

# The Tar Heel.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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WITH this issue the TAR HEEL begins the new year and the editors, having had more experience with new year's resolutions than newspaper work, have refrained from making any new resolutions this year.

They will try, however, as heretofore, to get out a readable paper only hoping that they may meet with better success in the future than they have in the past.

The paper during the past term has not been all that we hoped for, but for whatever has been done, good or bad, we, the editors, are solely responsible.

We have made an earnest endeavor to get contributions from alumni and members of the student body, but we have received practically none.

If the student body would realize the fact the position of editors on a college paper is no "snap," that it is an empty honor—a work for which he receives no remuneration and less thanks, that he sits up at night grinding out copy—often very uninteresting—to fill up his columns, they might do much to make his labor easier and the paper more interesting and more of a credit to the University.

Since the *Magazine* has been discontinued the TAR HEEL is our only student publication and we wish once more to ask that those who can, will assist us in making it a publication that will be a representative of the University.

We wish to publish hereafter, under the head of communications, contributions from students and alumni. We shall be glad to have free discussion of all questions of interest, but shall reserve the right of publishing only those communications which we consider worthy of publication and shall not be responsible for the sentiments expressed therein.

It is with much regret that we announce the resignation of two of our editorial board, Messrs. Wills and Smith.

Mr. Wills has been on the staff for two years and has made a faithful and efficient editor whose loss we will feel greatly.

Mr. Smith has been the most successful business manager the paper has ever had, in fact we may say the only really successful one, and we regret very much to lose him.

The vacancies on the board have been filled by the election of Messrs. J. C. Eller and J. H. White.

Mr. McRae, of the present board, has been elected business manager

in place of Mr. Smith and Mr. White will take his place as assistant manager.

Mr. Eller will fill the position formerly occupied by Mr. Wills.

PROGRESS, THEY SAY, means change; but clearly enough, change does not always mean progress. The faculty, deeming a change advisable in the old scheme of examinations, have recently adopted new regulations. The March examinations will not occur this year, and there will be but one general period of examinations in the Spring term, held at its conclusion in May. It is understood, however, that in certain courses, such as the science lecture courses, (Chemistry, Geology, Biology, etc.), the grades will be determined by monthly finals, together with daily grade. Another innovation along this line is that in regard to absence from recitation. The matter seems to have been left to the several professors in their own departments, to determine each one his own rule of procedure. But in any department a certain number of absences (say one fourth of the number of recitations) in any month are sufficient to necessitate a special examination for the absentee on that month's work.

There is doubtless a tendency in these changes toward improvement. The plan of making absences from recitation a matter between the professor and his class is apparently wise in its intention. Likewise the system of monthly finals in the science lecture courses will doubtless prove highly satisfactory. The changes all savor of the latent desire to promote sounder scholarship, but in some respects the methods and details of the new arrangements are seriously bungling and inefficient. Moreover, to many students, some of the changes will prove positively disheartening and unjust. In the first place, March Examinations filled a natural place in the year's work. The fall term is but little longer than half of the spring term, and no more work is done in the former than in half of the latter, for the mind of the student is not in such good trim as after Christmas.

The March examinations consumed but a fortnight, and they were well worth the time spent, for assuredly the examination days ought to be, and are for the good student, the best days of the year. On those days he learns and develops more than at any other time. Such a long term will doubtless prove unsatisfactory, especially in the two lowest classes. The cramming system will be worked to death and even its good results lost. Think of a Sophomore standing at once on all of Analytical Geometry. As the Prof. of Mathematics himself said, "It is positively cruel." The arrangement has made the hardest subjects harder and the easiest subjects easier. Wait till June and watch the grades, and you will witness the worst Waterloo in the last five years. The Ides of March had their terror, but they at least afforded a living hope.

The rule regarding absences may be desirable in certain cases, but certainly it bears the impress of red tapeism and savors of the Prep. School and kindergarten. To the man who is kept away by sickness and on his recovery needs all his broken energy to catch up with the work progressing, special examinations are calculated to do such work for him as disease failed in effecting.

The student body are in for sound scholarship as much as the faculty. And it does look like it were time for this wish to be consulted at least a little before the inauguration of such sweeping changes. Give us back March examinations and away with the petty regulations which we put off together with knee pants at the Prep. School.

Among the recent changes that have been made here recently is one in regard to the instructors which we think a very wise and important one—

Previously, none but members of the Faculty have attended official meetings. Now, however, the instructors will attend and take part in the deliberations as members of the Faculty.

We like this idea because these instructors will form a kind of connecting link between the older Faculty and the student body. There is a tendency on the part of the average college professor to sometimes forget that he too was once a student, that as a student he had other interests than the mastery of so much Latin, Greek or whatever the subject might be.

On the principle that a word to the wise is sufficient, the presence and suggestions of these instructors, who are more clearly identified with the students and understand better their wants and needs than other members of the faculty, may do much to place the Faculty and students body in closer sympathy with each other and secure an harmonious working of the whole so necessary to the success of any institution.

As considerable interest has been shown here lately in regard to intercollegiate debating the following from the University Courier, showing what is being done in that direction, may be of interest:—"The interest taken in debates between the several colleges this winter is unprecedented. From every direction come reports of the great interest of both graduates and undergraduates. Yale has experienced quite a revival in this respect, since her recent victory over Princeton, and entertains hopes of breaking her long line of defeats by Harvard in this line intercollegiate competition.

Cornell is said to be more interested in the approaching debate with our own University than even the revival of rowing with Harvard.

Brown and Wesleyan have entered the ranks and will debate next month on the extremely live and timely subject: Resolved, That the powers of Europe should unite in the control of the Turkish Empire."

It is proper and fitting that intercollegiate debating should take a place in the minds of both students and outsiders, equal or even superior, to athletic contests.

The present improvement in this respect will do much to remove the impression that athletics are the sole type of interest to the student, and that intellectual pursuits are mainly neglected."

**Additions to the University.**  
It was the aim of our President at the beginning of this collegiate year to have a total enrollment of six hundred students before June.

In a measure he has been successful. The total enrollment up to date is 548. This of course includes the enrollment in all departments of the University.

Several new students have registered since the beginning of the present session opened. Among that number we note the following:

Richardson, Clinton.  
Burwell, Charlotte.  
Pond, Salem.

Hill, Winston.  
McAdoo, Greensboro.  
Presnell, Waynesville.  
Burgwyn, Henderson.  
Small, Adelaide.  
Brown, New York.  
Dyer, Maine.  
Cox, Winston.  
Godwin, Dunn.  
Coxe, Lilesville.  
Meades, Weeksville.  
McPhail, Clinton.  
London, Pittsboro.

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