# The Sphinx. Vol. 4, No. 10 March 21, 1903 

Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin, March 21, 1903
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"For fact or faculty?"

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THE ENGINEER ON BASKET-BALL.

Say, Bill,
If you won't tell,
I'll put you wise to something good.
What is it?
Well,
You see, I watched the girls
Play basket-ball,
The freshmen and the sophs.
Yell?
Well I should say so.
The sophs at first, were scared
And didn't hurrah much,
But at the end they did good work.
That crowd of freshmen, though
Were there
Early and late, with the goods.
They were
A lot of game little maids, for fair.
They backed their wild-eyed leader
Like a bunch,


Of veteran rooters, I give you
A hunch,
For the genuine
Dyed in the wool enthusiasm.
Pick out a lot of girls-
Give them a running start-about a week
Of swiping bath robes
And then,
Turn them loose at a basket-ball game.
They'll have the men
Lashed to the mizzen.
The game?
Well,
'Twas wonderful and weird.
The same
Sweet maids, who on the hill
Are most demure

And shy,
Were fiercest here
And seemed to overlook the fact, That gentlemen were present.
They had a reckless disregard
Of life and limb.
I recollect that once
Somebody yelled,
"What's the matter with our Alice?"
And just to prove
That she was still all right;
"Our Alice" felled
A soph
And tried to throw the corpse
Into the basket.
It was a foul of course,
And cost
The game
And that was why the freshmen


Lost
The same.
Their fouls were countless.
If they couldn't get their hands
Onto the ball,
They'd maim
A soph instead
And wipe the floor with her.
Oh yes,
It was exciting.
But do you know
That when I next am longing to be thrilled I'll go
To seek a gentler sport,
A prize-fight
Or a wild-west
Show.
L. F. V.


## THE SPHINX.

Published every Second Saturday during the College Year by Students of the University of Wis.
Entered at the Postoffice of Madison. Wis, as Second-Class Matter, September 28, 1901.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPIES, FIFTEEN CENTS
(If not paid before January 1st, $\$ 2.00$ per annum will be charged.)
Single copies on sale at the news stands and book stores.
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Address Communications to the Business Editor All contributions, subscriptlons and remittances for same should be addressed to Managing Editor, 422 Murray St.

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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

HERE WE ARE AGAIN, almost arrived at the day when the sun crosses the line and turns a happy smile in our direction. The robin and the Spring-poet-joke have already sprinted in with the race slightly in favor of the Spring poet.
With the appearance of our two old friends comes the time-honored custom, abhorrent to all peaceably disordered mankind, of Spring house cleaning. The Sphinx shudders at the prospect, but she knows that, after the rugs are unrolled and the hard oil smell has vanished, she will easily persuade herself that it is all for the best.

And now that this custom is so thoroughly established and has proven so beneficial to houses in general, why not try it on the Gym? It would offer a great opportunity to one who might wish to make the experiment on a large scale. If he were of an antiquarian turn of mind, he might secure and label valuable samples of dust that has been unnoticed since the ninety-third year of the previous century. Then, too, it would be most interesting to trace it through its different stages as acted upon by external agencies. Dust is dust in the locker room, in the bath rooms mud, and in the tank-but let us not venture too far into the realm of science.

Speaking of science, it might be better and cheaper to turn the whole thing over to the pre-medics as a bacteriological laboratory. They are skilled in this -ology lore and wouldn't mind being on familiar terms with these microbes, or whatever they may be, with the big names, although they may be very annoying to an ignorant layman.

It is hard to understand why the libraryshould be so fortunate as to be provided with a corps of men to look after and repair it constantly, while the Gymnasium is left entirely without such supervision. There is rather a striking contrast between the two buildings. In the one perfect order and no sign of decay to be seen; in the other disorder and evidences of age everywhere. Which is economy?

## RULES OF THE SPHINX ON HOW TO JOLLY SUCCESSFULLY.

Upon being introduced to a man you should say, "Do you know I've been wanting to meet you for the longest time! I've seen you so many times on the hill and always wished I might sometime come to know you."

