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Editorial

THE LIBRARY IN NEED AGAIN

Once again those actively interested in maintaining the Farmington Library find themselves without funds for its upkeep and advancement. The appropriation of \$150 has been stretched about as far as \$150 possibly could be, and the remaining three dollars and forty-two cents will buy about one and three-quarters new books.

The financial statement issued last week is better by \$3.19 than the one of autumn, 1927, which showed just 23 cents in the Library's treasury. But there is small comfort in this for those who have the interests of the Library at heart. When one reflects that it is over a year since the sad financial status of the Library was made public, the impulse is not to encouragement, but rather discouragement. For nothing has been forthcoming in the way of a plan for putting the Library on a sound financial basis.

It may be true that the Library has suffered neglect through being involved in the Town Hall problem, and there may be some justification in this for failure to inaugurate a Library maintenance program. But aside from this, it would seem that some provision might be made, temporarily, which would excuse members of the Ladies' Library Association from the not-very-pleasant task of appealing to official bodies for help—help for a public institution.

Until lately the Ladies' Library Association gave entertainments, but the time for that has gone by. And the time should be past, too, for occasional appeals to keep the Library from "going to seed."

A good book becomes more valuable every time it is used. Each time it passes through another person's hands it has paid a greater return on the original investment. Could this be said of any other article which the community can buy?

HERE'S A "BOUQUET"

Hurling bricks at governing bodies is a popular pastime, and the Farmington City Commission has not entirely escaped. However, here's a bouquet for the Commissioners—for Wednesday morning, following our second big snowstorm, the sidewalks throughout the town were agreeably free of snow, cleared away during the night by a plow that started as soon as the storm was over.

DR. LITTLE'S "STORM AND STRESS"

As might have been expected, the winds of controversy that have blown about President Clarence Little's administration as head of the University of Michigan, were mere zephyrs in comparison with the storm which follows his resignation. That echoes of the struggle will continue to be heard for a long time is beyond doubt.

Much has been published to indicate, as far as possible, the reasons for the continual disagreements and finally, the resignation.

Various ideas and proposals of Dr. Little have been pointed out as major and minor elements in the conflict.

But there seems to have been generally overlooked what was probably the greatest difference between Dr. Little and the Regents, and the factor which made their continued relationship impossible. That was and is the apparent existence of two entirely dissimilar notions of what the job of the University's president should be.

The Regents apparently are of the conviction that the president's job is almost entirely one of administration, of seeing that the University operates efficiently and maintains a high standard.

But Dr. Little has not confined himself to this work alone, as the Regents seem to think he should have done. He has indicated and acted upon the belief that a University president should do more than just keep the "machinery" moving, obtain sufficient appropriations from the Legislature, and see that the enrollment doesn't decrease. Dr. Little has shown that he believes (whether or not he would confess it) that the president of the University of Michigan should be the intellectual leader of the people of the State of Michigan, that he should be interested not merely in the granting of diplomas to a couple of thousand seniors each year, but in the mental advancement of the entire State. In pursuance of this ideal he has been more courageous than was good for a man who valued his job. And so he lost it.

Viewed in this light, it is clear that Dr. Little's resignation was inevitable. And it is clear, too, that the decision in the public mind as to the merits of the dispute should be based, not upon what we think of this or that plan, but upon a comparison of the two theories. Those who believe that Michigan's president should be first, foremost, and almost exclusively, executive of a complicated organization, cannot but agree with the Regents. Those who think the University president should not only stand for State-wide intellectual progress, but should devote part of his energies to that end, to hastening the coming of the day when intelligence shall govern human affairs, cannot but feel that in the passing of Dr. Little, Michigan, the State and the University, takes a long step backward.

Between these two viewpoints, there could not and can never be agreement. Thus, whatever happened to Dr. Little's university college or dormitory, or other plans, was, in the long run, a small factor.

As for Dr. Little, one need not indulge in vain regrets as to his "losing his job." He undoubtedly will be much happier wherever he goes—and much more appreciated. He has attempted to be a pioneer, and like all leaders of thought in every age, he has to suffer for his ideals.

