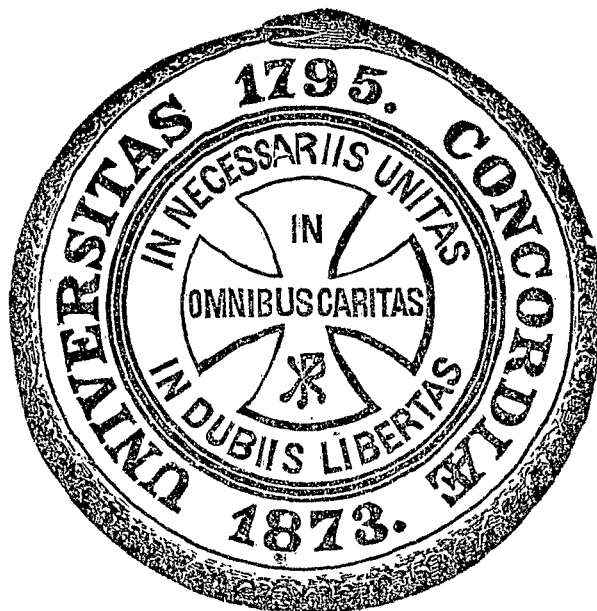


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CONCORDIENSIS

VOLUME XXXII

NUMBER 20



APRIL 17, 1909

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THE STUDENTS OF UNION UNIVERSITY

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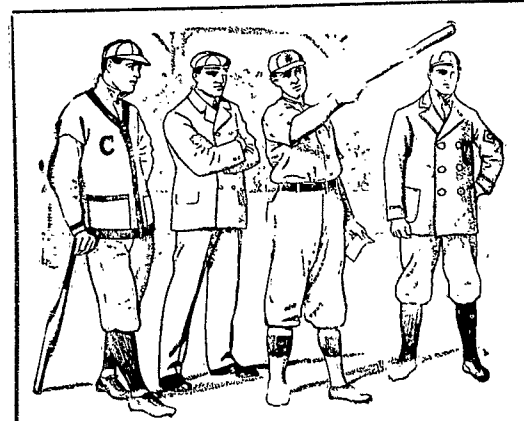
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THE CONCORDIENSIS

VOL. XXXII.

UNION COLLEGE, APRIL 17, 1909

No. 20

THE RELATION OF THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING TO UNION COLLEGE.

Union College is practically divided into two camps, which, if regarded from the standpoint, not of personal friendship (there is plenty of that, I am happy to say), but of educational values, are antagonistic, in some degree at least. A certain incompatibility of adjustment on educational lines exists, and has for some time been apparent, between these two bodies. I refer to the engineering school on the one hand and on the other to what may be called the college proper. The latter includes the courses which lead to the degrees of A. B., Ph. B., and B. S. This incompatibility is, as I take it, one of the chief difficulties in the problem of building up the college proper. I do not believe that the latter can prosper while the two are welded together, as it were, into one whole. I do not mean that the two can not flourish side by side, but merely that they should be kept distinct, so that when Union College is mentioned the name should not be thought of as including the school of engineering, any more than it is regarded as inclusive of the law school or the medical college. The reason for this is that the characteristic purpose of the college proper is essentially different from that of any one of the schools just referred to. The college is, or should be, non-professional. Its purpose is, not to train men for any one calling or avocation, but to fit them in a general way for life, leaving them to choose their life-work independently of any special training that might be arranged with particular reference to the future. The business of the American College is, so far as possible, to make all-round men, in contradistinction to specialists. This is what is meant by a liberal education—a term requiring definition from time to time. If this be not true to-day, then the American college has undergone a radical change within the last forty years; and what

is more, the change has taken place in opposition to the views and the ideals of the best and foremost educators. The truth is, however, that no such change has in reality established itself. There have been enlargement, growth, a broadening and multiplication of studies and methods in all our colleges, but the fundamental characteristic of the American college, that is, its essentially non-professional aim, abides.

