

THE OBSERVER

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Calendar for January 1911 showing days of the week and dates from 1 to 31.

EITHER WEAK OR OBERCED.

The case of Allan Eaton is one that puzzles. Why he laid down in his fight in the house cannot be understood. But he has laid down. In fact he has become a party to the very transaction that he was criticizing in others.

contative proved insurgent? If this is true and the young man laid down his principle in order to get a few dollars for the school then where in the name of heaven is our state drifting? Where is the boasted honor, where is the freedom that is taught in that university? Where is the Oregon manhood that is necessary to do things in the world?

We do not know that either of these is true, but there was something—yes, something that caused Eaton to lay down and quit.

SHOCKING EXTRAVAGANCE.

Bowerman's attack on Superintendent Steiner of the state insane asylum at Salem is worthy of consideration, and every taxpayer who is doing his best to make both ends meet should understand just what a few state officials are doing regarding extravagance and expenditure of state funds.

Why should the state pay over a thousand dollars a year to keep up an automobile for the asylum superintendent, when for years the old asylum carriage was run back and forth from Salem to the institution? Why should the superintendent be buying costly rugs and bric-a-brac with state money?

These questions are of the utmost importance, and when Jay Bowerman became enraged because his actions relative to the Eastern Oregon asylum was questioned he openly told the people of the state what was going on in the asylum at Salem. Let the good work go on. It will benefit Oregon as a whole if all the politicians in and around the capital fall out with each other, for a washing of the soiled linen will then follow and the taxpayer will begin to realize what is going on.

MILITARY HAZING.

Carried to Brutal Extremes in German Army Schools.

CADETS MAIMED AND KILLED.

The Most Dangerous Punishment Meted Out to Erring Freshmen is "the Gantlet of Fire," and the Most Repulsive is "Bacon Swallowing."

Germany is, of all countries, the one in which the science of hazing in military schools has attained the greatest development. The army plays in the fatherland's life a part the importance of which can hardly be realized by an untraveled American. Military service is compulsory, and in time of peace 600,000 men are kept armed, uniformed and drilled. To command that huge contingent 80,000 commissioned officers are necessary.

This large officer corps has developed customs, ethics, even a morality, of its own. These customs and ethics are inculcated at an early age by the boy who aspires to enjoy the veneration which German officers generally receive from the populace. Imitation in a young man usually means exaggeration, and some of the little military snobs are on their first day at school a joy to behold. Very soon, however, the precocious stiffness is taken out of them.

A harmless though repulsive form of hazing cadets whose appetite verges on gluttony is called "bacon swallowing." The plebes to be victimized are lined up on the grounds surrounded

by a group of second year men. A slice of raw bacon is tied to a piece of string, and the plebe whose name is drawn first is made to swallow the unappetizing morsel. When the sickening sensation of the twine tickling his throat threatens to nauseate him the bacon is pulled out. The name of another unfortunate is drawn, and he is in turn obliged to swallow the bacon, the appearance of which has not been improved by the first man's chewing. On it goes along the line to the next man and up to the last one, and for days and days the sight of bacon, a staple article in German cuisine, will, if it does not spoil the healthy youngsters' appetites, at least remind them that undue haste in assimilating food lacks refinement.

After a few hours spent in "frog's squat" the most dignified and snobbish plebes assume the good natured and perfectly chummy attitude which means that they have been tamed. Swelled heads are quickly noted and their owners made to sit on the floor with their chins resting on their knees, and their ankles and wrists are bound together. A solid stick passed under the knee joints and forcing the forearm back prevents them from moving arms or legs, and they are left there facing one another in an unnatural, cramped and ridiculous position.

Other forms of hazing are the stomach dance, with or without obstacles; finding the keyhole, tossing in a blanket and star gazing. In the stomach dance the cadet is put flat on his stomach on a high table and four tormentors take him by the hands and feet and whirl him around on the table. In the case of serious offenses a few hard objects or "obstacles" are scattered over the table, making the "dance" rather painful.

Then comes finding the keyhole. The cadet stands in front of a locker and is blindfolded. He has to feel for the keyhole with his forefinger. Then another cadet places his head between the locker and the finger, opens his mouth and bites the finger till its owner howls.

Star gazing consists in being made to watch the stars at night through a coat sleeve held like a telescope by two cadets. A third cadet then pours a glass of muddy water in at top of the sleeve.

When a cadet is guilty of behavior unbecoming to a gentleman, disgraces his class by some breach of etiquette or commits some petty theft he is generally sentenced by the "holy vehm," or "court of honor," to the rod. The penalty is applied ruthlessly, a gag being placed in the punished man's mouth to stifle his cries for help.

Of all the forms of hazing the most brutal perhaps is the "gantlet of fire." The freshman upon whom that punishment is to be visited is kept in a dark room astride a wooden chair, to which he is securely fastened. In the next room his tormentors are twisting newspapers into imitation torches, which at a given signal they light with matches. When the torches are burning brightly they form themselves in two lines; another signal is sounded, the door of the dark room is thrown open, and the freshman is ordered to ride between the lines, while he is mercilessly lashed with flaming brands.

However quickly he may run the gantlet, by the time he has reached the end of the blazing pathway his hair, his eyebrows and lashes have been singed to the skin, his eyelids are seared and swollen, his lips blistered, his uniform hopelessly damaged.

One of the surgeons in attendance covers up the sores with bandages and sends the singed plebe to the infirmary for a couple of days. The official report mentions the explosion of an alcohol lamp or some other accident of like nature.

Not infrequently those "boyish pranks" have a tragic ending. More than once cadets have been crippled for life, and there are two cases on record where death was the direct result of horseplay carried too far.—New York Tribune.

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