

# THREE BLIND STUDENTS ENTER THE UNIVERSITY

BY LENOX CHAMBERS)  
 Chapel Hill, Nov. 8.—With a marked reluctance for obvious difficulties and with no request for favors on account of their affliction, three blind students graduates of the North Carolina School for the Blind at Raleigh, have entered the University of North Carolina and are carrying on the regular work of the freshman class. They are Samuel M. Cathey of Asheville, W. M. Holloman of Aloskie, and B. B. Worsham of Radfords, Va. All three are carrying an A. B. degree and Worsham and Cathey are going to stay in the law school for an L. L. B. degree.

There was no place we knew of where we could get a college education as a regular institution," said Worsham today, "so we came here. Why shouldn't we? I think we can do the work."

These words came from a man to whom we could not see the light and who was speaking for two other men equally handicapped. Holloman distinguished between light and dark and some of the three men can read an ordinary book, none can work a math problem on a blackboard (he has a better method), and none can use a raised-type edition of the

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text books they study. For these difficulties, enough to stump an ordinary man, they have only a laugh of contempt. They have refused to recognize them as difficulties. They want a college degree and all that a degree and four years of college life connote, and they ask only for the treatment accorded students whose vision rates 20-20.

The University has made no special provision for the blind and the authorities had some doubt as to the wisdom of allowing these three to enter. But not now, because in the six weeks they have been here, Cathey, Holloman, and Worsham have all shown clearly that they mean to overcome any handicap, and their work has been satisfactory, judged from exactly the same standards that any other student's work is judged. Barring unforeseen difficulties and accidents, they should get the degrees they want.

All three students are now taking the same work, Latin, history, mathematics, and the general course the University has started this year which is required of all freshmen, a kind of introduction to college and the broad fields of knowledge. They all three room together and study together, assisted in a large part of their work by a reader who works with them about three hours a day. He is the only assistant of any kind the three have. They find their own way about, all over the campus and the town. They can find any building without difficulty. Sometimes a friend guides them but generally they go by them-

selves, thumping along with a stick. "Latin is hardest for us," Holloman and Worsham both agree, "but probably not any harder than for anybody else. It doesn't seem to come easily to anybody. Our reader reads out loud to us the Latin sentence we want to translate, and we work out the translation. If we don't know the words, he looks them up for us, but between the three of us we know most of the words. We are reading Cicero's De Senectute now. It takes a little longer for us than for some men, but that does not make any great amount of difference. On class the instructor reads the Latin out loud to us and we translate it for him. We work by hearing whereas most students work by sight. It comes out all right. We can do it."

"History we study in pretty much the same way. Our reader helps us a lot there. He does all the reading of course, but we can learn that way as well as anybody else can learn by reading to himself. Other students help us by reading their notes to us. In class the oral recitation is just the same for us as for any one else. Written work we can not do, and on quizzes and examinations we have to go into another room with the instructor and answer his questions orally. That's the only detail where our work differs from any one else's."

"But if you can't write, how do you work your math?" was asked them.

"Oh, math's easy. We don't have any trouble with that. We work out all problems in our heads."

Now freshman math at the University does not rank as "pudding." It is one of the hardest courses a freshman has to face and for years it has been a bug-bear for the great majority of new men, a stumbling block which has checked the career of many a good

man. For the fall quarter it is college algebra.

"Do you mean to say that you work out all your algebra problems in your head?"

"Yes, that's the only way in which we can do them," said Worsham. "Math comes easily to Cathey and me, and Holloman does not have any great trouble. The instructor reads out the problem to us and we work it out in our heads. It takes some time because we have to remember all the processes and some times you have to think a long time about one process to impress the result so firmly in your mind that you can go to the next step and then come back and remember what you had. But we do all the problems in that way."

"Math examinations of course will take us a long time and we'll have to take them separately from the remainder of the section. Of course," and Worsham grinned, "we had better not talk too much about what we can do until after exams, but apparently we are getting along gall right. I guess we work harder than most freshmen, but we have a good time too. All of us like football. The A. & E. game was a great game, wasn't it?"

"Well," said Worsham, after thinking a minute, "there is one thing. It's the mud. When it rains, we certainly do get our feet muddy."

"Football is good, but I like baseball better," broke in Holloman. "All of us followed the world's series closely and went to the baseball matinee for the returns."

"What is the most serious difficulty you have in your college work? Is there anything that gives you particu-

## NEW MANAGER OF THE STRAND THEATRE.



H. SOMERVILLE.

H. Somerville, a veteran manager of motion picture theatres, has been placed in charge of the Strand theatre by E. F. Dardine, the lessee. Mr. Dardine has been giving his personal attention to the affairs of this theatre since it was re-opened September 1, pending the time when he could secure a man of high qualifications and experience as active manager. Mr. Somerville has managed theatres in New York City,

Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit and Buffalo, and has established a record of successful accomplishment.

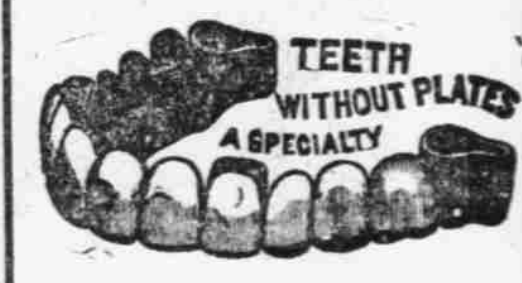
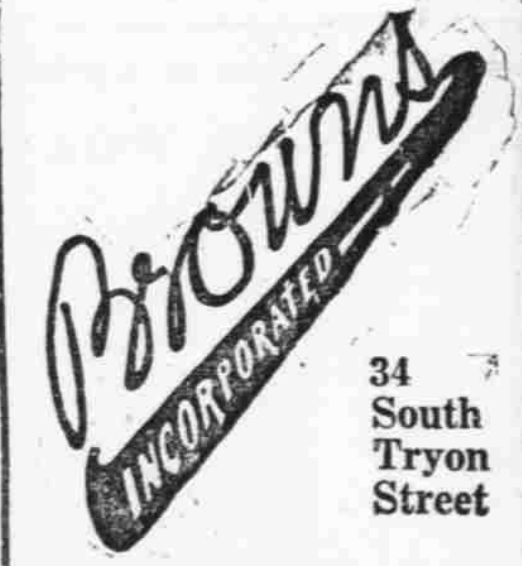
Numerous innovations for the Strand have been decided upon by Mr. Somerville and will be announced from time to time within the next two or three weeks. One of his first acts was to provide a play-room and nursery at the Strand, with a maid in attendance, where mothers may leave their little tots while they see the pictures.



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