Now my point is that the interweaving of the professional and the non-professional is, to say the least, a doubtful experiment. Undoubtedly there are various degrees of closeness between professional and non-professional departments of instruction in many of our universities and colleges; but as a rule it has been found best to draw a pretty distinct line between them. Wherever that line is faint the fact is generally owing more to accident than to design, or else to certain paramount demands of financial economy. At Union, the very close connection between the professional school of engineering and the college proper is owing partly to accident, partly to financial exigencies. Let me illustrate by a comparison. When I came to Union College in 1881 I found the institution organized on the pattern of the college of the nineteenth century. It is not necessary to discuss the character of such a college. There were many of them in the Eastern and Middle States, and they were well known to most people, so far as their broad outlines were concerned. Their general purpose was to fit young men to take part in the world's work, whatever that might be. Columbia was one of these colleges. Union was another. The curriculum here at Union differed only slightly from that at the New York institution. In some respects the equipment at Union was superior to that of Columbia. For example, the modern languages at the latter college were less efficiently and regularly provided for than at Union. But in general the two

colleges might have exchanged places without especial gain or loss to either one. The engineering department at Union was practically in its infancy, and did not appreciably affect the character of the college. Union was essentially a so-called classical college.

There was, however, just one important difference between the Columbia of the time referred to and the Union of the same period. At the former place the engineering or scientific department, known as the school of mines, was segregated from the college proper.

When Professor Chandler went from Union College to New York to found the school of mines he was instructed to make of it a separate institution. At Union the engineering department entered upon its career as an integral part of the college itself. As the two institutions, Union and Columbia, grew and developed, many changes were wrought in both. At Columbia the school of mines never became a part of the college, but remained always as a thing apart, whereas in Schenectady the engineering department not only never lost its connection with Union College, but as time went on it gradually gained an ascendancy, until eventually it became the dominant factor in the institution. The earlier situation was lost sight of, and the college proper found itself absorbed by what had now developed into a professional school of considerable range and influence. To-day Columbia College is essentially what it has always been. It has developed along its own natural lines. It is still the "College of Arts." If it is more efficient, more broad, more far-reaching than it was in earlier days, the fact is due to accretions and additions that are in keeping with its traditional and rightful functions. The university has grown up around it, but has neither assimilated nor obscured it. Columbia College is still non-professional.

Union, on the other hand, has grown into a professional school of which the earlier course in engineering is the nucleus. The additions of the last quarter of a century have been entirely on the side of its professional work, and have been wholly due to the demands of that work. The old college has, to all intents and purposes, disap-

peared, for few additions such as have helped to make Columbia College a strictly modern institution are to be found in operation on Union College Hill. I refer in particular to those collateral branches of study, which are closely related to Latin and Greek, and which should be required for the A. B. degree—such subjects as Greek and Roman history, archaeology (including ancient art and architecture), palaeography, inscriptions, early Christian and mediaeval art, general antiquities, classical philology, and the like. Such subjects as these are of the very essence of humanistic culture, although in their fullest development they belong to a comparatively recent date. But they are provided for at our best colleges, where time is assigned to them in the curriculum and teachers are paid to impart them. To say that they belong only to graduate departments is to go back some thirty or forty years; to-day no hard and fast line can be drawn between graduate and undergraduate studies, so far as classical antiquity is concerned. At any rate, the genuine college finds place for these studies somewhere among its courses, or at least endeavors to do so by openly recognizing their claims.

Now the condition of things at Union to-day is not necessarily open to criticism. It is the inevitable result of circumstances. It is a natural consequence of uncontrollable events. An educational institution is like any other organism. It shapes itself in accordance with its environment and circumstances. Sometimes the forces which affect it are external; sometimes they are internal. In Union's case both have been at work. Local influences have led to opportunities of which the authorities have not been slow to avail themselves. Conditions existing outside of the college have created a demand for engineering studies, which it was both right and natural that the authorities should endeavor to meet. The authorities have met the demand to the best of their ability, and it is to the credit of the institution that a first rate scientific school is in operation on College Hill.