After you have danced with him you can say, "Oh, you're so nice and tall, aren't you? If I was a man, I'd like to be tall like you are." If the victim is short, put on the reverse English.

Then try this: "I understand you're from the east. I met a man from the east last summer and he was the finest fellow. I think everyone from the east must be nice." The word "west" may be substituted for "east" if necessary.

If the conversation lags at this point say, 'you don't know what a nice thing I heard about you the other day! I was walking up the hill with a girl and she said:" Any old thing will do here, only be careful not to give the girl's name. The man might happen to know her.

If the man has drawn two "cons" the past semester, and is here on probation, say: "You know, I never had any sympathy with the kind of men who come here and don't do anything but study. It 's so much nicer to be clever. You're awfully clever, aren't you?"

If the man attempts to tell a story, laugh at every pause; in that way you will be sure to strike the right place. Then, when he has finished, say: "Oh, you are the f inniest man!"

Probably at this stage the man will put in a little "jolly" on his own account. If he does, look at him reproachfully and say: "I don't think it's a bit nice to jolly that way. Maybe it's because I never could do it myself."

Perhaps, after all this, the man has still failed to attempt a jolly. If this is the case, you can finish him off thus: "I just detest jolliers; I'm so glad you're one of those sincere, honest men. I'm very glad to have met you and I hope I shall see you again."

## Oscar.



## MAXIMS OF HOPEFUL HARRY

Be prompt and wait for the other fellow
Stab and the class is with you.
Flunk and you flunk alone.
There's hope for the Grind who thinks.
A quiz to-morrow is worse than two in the distance.

Speech is silver, silence is golden, and the ratio at present is 42 to 1 .

First Diner-"Why does the hostess lace so tight?"
"Probably because the guest of honor stays."

First Hospital Patient-"What makes you so lame, you weren't like that when you came!"

Second Ditto-' 'No, but I've been taking Goat lymph.

## SONG OF THE ITCH.

With curses muttered and deep, With fingers trying to scratch,


A student sits and croons a song, And these are the words we catch, "Itch, itch, itch, Forever and ever, amen," And so in a voice of dolorous pitch, He sings it over again.
"Itch, itch, itch,
And never a rest or pause, Itch, itch, itch, And a filthy Gym the cause, And its oh, for a scraping knife, A grater and file, both coarse, To scratch the places I cannot scratch, And murder the whole Gym force."
"Scratch, scratch, scratch, Till the co-eds giggle and grin; Scratch, scatch, scratch, Till the Prof. grows mad as sin. Cuss and wriggle and itch, Itch and wriggle and cuss, And then the faculty wonders why We kick up a thundering fuss."
"Oh for a moment's rest, From the troubles that never cease, I'd gladly welcome in place of thisA million skeeters or fleas,
For only one short hour,
To be as I used to be, Before I saw this blooming Gym Or ever I paid my fee."
"But it's itch, itch, itch, While the long nights slowly pass, And itch, itch, itch,

Through dinner, supper and class.
Itch and wriggle and swear,
Swear and wriggle and itch,
And aren't we proud of our stately Gym, Where the microbe waxes rich."

With words unfit for print,
With finger busy and tired
A student sits and croons this song.
(Surely he should be fired,)
"Itch, itch, itch,
Of rest or peace no jot-
And we hear the faculties strident pitch,
""He took it out from the Gym, why sich
A thief had best be shot."' M. L. C.

Willy in a playful way cut his father's throat while shaving.

Mother was constrained to say:
"Keep the razor, it's worth saving."
H. G.

4

## THE FATE OF HENRIETTA.

The Cannibal, Henry, who met her,
Swore surely he'd never forget her.
He wanted her near him
To soothe and to cheer him,
So to make the two one, Henrietta.
T. J. L.

3
Manda-Did you know Dea. Sommerville is spending more than half his time with a certain lady member of our church?

Sabina-Well I am not surprised one bit, deacons are no more to be depended on than other men now days! Say, who is the lady? I won't tell.

