

Barnard Bulletin

VOL. XVI. No. 15

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY, 7, 1912

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Basketball

On Wednesday, January 17th, Barnard turned out in full force to see its famous Alumnae team play Teachers' College. The game was well worth coming to see, there being nothing unsatisfactory except the score, which was 11-10 in favor of T. C. As a matter of fact, we, or rather the Alumnae, had the better players, but lack of practice was a great drawback to them and made itself evident in overguarding and rather wild shooting. In the second half, the girls woke up (again we mean the Alumnae), and gave T. C. a lot of trouble, but unfortunately the trouble was a little bit late in arriving, and the half ended most inopportunistly. Everyone was disappointed (that is to say, Barnard was), but now that the Alumnae have had two good games in which to work up, we expect them to pulverize T. C. in their next encounter. By the way, we earnestly wish that they would hurry up and pulverize them. Otherwise the Barnard Varsity team may undergo the pulverizing process instead!

A really imposing crowd (we dare not hope that this by any chance resulted from anything we have said in the last BULLETIN!) was on hand Saturday to witness the first game of the season between Varsity and T. C. To even begin to describe that game is quite beyond our powers—suffice it to say that there was plenty of pulverizing. Barnard put up a good fight, and after all the score wasn't so very bad—only 7-5 in favor of T. C. But when you consider that it wasn't T. C.'s entire regular team, the future looks rather dark. Never mind, the Varsity, for a perfectly green, inexperienced team, is doing pretty well, and they'll win at least one out of the three games, just see if they don't. It really would be hardly safe to let T. C. get all three; if one victory could have such an intoxicating effect upon them, we shudder to think of their condition after the third! Line-ups:

Alumnae—Forward, E. Leveridge, H. Smithers; forward H. Smithers; centre, M. Wegener; side centre, H. Smithers, A. Bishop; guard, M. Conroy; guard, A. Weil, E. Burne.

Teachers' College—Forward, P. Matzner; forward, B. Yunck, A. Kurlander; Centre, I. Pray, F. Emerson; side centre, E. Montgomery; guard, E. Alfke; guard, M. Heuser, G. Colby.

Barnard—Forward, E. Mayer; forward, E. Hadsell; centre, S. Gleason; side centre, S. Pero; guard, H. Dana; guard, F. Upham, M. Meyer.

Undergraduate Meeting

A special meeting of the Undergraduate Association was held in Room 139 on Thursday, January 18th. Regular reports were dispensed with, and the report of the Undergraduate Play Committee was called for. The following report was accepted: (1) That the play be Shakespeare's "Winter's Tale"; (2) That it be presented on the afternoons and evenings of Friday and Saturday, April 19th and 20th; (3) That Mr. Alfred Young be coach, and (4) That the trials take place on Saturday afternoon, February 10th. After several announcements from the Undergraduate President, the meeting was adjourned.

Student Council

At a meeting of Student Council, before the examinations, permission was granted for the 1914-1915 Greek games to be held in the Columbia gymnasium, if the active classes so desired.

The January Bear

It was with great interest that the college opened the covers of the Alumnae number of the *Bear*, and with great satisfaction that it perused the contents. Beginning with Dean Gildersleeve's "visions," there was scarcely an article of not more than ordinary interest. Perhaps the most inspiring and earnest article of all was Miss Kirchwey's essay on college preparation for life. This thoughtful, vigorous delineation of the proper function of Undergraduate life contained much food for thought for both students and faculty. Miss Fox's appreciation of Alfred Noyes was sympathetic and illuminating. Pleasant, too, were the sketches by Miss Howard and Miss Crandell, and Miss Plaut's story. Miss Crandell's "Study Tea" especially appealed to the Undergraduate mind.

By no means least among the assets of the Alumnae *Bear* was the frontispiece—a brand new photograph of Dean Gildersleeve, which carried joy to the heart of many an Undergraduate—and graduate, too, if the truth be known. Florence Rees may be well satisfied with her achievement in producing this issue.