But the question now arises: What is to become of the old Union College? Is it to be re-

stored to its former independence and vigor, or is it to continue to be a sort of feeder to the engineering school? Some persons in authority have said in effect, "abolish it altogether," and that is what would happen were Greek and Latin to be laid aside. Such an opinion as this is perfectly logical and is entitled to all respect. Other persons again, who also are in authority, desire to maintain and strengthen the classical courses, and to make the humanities in general a dominant factor in our educational work at Union. Such a wish is also perfectly logical, for it has tradition behind it, and in the past it is what Old Union has stood for. One of these two things should be done and done at once. At present, notwithstanding a slight increase in the number of our classical students, it is tradition alone that holds our classical studies in their original abode on the college campus. But these studies, overshadowed as they are by those of the engineering school, have not sufficient prestige to maintain their existence there without aggressive and determined support from external sources. Within the student body there are pronounced evidences of a sentiment which is working always against them; this sentiment has at last become a potent factor in the college life; it tends to discourage both the classical student and the classical teachers; it is shared even by some members of the faculty, and it will ultimately work the downfall of classical studies at Union unless one of two policies shall be adopted.

The College of Arts, to use the old term, must be separated from the school of engineering in such a way that both students and faculty may look upon it as a distinct and separate school, having a different aim and purpose in the educational life of the day. This would be the best move that could be made by the college authorities. The further equipment of the college proper could then go on more slowly, according to the means at command. The innate, though perhaps unconscious, antagonism between the professional and non-professional elements in the college life would then cease to assert itself, and both sides would benefit by the result. Or, if this plan is

found to be impracticable, the college proper should be equipped immediately with a view to the restoration, so to speak, of the "balance of power;" with a view also to its finding a place among the better colleges of the country, of such a nature that those young men who are seeking a liberal education as something distinct from professional training should come to Union with as ready a will as that which would determine their choice in favor of Columbia or Williams or Amherst. The added prestige which would thus undoubtedly accrue to the classical courses would tend to place the latter on their old and respected footing, and would assist in annulling the effect of the common talk now rife within the college walls—talk which, although neither unnatural nor vicious, is nevertheless a distinct hindrance to the proper efficiency of the classical departments.

Although the second of these two suggestions is to my mind merely a compromise, yet its realization might lead to a gradual differentiation of opposing interests. In brief, the thing to be desired is either a definite separation of the professional from the non-professional elements on the college campus, or at least such a restoration of what I have ventured to call the "balance of power" that the classical courses may be proof against the constant disparagement which meets them on every hand. In either case it is to be hoped that in the end Union University may be made to include not only the distinctly professional schools of law and medicine in Albany, but also a well defined engineering (or scientific) school in Schenectady, to which should be added the veritable Union of old, the College of Liberal Arts, now brought up to date, and capable of laying fair claim to the honored title of Union College.

SIDNEY G. ASHMORE.

The University of Toronto, the largest institution of learning in the British Empire, has a registration of 4,600 students.

Mme. Curie, who, with her husband discovered radium, has been appointed chief professor of Physics in the University of Paris.

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With this issue the present board relinquishes its duties to the new Board. We are not going to speak at length on what the paper has accomplished for how we have failed in our aims, but we should like to emphasize to the fellows how important is their co-operation in getting out the paper. There are eight men on the board and there are over three hundred men in college, just for the moment consider how those few men are to make the paper any kind of a success if the other fellows stand around with their hands in their pockets and only aid the board in giving advice that is meant to criticize and cause those in power to feel awkward and wish they were well out of everything that had to do with the paper. Instead of this continual knocking and suggesting other plans for managing the paper you, fellows, should assist in every way possible; you should send in all the news that you hear, when you write something that would make good reading matter send it to the Editor of the Concordy, don't let it waste away in your room. The Concordy is first and last the Students' paper but from the attitude that most of the men have taken this year one would be led to conclude that it was some foreign paper whose management they had a grudge against. Knocking will never make a success of the Concordy, we must all put our shoulder to the wheel and push with might and main to make our paper take the place in the college world that rightfully belongs to her. Our parting prayer is that the Concordy and the fellows in college may be wholly reconciled and that the new Editor will have the support of every son of Union without begging and that the inside of the Concordy will be as excellent as the appearance from the cover is now. We now bid our gentle readers farewell and hope that they will take our advice given above to heart

