

Status of the Freshman
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become adapted to the new environment.

The first impression likely to strike the freshman forcibly is the extreme activity of undergraduate life at New Haven. He has, perhaps, usually thought of college as a place where a man did more or less as he pleased when he pleased, and followed his own inclinations, intellectual or otherwise, to the exclusion of interfering obligations. But it is not Yale.

Our freshman will soon discover that all the men in his class whose friendship is much worth having are rather strenuously changed in the pursuit of some one or more of the various recognized college activities. One man may be out for class football, another for "The News," a third working in boys' clubs or some other department of university religious life, and so on.

He will next notice (also with some perplexity) that it does not seem to matter so much what field a man chooses, so long as his efforts in it are earnest and his purpose sincere. The freshman will be surprised to find the athlete and the literary light (upper classman) rooming together, and each most highly appreciative of the other's ability.

Many a man has made a false start through procrastination. He was "meaning" to go out for football all the fall, but never quite got started, and so on. Not only has he lost ground in accomplishing something, but he has lost an opportunity for making friends, because the pick of the men are always on the firing line, and consequently the freshman who spends his afternoons hanging around will probably have for company the least desirable element in his class.

Provided a man is human and does not permit the race for intellectual honors to make a freak or a hermit of him, the better the work he can do in the classroom, the greater the respect in which he will be held by his own class and those above him. This is true and is important, because failure to grasp this fact has probably been responsible for more false starts, and consequent untimely ending of college careers, than any other ailment that the freshman is heir to.

The freshman will do well not to allow himself to worry over the future. If he is properly busy, he will not have time to; but in any case he should remember that the first year is a mere

apprenticeship to real participation in the life of the university; that it is a chance to get a taste through his own class organizations of what is in store later, and to fit himself for the more stirring times of sophomore, junior, and senior years, just as the university itself is a preparation for the more important business of life. So he should try his hand here and there, and develop such latent ability as he may possess, and above all cultivate the friendship of the men of his own class.

In the years that follow he will find duties and responsibilities demanding an increasing share of his time, and will frequently find himself looking back longingly on the carefree library of freshman year.

Finally, the freshman must cultivate the idea that whatever he does is not primarily for himself: he is working for the university. He must come to feel and to believe that his successes will have their highest value in adding a little more luster to the fair name of the alma mater, and that his own greatest honor will be to have his name handed down through college generations as one of the army of strong men and true who have done something for Yale. This is Yale spirit. Let the freshman ponder upon it, and welcome it to his heart and cherish it there; for it is, like love of country and love of kin, one of the mightiest influences that will ever come into his life to give it purpose and strength.

Not at Nebraska.

A well-known business man attended his daughter's commencement exercises at an eastern college recently. He had been greatly pleased with the beauty and dignity of the exercises and was discoursing to his wife upon the refining influences of college life. Suddenly his impressive monologue was cut short. A girl, in cap and gown, came dashing down the steps of the main hall waving her diploma and shouting: "Educated, by gosh!"

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Candidate for

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