

MISCELLANY.

We are glad to note a returning liberality toward students on the part of the faculty, and especially the librarian and library committee. And we are sure that as soon as we get a little heat in the library room that evidence of our appreciation will not be wanting. For a few years past, it has always seemed to the average student that the periodicals and books in the library were for the use of the faculty, and that he should not meddle therewith any more than was absolutely necessary, and that only when directed to do so by some instructor. This was hardly the true state of affairs, yet so long as the students knew no different it was the real state of affairs. Now there are few students that do not know that they have access to the periodical tables, and to the alcoves, and that there are tables and seats conveniently arranged so that books may be used in the quiet of the library room, and without being carried away from the proper alcove; that there is a catalogue properly indexed where they may at a glance see what books are accessible on any topic or subject in which they are interested. As soon as the library room is comfortably heated, the faculty cannot help but see that this broadening of the library rules; or if not a broadening, then this interpretation of them, is greatly appreciated by the upper classmen at least.

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We admire tact and ability to come out of an encounter or escapade with colors flying and the laugh turned upon the other party. We also admire the accomplishment of this by means that are fair, honest, dignified and honorable, rather than by tricky, impudent, tattling, childish means employed by our mob of the freshest of Freshmen. Three times already this term the Freshmen, in encounters with the Sophs have "squealed" and "howled" in cowardice until they attracted the attention of a dignified "copper," and by impudent and cowardly exaggerations, twice succeeded in bringing themselves and their university into disreputable mention in the evening papers of the city. The third time a precocious Freshie after bragging all evening about "our ability, and successes," walking along the street, upon meeting two Sophs threw up his hands and emitted a scream, equal to a girl trying to entertain a mouse. The Sophs, taken by surprise, are probably running yet. As was proper, the "copper" appeared and our Freshmen related to him how he had met two Sophs and he thought they were going to do something to him. The non chalance of the Freshies in their cowardice reminds us of a little girl who, when playing out of doors and being attacked by the mother of a flock of little chickens ran screaming to the mother, and between gasps, said, "Ma-a-ma, that old hen's f r a i-d of me!"

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Dr. Brace has been very busy during the last week making tests of the new dynamo, which he had built this summer from his own design. The casting and some of the heavier lathe work were done at Rochester, N. Y., and the winding and setting up by Jack Chowins, in the University shop, all under the personal direction of Dr. Brace. The form of the dynamo is very compact, being a perfect cylinder about eighteen inches long, with about the same diameter. It is built to run at about 5,000 revolutions of the armature per minute, and to consume about fifteen horse power. Mechanically, the machine runs beautifully at a high speed with no perceptible jar, or heating; electrically, so far as tests have been made it is very satisfactory, approaching very nearly the voltage, efficiency and power calculated. If the dynamo

proves as successful as the tests so far would indicate, and we are able to secure a power plant of sufficient size to run it, the University may soon have the pleasure of being lighted by her own plant, by a dynamo made in her own shop and laboratory. This would be, not only a matter of pride and pleasure to us, but a matter of economy as well, for then we could have light when and where we want it, at cost, instead of paying for light for a time and at a rate fixed upon a basis of the average use of light. Besides this, we would have an excellent practical laboratory for the electrical engineering students, that would be running with an income, rather than at a heavy expense. There is no reason why our theoretical courses should not be attended by some practical results, and if Dr. Brace continues as he has begun he will certainly accomplish this.

COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of THE HESPERIAN:

DEAR SIR:—Since you invite communications as to "reforms, etc.," it has occurred to me to suggest one reform in the columns of THE HESPERIAN. Five years ago in January the "Current Comment" column was inaugurated for the discussion of such public events as are of interest to students. Under the pen of its first editor this column was well managed and a credit to the paper. Under the management of succeeding editors it has assumed more and more a partisan tone. Now a partisan editor must stand in one of two positions. First, it may be that THE HESPERIAN is a political paper, and the political editor is elected upon political grounds, and so represents the political sentiment of the University. It is needless for me to say that the question of politics does not enter into the making up of the editorial board, and under the same board the editor of the Comments might be of any political stripe whatever. Second, it may be that the editor is trying to mould public opinion by giving his own personal views of political matters. I think this is just the position of the Comments editor. In regard to this I would suggest that the aforesaid editor is too young to mould public opinion. More than that, nobody cares what his personal political views may be. I don't think HESPERIAN readers want their opinions moulded. Give them straight facts and let them form their own opinions.

I see no reason why the column should not contain what its name implies, comments upon current events. Political and social questions might be discussed, not from the partisan standpoint, but from the standpoint of the student of history or political economy.

In conclusion, there is one all-important reason for a change. THE HESPERIAN is not, in any sense, a political organ, and should therefore not dabble in party politics.

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