and see that each does his share in helping to publish Union's fame through the columns of our own Concordy.

CONSTITUTION AND ISOMERISM IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

We cannot present organic chemistry free from hypothesis, as we can inorganic chemistry, because it is so intimately interwoven with hypothetical views.

Up to the middle of the nineteenth century, isomerism was unknown. It was thought that every body has a composition of its own, different from every other body, and the same percentage composition means the same body, but with isomeric substances, this is not true.

Berzelius for many years in his *Jahresbericht* recorded and commented upon the progress of chemistry. Here he reported the analysis of a new acid by Wöhler and the analysis of the acid of fulminating mercury by Liebig, as having the same percentage composition, but different properties. This was thought to be impossible, and Berzelius made sarcastic remarks, the drift of which was that somebody was wrong. This led to a meeting between Wöhler and Liebig, which was the beginning of a lifelong friendship. They repeated their analysis and found them correct. "Science gains by avoiding friction which only develops useless heat." Liebig afterward became famous as the founder of agricultural chemistry, and Wöhler afterward discovered aluminum, and made in his laboratory the first artificial organic compound. Before his day organic compounds were thought to be the product solely of some living organism plant or animal.

Faraday, famous for his work on electrolysis, discovered another case of two bodies having the same percentage composition but different properties. In the liquid which separated out in the cylinders of compressed illuminating gas used in Berlin, he found a gas now called butylene (C_4H_8) with a composition and vapor density just like ethylene (C_2H_4).

The next case was of a different kind of tartaric acid sometimes obtained at a large manufac-

tory. Berzelius investigated this himself, and found two compounds of identical composition to have different properties. This phenomenon he named "isomerism," thus bringing to the attention of science the fact that a new concept was recognized. The number of isomeric substances now known is overwhelming.

To explain such a fact is simply to connect it with other well known facts. When a friend introduces his sister, that explains the girl! Instead of this, however, a hypothetical explanation was given for the men of the time regarded the atomic hypothesis as a fact.

We might expect the properties of a compound to be dependent on the properties of the constituent atoms, and weight is an additive property. But other properties, as color, are not the sum, or average, of the properties of the constituent elements. These questions form the contradictions and unsolved problems of the atomic hypothesis.

Berzelius, however, offered an explanation of isomerism, based on the atomic hypothesis. He introduced the idea that the atoms could be differently arranged in the molecule, and he even considered arrangements in space. What is called the development of organic chemistry is nothing else than the trial of different views or general representations, of possible arrangements of the atoms in space.

The arrangements were known as radicals, or types, and developed from the radicals of inorganic chemistry, as ammonium and cyanogen.

Liebig and Wöhler working together prepared a whole family of compounds from the radical benzoyl (C_6H_5CO .) obtained from bitter almond oil. This method of work has been followed to the present day. A chemist makes as many derivatives of a substance as possible in order to find its true position in organic chemistry. This is the method employed by Dr. Ellery when he made numberless organic derivatives of sulfuric acid in order to prove its formula.

