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Volume VI Number 10
Madison, Wis., April 1, 1905

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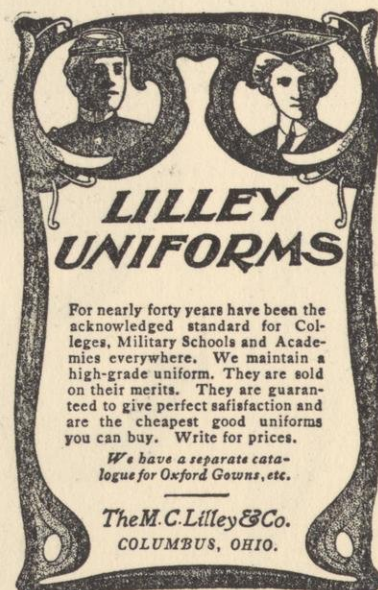
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THE SPHINX.

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by Students of the University of Wisconsin.

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Always remember that this is only pretence, so that you are not to believe a word of it, even if it is true.—Kingsley



WHILE WE WERE scarce able to fathom the nebulous discusiveness and crepuscular prolixity of the inscrutable arbiter on the daily *cardinal*, we nevertheless gained a hazy hunch that certain of his murky murmurings were designed to overflow our devoted head.

Wrapping himself in an impenetrable fog of labyrinthic incoherency, he broke the vials of his superrated vocabulary upon us, and expectantly waits for us to be overwhelmed in the seething torrent of effervescing invidiousness.

We are edified at the spectacle and uncontaminated by the flood. We are glad to see the abcess of verbosity lanced by the pen of composition, but we are surprised and grieved at the painful tortuosity of the *Cardinal's* acrimonious invective. We view this distressing exhibition of tenuous insipidity, these vague and vacuous chortlings of a gelatinous intellect with amused tolerance and infinite compassion. As a realistic imitation of a London fog, or a cuttle fish attempt to obscure the waters of lucidity, the *Cardinal* editorials are tremendously successful, but as intended displays of verbal pyrotechnics, as scintillating obfuscations of iridescent brilliancy they are sizzling, sozzling failures.

When the glamour (accent on the *u*) of approbation is gone, let us hope that some time the *Cardinal's* ideas catch up to its vocabulary. (We too are flagrantly sinning against simplicity in this exuberant editorial, but what would you, we have been reading (O tempora) our pretentious contemporary.) We have pity for that sheet and sympathy for the bewilderment of its readers, as the editor goes "ruining along the illimitable inane." We also admit an excruciating uncertainty. We think we decipher what he is talking about, but we cannot unravel what he is saying. We have followed as he meandered warily in winding ways and weary wiles, we have squashed through sloughs of sinuous slams, and wallowed in weltering quicksands of verbiage, seeking to follow his inscrutable style. But we are nonplussed. Our untutored comprehension is inadequate. Is the *Cardinal* attempting humor? but no! We are no alienist, no expert in the devious ways of psycholological monstrosities, we can only regard this scurrilous pestiferousness as the flux of a mind saturated and sodden with stupendous and incomparable futility.

WHAT'S A MUCKER, anyway? Can any one define him? No! "Mucker" is an undefinable word; it stands for a certain sort of creature who can be located by no other noun. Some people think a fellow who wears rather misfit clothes and waits on table for his board, is a mucker. A mucker may be such a fellow, but such a fellow isn't often a mucker, not nearly so often as the superior snob who calls him one. For other people a mucker is a person who disapproves of or interferes with his own pet hooliganisms, as Mr. Shuster so well puts it in these verses:

"I met a mucker on the street,
I knew him right away,
He butted in before I got
A chance to say my say.

I saw him in the opera house,
He really seemed displeased
When in the most pathetic part
I very cutely sneezed.

And in the cloak room on the hill
He seemed a little sore
Because from off *my* hook I threw
His clothing on the floor.

He helps me with my work sometimes
(I never was a 'bucker;')
Now surely you will all agree
That *he's* an awful mucker."

But while he can't be accurately defined, he can usually be spotted. He hisses and groans at the theatre, he talks evilly of women, he jeers his opponents in mass meetings and such. He is not plentiful in the Varsity but he is very evident.

