

The Freshman Handshake

THIS annual event, given by the Armour Y. M. C. A. has become a custom so strong that even war could not interfere with its occurrence. The purpose of the handshake is to get the men of all classes together, so that they may become better acquainted with each other. On this evening the upper classmen join in extending a hearty welcome to the new men, and endeavor to make them feel at home amidst their new surroundings, and not to demonstrate their superiority as is expected by many of the more cautious members of the Freshman Class. This year's handshake was held in the cozy and attractive rooms of the Hyde Park Y. M. C. A., September 27, 1918, a date later than is the custom; nevertheless, this did not detract from its success.

The handshake this year was attended with more enthusiasm than probably ever before, not only because it was the first Armour function of the year, but also because it took place only a few days before a great change would occur in the life of every man in the college; the change from civil to military life. There was a rumor current that a captain, yes, a *real* captain would speak to the men on this occasion, and the sight of a real captain was alone quite a curiosity, particularly to the new men. Consequently, the auditorium of the Hyde Park Y. M. C. A. was crowded on this evening, and when Captain Kannally took the floor there was a death-like silence in that large hall, and many bulging eyes and open mouths. Captain Kannally in his address outlined the program of the S. A. T. C. stating the hours for drill and study, the boundaries of the post, and many other points that each man later learned so well. You could hear the dropping of the hearts of the men when he remarked that the uniforms had not arrived, but that he had hopes of their coming by the time the unit was organized, or shortly after. One thing that the captain accomplished that evening was to change the opinion of the men, in that, the military unit would be accompanied by strict discipline, with every minute occupied, and not an affair of fun and frolic such as a summer outing. Another speaker of the evening was a Y. M. C. A. man just returned from over seas, who held the interest of the men by many thrilling experiences, clever jokes, and amusing stories which all Y. M. C. A. men are so capable of telling. It was also on this evening that the men first met Mr. Frazer, the new war secretary for the Armour Y. M. C. A. He told the men of what he hoped to do, but after Captain Kannally's speech he stated that he did not know when he would have time to do it. However, Mr. Frazer did more than he told the men of, because his work at Armour was a profound success, and it was he who brought sunshine in the hearts of the men when the hours seemed darkest, and he made the "Y" rooms in Chapin Hall as homelike as possible to the complete satisfaction of all.

The remainder of the evening was occupied by swimming, informal basket ball games, billiards, chess and other indoor games. Besides these attractions there was the lunch room where there was a crowd all evening. Here were barrels of cider, and boxes of cakes, cookies, and doughnuts in abundance. These things so appealed to some that they did not disband until the lights were being turned low.