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Wednesday, January 4, 1911

The scientists in our faculty, who surely know, have investigated the matter, and stated unequivocally, that there is no danger in living here that may not be averted by the exercise of due caution. On the assurance of this report, a majority of us returned for the reopening of college, January 3.

There is, however, a squeamishness pervading the campus atmosphere and many feel that one jeopardizes his health by returning to Eugene before the epidemic has been thoroughly stamped out, or before adequate measures have been taken to prevent a fresh outbreak of fever.

Granting, however, that the outbreak of new cases can be prevented by the prophylactic measures recommended by the faculty, there remains a grave question of the expediency of the college opening while the hubbub and excitement were at their height.

Many indiscreet freshmen returned to their parents with exaggerated reports of conditions prevailing here. The parents became thoroughly aroused and were confirmed in their fears by the reports of two deaths among the students. Influential men, patrons and heretofore staunch supporters of the University were among the number thus aroused and angered and to them them, the reopening of college, in the midst of the epidemic, before any radical remedial measures had been taken, appeared a wanton disregard of their children's welfare. Many considered it a needless risk of life to return to Eugene, and consequently kept the students at home. Some students will be out until the filtering system is installed, others, and fortunately they are few, will enter other colleges.

Public opinion throughout the state, particularly in Portland, is thoroughly aroused over the situation. It may be called hysteria or exaggerated caution but the fact remains, that a majority of parents and patrons regard living in Eugene as dangerous and that the people were directly antagonized by the authorities refusal to postpone the opening of college. It seemed to them that Oregon was throwing open its doors in the face of danger, and unnecessarily risking the students' health for the secondary consideration of a week's "book learning".

Doubtless, the faculty being here in Eugene where, so to speak, the danger of a typhoid epidemic has stalked at large, for five years, estimated the danger conservatively and did not appreciate the force of this feeling of alarm prevailing throughout the state.

A lengthening of the vacation period for a week or two, until it could be clearly shown that the epidemic was thoroughly stamped out, and the filter plant was installed, would have placated many alarmed parents who as it is have been antagonized at the time when above all others, the University can least afford enemies.

Once upon a time, there was a man, who went to visit his neighbor. As the man started to go, the neighbor fell upon the man and beat him. The

man roared. Thereupon the neighbor proclaimed that the man was a liar and struck the man's name from his calling list.

In court, the man was doubtful whether or not he had been smitten and fell upon his still indignant neighbor's neck.

And the End is not yet. "Whitewash" was how the Oregonian described the findings of the Joint Committee. The findings contained few decisive statements. A large number of its sentences began, "It appears." It pleased neither party because it was manifestly an attempt at a conciliatory compromise.

The chief justification of the report was that, as the Oregonian said, it was effective in squelching a squabble of which the public was thoroughly tired. Its value in "vindicating" us or in "presenting our case" is difficult to discover.

Since the beginning of vacation two of us are dead.

In a small community, as ours, where we are so well acquainted, and where we see each other continually, death leaves a vacancy that is crushingly impressed upon us, daily. When, as in this case, there is a double tragedy, the blow strikes us with culminating force.

Death loves shining marks. A month ago, who would have associated the grewsome thought of death with the attractive Miss McNary, or the superbly-built Charles Widlund?

These deaths did not occur as the result of an accident, or as unfortunate combination of circumstances. The danger has been known for years, and there has been no adequate preventive measures adopted. Hundreds of lives have been knowingly endangered for over five years. It is this element of uselessness about it all that makes the recent tragedies doubly sorrowful.

Who has any objection to a canoe festival next spring? Canoeing is our most widely popular spring sport, and at the same time, is one of the few phases of college life peculiar to, and distinctive of the University of Oregon. Canoeing is delightful and should be encouraged and commemorated by a suitable regatta. Ingenuity and originality could suggest a dozen features that would make the regatta both interesting and beautiful.

The program for Junior Week End is already full, perhaps too full to include a regatta, but let us by all means have one some time this spring.

## TRYOUTS AT HAND BUT FEW CANDIDATES OUT

The preliminary tryout for the Intercollegiate Oratorical contest will be held in Villard Hall next Saturday morning at 9 a. m. Those who have not yet done so, should hand their names to Walter Huntington, manager of Oratory and Debate before Friday noon.

Five men will be chosen by the judges for a final tryout to be held January 27. Each orator will be allowed eight minutes in the first tryout and in the final tryout the limit will be 1500 words.

Coach Buchen and Manager Huntington are disappointed at the apparent lack of interest in oratory this year. Few students have as yet signified their intention of trying out. Robison, Beals, Dunton and Ray are hard at work and several enthusiastic freshmen will turn out. The number, however, is not at all as large as the coach desires.

## Owl Club Revisits Alma Mater

On Monday afternoon, Dec. 19, various members of the Owl Club visited their alma mater, Washington High, Portland. The graduating classes were addressed on various topics pertaining to Oregon, by Ellice Shearer, Bessie Lewis, Waldo Miller, and Fred Amussen.

In acknowledgment of the support given the Michigan eleven at the Pennsylvanian game last year, the students of the University of Michigan presented a silver bugle to the battleship Michigan.

Fraternity men at Wisconsin are protesting strongly against a new rule forbidding men to live in fraternity houses or be initiated their Freshman year.

Princeton's Sophomores won the annual cane spree without losing a single cane to their Freshman rivals.

## MERCER WILL RETURN WITH SEC'Y CARTER

Strong Y. M. C. A. Speakers Will Talk Here January 21-22

Much interest is being awakened in the universities on the coast just now by the visit of E. C. Mercer and E. C. Carter, who as representatives of the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A. are giving a series of lectures in the larger institutions. Beginning this week, Mercer and Carter will visit Pullman and Washington Universities, then coming down into Oregon they will be heard at O. A. C. and Oregon.

Both men are among the best known speakers to men in the United States. Mercer has made annual visits of a week for the past four years to the large Eastern universities where he goes upon the invitation and the recommendation of the presidents of those institutions.

Carter, who issued a circular to all of the United States and Canada, also is used by these institutions in addressing especially the more advanced students of the colleges. He and Mercer compose a team that appeals to every type of student. January 21st and 22nd are their dates at Oregon.

## MAKE DATES FOR VILLARD IN ADVANCE HEREAFTER

Hereafter all student organizations wishing to use Villard Hall for any purpose must notify Steward Johnson in advance.

This is the information which came from the office this morning. "The object of this," said Bert Prescott, when interviewed, "is to give the Steward an opportunity of putting the date on the books and to have the hall properly lighted and heated."

## TRIANGULAR DEBATERS TO BE CHOSEN SOON

The tryouts for the Stanford-Washington-Oregon debate will be held as follows: January 12, 17 and 20. The same conditions as in the Utah debate tryout will prevail, with five minute speeches for the first two nights and eight minutes for the last. The statement of the question for the tryouts will be, Resolved, That, the United States should establish a more extensive system of shipping subsidies.

George Poysky, C. E. '09, is now with the Northwest Building and Engineering Co. of Portland.

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 \* CALENDAR \*  
 \* Friday, Jan. 6.—  
 \* 7:00 p. m., Deady Hall, Y. M. C. \*  
 \* A. \*  
 \* 8:00 p. m., Deady, Engineering \*  
 \* Club. \*  
 \* Saturday, Jan. 7.—  
 \* 9:00 a. m., Villard, Oratorical \*  
 \* Tryout. \*  
 \* 7:00 p. m., Deady, Laurean So- \*  
 \* ciety. \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*

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