There isn't much to be done about the mucker, he is more or less his own antidote and better left alone. All the fellows can do is to keep him from bespattering the whole university with rowdyism, and to gently eliminate him from social intercourse. Be sure he's a mucker, then cut him dead.



OT'ELL YOUSE CARE, anyhow? We ain't no students. Dat Chi-bunch can't do nuttin' much, an' say cully if youse don't loike de way we hooted dem, go chase yerself. Wot's a bunch dat comes here to run desoive but a good root in de jaw? Huh! youse—"

Well in good, simple English, if we're to be thought a decent, manly crowd of students we've got to shut out or shut up the muckers.

Every time we have a dual meet some little bunch of town toughs and high school "micks" gets out and jeers and hoots the visiting team, tell its members go away from Madison thinking us about the poorest sports that ever sat around a track or filled the grand stand. Madison has about the hardest gang of little gamins and muckers ever, but they can be squelched and should be. Next time a team of athletes comes down here let's consider them our guests, and spot every man who treats them otherwise.



The poet's eyes flashed as he heard a woman's footsteps on the stairs. "Ah!" he mused, "'tis she. My inspiration."

And he fell to writing furiously again. For he had heard the step of his landlady and his board was overdue.

✻ ✻ ✻

Oh, isn't the moon lovely to-night?
It's simply great. There's nothing on earth can touch it.

✻ ✻ ✻

"Do you know how the water comes down at Lodore?"

"No, but I know how Minnihaha Falls."

✻ ✻ ✻



The Man in the Picture—"Reading maketh a full man."

His Friend—"What *you* been doing—reading booze ads?"



Dr. A. C. L.

"What English are you taking?"

"General Survey with a Hahvah accent."

"Oh,—Brown!"

✻ ✻ ✻

A rolling stone may gather no moss, but it is a regular Sunny Jim when it comes to Force.

☞ ☞ ☞

Be rich and you'll be loaning.

✻ ✻ ✻

No, Willie, Ph. D., doesn't mean Physical Director.

☞ ☞ ☞

Our Local Column

Mr. Reuben J. Neckerman has rolled as high as 120 in the alleys. Reub is a nice fellow and bowls good.

Herbert E. Chynoweth is taking a post graduate course in raising He—althy corn. Herb's a good farmer, by Hen!

Hungry Hamilton done good work up to the athletic association meeting.

Give me the pounds and I'll let the pennies take care of themselves.



Kissing is like eating soup with a fork. You can't get enough of it.



On with the Dance

"So she led you a merry dance during Prom time, eh?"

"Yep, and *now* my creditors are leading me a merry dance."



There was a young fellow named Tucker,
Who thought to play me for a sucker;

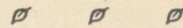
'Twas certainly rash

To try for my cash,

But he got it—the confounded mucker!



When you think that you are a regular Izzit in the use of the English language, just try to describe the feeling you have in the back of your neck after passing a gang of small "kids" who are throwing snow balls.



We're going to live anyhow until we die.
'Course this sort of life ain't very high
There's cons and bills
To give us chills,
But Lord, we've lived through graver
ills,
And—we're going to live anyhow until
we die.



A Rash Journey

We journeyed to a distant clime
Where bottles grew on trees,
And where the natives told the time
By whistling at the breeze.

We saw the monarch of the band,
He sat upon his fist,
And said: "I like to be on hand,
'Tis thus I'm never missed."

We told him then his joke was good,
The gang prepared to sup,
They brought a kettle and some wood,
And then—they ate us up.

—A. B. S.

Nothing could ever come between us, could it, dear?

I can't think of a single thing unless I should happen to become engaged to another man.



A Hearing on the Anti-Cigarette Bill.



A Thirst Breeder

“Why do all the fellows in the front row go out between the acts?”
 “Guess it’s because the play is so dry.”



Not Up to the Time of Going to Press

Lives there a girl with soul so dead,
 Who never to herself hath said,
 And thought the matter of great weight,
 “I wonder if my hat’s on straight.”



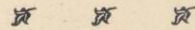
A medical journal says, “If the child does not thrive on fresh milk, boil it.” Don’t be so hard on the little fellow. Begin by spanking him. He may learn to like it after awhile.



Professor of Philosophy—“The great secret of happiness lies in being content with one’s lot.”

