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FINANCER DEFENDS RAILROADS

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THE PENNSYLVANIAN

The undergraduate and the drama

Within the last few years there has sprung up at Harvard University a new enthusiasm for the drama. Under the leadership of Professor G. P. Baker, who recently visited Pennsylvania to talk of plays and play writing, there has grown up what seems to be a distinct school of dramatics. Mr. Sholes's play, "The Nigger," which, as produced by the New Theatre Company, proved to be one of the dramatic sensations of the past year, has served to draw general attention to the new movement which has been getting impetus in Cambridge.

The significant fact of the situation is that the men of this new school have been beginning their work while undergraduates, and that, with proper encouragement, real results can be secured from men still young enough to be at college.

At present there are a number of undergraduates at Harvard actually interested in the work and seriously trying to write something that shall find a place on the stage, and, at the same time, shall be really worth while. In recognition of the success which the movement has attained, there was recently established at Harvard a fellowship to encourage it, and now comes the news that Mr. John Craig, house and manager of the Castle Square Theatre, has offered a prize of $250 for the best play submitted by a Harvard undergraduate, and, at the same time, has promised to produce the successful play for at least one week on the legitimate stage during the regular season. This prize is an indication of what is to be expected not only at Harvard but in other universities of the country as well. At Yale a similar prize has been offered for the best play by an undergraduate in recent years, and there have been marked evidences that students are taking unusual interest in the stage and there have been numerous indications that the movement, which is spreading, until it will soon deserve to be called general, is beginning to make itself felt also at Pennsylvania.

Students have always been more or less interested in the stage, as is shown by the great number of dramatic societies which exist among them. At our own University there are at least five organizations which annually produce some play, not to mention those whose appearances behind the footlights do not occur at intervals that are so regular. Two of these societies, whose efforts blossom forth once each year, have made it their custom to revive annually some one of the lesser known classics, a fact which shows that the minds of at least some of our undergraduates are directed toward the subject seriously. As yet, however, we have no dramatic organization whose purpose it is to foster the development of the legitimate drama and of the undergraduate dramatics as well.

Pennsylvania has long been fortunate in having the Mask and Wig Club, and for years has taken pride in the recognition which it has won as the greatest of all organizations of its kind. Nor is there reason to fear that Pennsylvania for a society whose purpose will be to take up seriously the work which the Mask and Wig Club has done so well in lighter vein. Organizations of this kind exist at Harvard, Yale, and at most of the leading universities of the East. It would seem that the time is ripe for the formation of a similar club at Pennsylvania.

TABLE UNVEILED AT TOKYO.

Commemorates Gifts in the name of Pennsylvania Towards Creation of Church.

In St. Timothy's, at Tokyo, Japan, a tablet has been unveiled bearing the inscription, "This tablet commemorates gifts in the name of the University of Pennsylvania towards the creation of this church as an expression of the interest in Christian work for the young men of Japan." Rev. J. Armistead Weiboura, a missionary of the Episcopalian Church stationed at Tokyo, first conceived the idea of a church for the use of the students at the Imperial University, and received by gifts from students in the United States, as evidence of their interest in Christian education in the Orient. A committee of cooperation was formed and the work was brought to the attention of the men interested in the movement in several of the leading universities, including Pennsylvania. The money was raised and the church built and consecrated, and is now in use.

ZELO PRIZE CONTEST TO-NIGHT.

Members to Debate for Cups and Medal—Election of Commencement Officers.

Zealophob Society will conduct an Extraordinary Prize Speaking Contest tonight, each of her members being allowed six minutes to present the topic which will be allotted to him at 7.15 o'clock. In awarding the doings 50, $10 will be counted for delivery, and 10 for the subject matter. T. C. Casey, C, and, at present a student at the Harvard Law School, has contributed for the first prize a large silver cup. The society has added a cup for the second prize, and a stirring silver medal for the third host club. Election of Commencement officers will be held at the regular business meeting to-morrow, at 8 o'clock. The Commencement Committee consists of Rosenbaum, Gill and Young, Chairman. The speaking contest will begin promptly at 8.15.

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RESUME OF DEBATING SEASON

Pennsylvania Institute of Arts and Sciences

With the oratorical contest last Friday evening as a fitting ending, Pennsylvania's debating and public speaking activities were brought to a close for this collegiate year.

