

Oxford System Of "Honors" Students Wins Trial In U. S.

M. I. T. and Swarthmore Are Experimenting With New Method

For many generations the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have had two courses of study open to all incoming students. A student entering one of these universities must elect to become either a "pass" student or an "honors" student.

A person whose intellectual ambitions or qualifications are not high, elects the former, and during the period of residence is expected to meet certain relatively simple requirements and to pass certain relatively simple examinations. But the more exceptionally gifted and ambitious person elects to "read for honors" in a certain field of study, for which the requirements are more severe and the rewards correspondingly greater. As an honors student he is under the guidance of a college tutor or director of studies. It is the function of the tutor to advise the student what to read, what lectures to attend, and what experts to consult in the university; and to observe his progress. The student does not attend a large number of set exercises but studies mostly upon his own initiative, consulting with his tutors. Thus the amount of progress which an honors student may make during his period of residence is limited only by his own capability and energy. He is very much upon his own resources and responsibility.

Many famous men in England have studied by this educational system. Such scientists as Newton, Kelvin, Maxwell, and J. J. Thompson were "honors students." For this reason American educators are interested in the English educational system. They recognize the difference in environment, tradition, and temperament between the two countries and seek only the basic idea that has made this system so effective.

Several institutions of learning have adopted, for preliminary pur-

Facsimile of Letter from Mr. F. U. Smith

Mr. John Kommes,
Armour Institute of Technology.

Dear Sir,

I take great pleasure in enclosing my subscription to the "Armour Tech News".

It certainly does great credit to the student body of A. S. T.

I was not so closely allied with the student body. I was however proud to say that I still have a very close and happy relationship with the members of the faculty, who did so much to make my administration a happy one, and whose friendship I esteem as one of my greatest blessings.

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Very sincerely yours,

F. U. Smith

March 7, 1929.

The above letter was received from Mr. F. U. Smith recently, as was stated last week, and was considered so unique in form, and so beautiful in both appearance and sentiment, that the staff decided to reproduce it in zinc for the benefit of the readers of the NEWS.

Mr. Frank Smith, who is now about 84 years old, was comptroller of the Armour Institute of Technology almost from the time of its founding until 1921.

Along with the letter was enclosed a dollar subscription for the present semester. This dollar was returned to Mr. Smith, just as the two dollars which Dr. Monin sent for the whole year's subscription, was returned to him. Both Dr. Monin and Mr. Smith have been permanently placed on the complimentary subscription list, and receive their copies of the NEWS regularly.

poses, an honors study somewhat similar to that used in English colleges. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has employed such a plan in the Department of Electrical Engineering, and Swarthmore College in the Division of Engineering. The honors students do the same amount of work that the regular students do in the Department. They must take all the written tests and examinations, but distinction is made in the

conditions of study and methods of supervision. The aim is to instill a spirit of self reliance, resourcefulness, and intellectual courage in students of exceptional promise by creating a more independent atmosphere of work with a flexibility designed to meet individual needs.

Only juniors and seniors are allowed to decide upon their course. After their decision has been made (Continued on page 4)

FRATERNITY NOTES

SALAMANDER

Salamander, Honorary Fire Protection Engineering Society, wishes to announce the pledging of the following men at a regular meeting last Thursday, March 13th:

- J. A. Bechtold
- E. W. Berg
- H. W. Mullins
- J. A. Ransel

TRIANGLE

The next event on the Triangle social calendar is a Father and Son smoker, to be held at the chapter house on Thursday evening, March 28. This is an annual affair, at which the fathers and sons get together—and inhale big stogies until the sons weaken.

Triangle wishes to announce the pledging of Martin Van der Velde, M. E., '30.

PHI KAPPA SIGMA

Phi Kappa Sigma is planning a Costume Dance to be held at the Chapter House on Saturday evening, March 23. This is an annual affair, and the foremost social function of the Phi Kappa Sigma spring social calendar.

SIGMA ALPHA MU

Sigma Epsilon of Sigma Alpha Mu announces the initiation of Nathan Rosen. The initiation took place at the Copeland Hotel on Tuesday night, March 12, 1929.

ETA KAPPA NU

Eta Kappa Nu, national honorary electrical engineering fraternity, announces the pledging of the following men:

- Juniors:
 - G. W. Baker
 - C. S. Bogowicz
 - N. D. Buehling
 - J. Dollenamaier
 - C. R. Southwick

- Seniors:
 - F. V. Forss
 - E. S. Geiger

BETA PSI

Sunday, March 17, formal initiation was held at the chapter house for the new group of initiates. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, a banquet was held in honor of the new men.

Saturday, March 30, the Alpha chapter of Beta Psi is giving an informal dance in the Red Room of the La Salle Room.

CHI EPSILON

Chi Epsilon, national honorary Civil Engineering Fraternity, announces the pledging of the following men:

- E. Blomme
- J. P. Edstrand
- L. H. Fischman
- J. W. Hurley

The officers for this semester are: President—E. H. Mohr; Vice-Pres.—F. B. Farrell; Secretary—R. F. Stellar; Treasurer—H. Nissen

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DELTA TAU DELTA

Delta Tau Delta held its twentieth annual Prom in conjunction with the Northwestern and Chicago chapters at the Blackstone Hotel on Friday, March 8, 1929, from nine until three. Dinner was served at midnight.