A Murmur—“Yes, but it has to be a whole lot.”

“Hal!” cried the Little Eva of the modern Uncle Tom’s Cabin Co. “I will fool the bloodhounds yet.” And then putting on a pair of rubbers she erased her tracks.



Jay—What a beautiful nose she has.
 Kay—That’s her scenter of attraction.



“Ain’t Chimmie de swell ting dough?”
 “Sure. Dey say he uses vi’let water to clean his celluloid collar.”



Some people seem to believe that the first two syllables of “gentleman” are not genuine unless pronounced “Frat.”

Booze

Some mugs dey tout deir goils an' shout
 A lot of guff, fer fair,
 While odders chin of fights dey win
 An' shoots de heated air.
 Dese may be fine, but—none in mine,
 Hear dis I'm tellin' youse,
 Fer me de bar, a fat cigar
 An' booze, booze, booze.



A plunk!
 An' Geel
 One drunk
 Fer me.
 I knows it's rank
 An' tough to use,
 But I'm a tank
 Fer booze.

I'm drunk
 Again.
 I knows it's rank
 An' tough to use,

Dere's some dat sings of beer an' tings,
 An' odder fancy drink
 Of gin frappay an' pussy caffay.
 I likes dem—I don't tink!
 I gets my skates on whiskey straights,
 Den I fergits me blues,
 An, sings a song that comes out strong
 Fer booze, booze, boozel



A plunk
 An' den

But I'm a tank
 Fer boozel

—Berton Braley.

[That her readers may know "what's doing" in the way of verse at other colleges, THE SPHINX will print in each number for the rest of the year, what seems to her the cleverest bit of verse in her current exchanges. The ballade below is taken from the Cornell *Widow*.]

**Ballade of the College
Widow**

Tell me where is the little maid
Who danced at the Juniors long ago,
Who plied with dexterous skill the trade
Of dancing and wooing, of love and woe?
Where is she who was "sweet of show"
With the subtle arts of a witching dame,
Throwing affections to and fro!
She is playing still at the same old
game.

Where has she fled—or is she afraid—
The maid with the pompadour brushed
just so,—
Or has she a moment, thoughtless, strayed
Off to a corner we all must know,
Her satin paniers rustling low,
In high-heeled slippers, cheeks aflame,—
Where did she fly, her eyes aglow,—
She is playing still at the same old
game.

Where are they all, prim, and staid,
Who were proud of your father as a beau,
In the days when he was a brave young
blade
Who laughed and made friends of a rival
foe?
Are they gone "in the dust that the breezes
blow?"
Your fathers once lisped in love their
name,
For your father's sake, pray where did they
go?
They are playing still at the same
old game.

ENVOI.

Yea, though you ask us all in a row,
The answer will always be one and the
same,—
And we answer it with a sigh,—Heigho!
She's playing still at the same old
game.

—Reprinted from the *Widow*, February,
1901.

**Pabst
Blue Ribbon**

The Beer
of Quality



**By acknowledgment of
experts and laymen the
standard brew of America**

Mucker No. 1 (at Fuller)—Say, how'd
yuh loike de show?

Mucker No. 2—Foine! Every toime I
seen de villyan light anoder cig., I spits on
de moke's overcoat wot sits in front of me.
Chee, but de moke wuz sore.



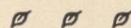
"Don't you think he's a nobby looker?"
"Yes, so is a toad."



"Did you print a kiss upon her lips?"
"Yes, and by the amount of rouge I got,
I guess she thought I wanted a color
print."



"He is a prince, apparently,"
Quoth Maude, with gladsome caper,
(And she was right, a pressman he,
He always prints a paper.)



When I went to college, I seen
That it wasn't no way to be green,
So I feeds like a vulture,
On manners and culture,
I'm a gent of great polish, I mean.

Clipped Quips

All was quiet as the conductor approached the Lady-who-had-seen-better-days and demanded her ticket.

"Oh!" she replied nonchalantly, "I'm traveling on my face."

"Is that so?" he answered; "I was just wondering what had happened to it.—*Tiger.*

May—Why did you refuse to go to the dance with him?

Fay—He has a past.

May—But he can blot it out.