Barnard College Library

List of Additions

Books Given by the Undergraduate Play, 1911

- 82 G12—S. Galsworthy, J. Justice.
82 G12—M. Galsworthy, J. Plays.
82 M19—W. Mackaye, P. W. The Scarecrow.
82 M19—W2. Mackaye, P. W. Sappho and Phaon.
82 M19—S. Mackaye, P. W. Jeanne d'Arc.
82 M19—P. Mackaye, P. W. The Canterbury Pilgrims.
82 K37—Y5. Kennedy, C. R. The Winter Feast.
82 K37—W. Kennedy, C. R. The Servant in the House.
82 P312—U5. Peabody, J. P. The Piper.
82 P312—T. Peabody, J. P. Marlowe.
82 W64—I. Wilde, O. Plays, 3 vol.
82 W64—Q5. Wilde, O. A Florentine Tragedy.
82 T36—Y5. Thomas, A. The Witching Hour.
82 M77—R. Moody, W. V. The Great Divide.
82 Sh2—O. Shaw, G. B. The Admirable Bashville.
82 Sh2—S. Shaw, G. B. John Bull's Other Island.
82 Sh2—X. Shaw, G. B. Three Plays for Puritans.
82 Sh2—P5. Shaw, G. B. The Doctor's Dilemma.
82 P54—X5. Phillips, S. Ulysses.
82 P54—T5. Phillips, S. Nero.
82 P54—W. Phillips, S. The Sin of David.
82 Ye3—L. Yeats, W. B. Poetical Works, 2 vols.
892 1K12—S8. Kālidasa. Sākoovitala; or, The Lost Ring; trans. by Sir Monier-Williams.
83 Su2—V5. Sudermann, H. Roses; trans. by Grace Frank.
83 Su2—T. Sudermann, H. Morituri; trans. by A. Alexander.
83 Su2—S2. Sudermann, H. The Joy of Living; trans. by E. Wharton.
83 H29—R32. Hauptmann, G. J. R. Hannele; trans. by C. H. Meltzer.
83 H29—W. Hauptmann, G. J. R. Sunk-en Bell; trans. by C. H. Meltzer.
83981b7—I. Ibsen, H. Plays; 7 vols.
83 G55—Q58. Goethe. Faust; trans. by S. Phillips and J. C. Carr.

Continued on Page 4, Column 8

On a Saving Sense of Humor

To the Editor of the BULLETIN:

To attempt a scientific explanation of the psychology of humor would, in itself be an unconscious, and therefore humorous confession of an entire lack of that precious quality, and to such an indictment I am not altogether willing to plead guilty. It may have been my anxiety to avoid a topic that would surely develop into some sort of preachment; or again, my choice may have been the result of my interview with your very efficient and courteous representative; at all events I have chosen to write on Humor and its uses, until the space which you have so kindly allotted to me is filled. In so doing, my purpose is certainly not exhortation, perhaps not even edification; since we have just passed through a season of intellectual chastening, let us call it simply relaxation.

The subject does not lend itself to an exhortation, for the simple reason that humor cannot, like so many qualities of character, be cultivated to any appreciable degree. Humor is congenital. One is either born with it and has it, or one must labor to the end of one's days under the disadvantage entailed by its lack. Now this disadvantage may frequently prove a very real and sometimes even a painful one. I suppose it is sufficiently accurate to say that a very large part of the faculty of humor consists in a quick sense and appreciation of the incongruous, the incompatible, with or without the added element of surprise. Let us take, by way of illustration, the hypothesis that three male members of the Faculty should attend the same Chapel service—in which case the element of surprise might be said to be present—these three on entering the theatre would all smell gas. But two of them would doubtless see the electric light fixtures, they would immediately perceive the ludicrous incongruity between the impressions registered by the sense of sight and the sense of smell, and would thus, by a saving sense of humor, be enabled, notwithstanding, to enjoy the service; while the third, less fortunate member of the hypothetical three would go away with no other impression but that of gas, and might never wish to return.

I suppose the instances in which the gift of humor in the real sense of the word has led to disastrous or even fatal results must be exceedingly rare, so that the risk in that direction may be regarded as practically negligible. We recall the case vouched for by Oliver Wendell Holmes in a poem in which he describes how the acutely funny things he had written almost caused the death of the boy who carried them to the printer: "and since, I never dare to write as funny as I can." On the other hand, we have testimony as recent as it is reliable, that humor may not only be the handmaid of science, but may occasionally prove to be the only means of saving human life. It is a fact which, I believe, should be more generally known, that when a scientist chances to penetrate too far into the interior of the South Sea Islands in search of the elusive anthropophagi and other fauna, and happens to come upon a group of natives who have made all preparations for turning him into a zoological specimen, a keen sense of humor will prove a fairly reliable means of escape. Under such circumstances a scientist without humor would of course begin to argue. He would try to demonstrate to the savage chieftain the value of a careful study of dietetics, (Household Arts 23, Home Cookery and Table Service, Lectures and Laboratory Work—4

