

OREGON EMERALD

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Saturday, January 13, 1912.

Lo, the Poor Student

The change in the system of grading adopted by the faculty last Thursday is one of the most noteworthy measures adopted by an Oregon faculty in years and has called forth a storm of protest from the student body, much of which is probably due to a misunderstanding of the new system, and from several of the University's best known professors, in fact, we understand the measure passed the faculty with a majority of but two votes.

The old system was discarded because it was held that some of the professors were too lenient with their A grades and some were too tight, to use a slang expression, and the faculty desired to make an A grade of uniform value throughout the University.

We fail to see how this end will be accomplished by the new system which provides for fifty percent of the class being called medium students, twenty-five called honor or superior students, and the poor unfortunate remaining twenty-five per cent designated as passed, or, as some members of the faculty advised, inferior. If the standard of A is different in the various departments and there is need to have it uniform, the student says that is something for the faculty to settle within its own assembly, and not divide him and his fellows into three arbitrary divisions and call them names. It looks to him like a change in form, but not in substance.

Its pretty safe to say that with the standards set by some professors, twenty-five per cent of the students don't deserve A or B, but with other professors a larger per cent than twenty-five per cent are students deserving high marks. Under the new system an A grade for Professor X will still represent two hours preparation for each recitation period, an A grade for Professor Z will still represent three hours of preparation, for no two members of the faculty have the same degree of ability nor the same amount of inclination to work students; each professor will continue to advocate his former standard and the only result we can discover is that twenty-five per cent of the students will be given a high mark, fifty per cent a medium mark, and twenty-five per cent a low mark. A professor's standard is the result of his heredity and past and present environment and it is as reasonable to expect that two professors will have the same standards, as it is to suppose that two men are identical in inheritance and in environment.

Of course, the new system will not work, necessarily, a hardship on any one class, for it is in the aggregate that all grades given out by the professors must correspond to the division mentioned. The great objection the student makes, aside from the contention that it will not make uniform the value of grades in all departments, is the names the divisions are designated by. The terms A, B, C, D, and E, are numerical and carry no special idea of class dis-

inction with them, but to be called medium, superior, or honor, takes the emphasis of numerical valuation and places it on the class. The grades of some students represent the amount of work done by them, but for many others they represent mental ability, and the seventy-five percent who will be designated as mediocre or passed, a polite expression for inferior, will object to the terminology for the same reasons our forefather objected to class names based upon birth. The University catalogue says that the grade C denotes good work; than why call a student, who does good work, mediocre or medium. The terms carry with them a certain idea of disgrace.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Miss Meta Mathews has gone to Portland to spend the week with her mother, who is ill.

"Bob" Cruisshank, a Beta from Maine, was a week-end guest at the Beta Theta Pi House.

"Scotch" McAllen, who has been ill in Portland, returned to Eugene to resume his college work.

Ted Holmes and Alfred Clark will re-enter Oregon next semester. Alfred was a 1910 glee club man.

Miss Fox, Y. W. C. A. general secretary, has been a guest at the Chi Omega House during the week-end.

Miss Bonisteel, Tri Delta house-mother, has not yet returned from a trip to Chicago. She is expected back at the end of the week.

Bishop Scadding will spend Sunday at the Beta House. The Bishop and Pres. Campbell were guests of the Dormitory at dinner yesterday.

The many friends of "Cady" Roberts will be sorry to hear that he lost a fraction of a tooth in the Kappa Sigma-Delta Sigma basketball game Monday. Finder please return and receive generous reward.

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