Fay—Perhaps, but he can't use me as a blotter.—*Widow.*

Pish—What makes you think she will make a good chorus girl?

Pash—She used to work in an unholstering establishment.—*Tiger.*

Jack—I could never learn to love Matilda.

Jim—What's the matter with Matilda?

Jack—Her past.

Jim—Never heard anything against her past. What wrong with it?

Jack—Its length.—*Widow.*

Professor of Statistics—"We use 329, 647, 283 handkerchiefs in this country every year."

Influenza patient (on back seat)—Dod! I wudder who uses the odder ted or dwelve!"
—*Widow.*

Circassian Beauty—Ain't the bearded lady the awful knocker?

Fat Lady—Yes; she's the most bare-faced scandal monger I ever saw.—*Tiger.*



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Bell 144

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Wallie Ketchon—"Ah! The kind that wears those lacy shirt-waists?"—*Fudge.*



"Our preacher is preaching on 'Consequences.'"

"I know all about them, I went to the Prom."



Here's to our wives, our own 'till death,
(And here's to the cloves that hide our breath.)



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cannot find any fault with our laundry work, as we aim to please the most fastidious—and what's more, we do it. No one finds fault with our up-to-date laundry work in shirts collars and cuffs. The best work is what we strive for and attain.

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Phone 172.

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AT LEWIS' DRUG STORE

The One Man—What happened when you kissed her?

The Other Man—Oh the girl said, "this isn't proper," but her tone said, "keep righton."—*Lampoon.*

He—Aw, don't you know, those plaster casts must have a jolly time.

She—How?

He—Aw-w, playing marbles, to be sure.—*Chaparral.*

If you want a cigar—that is right, or want to find a nice brand that will suit you, just call and see Boelsing.

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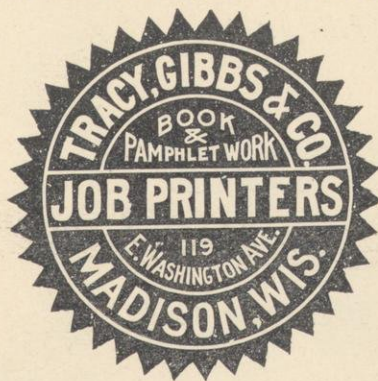
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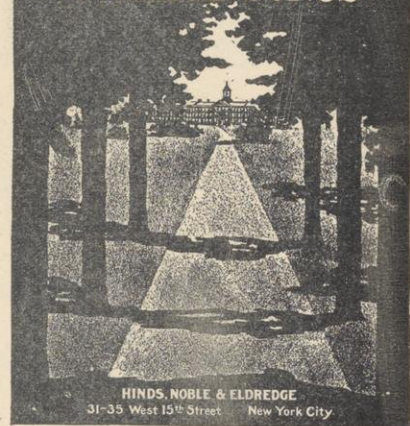
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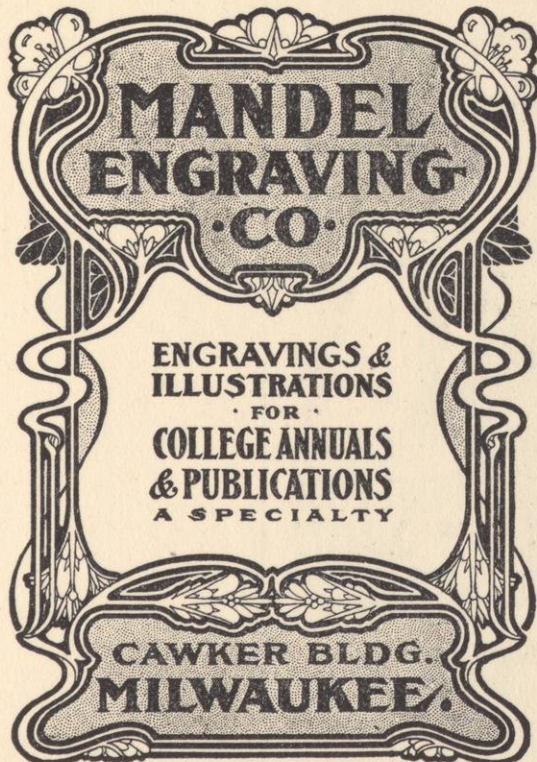
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