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RETURNING LIBRARY BOOKS

Considerable trouble has been caused members of the staff at the library, since its occupancy of the new building, with late returned books. Notice for the return of books is sent out in most cases before books are due but response to such notices has been lax.

If quantities of the various volumes in the library were unlimited, only the usual fine would be imposed on delinquents and further effort to obtain the books would not be expended. But since in most cases only one copy of the book is in possession of the library, it is desirable that books be returned on or previous to the date due so that circulation may be more complete and so that those who might actually use the books have such an opportunity.

SPEAKING OF MUSIC

The Engineer Battalion is to be complimented, we think, on their selection of a campus orchestra to play for their annual ball on the night of April 9. The tendency of campus clubs and other organizations here to bring outside orchestras to the college to play for their special dances has been growing too much of late.

In the past there has been some criticism of the local orchestras in that they didn't play long enough and that their intermissions were too many and too long. If the length of the intermissions is to be taken as a criterion, and if the outside orchestras are to be taken as examples, the local groups of musicians, we think, should be rated as above par. The rest periods at all of the special dances this year for which outside musicians have been imported to play have been longer and more frequent than any of those during the regular corps dances at which one of the campus orchestras furnished the music.

There are practical considerations also to the retention of campus musicians to play for the dances. Their rates are cheaper and they always are available for service. The very heart of all campus social activity, the corps dances, also would be threatened if the home orchestras were forced to disband, for it would be well nigh impossible to import a special orchestra every time there was such an affair.

Members of the local orchestras use their earning to defray a part of their college expense, and, if outside musicians are brought here to do the work that students are perfectly capable of doing, prospective members of the band and of the orchestras probably would change their minds about coming to A & M if they were to learn that the cadet corps thought so little of their own orchestras that it went elsewhere for its dance music.

THE HONORARY DEGREE RACKET

From now to June, there will be many meetings in closed chambers, much pulling of wires, and numerous announcements from American colleges and universities concerning that coming racket—the awarding of honorary degrees. Indeed, names of prospective honorees have already been mentioned.

Historically, honorary degrees and the admittance to certain persons into learned societies were intended as signs of recognition for unusual accomplishments in learning, for overwhelming success and devotion to scientific pursuits, and for consecrated service to the public welfare. If men labored year after year, undergoing privations and lack of worldly goods in order to find new truth; if they did common things uncommonly well; if they served their fellows unselfishly, other men sought to reward them. Men of learning would be elected to the academies, while others would be knighted by the king or given high office in the service of his countries.

In the countries of the Old World the election to learned societies or recognition from the Crown is still regarded as a dis-

tingitive honor. Here in America where there are no hereditary monarchs and where the learned societies have not yet taken on the prestige and reverence of antiquity and outstanding leadership, and where mere political office has no charm for the masses of the people, it is becoming a fashion for institutions of learning to hand out honorary degrees at commencement time—in some way, to pay honor to whom honor is due.

There can be no fundamental opposition to the conferring of honorary degrees, so long as the universities, the public, and the receiver of the honor know exactly the basis upon which the degree is given. But the growing tendency seems to be one of peddling degrees to too many of those persons whose only significant service has been the contribution to an endowment fund or some other "death bed" philanthropy to hide a questionable past, and to those who have no claim for honor on their own achievements and who shine only in the reflection of the particular office they hold, an office whose intrinsic worth exists regardless of the incumbent. Under these circumstances, honorary degrees become meaningless, and empty, and their awarding resolves itself into nothing more than a specious racket.—Daily Cardinal.

THE DOVE NEST

Those pacifists who paint our military training a prussian blue, the trusting, innocent souls, are not only misinformed, but are idealistic to believe that the entire nature of the race can be swerved to peace by preaching and example, when the drinking habits of our nation haven't been touched by thirteen years of effort. The victim of the greedy is the weak. Are we to stand openly by while the evolutionary trend of the mind of man turns him to the donning of the white?

A policy of unpreparedness is the final step in the fattening of one's self for slaughter. How naive one must be, to believe that our country, in the guise of a lamb, can lead the wolves of the world to bow before the dove and don the olive branch. The path to peace must be cleared of all economic tangles, the mind and nature of man must first be changed, the thirst for power must first be quenched, then, and only then may the lamb lead, not wolves, but other lambs.

In Iowa, a bill to abolish compulsory military training, was defeated. "I am not militaristic, but a lover of peace," said a representative Greene, at the close of the debate, "Not at any price, but peace with self-respect. The duty of national defense rests equally upon all Americans. If it is fair for my boy, it's fair for your's."

No doubt, the pacifists are sincere. Is it possible, that they are misinformed or influenced indirectly by foreign propaganda?

Reign Of Youth Near End, Will Durant Says

CLEVELAND, O.—The reign of youth in the world today is about due to end in a puritanical revolution, Dr. Will Durant, author of books on philosophy and kindred subjects and former professor of philosophy at Columbia University, said recently in an interview here.

"The predominance of youth in modern affairs," he said, "is due partly to the large unsettled population caused by late marriages and partly to the fact that most of the newspaper writers and reviewers are young people."

"Youth has been holding an epicurean riot in our big cities; but like all things, they run themselves out in time. The new clothes may be an indication of the trend. Perhaps long skirts will bring long marriages."

Durant, who is 46 years old, made a tour of India recently which he said has cured him of any inclination he might ever have had to "pan" his native country. He is "sick and tired" of people who run America down and believes that most Americans suffer from a national inferiority complex.

"New York is, I believe, the most beautiful and interesting city in the world today," he said.

"America excels in modern architecture. Indeed, Europe is sending architects by the boatload to study our skyscrapers. And we undoubtedly lead the world in generosity."

"People talk about Americans chasing the almighty dollar. Why, most Europeans are far greedier than we are. They criticize us because they want what we've got. And China—why, there a man will let you kill him if you pay him enough money."

I believe that to the rightly constituted mind New York City may be just as romantic as Vermont.—William Lyon Phelps.

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