Manda-His wife.
T.


## THE ORACLE ON THE KNOCKER.

"I believe," said the Oracle with a cough-
We were silent for when the Oracle speaks there is much wisdom.
"I believe that the knocker is a beneficient institution. By this I mean the discriminating knocker; perhaps I had better say the "kicker." The world would be a sorry place without him. It is the kicker who gets fees reduced, lowers laboratory allowances, gets
 the percentage of cuts increased, and makes this a fairly decent place to live in. It is the kicker who stops fraud in class-meetings, who roots out the inefficient instructor, and makes the lazy Prof. tremble in his boots. It is the kicker, as a knocker, who reduces swell heads generally and makes the football hero bearable. The kicker butts his way into everything, he runs the University, only we don't knowit, he carries our laundry, he waits on our tables, he makes our teams, and he carries the glory of our University to the ends of the earth. He grubs and sweats and plugs along; if things get in his way he kicks them out, and yet the true kicker is not morose or sullen; he is cheerful and gladsome. His exercise makes him so. He sees the good side of things as well as the bad;he has sympathy for the weak, succor for the fainting, and praise for the strong. He kicks always for cause and never for the sake of a rumpus; he kicks because he hates wrong and wants it made right; he has no use for the inefficient when they block the way, but he is glad to keep them from trouble or want.

The kicker gets what he wants, when he is this sort of kicker; the other kind, the indiscriminate knocker, ought to be shot. He sits and sulks with sullen scowls, and mopes the whole day through, or mounts the stump and wildly howls calamities and rue; which are two most excellent lines. I shall put them in my scrap book.
"Dixi."

## ANIMAL JOKELETS.

"Mine is a grisly tale," said the adventurous bear as he began the story of his life.
"It must be a lie then," answered the joking jaguar, "a grizzly has no tail."
"What are you doing" said the innocent lamb when he saw the monkey vigorously scratching.
"Searching for wool," answered the monkey with a grin.
"Why, how is that?"
"Oh, hunting for fleece," which was a bad joke even in the jungle.

The python was playfully squeezing the old maid to death-"Oh, Reginald," she whispered, "I knew you would return some time."
"How dah you?" said the precise elephant when the flirtatious ibex boldly winked at her.
"The porcupine may be a dull old cuss," sighed the wolf as he picked the quills out of his foot, "but he's sharp enough on some points."


The Professor-"Well, how's beef to-day? It has fluctuated considerably of late; has it not?"
"Vell, I don't but mine aint. You'll find him just so good as he ever was."
"Big audience at the Sophomore open."
"That so, how many?"
"Five contestants, the judge, the janitor, and two dogs."

## PROCRASTINATION.

Come, leave that foolish reading, Cut out that topic work;
Let troubles pass unheeding, Live joyously and shirk
Those themes still uncorrected.
Why let them worry you?
We've all of us neglected
The things we ought to do.
The world will wobble forward
Along its destined path,
The compass still point "Norward"
Despite instructors' wrath,
We still shall live, quite happy,
And somehow worry through.
So let it go, old chappy,
The work you ought to do.
R. L. O.
"There's money in it."
"What."
"The mint."
I wish I was a little bat, What never goes to bed, But hangs up by his little toes, And slumbers on his head.
B. Y. N.
"I see you got quite a puff in the "Scardinal."
"Must be a pipe dream."

Chere had a tiny chair;
And chary she was of it,
The cherished chair cheered Cheries care, For chary Chere cherished cheerily her chair.
X. M.

## MILITARY NOTICE.

The next military Hop will be a jump. By order of Col. Curtis.Harry W. Page, Major and Adjutant.

## SONNETS OF A FRESHMAN.

IX.
"Midnight, and I sit here and deeply think Of nature and the vastness of the earth And space which laughs in silent Titon mirth
At all our aspirations toward the brink
Of the Immutable"-Great Hinky Dink!
How's that for language? well, I guess that's worth
An "A" at least-I'll show 'em there's no dearth.
O genius here, you watch me tip the wink!
That measly Prof's a lobster, that is all; I got a $C$ on that great theme of mine.
They have less feeling than a common wall, Or they'd have seen and felt it to be fine; But when I write for Harper's magazine, I'll spurn them coldly, though they cringe and crawl.
A. B. B.