Continued on Page 4, Column 1

BARNARD BULLETIN

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NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7th, 1912

We fear that Candid Conservative will not approve of this issue of the BULLETIN. As we read over this week's material we become aware that it is anything but literary—indeed, it might be described as decidedly flippant. Even Dr. Braun ventures into the field of humor. Let us attribute this unprecedented attitude of his and of ours to reaction. We might, to be sure, have attained the proper tone of seriousness by publishing, as someone suggested, the entire mid-year records of the college. This would indeed be serious enough—probably too serious for some of us—so we desist. We submit, instead, the library lists as an antidote. We tremble before the flagellation, mental or written, of Candid Conservative, but we send forth the issue as you see it.

Ever since we have been writing editorials for this sheet we have prided ourselves upon having avoided the stock-in-trade, shop-worn topics that editors have fallen back upon since time immemorial. We did not welcome the college back to its halls in September; we refrained from wishing it a Merry Christmas; we scorned to mention the approaching examinations. And now, because of the following communication, we are going to make an exception. The gift of an editorial is so rare that we print it in appreciation. We print it, too, because it contains all the charms set forth by its author. And if all other reasons be inadequate, we print it despite the antiquity of its motif, to placate Mr. Jenkins.

To the Editress, BARNARD BULLETIN:

Dear Madam—Within you will please find a unique and soul-stirring editorial. It is short, but that is its main beauty. It is rhythmical, but that does not detract from its charm. It is colloquial, but that

does not damage its dignity. It appeals to the heart and to the mind. It is funny without being vulgar. If you can use it the author will consider his efforts well repaid upon receipt of a marked copy of your publication. If you cannot (and he fears that this will prove the case), he will (and does) remain

Huffily yours,
ARCHIBALD JENKINS, A.B.
Columbia University (or vicinity).

Hurrah! We're in clover; they're finished at last! The Mid Years are over—let's hope that they're passed. No more must we cram till night merges with day. There's not an exam till the Finals in May. Our heads that were aching are eased of their pain and nerves that were breaking are normal again. So let us be joyous; let mirth be unchecked, with naught to annoy us or mar the effect! What's flunked can't be mended and shouldn't cause grief. The Mid Years are ended; three sighs of relief!

News From the Office

How We Major

A tabulation of the choice of major subjects made by the students at Barnard shows that English is selected more often than any other subject. Of the 372 students who have already made their choice, 103 have decided to specialize in English. Mathematics, German and the classics come next, chosen by 55, 53 and 51 students respectively; 41 are taking romance languages as a major, and 34 history. The others are divided among the natural sciences, philosophy and music.

New Requirements

An important change in the modern language requirement was passed upon by the Barnard College faculty at a meeting on January 29. Under the present system modern languages have been among the subjects which might be offered in fulfillment of the entrance requirements, but have not been obligatory if the candidate could present a sufficient number of other subjects. Elementary courses in French and German have been prescribed in college for students who did not offer them at entrance. As a matter of fact, nearly all students have entered with at least one modern language (96% in the last four years), and many with both French and German (25% in the last four years).

The new requirements, which are to become optional at once and absolute in June, 1915, prescribe that at least three units (three years' work) in modern languages shall be pre-ented by all candidates for admission except those offering Greek. And, in order that the requirement shall be one of ability to make practical use of the language rather than of ground covered in class, no modern language courses in college will be required, but all students, except those who have studied Greek, will be required before the senior year to satisfy the departments of romance languages and Germanic languages that they have a working knowledge of French and German. This will generally be determined by an oral test in translation at sight. Spanish or Italian may, in special cases, be substituted for French. Rapid reading courses in French and German will probably be organized for students who wish such training only.

Alumnae Notes

The engagement is announced of Jean Disbrow, 1907, to Mr. Earl Jonathan Hadley, a graduate of Leland Stanford University and a member of Kappa Sigma.

Elizabeth Tredwell, 1907, is engaged to Mr. Homer Stebbins, a lawyer of New York City.