Never in the history of this University have so many contests been held or has such a great amount of enthusiasm been aroused. Continental with the Zelo-Barnard debate in November and continuing down to the annual oratorical contest, Price Hall and Houston Club have revivified with enthusiasm at frequent intervals. Undoubtedly attended the contest on thirteen occasions, ten of these events being held at Pennsylvania. These numerous boxes of oratory indicate that such activities are really becoming more prominent and also bear evidence of the different work of Mr. F. A. Child, head of the Public Speaking Department.

The annual Triennial League debates, which are considered the lead in forensic contests among the big Eastern institutions, were won by Pennsylvania last February for the fourth consecutive time from Columbia and Cornell. Although four members of this year's team will be lost through graduation next June, H. E. Hyneman and J. B. Hart, the two co-captains, 'forensic debaters,' will show all of good material among the underclassmen, and give Pennsylvania a very strong representation at next year's meeting.

The Pendleton debate must be marked as the debating season was marred by their victory over the Sophomores, but later they suffered defeat at the hands of the Crystal High School. The victory of the Seniors over the third year established an enviable record for the graduating class, giving them the honor of having triumphed in every one of their interclass debates.

In the seventeenth annual Zelo-Pills debate, Philo won her eighth victory over her rival society. Both the literary societies have had successful seasons, and, in spite of the fact that Zelo lost to Barnard and Philo to North Carolina early in the year, they proved their real worth by later defeating Barnard and Philadelphia. Columbus won their debutant competitions.

Largely through the influence of Dr. R. S. Hooper and H. R. C. E. Conover, interest in debating has been aroused in the students taking the evening courses in the Wharton School, and these "burners of the midnight oil" made their initial appearance last Saturday evening, when they lost to the School of Commerce and Finance, New York University.

In the public speaking field, the eminent attorneys held their first annual public speaking contest. Its successful did prove to be that this contest will probably become an annual event.

Worth of note is the fact that the presenting offices and faculty of many of these events included some of the most prominent Philadelphians among them being Frederick H. Strawbridge, John Robert son MacLaughlin, James L. Patterson, Robert N. Wilson, Mar- garet L. Clapp, Fiorella Rocke, Paul N. McMillen and John Cadwalader.

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THE PENNSYLVANIAN.
CERCLE FRANCAIS ELECTIONS.

Dr. Vulpiani Resigns from Office of Director General.

Terminating in a blaze of glory and enthusiasm, the Cercle Francia held the last meeting of this year last night at the Houston Club.

Election of new officers for the coming year was the first business taken up and the results are as fol-

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Dormitory Drug Shop
Opposite the Dormitories

nlow:
President, Erol White, 32 A; Vice-President, W. L. Lancaster, W.
23, Secretary, L. W. Cleveland, Jr., 12; Treasurer, J. Humphreys, Jr. 11 A. Professor Vulpiani announced at the gathering that he would be unable to serve next year as Director General. Reviewing the progress made by the boys, he contrasted the unorganised state of the club's affairs eleven years ago, when he entered the Cercle, with the prominent part which the club now plays in the harmonious life at the University. During that time the club has added a great in-
crease of membership and has pro-
vided the most successful French class plays within recent years.

The Board of Officers will meet next term to elect a new Director General. The dinner which is to be tendered to the cast was announced to take place next Thursday evening, May 31, at 7 o'clock. All members of the club are invited to attend this banquet, which will cost but $25 a place.

In the course of the business meeting.

Director Tennis.

Efforts are being made by the Dorm-
itory Tennis Association to increase the membership and to have not only the boys in the Dormitories interested, but the students outside as well.

If the increased membership war-

bles another, the court will be laid out.

Baseball will soon be set up on the course of the courts, which will re-

nance the demand caused by having the boys build dairies during the season.

Combined Musical Club Elect Officers.

At a final meeting of the Combined Musical Club, held last evening in Logan Hall, E. R. Eggleston, Law, was elected President and Manager for the year 1924-25. E. E. Glatton, Law, and H. H. Keisler, Wh., were elected Assistant Managers for the same period.

A number of new officers were elected.

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