But it must have been of immense satisfaction to Dr. Little to see published the editorial in which the Michigan Daily, student newspaper, commented on the resignation. He must have felt that his work had borne fruit, for nothing could be more like Dr. Little himself than the sheer daring of the student editors. They minced no words in their searing criticism of the Board of Regents. They hesitated not at classifying Dr. Little's enemies as "middle class minds." How it must have warmed the heart of Dr. Little to read:

"Michigan Turns Its Back Upon A Genius"

"He passes into private life with no immediate prospects of employment, but with the satisfaction of having held to an ideal despite the demands of dictatorial legislators, or of so-called independent stu-

dents. Michigan loses, with his passing, a man who had greater potentialities as one of the foremost educators of the world, than any man at present in the educational field in the United States.

"The University of Michigan and the board of regents have failed to recognize the genius inherent in the man."

Michigan student editors have been "fired" from student publications for a good deal less, not so many years ago.

We doubt if Dr. Little will carry with him from Michigan any more treasured memory than of that editorial written by some one of those who look upon him as their great, lost, leader.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to Firemen

To the Editor

I wish to thank the firemen for their prompt service and efficient work at the fire in the corner store. Owing to the firemen and a first class fire apparatus, is all that saved this store.

Also the boys that discovered the fire, William Edwards and Al Gagnon.

The regrettable part (no particular difference in this case), was that when they run up their ladder to get on the roof it was too short at one end. With the equipment and service we have, we should have a ladder long enough and strong enough to get on the roof of a two story building.

I thank you again.

H. W. Lee.

Random Hits

By Contributor

Oakland, The Beautiful

Never over colorful are descriptions of the scenic beauties of Oakland County, where nature has been lavish to a superlative degree in bestowing her gifts, thus precluding the possibility of exaggeration by writers of fanciful publicity quash or those thrilled by successive plumes of entrancing vista, wooded hill, noisy brook, sparkling lake and bosky dell.

"Oakland County Highways," the Sixteenth Annual Official Report of the County Road Commissioners, is just off the press. In charming text, enhanced by fine half-tone illustrations, the glory of Oakland County is told. New type concrete bridges, the design and smooth stone highways, utilitarian marks of progress, accentuate the natural beauty of the many pictured scenes. This interesting and typographically pleasing booklet also reveals our Commissioners as men of esthetic tastes as well as practical road builders.

Allurement is in the title lines to various pictures which please the eye as the reader glances over the pages of "Oakland County Highways."

"Miles of Velvet Smooth Roads Lead to Countless Beauty Spots, Where Stately Maples Meet."

"An Ever Changing Panorama Meets the Motorist," "On An Oakland County Drive," "When Changing Lights and Shadows Fall."

"And Now Winter With Its Snowy Coat Lends Picturesqueness to the Highways."

When "Jingle Bells" Ring True

The Spirit of Winter abounds in Youth and fades as time frosts the locks. Youth revels in snow, frost and slipping all that make outdoor sports and pleasures possible, while Age hugs the heater and shivers with each succeeding shriek of Winter's blasts as they sweep through bare branches and around the house corners. Then comes a longing for blue skies and billowing green of sunny climes. The thought of Youth is fixed on snow clad hills and ice-bound lakes and creeks.

"Get but, ain't this great," exclaimed a red-cheeked youth who was bubbling over with joy as he tumbled about in the deep snow that covered the earth one morning last week. His reaction to Jack Frost's visit clearly indicated that he was being furnished with a thrill of joy far greater than that produced by Summer sun, flowering fields or babbling brooks.

Just behind the Youth, came Age, coat collar turned up and shoulders hunched in breasting the cutting wind. There was no cutting of joy's voice, as he greeted us with: "This makes one wish he was in Florida or some other warm climate."

Listen to Youth singing "Jingle Bells" and then harken unto Age attempting to sing it and you will get what we mean.

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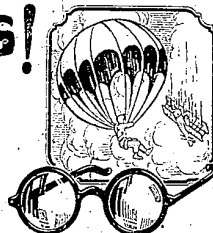
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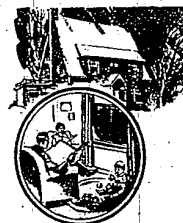
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