

Football Team of "'97" Compared With Team of "'96."

J. B. S.

Quite a number of the old cadets who saw last year's and this year's football teams, judging only by the victories won by the respective teams, do not hesitate to assert that the team of "'96" was superior to the team of "'97."

From this assertion I beg to differ. The first football team the A. & M. ever had was in '94; that team played two games, winning one. Si Perkins was captain and played an end. Through some misunderstanding, we had no team in '95.

Last year when we organized a football team here, how many men had ever played before? Only one—Perkins; it is true that Stern had played before, but only occasionally on the scrub. Notwithstanding we were green at the start, we were anxious to learn, and obeyed every command of our Captain.

We soon mastered the rudiments of football, but we seemed to be scared to tackle low; the same has been true this year, but not to such an extent. Last year Farr learned to punt by lots of practice; no other man was practiced for full back. The same could be said about Tracy at quarter. Sternberg practiced at quarter for a few times, but did not play that place even in a practice game, so I cannot judge of his playing at that position.

Therefore I state, that if accident had befallen Farr or Tracy in a game last year, their retiring would have completely crippled the team. Such is not the case this year, as Astin, Dwyer or Cousins could have filled Farr's place while Dowell could have played at quarter if either one had been forced to leave the game. Astin at full back would be superior to Farr as a drop kicker or a line buckler; but we cannot