

FRESHMAN CLASS

the sophomores, juniors, and seniors who monopolized the sidewalks renewing acquaintances that had been severed during the summer vacation. To the mere freshman it seemed as though it would be impossible ever to meet and hold friends around so many strange students in the crowd that thronged about the school. The few friends that had been made were evidently swallowed up in the mass of students. The freshman was entirely alone; the freshman class was only a shapeless mass.

Fortunately for a large number of the freshman class a class assembly was announced during the first week of school when confidence was temporarily gone. The meeting was the first formal gathering of the class, and it was presided over by officials of the Institute. These officers unfolded the rules and traditions the freshmen were expected to recognize. They enumerated the precedents that had been established by Armour men during the forty odd years in which the school operated. Told that Armour freshmen can and do develop a college spirit and loyalty that often surprises upper classmen, the freshmen secretly determined to work for the benefit of selves and class. Inspired by the advice of the speakers, the freshman found little difficulty in returning to his place in life at Armour.

Simultaneously with the announcement of the Freshman Handshake came the compulsory notice of the wearing of the green. These announcements appearing as they did brought both cheer and disdain to the freshmen. The handshake was an innovation that was new to the freshmen, but all were familiar with the custom of donning the freshman with green caps. The class was expected to believe that the wearing of the green caps was a distinction, a means of identifying the freshmen for the benefit of the class and instilling cooperation among the members. Few members of the class were willing to concede the validity of any of these claims.

The Freshman Handshake was held soon after school began, and it was a means of bringing the

class into a group where they had an opportunity to become acquainted with upper classmen and instructors of the school. Sitting in the assembly hall they heard officers of the upper classes, coaches from the athletic department, and administrative officials of the Institute tell of Armour life and activity. In this position the freshman realized that his first impressions of Armour were in error. Here he had heard a representative group of Armour men and students. These men did not appear to be bent upon subjugating the new students, but instead they wished to aid and advance the new students that had arrived at Armour. Then, after laughing through "Ze Captain of Ze Marguerite," all joined full heartedly in singing the songs of Armour. The feeling of inferiority that had plagued many of the class gradually disappeared amid the laughing and talking that accompanied the entire student body as they adjourned to the Student Union for cider and doughnuts. While the members of the class alternately munched doughnuts and sipped cider, they were given exhibitions in boxing and wrestling by members of these two Armour teams. Here, again, the class observed concrete examples of the sportsmanship and the fair play that accompanies all athletic endeavor at the school. The athletic performances concluded the activities for the evening, and those who had attended the Handshake began to depart. Few left feeling the same change that had been wrought in the freshmen by the events of the evening. While each member of the class realized that upper classmen and instructors were still strangers, these groups were no longer held as cold and hostile men who wished further to subordinate the freshmen. New students now considered themselves an integral cog in the student body, and although it was realized that the part played was a minor one, all determined to guard this position zealously.

Warned by sophomores, by notices on the bulletin board, and by speakers at the Handshake of

Freshman Pants Get an Airing

