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THIS ISSUE IN CHARGE OF D. T. SMITH

**WHAT ARE DEGREES?**

We see in a contemporary paper that William Cullen Bryant Kempt, perpetual student at Columbia University, is dead. For sixty-one years he attended college, collecting fourteen degrees. Kempt, who was 78 years old when he died, was a freshman at Columbia University in New York City in 1868, three years after the close of the Civil War. He continued in college the rest of his life because a relative left him \$2,500 a year. He had three B. S. degrees, M. D., A. B., A. M., LL. M., LL. B., Ph. D., C. E., D. D., M. E., E. M., Phar., Chem, degrees and one degree not listed in the catalogues, D. P. M.

This man spent his entire productive life in search of degrees and yet more degrees. A more convincing illustration of the futility of mere degrees could hardly be found. If a row of imposing letters following a name stand for achievement, then this man was the greatest the country has produced in the last century. Yet he was unknown except to be pointed out as a sort of crank.

He created nothing of importance to humanity, he did nothing to better the condition of his fellow men. He spent his entire life in getting ready to accomplish something, but never actually started. He was like a runner who practices all the year but who never runs in a race. He might help himself a great deal, but he does nothing for the school.

Thomas Huxley held many degrees, both earned and honorary, but these were considered by him to be merely trivial markers along the path of his life work. He counted the important thing the work that he accomplished. The degrees meant little to him. His discoveries and theories, rising from a background of patient research will make him remembered for centuries. But will his many degrees be remembered? They will be of interest only to show where he obtained the foundation for his achievements.

D. T. SMITH.

**ON HONOR SYSTEMS**

It now seems that the honor system is on the decline in American colleges. The Yale student council has finally convinced the faculty that the honor system cannot be enforced under the social and educational conditions which now exist at that university. At Amherst, upon the request of students, the system was dropped after being in effect for twenty-three years, and at Harvard the proposal to introduce the system was rejected.

The arguments for and against the honor system have been thrashed out and then brought forth again and again. The question seems to be a perennial one, yet the trend in the American colleges now seems distinctly away from such a system. The chief objection to it seems to be that despite all arguments, it refuses to function with anything approaching passable efficiency. Like the socialist's dream of the perfect state, on paper it appears to meet all needs and fill all requirements. When applied in practice, the results are notably different. The dishonesty of the few, and the refusal of student bodies to accept the responsibilities of administering discipline prove to be the stumbling block. Students prefer to leave the work and unpleasantness to faculty and administrative bodies rather than shoulder such burdens themselves. Especially is this true with the growing

**“THE SLIPSTICK”**

Cleave to “The Slipstick”; let  
the Slapstick fly where it may.

**Eyes**

The night has a thousand eyes  
Which can see quite well in the dark,  
As you'll learn from five hundred guys  
The moment you try to park. —Phil. J.

**HE CENTED THE DIFFERENCE**

He: What's wrong?  
It: I just swallowed fifteen cents.  
He: I thought I noticed the change in you. —Freddie.

“Lissum heah you jest keep on pesticatin' round  
wid me and you is gwine to settle a mighty big question  
for de sciumtific folkus.”  
“What question dat?”  
“Kin de daid speak?”

A girl who marries an aviator may be said to be  
taking a flyer.

Prof. Wilcox (droning out the rules): One bell,  
front stairs; two bells, back stairs . . .  
George: Three bells, jump out the window. —A. J.

“Brake linings have been strengthened to meet  
modern strains.” So, apparently, have stomach  
linings.

**FOOLED HIM**

Grad: Say, was my old prof surprised when I came  
back to see him.

Senior: Why was that?  
Grad: Well, he said I was so dumb that I couldn't  
ever get a job, and he's wrong; I've had six already. —Freddie.

“How old is your son?”  
“Well, he's reached the age when he thinks the most  
important thing to pass isn't his examination, but  
the car ahead.” —A. J.

Don't feel embarrassed at the last quip even though  
it may have sounded mighty personal; we had no  
one in mind.

Statistics are at hand to prove that there are more  
than three hundred kind of games played with balls.  
Personally, we think that we have seen more than  
three hundred kind of games played with golf balls.

**Alleviation**

When my task is heavy,  
And my heart's in gloom,  
Unwillingly, I hasten  
To my study room.  
There my mind is focused,  
On what authors say,  
Soon, unnoticed,—worry,  
Sadness melt away. —A. R. Wojcieszek.

**Much Higher Physics**

Prof. Doubt: What effect does the moon have upon  
the tide?  
Stude (apparently affected by these warm days):  
None, but it has considerable effect upon the un-tied.

