

THE BATTALION

Published every Wednesday night by the Students Association of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas.

Subscription price \$1.25 per year. Advertising rates on application.

Member of Texas Collegiate Press Association.

All Ads Run Until Ordered Out

EDITORIAL STAFF

C. H. Clark..... Editor
E. E. McQuillen..... Assistant
F. L. Bertschler..... Assistant
K. J. Edwards..... Assistant
A. W. Harris..... Assistant

BUSINESS STAFF

Coxey Evans..... Business Manager

Campus Editor:
Mrs. D. V. Graves.

Entered as second-class matter at College Station, Texas, February 17, 1905.

ARE OUR ATHLETES SPOILED?

A serious consideration of the above question will result in the opinion that there is no occasion for any frenzied attack upon our athletes. On the other hand, the more the question is considered the more admiration is felt toward these men, and the more credit is given them. The percentage of men in the whole school, forced to leave on account of failure to pass the necessary amount of work, is about four percent. In the past few years the percentage of men "flunking off" of athletic teams has been less than one percent. At the same time Conference eligibility rules require almost a third more work to be passed than is necessary

for a student to remain in school. In other words, in spite of the fact that they have to meet a decidedly harder requirement of scholastic work, there are fewer athletes failing to meet the College requirements. Are our sport representatives expected to be super-men mentally? If not we surely have no occasion to criticize them for low standards of class work.

It is true that some individuals among our athletes have failed to make good in their class work, but this is no cause for an arraignment of all Varsity representatives. There are few more difficult handicaps than that under which these men must labor in their efforts to maintain eligibility standards. Let the man who regards this lightly go out and exhaust himself by a hard afternoon's work and then come in and attempt to concentrate upon some text book that night. The fact that the vast majority of athletes do not succumb to this handicap is evident proof that these men are among the best and most solid representatives of the whole school. As long as their present record is maintained the athletes can not be justly criticized for any scholastic shortcomings.

WHAT DOES A. AND M. LACK?

Ask yourself this question. Answer it for yourself after excluding all minor and insignificant trivialities. What is vitally missing? What would make this institution greater? What would make you love it more? What would make its graduates love it more? What would make all people respect it more? Is it not TRADITIONS? Not in the sense of tales of the past. But in the sense of something that would connect the present with the past history of the school. Something that would touch

deep, below the surface of commonplace matters. Something that would fill the freshmen with awe and the graduate with love. Something that would make your college a place in your heart and give you something to carry away with you that all thru life would thrill you at thoughts of your Alma Mater.

Every great school and college in the world has its traditions. They are sacred to its sons. To a great extent these traditions are lacking at A. and M. Too many students come for a year or two and go their way light heartedly. Too few of those who enter remain until they depart as graduates. Too many fail to see the seriousness of a man's college. Too many take the daily incidents and occurrences as all that the college has to offer. Too few consider that this is their stepping stone to life and that manhood comes to them while in the Halls of this old institution.

What can alter these conditions? What can change matters? What can create traditions for the college? What can create an atmosphere of seriousness, age and love about the institution? This is a most difficult question. This school is different from most great colleges. Conditions are not the same as are found at the Universities, the very names of which stand for all that could be desired along this line to every citizen of the country. We must work out our problem for ourselves.

There was a time when the retold tales of various fights, trips, and games served this purpose. That day is long past. We have outlived our name of "Roughnecks". Such things are past history. The telling of such incidents no longer thrill the Fish and give him a consuming desire to leave the college with his name interwoven in another story to go down

to the coming classes. The new man has not the respect for the institution that he had years ago. The man leaving the institution has not the thrilling and exciting adventures to recall that were for the men of other days. Something must be done.

We offer the following as a possible means of supplying this lacking character to some extent:

Would it not be a great thing for the College if every class that graduates in the future leave some permanent memorial on the campus for the daily observation of the new classes? Would it not be a greater thing if every class that has gone out from the old Halls should return to leave a similar memorial of themselves? If these two things were done would not the freshman be met with something that touches deeper than the belt and bayonet of former days? Would not the man leaving the college have more in his heart to remember and love than as things now are? Would not the graduate feel more interest in his Alma Mater if he knew that the symbol of his class was being daily honored and respected by the students in school? Would there not be a more inviting atmosphere for an occasional return of graduate classes? Would there not be inspiration for reunions at the college during active sessions when the young men in attendance would meet and greet the older ones who have gone before? On the whole, would not a student at the college take himself and his school much more seriously? Would there not be an indescribable something constantly at work on his conscience urging him to stick the fight out and do his best? Would there not be an elevated standard at the college in

COMING!

BAYLOR BELTON CHORAL CLUB

Think, Men! Thirty-one Talented Ladies in this Womanless Desert at one time. Come out and hear them.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1919

NEW AUDITORIUM AT 8:30 P. M.