become scattered and ineffective. On account of such loose control of their students, such large universities as Harvard and Yale have recently taken steps toward getting closer contact as the only means of saving their old standards from ruin.

The University of Oregon is now facing just this danger. The much talked of lack of spirit at the beginning of this year was a certain evidence of it. We will not attribute defeat in football to it, but we will say that it cannot continue without defeat in everything.

Once every man in college felt that success depended on him. The students knew each other intimately and made up for smallness of numbers by largeness of spirit. The football teams were not composed of individual stars gathered up from the big high schools of the state. They were hard working men, with serious purposes, from the farms of Oregon.

If Oregon is to retain her old prestige she must restore this democratic feeling among her students.

More student entertainments should be given, and when they are given, everyone should attend. The student body dance a few weeks ago was a good beginning. Another, at the opening of the new gymnasium would be in order.

Keep the Yale System.

Although he did not win the football championship, there is not the slightest disposition around the University to criticize in any way Robert Forbes. Everyone knows that he did all that could have been done and that no other coach could have done half that much. The question now, however, is what to do for the future.

We understand that Coach Forbes will be unable to take charge of the team next year. In that case, another man is necessary. We believe the only thing is to get another Yale man. The Yale system has become famous everywhere it has been tried. It does not spend all its force in one year and then leave the next coach to get along as best he may. It provides for the future. We believe the one element in Forbes' system keeping enough veterans in reserve to make a full team as a nucleus the following year is enough to justify its retention.

A debating team composed of Chinese students at the University of Pennsylvania, defeated a team of Orientals from Cornell recently.

Yale will lose nine of her varsity football squad next spring and will have but five veterans for next year's team.

NEW MEN DOING WELL ON DEBATE TRYOUTS

Candidates for the Oregon-Utah debating team occupied the rostrum in Villard Hall Friday afternoon, and earnestly pitted themselves against each other in the second of the series of tryouts being held.

In the opinion of the judges the tryout was a great improvement over the first one, though they had declared it, good. The speakers did not have to give introductions this time so had the whole time for argument.

"The men all seemed in earnest," said one judge. "Between the old men and some of the new it is hard to decide which is the better for they are, indeed very evenly matched, and one appears to handle his subject as good as the other."

The time of speaking for the next two tryouts has been changed from five to seven minutes, so that the judges may see the men in action for a longer length of time. It has also been decided to make the last tryout public, so that they may judge them in action before an audience. In this tryout the men will be divided on sides and speak in alternating order. It is expected that owing to the closeness of the contest much interesting rebuttal work will be engaged in, and every man will be at his best.

MOORES LEADING MAN IN "A LIKELY STORY"

Ralph Moores was selected by the Dramatic Club at a meeting Thursday night to take the leading part in their first sketch, "A Likely Story" instead of Ronald Kennedy, who was originally chosen but resigned for lack of time.

Moores will play the part of Mr. Campbell, a long and difficult part, but the members say he has good ability and is doing well. The rest of the cast is also working hard and fill their places well. Jennie Lilly will be leading lady.

The date for the play has not been definitely decided upon, but next Saturday night has been picked as a good time if the players can be ready so soon. The few spectators at the rehearsals say that it is progressing well and shows much talent on the part of the cast. The play will be given in Villard Hall and will probably be open to members of the club only.

Student's Translations Published

Tolstoy's "Re-Establishment of Hell" has come out in the December issue of the Pacific Monthly, translated by I. M. Grodin, '10, of the University of Oregon.

The work is striking in its originality, and radicalism. The publishers claim that of all the author's works, it best expresses his celebrated philosophy and attitude toward present conditions.

Mr. Grodin's translation is from a pamphlet which, with a series of others, was kept unpublished in Switzerland until 1905, the original manuscript being suppressed in Russia by the press censor. The pamphlets began to appear in St. Petersburg about the time of the creation of the Douma, when the press of Russia was given somewhat greater freedom. Now, however, these pamphlets again have been suppressed, and are, in consequence, very hard to obtain. Mr. Grodin's was sent to him by a Russian Liberal society in Switzerland, of which he is a member.

Mr. Grodin is preparing to translate several other pamphlets in his possession, and he may have the printed in separate pamphlets. There are several copies of the Pacific Monthly, containing the present work, in the Library.

Kansas has a special section on the football bleachers for girls who wish to root.

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WHITMAN MAY CHANGE FOOTBALL TO RUGBY

Walla Walla, Dec. 1—At a meeting of the faculty of Whitman College held last night, a resolution was passed which vitally effects football in the college and academy, and also in the athletic circles of the Northwest.

The resolution read as follows: That the faculty favor the modification of the present game of football to the extent of doing away altogether with mass plays, and should this fail to be done, will consider the advisability of abolishing the game.

There is a stir of excitement among the student body, and much sarcastic comment. It is known that many of the faculty favor the adoption of English rugby, and there is a possibility that some move will be made to have the foreign game taken up by the colleges of the Northwest.

Travelling Library Here

The State Library Commission has sent to the University of Oregon Librarian a complete travelling library, such as can be obtained by the people of any rural community or small town, and a collection of fiction suitable for holiday gifts. These are on exhibition in the reference room of the Library and students are invited to inspect them.

The object of the Commission is to interest the people of the state in placing these libraries in all communities where there are no public libraries.

The Harvard Glee Club is planning to make a Christmas trip to Denver, making only seven stops on the way. They will begin their tour December 22, will return January 2, and will travel by special train all the way.

Captain Pratt, of the University of Alabama eleven, drop-kicked a goal from the 49-yard line on November 13.

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