**Observations**

The mouth is connected with the alimentary canal  
by the esophagus, and to the brain by some mysterious  
wireless telegraph, which is generally out of repair.  
The fate of a mouth, which must talk all day, and  
then put up an imitation of a sawmill all night, is very  
sad, indeed.

**Seems That We've Seen Her Somewhere**

How long did it take your wife to learn to drive your  
car?  
It will be ten years next September.

**Just Verse**

I stood on the bridge at midnight,  
The clock just struck two-thirty,  
I looked at the dirty water, and said,  
“Gee, ain't the water dirty!” —Phil. J.

The above contrib was sent in by a chap who was so  
modest he wouldn't sign it. We would appreciate  
knowing who our fellow wits are; even to the extent of  
having your real name tacked on your contrib below  
the cryptic initials.

**GONE . . . FOREVER**

Ch. E.: Did you hear about the chap who threw  
some benzine in the fire?  
E. E.: No what happened?  
Ch. E.: Well, he has never benzine since.

Well, the frosh have had their fling; funk notices  
are being forgotten, and no vacations in this month.  
So we'll have to resort to dates to prevent the bally  
ennui. —Al. Auerbach.

mass of students crowding our schools to full capacity.  
Yet in spite of these apparently insurmountable  
difficulties, this question will probably be hobbing up  
for years to come. —D. T. SMITH.



**Professor Ernest  
Freeman**

(A Biographical Sketch)

BY STEPHEN JANISZEWSKI, '30  
Topeka, Kansas, is the birthplace  
of Ernest H. Freeman, born Sep-  
tember 26, 1876. Receiving his ele-  
mentary and high school educa-  
tion in the city, he entered the  
Kansas State College from which  
he graduated in 1895 with a B. S.  
degree. Realizing a desire to teach,  
he took a course at the Kansas  
Teachers' College in 1897. Follow-  
ing his career there, he taught a  
few years in public schools in the  
state of Kansas.

Feeling a need of further educa-  
tion, Prof. Freeman came to Ar-  
mour and registered as a student.  
Prof. Freeman's decision to attend  
Armour came when attending the  
Columbian Exposition in 1893 and  
there seeing the name of Armour.  
At that time his older brother was  
connected with the electrical de-  
partment at the Institute.

Prof. Freeman graduated with  
the class of 1902 and received the  
E. S. degree in electrical engineer-  
ing. In 1906, the E. E. degree was  
conferred upon him. Upon gradua-  
tion and an offer from Dr. Gun-  
saulus he accepted the position of  
instructor in the electrical depart-  
ment. He has been on the teach-  
ing staff continuously and was  
made Head of the Department in  
1909.

Prof. Freeman has been engaged  
in engineering activities for many  
concerns. His most extended ef-  
forts in research have been investi-  
gations concerning the measure-  
ment of mechanical quantities by  
electrical methods. He has de-  
veloped and patented a special  
type of integrator, which is an elec-  
trical instrument that is used in  
indicating and integrating the flow  
of fluids. He has also contributed  
many scientific articles to several  
magazines.

In the duties of his office, Prof.  
Freeman tries to follow the meth-  
ods experience has shown to be  
most desirable and is conservative  
in the selection of subjects taught  
in his department. He has intro-  
duced into the electrical course  
some economic and business fea-  
tures which are not commonly cov-  
ered by others.

Travelling by rail and touring in  
his car through most of the states  
of the Union, Canada and Mexico,  
Prof. Freeman has spent his sum-  
mer vacation months. He enjoys  
most “roughing it” on a motor-  
cycle.

Presenting his practical alternat-  
ing current problems to his seniors  
gives him his greatest enjoyment  
in school.

Prof. Freeman was married to  
Elizabeth Middleton in 1912. He is  
the father of two boys and one  
girl.

He holds membership in the  
American Institute of Electrical  
Engineers, the Society for the Pro-  
motion of Engineering Education,  
the Institute of Radio Engineering  
and the Illuminating Engineering  
Society. He is a member of the  
Faculty Club at Armour and is a  
member of the following fraterni-  
ties: Tau Beta Pi, Eta Kappa Nu,  
Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Pi Phi.

Besides maintaining the high  
standards of his department, he  
devotes his spare time to his farm  
in Topeka, Kansas, which he farms  
on the scientific basis.

**LETTER-BOX**

(Ed. Note:—Contributors to  
the Letter-Box should limit  
themselves to 300 words, and  
should send in their full name  
with article. Name will be kept  
confidential if so desired.)

