

## FACULTY

The billiard table provides recreation for many of the faculty, but most of the members insist on playing the game in a different manner than was intended by its inventors. Being men of sedentary habits, the professors wish to get as much exercise as possible from the game. So, led by Professor Schommer, they have converted billiards from a game of skill and *finesse* to one of strength and endurance. As a result the house committee is kept busy renewing the tips on the cues, and the casualties among the ivories are heavy. In this latter observation there is no attempt to appear facetious at the expense of any billiard player, no matter how dumb; the reference is exclusively to the white spheres on the green cloth.

One must learn to walk before he can run, yet some of the billiard toddlers are trying the more difficult forms of the game. Some of the strong arm artists have taken up three cushion caroms, and the crash of the ivories sounds like a head-on collision between a dull student and a new idea. The impact is terrific, but the net result only cracks and bruises. By far the most popular form of billiards as played in the faculty club is 18-2; that is, 18 innings—2 points.

Like a safety-valve for a boiler, a circuit breaker or a fuse for an electric circuit, or a Friday night dance for the students, the faculty club is a safety device for the professors. Always too close to their specialties during recitation and lecture hours, they can forget for a while in the club-rooms. There, unless asked a direct question, a professor will seldom discuss anything within his own field. If he does he is in danger of making a fetish of it, and there is work for the inconoclasts, the doubters, and the Missourians. So the influence of the club is decidedly wholesome. It helps each member to acquire and retain a true intellectual perspective; to view the world, not through the microscope of his own intensive study of a limited field, but in the kaleidoscope of many minds of diverse training and experience.

