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'Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world.
—George Washington.

Grades

The semi-annual grades, ostensibly an indication of the excellence with which our academic pursuits during the past semester have been mastered, have just been issued. Among some, there seems to be a tendency to over-emphasize the value of these marks, and it is well at this time that some comment be made on their relative worth and importance.

If your grades were good, it is quite fitting and proper that you feel, in some degree, the sense of inner satisfaction which accompanies the completion of a task well done. But it must be remembered that, at best, grades can be only a superficial estimate of the opinion which the instructor has made of your ability, of your earnest and sincere efforts, and of your actual accomplishments. It is impossible for a professor to make an infallible statement concerning the quality of the student's work when he has been with him only a few hours a week during the semester. In every class, it is inevitable that gross errors will be made in marking a large percentage of its members. Quizzes can cover but little of the material given in the course, oral recitations can cover even less, the instructor's first impression may be entirely wrong, and in general the basis upon which grades are determined is very limited.

These considerations should make it evident that too much emphasis should not be put on grades. Anyone who boasts of a long list of "A's," and thinks he can use his report as a permanent pass to future success is sadly mistaken. On the other hand, poor grades may have a tendency to dishearten certain students, and it is in this capacity that our system of marking is actually harmful. The result of the mental anxiety which a low grade produces is too often that the succeeding work of the student is appreciably impaired. Whether he has not mastered the work and has received a good grade, or whether he does know the subject and has received a poor grade, in the ultimate analysis, the student himself is the judge as to his accomplishments, and if he is genuinely satisfied, his grade is of little consequence.

While it seems to be out of the question for the American system of marking to be abolished in the immediate future, still an intelligent consideration of its intrinsic worth may serve to filter out the undesirable features and to permit the maximum benefit to be derived from it. If it is an incentive to encourage the student to higher achievement, then its one and only purpose has been realized. But if it is instrumental in creating either an inferiority or a superiority complex, then it were better that it had never been originated.

J. W. J.

"The Slipstick"

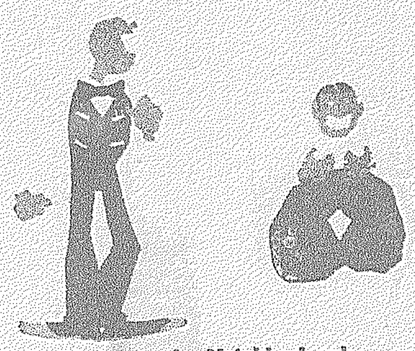
Cleave to "The Slipstick"; let
the Slapstick fly where it may.

THE WEAKLY JOKE EDITION!!

Inspirational and otherwise

OPPORTUNITY

The sound of a rap upon my door
Came drifting in to me,
I called out, asking who was there.
'Twas Opportunity!!
Bad luck for me, he chose this time
When I was unprepared.
Gladly I would have opened the door
If only I had dared.
I cursed myself for my bad luck.
Can you blame me for my wrath?
Opportunity at my door,
And I was at my bath.



Heard in the Neighborhood

First Caddy: "Listen here, Midnight, your man may win but my boss is richer than yours because he lights his cigars with five dollar bills."

Second ditto: That's nothing, Total Eclipse, my boss washes his feet with Gold Dust."

Wanted, Miscellaneous

A gentleman who has lost his right leg is desirous of making the acquaintance of one who has lost his left, in order to become associated with him in the purchase of boots, size 10, and arch supports, size AA. Call Blahblah 79797979.

Our Food Dept.

Kills Bros. Coffee is filled with a special vacuum which is non-absorbent, non-corrosive, non-sublimating, and non-coffee making. A trial will convince you (that you are getting gypped.)

Our food expert recommends as the food of the week a batch of Cheops Hooey. Ever try it?

Poetry Corner

A BALLADDE OF YE HOCKEY TEEME
or Dame Nature's Revenge

The Hockey Team sat 'round the stove—
There wasn't any fire.
Outside the sun shone up above
As if he'd never tire.

The flowers bloomed and the birdies sang
Oh strange trick of Fate!
Would e'er the schedule be played out?
'Twas now past two months late.

Then lo! the papers did announce
A bitter frost was due.
At last it seemed the time had come
To raise the vict'ry hue.

* * *

The Hockey Team sat 'round the stove—
They shivered by the fire
The snow was falling, 'twas six feet deep,
'Twas mounting six feet higher.

Medical and Health Advice

Patient: "The size of your bill makes my blood boil."

Doc: "Then, sir, there will be an additional charge of fifteen dollars for sterilizing your system."

(Editor's note—You have no kick coming. My doctor told me to cut out eating so much. When he sent me his bill I knew I wasn't going to eat so much for the next six months.)

Corrections, etc.

