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Is There a Stopping Off Place?

Max McConn, writing in The Nation on "Losing One's Disillusions," strikes a keynote which proves that in his estimation the losing of one's illusions is far better if it occurs in youth as in the present age than if it occur later, presumably about the middle age as in the case of our grandfathers. "It is almost worth having been made a cynic at fifteen—when everything, even cynicism, was agreeable—to experience this comfort increment of optimism at the age when we most need compensations," he sums up in the concluding paragraph. The writer arrives at this conclusion after he has detailed the fact that at the point where illusions were lost before, disillusions are lost now.

"Thanks to the fiction magazines, the Sunday supplements, vaudeville and the movies—to say nothing of realism and problem plays—the least curious child is now a complete cynic at fifteen, and the slightly precocious could read Baudelaire at twelve with perfect understanding and without a quiver of dismay," he discourses. And further "... Is there any human weakness, folly, vice, or crime, any horror of life or terror of the grave, that they have not perused to satiety in both text and picture and watched upon the vivid screen? 'Vamps' and 'cavemen' and 'petting,' 'yeggmen' and 'stool pigeons' and 'passing the queer,' 'white mule' and 'snow'—if you, being an old fogey, are not clear about the meaning of any of these terms, ask the first boy—or girl!—of twelve whom you meet."

Better judgment does not challenge McConn's assertions about the present loss of illusions in the youth of the country. And beyond any doubt the average boy or girl who enters the University today would laugh derisively at the expressed surprise that they had long since lost all their illusions—but a further point worthy of consideration is found in the statement of authorities that a great deal of the co-ed's worldiness is merely her affectations.

Sex questions, theories of evolution and discussions upon free love are freely entered into in University classes where students yet in their teens are in attendance, and their treatment is not always delicate.

The idealistic point of view which McConn has attained is probably not shared by all. Blunt methods of instruction now used by some radical professors and the free discussions should be more delicately veiled. Sex novels are meeting with almost universal censure by the better critics, yet they are meeting an ever increasing demand by their profusion— even as the lurid details now supplied by the screen and the Sunday supplements are constantly becoming more daring.

Of course the student has a mind of his own and can discount the apparently convincing details,—but that raises the question of what point of development the mind has reached. And we hear it freely discussed that the student age is the age during which the moulding is in process.

Since When?

The immense assurance displayed by the Junior Week-end committee in doing away in perfunctory fashion with an age-old Oregon tradition, the campus luncheon, is interesting indeed.

Since when have general committees of the Junior class or any other class been empowered to do away with or in any manner de-vitalize any University tradition? Their place is to keep and guard them; any change, if change be needed, should come from the student body on recommendation of the student council. And then too—insult to injury when to the assured announcement of the act is added this statement that the body felt it "was voicing the opinion of the student body." Check to say the least. What is it!—an organized movement to do away with Junior Week-end by emasculating it? Oregon has not enough traditions now, and traditions make any university, establish for it an assured place in the hearts of its men and women who have long since gone from it. An old grad returning to Oregon in later years will not recognize it if such unwarranted activities are not curbed.

The Emerald would not be in the least surprised to hear of some such minor organization as the Junior class committee changing the cut of the Pioneer's garments.

CHAMBER HEARS HODGE

Geologist Shows Drainage Can Increase Productivity in Valley

Professor Edwin T. Hodge of the geology department addressed the Eugene Chamber of Commerce on Thursday morning on "Flood Control of the Willamette Valley." His idea, which was so well received in Portland a couple of weeks ago, was given here

by request and will probably lead to similar investigation by the chambers of commerce over all of western Oregon. By Professor Hodge's plan 100 per cent more of habitable land in the Willamette valley could be put in a state

of productivity after quick and effective draining, according to his scheme. "The destruction of property and great inconvenience caused by shifting of courses of streams would be reduced to a minimum," said Professor Hodge.

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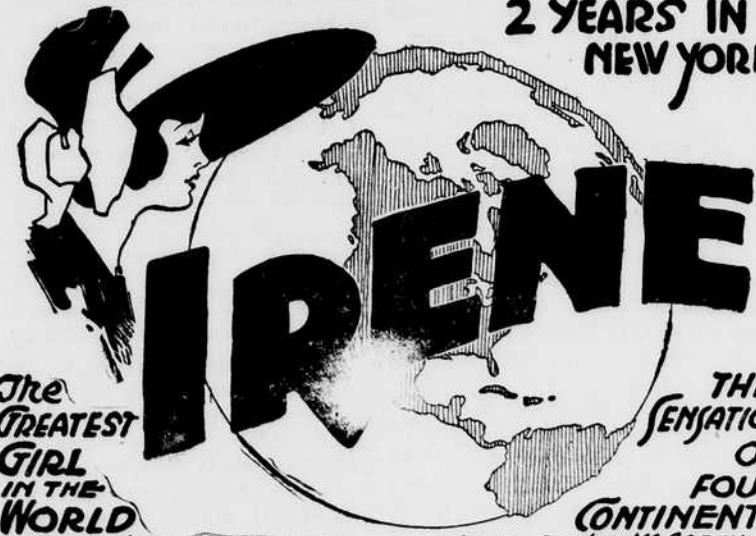
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