

THE TAR HEEL

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THIS issue of THE TAR HEEL is devoted practically entirely to a review of the work of the Young Men's Christian Association of the University for the past year. Taken altogether this review is very gratifying. The Association has made a distinct growth during the present collegiate year. This growth is not to be found in membership, however, but in the attitude held toward the Association by the student-body as a whole and in the increased importance of the position of the organization in student life.

FOR ANY organization to have a right to a place in the life of the University it must show itself worthy of holding that place. This is what the Y. M. C. A. has done. It is no longer a mere figure-head in the catalog of the University but a live organization, working toward the advancement of the institution as a whole, with an eye to the welfare of each individual student.

In achieving its purpose, too, the Y. M. C. A. has chosen the proper method. It has recognized that the way to win the men of the University is not by plying them with endless sermons, but by holding out to them attractions of the right sort. With this aim it has secured a building which is devoted almost entirely to the use of the student body. In it are rooms equipped with tables for reading or playing games, and these tables are almost always in service. The students have been quick to accept the hospitality of the Y. M. C. A. building; it has become in the period of one short year practically the social center of the campus, a place where there are no dividing lines and where every man in college meets every other man on an equal basis. Through this achievement, alone, the Y. M. C. A. has won its right to a place in the life of the University.

STILL another service may be put down to the credit of the Y. M. C. A. Life here is exceedingly dull during the winter, owing to the fact that at the University there is no interest taken in basketball or college dramatics—the things which should logically fill in the interim between the football and baseball seasons. Recognizing this fact the Y. M. C. A. has supplemented the Star Course furnished by the literary societies by bringing to the Hill a number of attractions under its own management. While the Y. M. C. A. has derived a certain amount of gain financially from these enter-

tainments, it has not been paid in proportion to the amount of ennui that it has banished for the students of the University and the residents of the village. Thus the Y. M. C. A. has secured a second right to the position that it now occupies in college affairs through the service that it has rendered to the University.

THROUGHOUT this discussion of the position of the Young Men's Christian Association in the life of the college there is, purposely, no allusion to the place to which its religious pretensions entitle it. This needs no exposition. The purpose of this discussion is rather to show to the man to whom the religious life of the organization offers no attractions that he cannot afford, none the less, not to belong to an organization which does so much practical good for the University. By being a member of the Y. M. C. A. a student can be a better member of the college family, just as he can obtain a better education at college than by studying at home, simply because the purposes of the organization are right.

An Important Work.

Professor Collier Cobb, head of the department of geology in the University, will soon have in print a volume entitled "Songs and Ballads of Hatteras Island." The songs and ballads of this collection Professor Cobb took from dictation at odd moments while engaged in geological work on the coast of Eastern North Carolina. The collection as a whole has been termed "the most important work of a literary nature that has yet appeared in North Carolina." Of especial interest are several lyric fragments, chief among them "The Mermaid's Song:"

Follow, follow through the sea,
To the Mermaid's melody;
Safely, freely shalt thou range,
Through things dreadful, quaint, and strange,
And through Equid walls behold
Wonders that may not be told,
Treasures too for ages lost,
Gems surpassing human cost,
Fearless, follow, follow me,
Through the treasures of the sea.

This little gem, which has been handed down from generation to generation on Hatteras Island, has the true Elizabethan ring. It very probably originated in the club room of the Mermaid Tavern, frequented by Ben Jonson, Raleigh, Carew, Fletcher, Donne, and others of their school. Through these Elizabethan fragments Professor Cobb traces the lost colony of Roanoke to Hatteras Island. A magazine article on this collection will soon appear by Professor Cobb.

Triple Debating League.

The prospects are strong that a debating league will be formed next fall between the Universities of Virginia, North Carolina, and Johns Hopkins University. As the league is planned there will be only one query for discussion between the three institutions. Each of the three will have two teams, one of which will debate the affirmative side of the question with one opponent, the other to debate the negative with the other.

Alton Packard Here.

Alton Packard, humorist and cartoonist, will appear in Gerrard Hall tomorrow night under the Star Course management. Mr. Packard is well remembered by those who heard him on his first trip to the University several years ago. The students are anticipating keenly the hearty laugh with which they will be served at his hands tomorrow evening.

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