Next Bunsen prepared and analyzed derivatives of cacodyl, obtained from potassium acetate and arsenic trioxid. Cacodyl is an unpleasant substance to work with. It smells horribly, is ex-

tremely poisonous, and very dangerously explosive. Bunsen was nearly killed by each of these influences, working separately on one occasion losing an eye, but each time he returned to the work. By these investigations the theory of radicals seemed established, but danger arose. Chlorine was found by Dumas to displace hydrogen, for example in acetic acid, giving trichloroacetic acid. Berzelius said that this could not be so, simply because he had developed a theory according to which combination was due to the mutual attraction of oppositely electrified atoms. Chlorine was strongly negative and hydrogen strongly positive, so that if chlorine actually did displace hydrogen, it would destroy his whole theory. Berzelius had spent a long life at his home in Sweden as the czar of chemistry, and he was now an old man who hated to give up his views. But science had to admit that chlorine replaced hydrogen.

The theory of substitution was then developed, and extended to almost everything. Complicated compounds were recognized as derivatives, and a better representation of real facts obtained. It was found that carbon atoms could be joined to one another by one two or three bonds. All of these developments were in two dimensions, but finally isomerides were found which would not fit into the system. So Van't Hoff and Le Bell introduced stereo-chemistry or the representation of the atoms as arranged in space. In later times facts are known which even three dimensions will not explain, according to Ostwald. Thus the change from active right malic acid to left, on substituting chlorine for hydrogen and back again. We cannot adopt more than three dimensions, however, and keep our atoms.

These considerations have led scientists in recent years to ask the general question—Is it not possible to do without atoms, and find a system of organic chemistry, free from these hypothetical assumptions, which is descriptive of real facts, just as it is possible to describe and connect the law of combining weights and the laws underlying the molecular theory, with real facts, without the help of hypothesis?

A. S. EASTMAN.

COLLEGE BRIEFS.

Walton, '09, who had a noperation for appendicitis a few weeks ago, does not intend to return to college.

The alterations on Prexy's house will be completed next week and it is expected that Dr. Richmond and his family will soon move in.

S. M. Cavert, '10, attended the Conference of College Y. M. C. A. Presidents held at Harvard last week.

Dunn, '12, who recently had an operation at the Ellis Hospital, has returned to his home and is getting along nicely.

Dr. Steinmetz celebrated his 44th birthday Friday, April 9.

A meeting of the Press Club was held Wednesday evening, April 7.

Dr. McComber spent several days in Washington last week.

The track squad commenced practice on the oval last Tuesday.

Gillies, '12, spent the week visiting at Asbury Park.

Prof. Bennett was confined to his house by illness during a part of last week.

The Pyramid Club held a banquet Tuesday evening, April 6.

Hamilton College has recently received two gifts amounting to \$250,000. Some time ago Rockefeller promised the Trustees \$50,000 if they would raise \$200,000 before July 1. Carnegie has just given the college \$200,000; so Hamilton will, also, receive the \$50,000 from Rockefeller.

CONCERT AT BALLSTON BY MUSICAL CLUBS.

The musical clubs gave a concert at Ballston in St. Mary's Hall last Tuesday evening. The hall was well filled and everyone seemed to enjoy the entertainment.

The programme was nearly the same as the one rendered at the Van Curler two weeks ago. The Glee and Mandolin Clubs did good ensemble work, the quartette rendered several selections, and the solos were of unusually high merit.

GYMNASIUM PAGE.

"A NEW GYMNASIUM FOR UNION COLLEGE."

ALBANY, N. Y., April 9, 1909.

To the Executive Committee of the Student Gymnasium Movement, Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.:

Gentlemen: As the originator of the idea for remodeling the south college dormitories and having been, in a measure, partly responsible for such a crime, if it was one, I do heartily commend the movement now on foot to build a new gymnasium and also am ready to condole with the committee at those times when the clouds seem blackest for having once tried to touch the Alumni of the college for the south college project, I know what a hard matter it is.

I should like at the present time to be able to send a subscription to you but unfortunately must wait for a few months before I can reply in a decent and creditable manner.

All hail the hardihood of the men who have started the project and best wishes to the same.

Sincerely yours, J. N. VANDER VEER.