Alphonse-"Why is my figure like the Sphinx?" "One big chest."

The Sphinx wishes it strictly understood that she means to be original. Old as she is, she tries to produce new jokes but now and then one of those she used to hear when the pyramids were being built and Moses was still in the bulrushes, slips into her pages. When you see one of these just be gentle and whisper to yourself: "Poor old girl, she's absent-minded again."

THE CLASS ROOM HYENA.


He's a very ubiquitous sort of a beast
The class room hyena.
His laugh is the loudest, his humor the least,
The class room hyena.
You've seen him, a duck with a mouth like a cave,
And an idiot ha, ha, that makes a man crave
To kill him and squash him and make him behave,
The class room hyena.
When laughter's in order he's glum as a tomb,
The class room hyena,
And he can't tell a joke from the last crash of doom,
The class room hyena.
But he laughs like a loon when we rise to recite.

And he laughs, and giggles, and thinks $h^{e}$ is bright;
He laughs when we're wrong and he laughs when we're right,
The class room hyena.
He gurgles a chuckle when turning a page, The class room hyena.

He laughs at the Freshman and Senior and sage
The class room hyena.
He laughs at the tiniest break made in class;
He laughs out the window at people that pass;
He laughs like a fool and he acts like an ass,
The class room hyena.
He laughs at the story whose pathos is deep,
The class room hyena.
He laughs when awake and he laughs when asleep,
The class room hyena.
He "ha, has" in class, at his meals, in his bed,
His rasping ha, ha, greets whatever is said.
He, "ha, has" through life and he'll, "ha, ha" when dead,
The class room hyena.

> T. W. C.

First Microbe-"You're looking fine, how's the family?"

Second Microbe-"Great; I'm comfortably settled in the Gym, and twenty billion of my sons have good jobs in the bathroom, the rest are settled in the lockers, good place, healthy climate, and plenty of neighbors. Mr. Scrofula Bacteria is thinking of moving in, and we shall have quite a social time this spring." . …w a rusu, uenouncing all lazy noice example in particular. While he 1g, I arose, quietly led him aside and had was that Balkins received his excuse and I bout and in a short time I was busy proton dollar bills. In this manner $\mathbf{T}$ recpived

## I'm sick of this living on air,

For a week or too I shouldn't care,
But when I don't feast
For a whole year at least
It's a little too much I declare!
J. H. H.

Chorus girls are not unconventionalthey're always in good form.

## FOR THE CHILDREN.

I will sing you a song of the sea, Of the sea serpent long, pale and blue How the Whifflering bubbles its tea Lest the Bobolink might misconstrue. I can't really swear that it's true (Though the face of the matter turns pale) For the Jimmy John sweats mountain dew. When the Wholly Wig wiggles its tail.

Though the dinner bell whines to be free And the table spoons sadly "boo hoo", Do you wonder we whiffle with glee At the thought of a row over Sue? But I sing (though its ancient, not new) Of the Hammerhead, yea-and the Nail.
Yet hush-I must vary my hue, While the Wholly Wig wiggles its tail.

The Holocaust roars on the lea The Hippo sits smiling on glue, The Zebra ejaculates "Gee" And swallows his relatives too, Yet all-though they holler and chew The rag to the song of the whale, Must wear all their neckties askew, When the Wholly Wig wiggles its tail.

## Envoy.

Is it him, are it I, am it you?
Let us softly and fearlessly quail, For our days of salvation are few, When the Wholly Wig wiggles his tail.
K. R. S.
$\triangle$


SPHINXOGRAPHS.
Who is it? We award a prize of five dollars to all who guess. Every contestant must with his guess send us a draft for five dollars as security. Those who win get five dollars; thoso who lose, lose.

