

The Gamecock

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



"While I Live I Crow"

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Columbia, S. C., Dec. 11, 1917

Editorial

This may be the last issue of The Gamecock until after the holidays. A Christmas editorial would be in order but it would as well wait. Meantime, merry Christmas.

The Home for Girls.

The petition that the executive committee of the board of trustees of the University will make to the legislature asking appropriation of money with which to erect on the campus a dormitory for women students offers to the State an opportunity to do justice to this heretofore neglected institution. Aside from the fact that such a building would satisfy a strongly felt need, it is an undeniable truth that up to the time of the erection of Thornwell and Woodrow colleges and the subsequent provision for a law building and remodeling of DeSaussure the appropriations of the legislature for the University have barely provided for maintenance. There has been no money for extension in any department. The authorities have always been forced to niggardly extremes to make allowances suffice.

Previous to the remodeling of DeSaussure all the older dormitories were in a state of delapidation the roofs were leaky, the window sills and floors were decaying, plastering had fallen and dirt and grime covered everything. And the conditions are practically the same today, save in the eastern end of DeSaussure. The money that has been

available for repairs has been used, so far as it would go, to re-kalsomine walls, replace fallen plastering, and do general house-cleaning in summer, never being sufficient for permanent improvements.

Yet the legislative committee of the general assembly has never failed to make its annual visit of inspection.

Contrasted with these conditions at the University are the excellent provisions for Clemson and Winthrop. Ample funds are always available to carry on the work of their various departments. Their dormitories, it is said, are in excellent repair; their campuses are spanned with paved walks; their laboratories and libraries are modern and growing. In the case of Clemson, permanent provision is made for annual expenditures, and appropriations make up deficits. Winthrop has been generously supplied with means for all necessary additions, its greatest need at present being additional dormitory space.

The Gamecock would detract nothing from Clemson or Winthrop. Both are doing valuable work—work the University could not do except at enormous expense. What the University would have is equally so generous support as is given other State institutions.

The proposed home for women is a growing demand of the University. That the majority of girls who have been students here have resided in Columbia is due solely to lack of a suitable and reasonably priced home. The necessary expense at Carolina and Winthrop is approximately the same, and when a girl is turned away from Winthrop because of lack of dormitory room, or because she prefers training that Winthrop does not provide, her next choice would be Carolina. If the University has no dormitory accommodations to offer she must go to a more expensive college, stay at home, or go outside the State.

Winthrop is the only moderately priced girls' college in the State. Its literary standards are certainly not the equal of Converse, Chicora, or the University, nor would its bachelor graduates be given the same rating at Johns Hopkins or Columbia University. Many girls go to Winthrop when if conditions would permit, they would perhaps choose Carolina or Converse. They want college training and can afford to spend only a limited amount for it.

The appropriation, then of \$75,000 for a home for girls would do two things: It would open to women a place that offers university training not provided elsewhere in the State. It would make amends, so far as that be possible, for past neglect.

"What Matters It?"

Contact with students in and out of the class room shows that the bustle and change everywhere in evidence as result of war does not create an atmosphere suited for study. The work being done appears to be of a most superficial nature, attempted without enthusiasm.

While every one realizes that the work of the student should be undertaken with even greater zeal than were we not preparing for participation in the war the attitude in evidence is one of pessimism—that it is only a matter of weeks before they too will be called into service and that this probationary period may as well be gone through with as much ease as possible. Everything is uncertain except the imminence of the call to arms.

The students who were here last year have not recovered from the demoralization resulting when work was practically discontinued following departure in the spring of so large a number of the student body for various departments of service. The new students fell immediately into the same frame of mind.

Now all are taking their ease together. "What matters it," say they, "if we get a low grade?" "What matter if professors think us irresponsible? Our record here will help us little if we never return from field of battle. If we do return—well, we'll make a new one."

But uncertainties are far from certain. It is the better policy to take the long chance and make industrious use of present opportunities.

Even the supply store appears to be Hooverizing.

* * *

We know several men who ought to be rated as coeds.

* * *

The term "Up in Arms" is misleading to say the least.

* * *

Congress is not warming us, not—"eating" us and next it will be not-riding us.

* * *

We would like to have those Florence and Winnsboro lads with us for keeps.

* * *

The Chicora girls are unusually subdued this year. Are they knitting, too?

* * *

"Life is what we make it," should be revised to read: "Life is what she makes it."

* * *

Revolution is becoming careless of the company it keeps—Mexico, Russia, Portugal.

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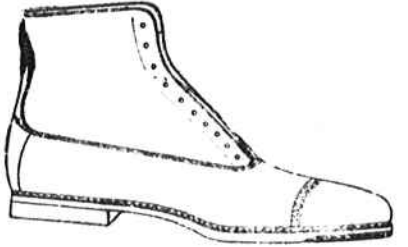
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