BERKLEY, Calif., December 30, 1908.

I may be counted on for a subscription. This occurred to me recently. I wrote Dr. Barnes that I am still planning on taking up the matter of the formation of a Union Alumni Association on the coast but that Baggerly, '94, was at present in Japan and it would be necessary to await his return. Why would it not be possible to take one up with the other, or after the association had been formed, take up the matter of the Gym with the members? This might be done without any other man coming out here or it might be done by collaborating with some delegate sent out. I am glad to do all I can to further the work. And such a plan might save the committee some money and bring as good results. It may be worth consideration and understand that I am ready. Then George Vedder, '06, is in the southern part of the State.

(Signed)

WM. H. GILLESPIE, '02.

SEATTLE, Wash., December 26, 1908.

Mr. Theodore B. Brown, 12 North Church St., Schenectady, N. Y.:

My Dear Brown: I want to thank you for your kind note of the 21st inst. and also for the circulars which the college sent me at your request.

I am very glad to hear of the action of the student body regarding the new Gym and I only wish that I had money enough to build it myself. I consider a new gymnasium to be one of the great needs of Union at the present time.

I assure you that I will be very glad to do everything I can to assist in the matter and will be pleased to have you keep me posted as to the progress and method of reaching the desired result.

With best wishes for the coming year, I am

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN J. ELLIOTT, '00.

Here is a letter received from an Alumnus in Troy. It will explain itself.

There is an old man in Troy,
Who, a score years ago, as a boy,
Used to "work" in your "Gym,"
With facilities slim,
So, hails the new movement with joy.

Now, this man from the City of Collars,
Doesn't care who hears when he "hollers,"
He wants a "Gym" brick,
And he wants it damn quick,
And encloses herewith his Five Dollars.

EDITOR FOR 1910.

Last Wednesday Harry G. Van Deusen of the Junior Class was chosen Editor-in-Chief of the Concordy for next year. Theodore Walser, '10, was chosen assistant Editor-in-Chief.

The try-out for the Junior and Sophomore oratoricals was held Friday.

Picture Framing—

Did she give you her
Photograph?

Frame It!

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A College degree is required from all candidates for admission. Graduates of Union College are eligible.

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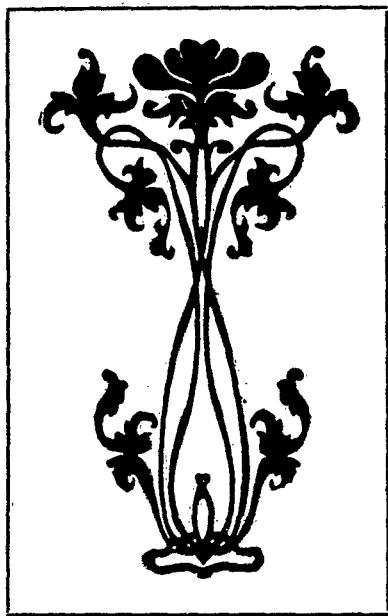
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WHEN YOU COME here to buy drug articles, it's the things you don't have to pay for that count for most. You'll get good merchandise for your money; that's our business---but we'll show you a thoughtful, considerate service that's worth a good deal to you, and it doesn't cost either of us anything.

WM. H. QUINN

Vendome Hotel Building

State and Centre Streets . . . Schenectady, N. Y.

*April*

This is the month when a young man's thoughts turn to Spring Haberdashery and head wear. Here at the "Men's Shop" you will find the newest creations in Hats, Caps and Furnishing Goods. Our lines of Shirts, Neckwear, Gloves, Hosiery, Hats, Caps, etc. is now complete.

We invite you to come and look over the latest styles and patterns that the foreign and domestic manufacturers have produced for this Spring. It is a pleasure for us to show you. A new Arrow Collar, the "Tremont" has just been launched. We have them in $\frac{1}{4}$ sizes.

336 State Street

Joe Nusbaum

The Men's Shop

White, The College Photographer.

