

OREGON EMERALD

Published Wednesday and Saturday during the college year by students of the UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Application made for second class mail rates.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year\$1.00
Single copy\$.05

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Saturday, January 15, 1910

A Lesson Learned

Why did more than thirty candidates sign up for the debate tryouts this year and then less than half of them come out? The reason is, we believe, that two teams were selected at separate tryouts. And this fact should be remembered by those in charge next year.

The new system would not have caused anyone to stay out, but the fact is that it did. Freshmen simply saw in the new men who made places the first time, additional sure place debaters and refused to try with all places full.

The plan of having a series of tryouts is excellent. It should be kept by all means, and perhaps extended. But the men on all teams should be selected at one series of tryouts and given to the coach to use as he thinks they will be most effective. The leaders should also be selected by the coach, not as leaders, but simply as last speakers. The place should not carry with it any honor more than the holder showed himself worthy of in the final debate. If the place in itself carries honor with it, it gives the coach a dangerous power to promote favorites. But the coach should have the right to place the men.

Get to Work Early

The mid-year examinations are only a few weeks away and it may be worth while to give the freshmen a little friendly advice.

First, the student's entire college record is largely determined by his work at this time. A bad mark is hard to live down. Besides, with all chance for honors lost, why try to live it down?

Second, probably more students "flunk out" at the end of their first semester than any other time. Such a misfortune would be considered a disgrace at home and would ruin what might be a splendid career. Better not take any chances.

Third, the time to "cram" is during the semester,—not the night before the examination. Every "night before" has its "morning after". It is not yet too late, but it soon will be.

A crowd like last night's makes a debater feel that his work is worth while. Of course they won.

Who can now say that Oregon is all for athletics? Another "side-show" at least is recognized, if not the circus.

"Bill" Woods, '09, is engaged in engineering work at Washougal, Washington.

HALLEY'S COMET PLAYS PRANK ON PROF. DUNN

The near approach of the famous Halley's comet, has called to the mind of Professor Dunn a case of "mistaken identity" that is highly humorous but in spite of the fact that it was "on him", he has consented to relate it.

"I had been invited to attend an 'at home' by the Latin instructor in our local high school and to address the class in whose honor the occasion had been planned," said Professor Dunn concerning the incident. "Happening to note that the date assigned was the eve of the March Ides, the suggestion readily came to my mind to take advantage of the coincidence and discuss the assassination of Caesar. His deification with the 'Iulium sidus' (Her. Carn. 1, 12, 47) as the nucleus of my address. Only an hour or so previous to my coming before the assembled company, I was overjoyed to stumble upon what was to me a most astounding discovery. Armed with it, I expected to take my audience by storm.

"In Duruy's History of Rome, Vol. III, Sec. 2, page 559, foot-note 2, may be found this comment upon the 'hairy star' that played such an important part in the apotheosis of Caesar, 'The comet which appeared at that time was Halley's.' Even that early, although it was March of 1904, public interest was becoming alert over the expected reappearance of the great comet in 1910, so that the above statement was, to say the least, decidedly attractive. The time to give my address was almost upon me, and I had not the slightest hesitation in accepting the dictum of Professor Mahaffy, who, as the English editor of Duruy's History, I knew was responsible for the note. My peroration was a magnificent effort, something to this effect. 'And so, if we are spared to live until 1910, we shall have the pleasure of looking again upon the blazing emblem that is the soul of our great Julius, metamorphosed to the realm where it surely belongs, a seat above the greatest of Rome's gods'.