Spring is here, also baseball. At  
the time of this writing, there are  
a good number of students playing  
indoor baseball, out on Ogdens  
Field.

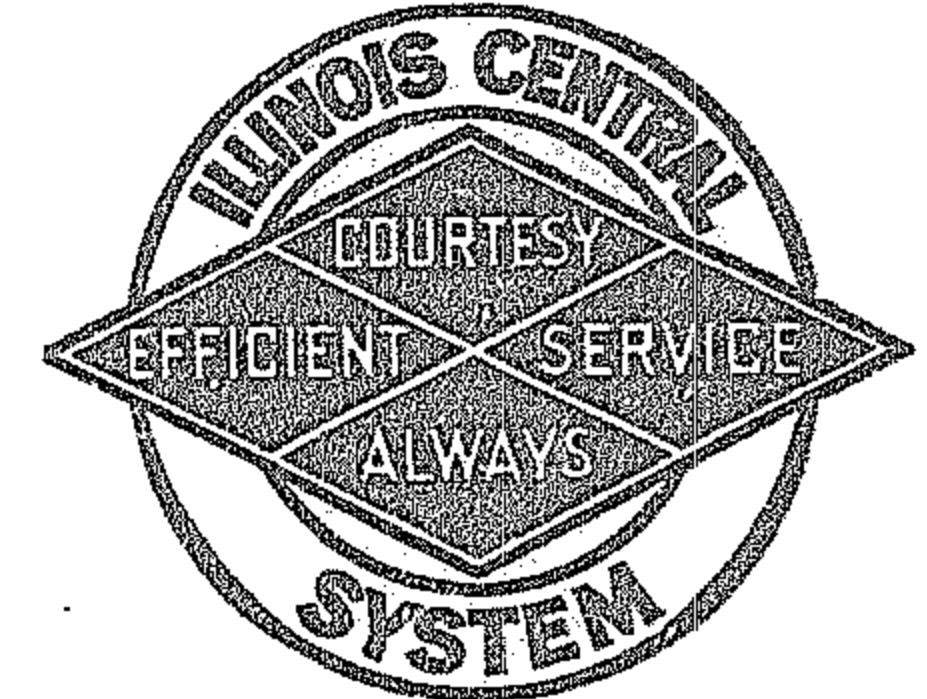
Would it be a good idea to organ-  
ize a league between the different

departments for playing indoor  
baseball.

If the six departments were split  
in two divisions, three teams to a  
division, and each team played four  
games, two with each of the others  
in its division, there would need be  
only twelve games in all.

To decide the championship, play  
a thirteenth which would be be-  
tween the winners of the sections,  
and that game could be an added  
feature on Circus Week. To the  
winners there could be some prize,  
or anything emblematic of the  
championship.

How about it fellows, have you  
any life in you? Lets hear about  
it. —W. D.



**Community Benefactors**

The railroads, because they are perma-  
nently located, naturally desire to be known  
as good citizens and good neighbors in every  
community along their lines. They achieve  
that end in three ways: first, by rendering an  
essential service in supplying satisfactory  
transportation; second, by carrying out their  
ordinary civic obligations, such as paying  
taxes; third, by contributing in a special  
manner toward agricultural and industrial  
advancement. In the latter effort they dis-  
play good business judgment, for whatever  
enriches a railroad's territory eventually re-  
ounds to the benefit of the railroad itself.

The railroad is one of the foremost allies  
of local civic, agricultural and industrial  
groups in promoting community progress.  
Its organization commonly includes experts  
in both industry and agriculture, who travel  
over the railroad's territory seeking oppor-  
tunities to improve local producing and  
manufacturing conditions.

Farmers are aided through group meet-  
ings, illustrated lectures, soil surveys, ar-  
rangements for trains of fertilizer, promo-  
tion of dairy campaigns, field instruction in  
vegetable raising, the encouragement of  
poultry raising, the running of special trains  
with educational exhibits, and so on, each  
railroad's contribution being governed by  
the particular requirements of its territory.

To aid in the advantageous location of in-  
dustries, a railroad will ordinarily have on  
file surveys of communities along its lines  
covering population, transportation lines,  
availability of raw materials, electric and  
water power service, rates on gas and elec-  
tricity, water supply, labor and housing con-  
ditions, taxes, resources and deposits of  
banks, fire protection, schools, churches,  
recreation facilities, available sites and in-  
dustries already located.

Constructive criticism and suggestions are  
invited.

L. A. DOWNS,  
President, Illinois Central System.

CHICAGO, April 15, 1929.