

THE OREGON WEEKLY

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Monday, November 9, 1908

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF OREGON UNDERGRADUATE SPIRIT

That was a fine tribute paid to the Oregon undergraduate spirit by Professor Glen in his talk at College Hour Wednesday. He made no attempt at definition of this intangible yet very real factor in the life and success of the University. Perhaps if it were capable of hard and fast definition, it would not mean so much to Oregon students and alumni. We know it chiefly by its works. "It is," as Professor Glen said, "the spirit that enables ten men to score eleven points against eleven men in as many minutes." It is the spirit that tries and tries again for thirteen years until Multnomah is at last defeated. It is a spirit that never goes back on a beaten team, but carries them from the field of defeat upon the shoulders of loyal supporters. It is the spirit which other colleges call "Oregon luck." Yet withal, it is spirit, and is not to be interpreted in terms of matter.

It is Oregon's greatest possession, the vivifying force, the element which makes a university out of sixty acres of ground and a few gray buildings. It is modest in prosperity and surpassingly great in adversity. Misfortune but purifies it, and makes it shine with greater lustre.

Many explanations have been offered as to the reasons for the existence of this undergraduate spirit at Oregon, which other universities of the northwest say frankly, "is not with them." Why should the spirit exist here any more than at Seattle, for instance?

What may be an answer is found in classification given by Edward A. Ross, Professor of Sociology in the University of Wisconsin, in a book

published last June, entitled Social Psychology.

Professor Ross is a pioneer in this field. In one of his chapters he gives a list of "prophylactics against mob-mindedness." These are influences which tend to keep men from mob action, and to put all their acts upon a reasoning basis.

Examination of local conditions shows that most of these influences prevail at Oregon, many of them with greater force than at any other college in the Northwest.

Among them are higher education; knowledge of society, body and mind as obtained through study of sociology, physiology and psychology; knowledge of what is classic; the influence of sane teachers; minimization of the effect of the sensational newspaper; healthy sports; the ideal of intellectual self possession; prideful morality; and participation in voluntary association.

The peculiar force with which some of these conditions prevail at the University of Oregon as compared with other universities will be plainly evident to students and alumni. Yet whether or not we can explain it on psychological or other grounds, we know the spirit is here, and our sincerest hope is that it may never depart from us.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The present year promises to be the most prosperous in the history of the University's School of Music. The registration is already above that of any previous year for the month of October, and before the year is ended, will probably show an increase of 25 per cent. The faculty is very strong. Miss Mary Morgan, of Nashville, Tennessee, has been added to the instrumental force, and is the head of the department. She is an artist of talent, and in the recent opening faculty concert, charmed the audience with her interpretation; her technique is remarkable. Miss Ellen Campbell, head of the Vocal Department, opened the eyes of the music lovers of Eugene by her splendid rendition of songs. In addition to having a natural voice, clear, strong and resonant, she is exceedingly well trained in its use and control. The School of Music is to be congratulated on being able to secure Miss Campbell for its vocal department. Mr. LeRoy Gessner will again have charge of the Violin Department. He has not yet made his appearance this year, on account of illness; but he will be ready to take up his work in a short time. To all those who have ever heard Mr. Gessner on the violin, there is no necessity of saying anything in commendation. His playing is not such as can easily be forgotten. Mr. Gessner's friends await with eagerness the time when they may have the opportunity of hearing him again.

BOOST FOR THE GLEE CLUB

As the time approaches for the glee club tour, an excellent opportunity is afforded students of doing a little home

missionary work. Every student whose home is in a town in which the club will give a concert should write to his friends, recommending the club. The Oregon glee and mandolin clubs always give an entertainment of a high order which anyone can safely recommend. High school students and people generally in communities which are without colleges, have an interest in college fellows and in college life. If they can be assured by persons whom they know, that to attend the club concert will bring under their observation a fine lot of college fellows, and that the sketch will give a most entrancing glimpse of true college life, they will give the club no reason to complain of the attendance at its concerts.

HOW IT HAPPENED

Remarks are not in order with regard to Saturday's game. There is nothing to say. Oregon never makes excuses for defeat. The student-body and the team are still confident of the Northwest Championship. The men have not lost faith in one another, and their trust in the great Coach Forbes is more implicit than ever. Much credit is due the Whitworth team for a victory honestly earned.

At present all thoughts are of the game against Washington next Saturday.

FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP

All available statistics seem to indicate that football men of the University are as good in their studies as the general average. The only basis of comparison is the number of low grades handed in to the office. For the first month of the year there were reported to the University office by the various departments 32 D's and 23 E's against the men of the University who do not turn out for football. The large football squad made six D's and four E's.

TICKETS TO THE GAME

Tickets to the O. A. C. game will be placed on sale at the University office one week from today, Monday. C. N. McArthur, '01, has arranged to have a space in the grandstand reserved for Oregon supporters. Tickets should be purchased early next week.

Mr. McArthur states that it is not necessary for men and co-eds to reserve seats in separate parts of the stand although arrangements may be made on the day of the game for rooters to get closer together.

A commendable custom was initiated by the rooters on the bleachers on Saturday, when just before the game, all stood up, and with uncovered heads sang the Toast to Oregon.

The narrow and crooked stairway in the library building needs a railing to afford protection against accident from slipping on the narrow steps.

Copies of the Oregon Weekly go to alumni in China, Alaska and Mexico.