"It was not until almost a year after these March Ides of 1904 that I found, to my horror, that, without the leadership of M. Jules Verne, I had been veritably 'off on a comet'. In February of 1905, I again took up the theme in a more elaborate vein, recasting it to present before the Faculty Colloquium of the University of Oregon. Somehow, a doubt crept into my conscience about that brilliant finale of my former address, perhaps because, in all the popular accounts of the several appearances of the comet and of the historic events with which it was connected, no mention had elsewhere been made of so singular an event as the assassination of Caesar. I therefore began a systematic study from an astronomical standpoint and was shocked to learn how far astray I had been unwittingly led. Unlike Galileo, I am only too anxious to publish my recantation, in the hope that others may avoid digging the same pit for themselves and pulling their followers therein after them. A glance at the table of reappearances, or, if that is not available, a simple mathematical process, will quickly prove the futility of identifying Halley's comet with the 'Iulium sidus', for the nearest appearance to the date in question was probably in 11 B. C., thirty-three years after the assassination and the celebration of Octavian's games, when the comet is distinctly said to have appeared.

"This curious but unfortunate error should be given publicity, for the popularity and widely accepted erudition of the editor are quite apt to disseminate a very gross misconception, to which my own experience bears witness."

As Professor Dunn is at the head of the University of Oregon Latin depart-

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ON HENRY GEORGE AND HIS SINGLE TAX

The Assembly Hall Wednesday morning will be occupied by John Z. White, a national lecturer on social, economic and political questions. His subject here will be "Henry George and His Philosophy".

Mr. White is well known and attracts large crowds wherever he speaks. At present he is engaged in delivering a series of lectures throughout the United States under the auspices of the Henry George Lecture Bureau, New York. Tuesday night Mr. White will give an address down town, probably in the Court House, and Wednesday night at eight o'clock he will talk to the students in the chemical lecture room in McClure Hall. His subject will be "The Single Tax". An attempt will be made to persuade him to discuss the present political situation in Great Britain where the Liberals are introducing Henry George's ideas in the new budget.

O. A. C. Has Chess Club

Corvallis, Jan. 14.—The Chess Club which was organized at the beginning of the year is progressing rapidly. Meetings for playing are regularly held and much interest in the organization is being shown by both the students and the faculty.

The manager of the 1910 Orange (Junior Annual) has handed in his final report, which shows the book to have been a financial success. Eleven hundred copies were printed and the cost per book was \$3.61, while the selling price was \$2.50.

ment and considered an authority on all historical points concerning the ancient Romans, this story is rather amusing. The moral doubtless is "we are never too old to learn".

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OREGON ALUMNUS HONORED BY TEXAS

The University of Washington Daily makes the following statement concerning the work of one of their alumni.

"Men of Destiny," an oration by Martin Musser, who won the Tri-State oratorical contest in 1906, is included in "Representative College Orations," a collection just issued by Professor Edwin DuBois Shurter, of the University of Texas.

The book contains between forty and fifty orations selected from the work of the leading colleges of the country. The University of Washington is the only coast institution represented.

The university work is somewhat similar to a text of rhetoric and oratory, by Professor Shurter, which was edited last year, and in which the oration "The Foundations of the State" by Herman Allen, '09, held a prominent place.

The Daily is mistaken, however, when it says Washington is the only Pacific Coast university represented. Robert W. Prescott's oration, "The Reign of Law," which won the intercollegiate contest against six others in March, 1908, is printed in Professor Shurter's work. Prescott is an Oregon alumnus.

At the meeting of the freshman class Friday, January 14th, a request from the executive committee was presented asking that they eradicate the numerals on the grand stand. The class immediately voted for the appointment of a committee to look after the work.

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Wants Proper Food for Women

Dr. Stuart will address the Woman's Council of the senior class at a business meeting to be held in Professor DeCou's room, in Villard Hall, Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Her subject will be "Nutrition" and will be along the line of preparing proper food for the tables of the women's clubs of the University. Other business in regular course will be brought up at the meeting.

Beginning with January 21st, Professor Shaefer will deliver a series of lectures in Portland under the auspices of the Portland Library Association. His subject on January 21st is "Ancient Historians"; January 28th, "Dr. Wm. Robertson"; February 4th, "Edward Gibbon"; February 11th, "Thomas Carlyle".