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COMPULSORY DRILL

The question of whether military training is compulsory at the University of Nebraska has occasioned much argument of late among students. Those who have maintained that military training is not compulsory at the University have evidently confused the rulings of University authorities with the conditions imposed upon the institution through its acceptance of the status of a land-grant college.

That statement is clear and definite. But whether military training should be compulsory at the University is another question.

Paul Blanshard, field secretary for the League for Industrial Democracy, who spoke at the University this fall, was asked by several students whether the land-grant act of Congress imposed compulsory military training upon colleges which accept the donations provided by that act.

Documents which seem authentic were sent to those students recently. These papers cite an opinion of the attorney general of the state of Wisconsin:

(1.) The Morrill land grant act makes it compulsory that the University of Wisconsin provide facilities for military training, but the statute in question does not require that military training be compulsory as to the students attending the University; (2.) The statute would be complied with if the University maintained a course in military training within the common acceptance and meaning of that term; (3.) The statute would be plainly violated if the state of Wisconsin abolished military training at the University.

"In accordance with this decision the state of Wisconsin by act of legislature abolished the compulsory feature and made military training optional in the state university, which is a land grant college."

The wording of the act itself is obscure, and it would be difficult to decide whether it actually provides that military training shall be compulsory. However, as the Wisconsin attorney general pointed out, "Had Congress intended or contemplated that a course in military tactics should be a compulsory requirement of each eligible and qualified student, it would have been a very simple and easy matter to have so worded the act."

The exact wording of the only part of the act which might be interpreted as making military training compulsory is that the funds derived from lands granted by the United States

"shall be inviolably appropriated . . . to the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the states may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."

If the decision of Wisconsin is correct, then, it seems that military training is compulsory at the University of Nebraska only because of the action of University authorities, and not because the University is a land-grant college.

The College Press

COUNCIL SUGGESTS.

Since the wave of popular enthusiasm for democratic government in colleges has somewhat subsided, student councils at this and other schools have been hard put to it to maintain their dignity, not to mention their importance.

When students took their self government seriously, student councils were the thing. They worked, if to no purpose, at least hard and seriously, and tried to do great good. But after most undergraduates found that self government was not all that was cracked up to be, the councils fell into evil ways and election to them was merely an honor to mention in the yearbook.

At Harvard they have fallen upon a plan which they hope will help the council. Up there they propose that half of every meeting shall be open to the students generally, who shall be at liberty to express opinions. It is hoped that the council will profit from these suggestions, and perhaps take some action upon them. All this is, however, dependent upon the supposition that students will attend the meetings.

We are glad to hear that here at Ohio State the council has, in the manner of the headline writers, "suggested drastic changes." We have faith in the seriousness of the purpose of Mr. Fiorette. We believe he really hopes to make something of the dead wood organization he inherited. We wish him luck in his endeavor.—Ohio State Lantern.

REJUVENATING THE CLASSICS.

The suggestion of the Tower that the Latin and Greek requirement might well be stricken from the A. B. degree fails to shock us. Not that we expect to be shocked by the Tower, but because, since the overthrow of Aristotelian scholasticism, the classics have received one blow after another, and Latin and Greek remains today the supreme grace of the learned, cultured man. The Dartmouth would, however, not disagree entirely with the attitude of the Tower, nor could any one who endured a lower Latin course at Dartmouth. There is absolutely no impression given the student that he is having the privilege of acquaintance with a literature. Always the impression given is that he must grind out a knowledge of the language, a knowledge based on the difference between the ablative of agent and the ablative of attendant circumstance.

There is no answer to the argument that a knowledge of the language is necessary to an appreciation of the literature. That, however, does not necessitate putting all effort on the subjunctive of exhortation and completely overlooking the life reflected in the "Letters" of Pliny or the origin of the Priam story in Virgil.

Professors of the classics seem to work on the assumption that five years of language study are necessary before a study of the literature can be begun. That five year grind is just what turns many embryo scholars away from Latin and Greek. The Dartmouth contends that the classics can be rejuvenated, and that the rejuvenation can be brought about by studying the language and the literature hand in hand. It may be necessary to read many of the classic works in English translation, but surely that in itself is no evil. If only the study of accusatives was sprinkled with a wide reading of the writings of Livy and Horace, then we might hope for something besides dull periods in Latin classes.