A daughter was born recently to Katherine Sickles Lyon, 1911.

It was erroneously announced in the BULLETIN that Madeline Borland Pell's baby is a girl. It is a boy, Clarence Cecil Pell, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Undergrad Trials

Trials for parts for the Undergraduate play take place on Saturday afternoon, February 10th, in the Undergraduate Study, from one until six o'clock. The list of passages for the various parts, on which the trials will be based, are posted on the main bulletin board, second floor. The committee hopes that a great many from each class will turn out, for we need the very best cast Barnard can produce. There are many first-rate parts in *The Winter's Tale* that need first-rate actors to bring out their individuality; and the more people come out for a play, the more chance we stand of getting the right person to fit each part well. So don't be afraid to try, even if you've never acted before; you may be the very person needed to fill a certain part successfully. Without you the play may lose materially. Show your college spirit, don't miss the dramatic side of college life, and incidentally give yourself the chance to work under one of the best and most interesting coaches Barnard has known.

E. M. D.

Coming!

The Mid-Year Finale this year is going to take the form of a dance, given at Earl Hall. It will begin at 3.15 on Friday afternoon, February 9th, and it will last till 6 o'clock. Dance orders are going to be furnished the moment you arrive at Earl Hall, so you'd better get there on time. Otherwise everyone else's card will be made out when you arrive, and you'll have to dance with yourself all afternoon. That wouldn't be much fun, now would it? The Seniors and Juniors are to ask the Freshmen and Sophomores for dances. There will be five leap year dances, and for these the Underclassmen will have the honor of asking the Juniors and Seniors. In a very low aside it might be whispered that there are going to be particularly good refreshments. Now, will you come?

Literary Society

The second meeting of the Literary Society will be held on Tuesday evening, February 13, at 7.45, in the Library. After a few matters of organization have been decided and a name has been chosen, Professor Baldwin will talk. All those who are interested are cordially invited, and are requested to be prompt.

Christian Science Society of Columbia University

The next regular meeting of the society will be held at eight o'clock, on Thursday, February 15th, at 435 West 117th street. All members of the university are welcome. Regular meetings of the society, open to all members of the university, are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at eight P. M., 435 West 117th street.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, February 7 — University Chapel at St. Paul's at 11.

Thursday, February 8—Chapel at 12.

Saturday, February 10—Basket ball, 1912 vs. 1914, Thompson Gymnasium at 12. 1910 party to 1912, Theatre, 2-6. Trials for Undergraduate play, 1-6.

Sunday, February 11—St. Paul's Chapel at 4, Rev. Herbert Shipman.

Monday, February 12—Chapel at 12.

Tuesday, February 13—Organ recital with soloist, St. Paul's Chapel, at 4. Open meeting of the Literary Society, Library at 7.45.

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From a Buzzist

To the Editor of the Barnard BULLETIN:
Dear Madam—Upon the first reading of "Thumbs Down," in the last number of the BULLETIN, one is led to believe that a "Candid Conservative" is suffering from overstudy for the fast approaching Mid Years. Otherwise her sense of humor would never be so dried up as to disapprove of witticisms at the expense of a little conventionality. However, she has implied that she voices the sentiments of more than one Barnard Conservative, and so I shall undertake to give the opinion of at least one—well, radical, if you insist.

In the first place, to the college at large I am sure the "Buzzings of the B" are amusing. Have you ever been with a group of girls on Wednesday afternoon when they first get their BULLETINS? First and foremost they look at the Buzzings column, and never fail to break into a merry laugh forthwith. And, indeed, O Candid Conservative, I should be willing to wager a good deal that you, when you are not weary from overstudy, have done likewise. True, every Buzzing is not clever—that would be expecting too much from the pens of any group of editors—but the majority of them are funny—some of them are exceedingly so, if we may judge from the laughs they get. And the proof of the pudding is in the eating thereof.

I should like to take exception to the statement that the Buzzings destroy the literary standard which the BULLETIN has hitherto maintained. The BULLETIN is not a "purely intellectual sheet"—it is a college newspaper, and though, I have no doubt, it is the constant aim and desire of the BULLETIN to express its news in the best approved literary style, it is not an examination paper on "writing English"—it aims to interest and amuse as well as to instruct. And it is quite in keeping with such aims and standards to have "a little nonsense now and then" sprinkled through the otherwise solemn sheets of a college newspaper. The literary excellence of such a paper is not destroyed by a college bromidium that makes us smile, or a hit that makes us laugh because it is "just like us." Indeed, those little light touches of real life or humor often polish up a purely literary sheet until it attains a lustre it would not otherwise acquire.