Probation week for those freshmen who will be initiated started March 18.

THETA XI

Theta Xi wishes to announce the pledging of Russell Long, '32.

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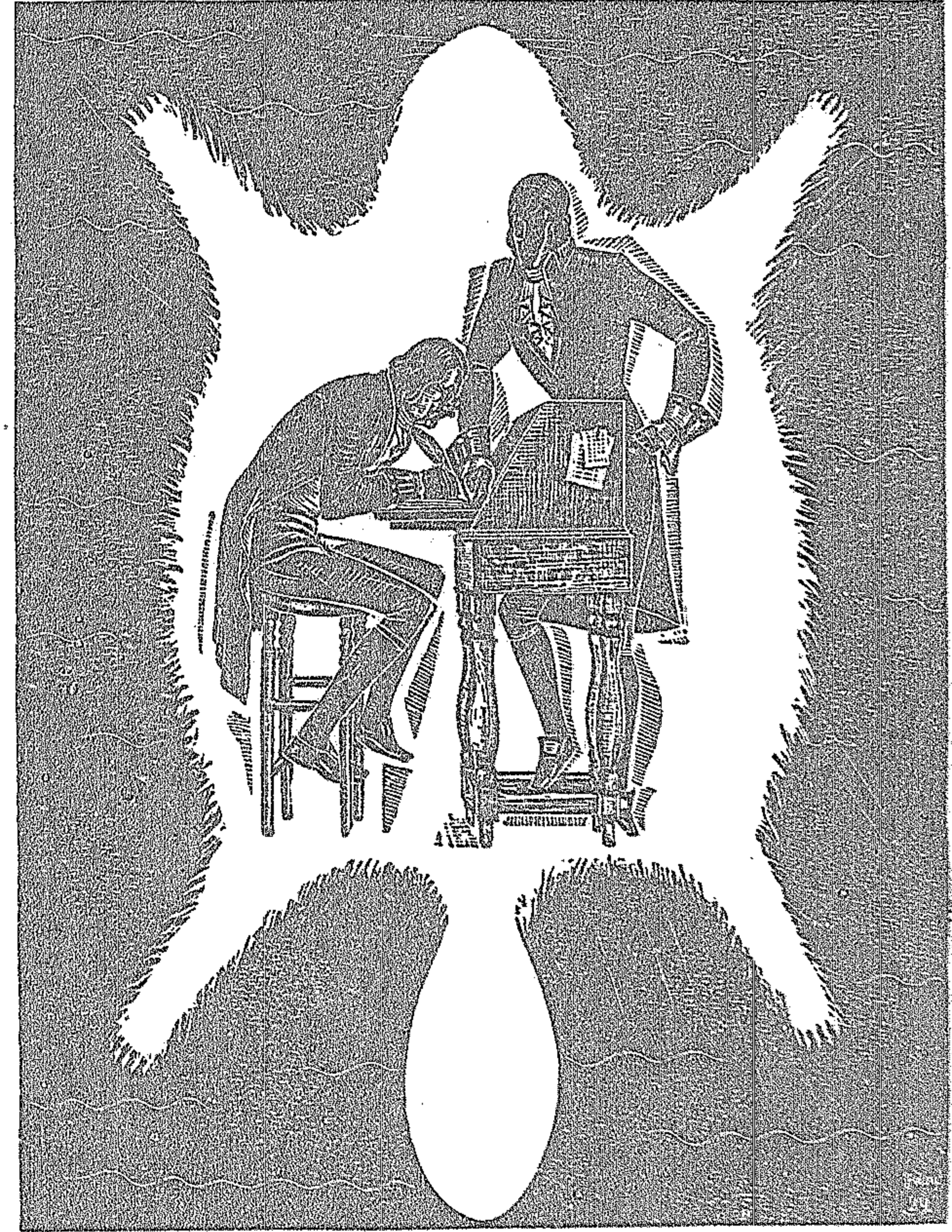
Orringtona and Church—Evanston

Plain Colored SATIN NECKWEAR

The New University Style

\$1.50

STYLE NOTE: The smart thing in Neckwear for Spring is plain colored Satins. So here they are in beautiful, lustrous, heavy textured, navy and royal blues, myrtle and duck greens, sparkling maroons and scarlets. Satins are new, distinctive, stylish and handsome — a really sensible University fad. At \$1.50 we've found it hard to keep up with the demand — better drop in early!



One way to trap a beaver

Not everybody in the Hudson's Bay Company was a trapper, any more than everybody in the Bell System is a telephone engineer.

The Hudson's Bay people trapped a good many beavers in the company offices, where the skilful financing and careful business management served to back up the men actually

on the front lines. Organized activity succeeded then just as it does today. The men who put up telephone lines can work the better because back of them are other men who painstakingly design and make their equipment, and still other men who correlate all these activities into a smoothly meshing plan.

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