229 State Street, Near Barney's

"Garnet" Photographer, 1903-4-5-6-7-8

Special Rates to U. C.

THE EMPIRE LAUNDRY

WOOD & HEDDEN

Proprietors

Phones 337

21 Jay Street

A - Tip

For you, young men of taste, who desire to dress well, should first consider your footwear.

We ask for your first inspection from our new *Spring styles* just received in

*Green, Black and
Russets*

at

Patton & Hall's

"Best styles in town"

The Just Wright

Spring Styles

The
JUST
WRIGHT
SHOE



The Just Wright has the Fuss and Kick about them that Young Men like, and this season finds us with more and better styles than ever before. Here you'll find all the newest shapes in all the new shades of tan, and the rich wine color, also the new shade of green, unlike any other you ever saw, and gun metals, patent colts and the always popular wax calf oxfords. The newest thing this season for college men is made on a broad toe with a low flat heel. We make a specialty of mens shoes and everything that's new you'll find here.

Prices \$3.50 and \$4.00

Look at our window display for the correct things in Men's Shoes.



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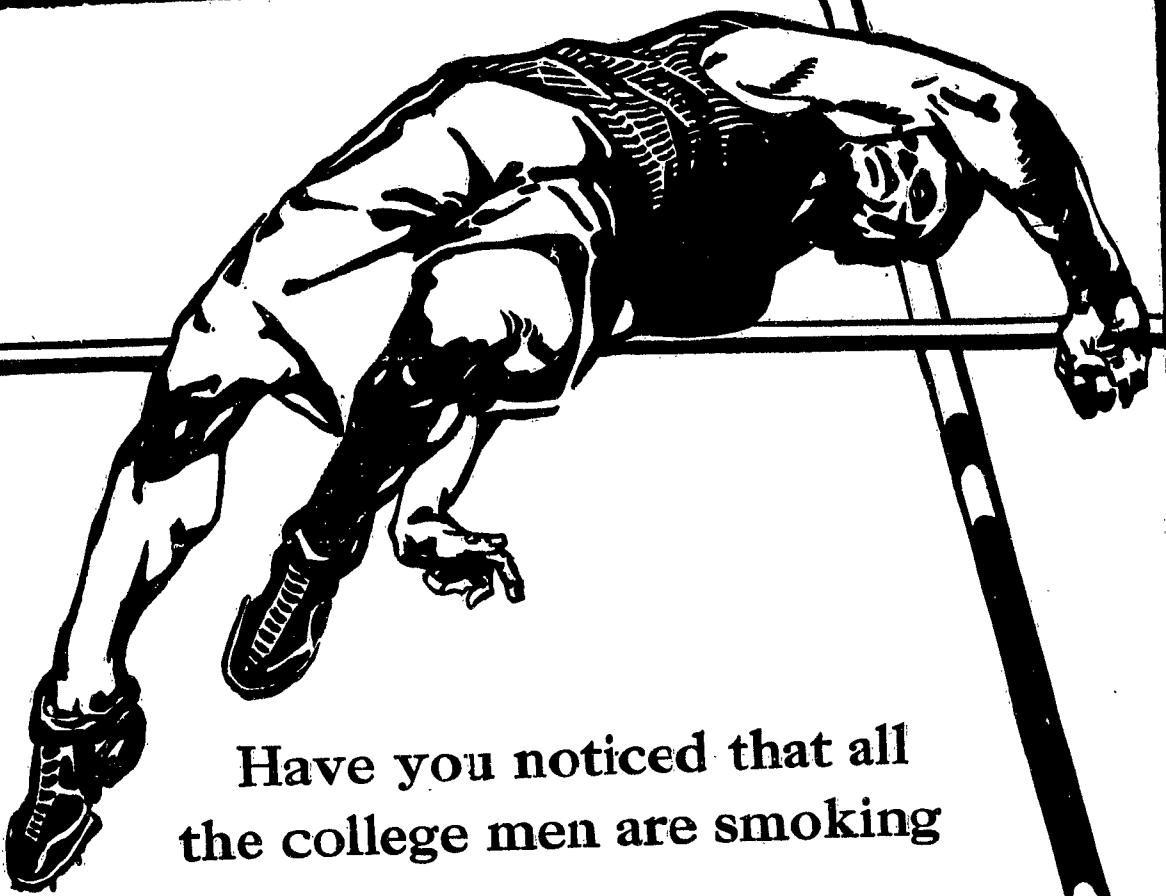
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They measure *almost up to the \$15 standard!* If you
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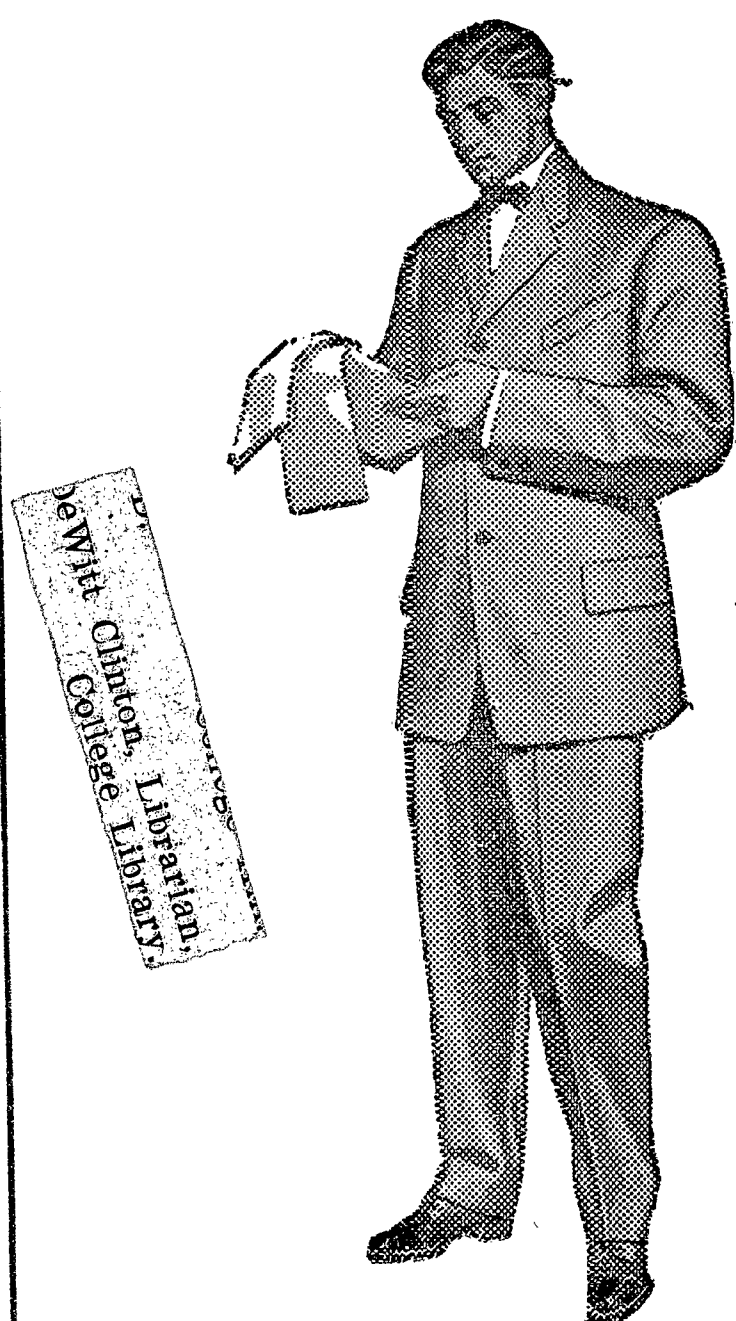
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