The Dartmouth can see no reason for making further loopholes in the curriculum by which the student can escape from those courses which can best make him the cultural man he desires to become.—The Dartmouth.

Ten Years Ago

The women of the University were to celebrate the annual Cornhusker party in the Armory on the coming Friday. Ten cents admission was to be charged. It was stated that there was not to be a formal program for the party because it was not a formal affair. There was to be, however, a large number of stunts to be given during the evening. The year be-

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fore, a proxy football team had appeared and a very exciting rally had been staged with real speeches and real yells. The party was not to be a dancing party, although that was to be one feature of the evening's entertainment. Light refreshments were to be served and "a good time was promised to all."

Final arrangements for the Cornhusker Banquet were being made. There were to be talks by Coach Stiehm, Chancellor Avery, Captain Halligan and others. The management also promised a bigger and better menu than had ever been served before. It was said that the management was doing all in its power to do away with the roughhousing and drunkenness that had been noticeable in the past. Three hundred and fifty tickets had been sold and the innocents were in charge of a Tag Day to raise the sales.

TOWNSEND — Portraits. "Preserve the present for the future."—Adv.

Notices

Varsity Basketball. Varsity basketball practice will be held Wednesday afternoon at 3:30.

Union. There will be an open meeting of the Union Literary Society Friday

evening at 8 o'clock in the Temple. Every one is invited.

Basketball Manager. All persons wishing to try out for basketball manager must register the first of the week at the athletic office.

Lutheran. The Lutheran Bible League meets for Bible study, Wednesday at 7 o'clock in Faculty Hall.

Dairy Maid's Ball. Annual Dairy Maid's ball, Friday night in the Agricultural College gymnasium.

Iota Sigma Pi. Meeting of the Iota Sigma Pi Wednesday at 7 o'clock in Chemistry Hall.

Varsity Basketball. Varsity basketball at 7:30, this week on account of interfraternity games.

Ag Club. There will be a meeting of the Ag. club at the Dairy Auditorium, Wednesday at 7:30.

Kappa Phi. Kappa Phi open meeting, Thursday from 7 to 8 o'clock in Ellen Smith Hall.

Christian Science Society. The Christian Science Society will meet Thursday at 7:30 in Faculty Hall Temple.

A free lecture on Christian Science will be held at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Sunday, at 2:30.

The Winter Months

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Math Club. Meeting of the Math club Wednesday at 7:30, in Ellen Smith Hall. Reception and program for new members.

Lutheran Club. Business meeting of the Lutheran club, Thursday, at 7 o'clock in Social Science 111.

W. A. A. General meeting of the W. A. A. in Social Science Auditorium Wednesday at 7 o'clock.

Freshman Commission. The dinner for the new Freshman Commission is to be Tuesday, December 9, instead of December 4, as previously announced.

Theta Nu. Theta Nu meets Wednesday at 7:15 at the Beta Theta Pi house, 900 South Seventeenth Street.

Freshman Council. Freshman Council meeting, Thursday at 7 o'clock in Temple, 101. Pershing Rifles. Pershing Rifles meeting, Wednesday in Nebraska Hall 306 at 7:30.

Math Club. The meeting of the Math Club will be held Wednesday at 7:30 in the Y. M. C. A. rooms at the Temple instead of at Ellen Smith Hall as previously announced.

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—are you sure you deserve it? "Give me a log with Mark Hopkins at one end of it and myself at the other," said, in effect, President Garfield, "and I would not want a better college." But if Mark Hopkins was an inspired teacher, it is just as true that James A. Garfield was an inspiring student. Sometimes Garfield's praise of his professor is quoted in disparagement of present day faculties—the assumption being that we as listeners are sympathetic, all that we ought to be—and that it is the teacher who has lost his vision. Is this often the case? It is the recollection of one graduate at least that he did not give his professors a chance. Cold to their enthusiasms, he was prone to regard those men more in the light of animated text-books than as human beings able and eager to expound their art or to go beyond it into the realm of his own personal problems. This is a man to man proposition. Each has to go half way. Remember, there are two ends to the log. Western Electric Company. Wherever people look to electricity for the comforts and conveniences of life today, the Western Electric Company offers a service as broad as the functions of electricity itself. Number 33 of a series