"In this world nothing is certain but death and taxes," remarked old Benjamin Franklin in 1789.

"He probably meant death by taxis."

Chemistry Corner

Lind: "Did you hear about Pete? He drank some sulfuric acid by mistake."

Rossing: "Hurt him?"

Lind: "No, the only thing he noticed was that he put holes in his handkerchief every time he blew his nose."

And for this "Weakly Joke Edition" your editor wishes to offer his thanks to the following contributors: D. S. D., Numb de Plum, Joc, Rad, 35'er, "A Sophomore," as well as several anonymous persons and a host of principal character actors, prop men, and proofreaders.

Social News (Adv.)

"Wotcha doin' nex' Friday?"

"Hey? Wot's I doin'?"

"Yeh?"

"Yuh dumb kluck, yah egg, aintcha heard of the Junior Informal? Where do yuh suppose I'm goin'?"

THE BONGINEER.

REVIEWS

AMBER TO AMPERES
By Earnest Greenwood

Among current books which give popularized accounts of the development of sciences "Amber To Amperes" has received merited recognition as a history of electricity.

The book begins with a story of Thales, a Greek thinker who lived about 500 B. C., pondering over the mysterious force which attracted bits of thread and dust particles to amber. This invisible force along with the properties of lodestone were two of the widely discussed phenomena known to this Ancient. Not having any well developed science of measurement or the proper background of laboratory technique, Thales and his school were unable to do much more than ponder.

2000 years later, Dr. William Gilbert, court physician to Queen Elizabeth, wrote "De Magnete" in Latin, describing the various characteristics of magnetism. Having done some experimenting, his statements are for the most part acceptable to the modern physicist.

From the time of Gilbert to Marconi of our own day, the problem of bringing about the control of the forces of electricity were studied hardest. "Amber To Amperes" concerns itself with this epoch more than the preceeding ones.

The work of Davy, Faraday, Edison, Bell, and Marconi receive the greatest attention. Their work, lives, and contributions to science are given along with that particular glamour that colors the lives of genius.

The book is not technical except in the most elementary sense. However, it has its value to the engineering student. It traces a development parallel to that of science in social, economic, and even religious thought. The use of such seemingly foreign material is excusable because Mr. Greenwood has made a point of showing how such factors have retarded and advanced the fortunes of science.

For example, he cites that the council of Cleveland once declared . . . "God did not intend for man to ride at the sinful speed of 15 miles per hour." Nowadays it is difficult to see clearly how this conclusion was reached; no doubt the reasons were clear enough to our grandparents.

The author reaches inspired heights when he gives the stories of the processes by which these great inventions were created. He shows them to be the results of effort, combined "trial and error" and reasoning step by step. He gives an excellent and convincing debunking of the general impression that the scientific discoveries of the past were welcomed with two inch newspaper headlines.

ARX NEWS

Mr. Ralph W. Hammet, formerly professor of History of Architecture, who left Armour last year to go to Michigan, paid us a visit last Wednesday.

The time for the Scarab initiation has rolled around again. George W. Terp, '32, Joseph Palma, '32, Ray Eckroth, '34, and Ted Irion, '34, were those initiated at a dinner given by the Scarab at the Delt house. Spencer Cone, '33, was also pledged during the evening.

Officers of the Scarab this year are: Alvin Wichser, president; Raymond Peterson, treasurer; and Donald Braun, secretary.

A new record has been set in the erection of the new Field Building The steel for the first twenty-six stories of this building has been erected in the record-breaking time of forty working days of eight hours each, which is equivalent to 320 hours. Normally almost twice this time is required. Exterior stone work has been completed up to the eighth floor, there being between 600 and 700 men employed daily since January 1st.

H. H. Bentley, Sophomore critic, was the author of the third article in a series of nine concerning household housing which is now appearing in the city newspapers. The articles are published under the auspices of the committee on public information of the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Mr. Bentley urged a new type of group housing. A plan that would blend the apartment dweller into community life. Under this plan, which is an adaption of the English "garden-city" type of grouped houses, small houses are attached to one another to form related groups, scientifically planned with regard to each other and to the open spaces surrounding them.

And while on the subject of English planning we might state that London's new building code provides that structures may rise to the height of 150 feet. The limit hitherto obtained was 100 feet, and but few edifices have exceeded eighty.

The third archaeos are on their way to judgment in New York. The boys could indulge in colorful presentations this year as the subject was a "Chinese Pagoda."

The local first mentions were A. Cole, C. Emling, T. P. Luckett, R. Phlak, and M. Wise.

Braun and Palma are working industriously with their teams on the Collaborative Competition sponsored by the Association of the Alumni of the American Academy in Rome. The subject is, "An Entrance and Lobby of a Radio University."