

THE THRESHER

A fortnightly periodical published by the students of the Rice Institute at Houston, Texas.

Entered as second-class matter at the Postoffice in Houston Texas, January, 1916

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per copy10c
Six months50c

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EDITORIAL

This issue of The Thresher is the first student publication to appear at the Rice Institute. Three years in our history have gone by without a means of voicing the opinions of the students. In inaugurating this paper the members of the staff believe that the time has come when the student body can and will support a publication which fills such a long felt want.

The paper as planned by the present staff is to be strictly a newspaper, and not a literary magazine. If the student-body supports the paper as well as is anticipated, the frequency of publication will be increased accordingly, and we hope that before many years it will be able to appear daily. Our present policy is to present from an undergraduate viewpoint news of student activities and campus life, or to paraphrase a well-worn expression, it is to be a paper for the students and by the students. We have given a great deal of thought to the organization of this publication, and we believe that the present plan of having it backed by the literary societies, represents the logical mean which will give a certain flexibility of control and still be thoroughly representative of the student-body.

During the past term many friends of the Institute commented on the school spirit and loyalty manifested by the student body, especially in support of the football team. Those closely connected with Rice know that this same spirit is manifested in all affairs of the student life which concern the school as a whole. We hope that this paper will do its part in fostering and developing our school spirit until it will mark Rice among the great institutions of learning in the South.

THE LITERARY SOCIETIES.

The Thresher was organized by the literary societies and it will be the constant aim of the editors to serve the societies in every way possible. It is our ambition to arouse the student body of Rice Institute to the importance of these societies. It is needless to say that the students of Rice have not taken the interest in them that they should have done, and at the present time the Elizabeth Baldwin Society is the only one that could be said to be in a flourishing condition. So we want to impress upon the men the importance of joining the Owl Club or the Riceonian Society and of attending them after they have joined.

The benefits to be obtained from the societies are inestimable. Surely every college man expects to be a man of some prominence, and every man of prominence has occasionally to make a public speech. Now, ease in public speaking must be acquired, and the man who leaves college without having acquired confidence in his ability to appropriately express his thoughts before an audience has neglected a most important part of his education. There is no excuse for this neglect at Rice; the societies are here anxious to have every man as a member, ready to give every man the opportunity of acquiring the ability to make a speech, without which he is not liberally educated.

Another important service of the societies comes from the discussion of current questions. College men are too prone to overlook the importance of the events of the present day. One of the most serious charges against colleges is that the students spend a great deal of time upon the history of the past and little at all on the history of the present. It is especially important that the student today understand the events that are taking place in the world. We are living in an age such as the world has never seen before, history is being made not only in Europe but in America. Great changes in our national poli-

cies are being made and are going to be made; we are facing a presidential campaign that bids fair to rival in importance the one of 1860. The student should understand the meaning of these things, for what is done today will determine the history of the future. The literary societies furnish the opportunity for the students to hear these matters discussed pro and con and the opportunity for joining in the discussion. The man who neglects these opportunities is doing a thing that he will regret in the future.

We have not space to dwell at length upon the service that the literary societies render. We have said what we have more to remind the men of what we feel sure they already know than to tell them something they do not know. We believe it is simply a case of neglect, of letting the little incidental things stand in the way of what is important. But now is the time to turn over a new leaf. We urge every man of Rice Institute to give his name for membership in one of the societies; the societies need you now and need you badly, and you need the societies all the time.

HISTORY OF THE THRESHER.

While there have been several attempts in the past to start a student publication at the Rice Institute, The Thresher is the first which has actually appeared. The history of the organization is as follows: During the first term of the present academic year two students thought that the school needed a paper and planned to start one as a private enterprise. However, when they began to consider the selection of the rest of the staff they decided that such a publication should be more in the hands of the students, and that private ownership of such publications might later on give rise to grave abuses. The two promoters then intended to drop the matter, but Dr. Lovett, with whom they had already conferred, asked that they continue their work in starting a paper. After discussing the project fully it was decided to give it into the hands of the three literary societies with the recommendation that each society elect three members to a committee which was to organize the paper in any way they saw fit. The following were elected: From the Owl, Millis, Brooks and Standish; from the Riceonian, McKensie, Wooten and Markham; from the Elizabeth Baldwin, Misses Sullivan, Rowe and Robinson. This committee met and selected the following staff:

Editor in Chief, W. M. Standish; Managing Editor, Eugene Millis; Associate Editor, Ruth Sullivan; Circulation Manager, C. P. McKensie; Business Manager, J. P. Markham; Assistant Editors, Raymond Brooks, C. H. Wooten and Misses Robinson and Rowe, who comprise the original staff of The Thresher.

Mr. Wooten, with the assistance of Albert Tomforde, who was elected by the committee, will cover the athletic news, Miss Rowe is to make a department of the women's activities, Miss Robinson and Mr. Brooks will cover all general news. Mr. C. R. Darling has been elected to the position of Assistant Business Manager. The editorials will be written by Miss Sullivan, Mr. Standish and Mr. Millis. The duties of the other members of the staff are indicated by the names of their positions.

The original committee met and after consulting with Dr. Lovett, formulated plans for establishing the newspaper, and the outcome of these plans may be seen in the present issue of The Thresher. It is our intention to issue The Thresher fortnightly for the remainder of the school year, and to do this we must have the co-operation and support of the whole student-body. We will give you the best paper that we possibly can, but we hope you will bear in mind the difficulties in the way of establishing such an enterprise as this. The first student publication of a new school cannot expect to have an easy road to travel, but we believe we will do the best that can be done under the circumstances. Give us your help and consideration and through the columns of The Thresher we will make college life at Rice Institute more interesting and more helpful.

WOMEN'S PART IN THE PAPER.

The women of Rice whose pet hobby for the last four years has been "Equal rights for the downtrodden co-eds," have obtained in The Thresher a soothing right. The Elizabeth Baldwin Literary Society has equal representation with the Owls and the Riceonians on the board of directors. The Thresher is a student activity. The women as well as

the men of Rice are urged to join with the staff in making it a successful and permanent publication.

The young women of Rice alone and unaided have in three short years organized and kept going various clubs which have become very vital parts of the student life. There is a literary society with 49 interested members who never miss a meeting because they are always sure that something is going to happen, be it merely a good program or a good fight. There is a Y. W. C. A. imbued with true Christian charity and a marvelous zeal for money making. There is a glee club whose first public appearance is being anxiously anticipated by their fellow students. There is a German club which recently opened its membership to include men, more from a spirit of generosity than from necessity, and there are others, smaller but equally active.

The success of these and other organizations to which the girls have lent their support, assures The Thresher that the enthusiastic co-operation of the women students is a desirable asset.

Is there anything about The Thresher that you don't like? If so, come and tell us about it. We will receive criticisms with the same grace that we will receive compliments, if such there should be. If you want your criticism published we will publish it, and if it is just we will admit it; if it is unjust, we will take pleasure in telling you why. If you have any article of general interest that you desire to appear in The Thresher we would be glad to publish it, provided it is of a reasonable length. We want you to understand that The Thresher is merely for the benefit of the students of Rice; if there is any way in which you can help us to make it more interesting we hope that you will do it without waiting for us to ask you. Our office is in Room 104 of the Administration building. We will be glad to have any student of Rice to call on us there at any time.