Every year the new editors of the BULLETIN are chosen by virtue of critical letters which they write. Many a time in the years gone by have we heard the cry from such aspiring critics: "The BULLETIN is too dead and slow—give us some life and humor!" The Buzzings give us life and humor, but, of course, there are always some people who are not satisfied!

As for the occasional bad English in the Buzzings, I confess I disapprove of that quite as heartily as the Conservative, but there has been very little of that, and none of late; and that is the only taint of yellow journalism I can find in this new column.

Humor, when it is hearty and in good taste, is a decided asset to any community, college or otherwise. The Buzzings of the B, in the opinion of the college as a whole, unless rumors and remarks concerning them are completely false, are decidedly humorous, and, with a few negligible exceptions, in perfectly good taste. Therefore, I see no reason why we should blush to have them read by "the student body, faculty, alumnae and outsiders," provided we give them all credit for having a sense of humor.

If the Candid Conservative and others of her opinion do not approve of the Buzzings as they are now, why don't they suggest to the BULLETIN editors, some quips and cranks that may be funnier, to put in their place—unless they disapprove of humor entirely, which, of course, is inconceivable!

ONE-WHO-LAUGHS-AT-THE-BUZZINGS-AND-IS-NOT-ASHAMED-TO-OWN-IT.

Questions, Questions Everywhere and Not a Thought to Think!

That's how you felt before Mid-Years, but were the questions as hard as you feared? We know the feeling of uncertainty because we've been through Mid-Years and finals and have been post-graduates for over thirty years, specializing all that time in chemistry and what goes with it.

There's a lot of things that go with chemistry now-a-days. It used to be the worse the medicine the better the effect. Now we aid you most efficiently with delicious things—drinks, hot and cold, every ingredient put there purposely to strengthen body and mind. Cream, Milk, Freshest of Eggs, Chocolate, Fruits and Broths, a dainty sandwich bite, so that after a visit to our Soda Fountain you feel as though you could stand another Mid-Year. But you don't need to, you'll have to prepare for finals. It's well to begin to strengthen yourself for them and eliminate nerves. (Pardon us if Barnard does not admit nerves), but if you have nerves, we have many helpful harmless tonics. Hoping you are all happy over the results, we are

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Also

To the Barnard BULLETIN:

As an Alumna of many years' standing, and therefore (presumably) somewhat sobered by the vicissitudes of life, I want to say a word in reply to Candid Conservative's strictures on our Buzzy B. I shall not attempt to analyze the B's honey, or my own pleasure therein, but will merely publish the fact that when the BULLETIN comes I turn first of all to the B's column, and that, were I to find something "purely intellectual" in the place of the Buzzings, I should be distinctly disappointed. I submit this fact as evidence in the controversy, hoping that it will furnish the pro-B's with matter to support their case, and feeling sure that it will enable the anti-B's to form a vivid and exact idea of my mentality.

AGED BUT STILL AMIABLE.

Likewise

To the Editor of the Barnard BULLETIN:

That the Buzzings should be abolished! We are just recovering from the shock! Shattered ideals are always more or less upsetting to one's nervous system, and here we stand with one of our most cherished and time-honored theories lying in frag-

Concluded on Page 4, Column 8



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Buzzings of the B

Oh B, oh be not too dismayed
At what our C. C. sees in thee;
For tho' thou may'st be vapid now,
Oh B, thou may'st not always B.

We used to think that once in a while we were funny. We see our mistake. Humbly we bow low our head in shame.

Any-Professor-in-Any-Course.
Bromidium.

Now, please don't worry about this examination. It doesn't count anyway, and I wouldn't dream of giving it if the office didn't demand it.

Oh no! Oh dear no! Examinations are just a little lark—merely an excuse for a vacation.

The record of the passe-par-tout of any single picture has been reached. It is alleged that the frontispiece of 594 Alumnae numbers of the Bear have been torn from their original moorings, and are now hanging glazed and framed throughout the country.

College Bromidiums 9502½—9506¾.

Before the exam.: I haven't done a stroke of work! They say his exams. are awful!