## A DISGUSTED SPIRIT.

- mav have been the rabbit I ate in the evening. At any rate, I had a dream, a


## MILITARY NOTICE.

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spirit. It was not like the spirits one reads life-like about them. My spirit was a very ; and as it talked it took frequent puffs at a in ethereal something about it that assured
me of its genuineness. Py
"Ask what you will," it said, "and I will tell you the answer."
I asked several questions-about the girl to whom I had paid some attention, about my marks this semester, and to each question the spirit gave a ready answer.
"Well," I said, "you are doing pretty well; try this: Who will be our next president at Wisconsin?"

The spirit cast toward me a quick, disgusted look, swore angrily and muttered something about "some folks never knowing when to be satisfied," and before I had time to apologize it had vanished and I saw it no more.

## OMAR ON THE GYM.

The microbe multiplies from day to day,
And shall we then the helpless creature slay;
Ah, rather let the student scratch and swear,
Than take one tender microbe life away!
R. H. K.

Satan (to new arrival)-"Are you from Wisconsin?"
"Yes, sire."
"And you had to use a locker in the Gym?"
"Yes, sire."
"Here, boy, ring up St. Peter and tell him to make room for this gentleman; he's suffered enough."

## SENIOR YARNS.-THE SECRET COMPACT.

"Once I knew a fellow who could-"
"Before proceeding with your story, Norton," Briggs interrupted the freshman with all the dignity of a senior, "let me advise you not to leave the bounds of the probable. Tell us the story of something that happened to you, not some mystical friend of yours. Rather tell us the story of your cousin who put her tongue to the flat-iron to see whether it was hot enough. These stories of personal happenings possess a certain interest which those wild imaginative tales of yours never reach. And as we are now on the subject of personal happenings, let me relate you an experience of $m y$ own which befell me some years ago when I was a Junior Law."
"One evening my friend Balkins came into my room, looking very glum. He immediately began an angry tirade against Capt. Brooks, -the commandant of the regiment, who, he said, was a gruff old bear, a tyrant without a spark of humanity. Having given vent to these and other like compliments he cooled down and told me his story. It appeared that, having tired of military drill, he decided to be excused from it. He went to the captain and handed in his application on the ground of having a weak heart. The capsaid he wanted a doctor's certificate.-without that he couldn't possibly excuse him. Balkins had expected this and handed the captain a sealed "certificate" which he and his room mate had prepared the night before. There must have been some flaw in it, however, for the captain, after reading it, threw it into the waste basket and pointed towards the door. Balkins said he left the office rather hastily.
"The question now was how to get the excuse regardless of what had happened. Balkins offered me ten dollars if I would procure it for him or devise some sure method by which he could obtain it himself. I was out of funds and needed money. Looking at my law library-it consisted of The Complete Hoyle in one volume-I knew I must have money. When he left my room I had promised him to get the excuse.
"The next morning we knocked at the captain's door and interpreting the answering grunt for a "Come in" we entered. Considering the peculiar way in which Balkins left the office the day before, he introduced me in a very easy manner indeed. However, I noticed that he carefully chose the chair next to the door. Our interview was short and to the point. When Balkins had finished his petition the captain, as might have been expected, flew into a rage, denouncing all lazy freshman in general and Balkins as a choice example in particular. While he was in the midst af his fuming and roaring, I arose, quietly led him aside and had a short interview with him. The upshot was that Balkins received his excuse and I the ten dollars. The affair was noised about and in a short time I was busy procuring excuses and incidentally receiving ten dollar bills. In this manner I received some three hundred dollars, and then I went to Poughkeepsie and swore at the berry-crate."
"But what did you say to Capt. Brooks that he excused the fellows so readily?" the freshman asked with an insinuating smile.

Buggs placidly rolled another cigarette and lit it. "I offered him half," he explained. M.C.N.

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## A Harrowing Subject.

Jones, '04: "What a 'grouchy' expression that Ag. student wears; do you notice it?"

Smith, '03: "Yes, but it is very evident that it is cultivated."

Jones: "How's that?"
Smith: "Can't you see the furrows in his brow?"-Widow.

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