During the exam.: Shall we write on both sides of the page? Does it matter in what order we answer the questions? How much time have we?

After the exam.: I studied everything in the entire book except just what he asked. I know I've flunked.

So do we! And all we can say is, that we resent being asked to write Buzzings when we have just flunked our history.



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To Barnard College and Teachers College

On a Saving Sense of Humor

Continued from Page 1, Col. 8

points) with the probable result that after the scientist had finished his lecture, the savage chieftain would proceed with the Laboratory Work; when, as a matter of fact and experience, it would only be necessary for him to execute a few simple terpsichorean movements, and the savage would instinctively perceive the incongruity between the performance of the scientist and the art of a Mordkin, and this appeal to his risibilities would completely and permanently divert his mind from the Problem in Dietetics.

It is pleasant to reflect that for a comparatively small number of us will this subtle thing, which Carlyle describes as the finest perfection of poetic genius, ever prove to be the slender thread upon which our existence may hang. But even in the more commonplace and routine relations of life, humor may be a very valuable asset. A few days before the mid-year tests began we were most opportunely and wisely advised to use our common sense and take this ordeal of examinations not too seriously, but seriously enough. Now common sense, I take it, is simply the sense of humor in practical operation; and, rightly applied, it should always tend to maintain our mental balance. Indeed, it is to the exercise of this sense of balance that much of the pleasure which humor affords is due. The idea of buying a brick for our new building is a catchy one because it is a pleasurable exercise for the mind to establish the balance between the apparent futility of the individual act of purchasing one small brick, and the undeniable utility of an aggregate of such acts.

Humor, then, emphatically does not consist in an unrestrained desire to give a frivolous turn to things that are intrinsically serious or sacred. That, in fact, is the very reverse of humor, and the individual who is addicted to this silly habit, than which I know few that are more irritating, simply shouts aloud the proclamation that he is devoid of every vestige of real humor. For humor tells us when not to laugh, just as surely and reliably as it tells us when to be amused. To have it is to be possessed of a fine sense of the fitness of things, a delicate appreciation of due proportion and of relative values. It is the best antidote for megalomania, bibliomania, histriomania and all the other forms of monomania with which college folk, as well as others, are sometimes thought to be afflicted.

WILHELM BRAUN.

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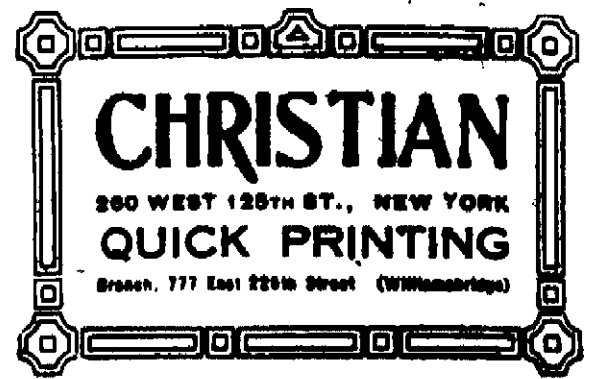
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Likewise from a Buzzist

Continued from Page 8 Col. 2

ments at our feet. Stoop down, my friends, and look at its poor broken head; unrecognizable, is it not? But here on the pedestal, if during the craze you studied jig-saw-ism faithfully, you may after a week or two of careful labor piece together the name of the unfortunate. "The Sense of Humor of Barnard Girls."

Yes, weep! Our tears shall mingle, and forming a mighty stream, shall wash under the door of this sacred office, flow down the main stairway of Milbank (regardless of fifty-cent fines), carrying with it all past mortar-boards, several thousand daily themes, most of the notes for the Dean's lectures and nearly all of Professor Baldwin's, and, in a black draped Uneeda Biscuit box, the remains of past Buzzings, and the vague, shadowy, delicious, intangibility of those yet unborn.

It really seems as though Miss Candid Conservative were a trifle arbitrary in stating that the column is not funny, humorous, or even amusing. We think it side-splitting at times, and food for thought otherwise.

Shall we abolish this crinkly little column, the column to which we first turn when the BULLETIN appears, the column which shocks us by its delightful audacity, stimulates us by its to-the-point little digs, and puts us into good humor for the rest of the day by its cheery, personal note of sympathetic understanding?

ALWAYS IN GOOD HUMOR.

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