

SO YOU'RE IN FRESHMAN

It's nearly three months since you first enrolled in our University and commenced to drink of the Pyrean spring in the section of that pool labelled, 'College Years.' Undoubtedly each one of you has experienced different impressions and attitudes with respect to your entrance upon a life which in some cases was a radical departure from past experience. For those of you who entered from our High School and were thus accustomed to campus life there was not such a vital change, although the transition was no doubt a welcome one. You 'knew the score', as the expression goes; you probably had acquaintances among the students of the more advanced years and this aided you considerably in adapting yourself to the new life. But you discovered many differences. There were fewer classes to attend; and because of that there was much more time available for personal pursuits such as 'outside reading'; you found methods of instruction different, with the emphasis being placed on your initiative and enthusiasm to learn; the days of 'spoon feeding' were over. There were many other changes too. All in all, after a few days you realized that there was an element of challenge associated with being a University student.

And for those of you who were novices to the happy life on 'college hill' there was an even greater challenge. Adapting yourself to our community life, capturing the college spirit, forming new friendships, becoming an active and integral unit in our society—all these were not easy tasks. But old or new, you have accepted the challenge; have settled into the groove of our way of life; and are now well underway to many eventful and successful years.

You realize by now that you are members of a dynamic and thriving society. And in our society, as in every society where harmonious relations and the common good are sought, there must be rules and regulations. Sometimes we feel that we are unduly restricted; that more freedom should be granted; that many of the rules are antiquated and outmoded. But while we think along these lines, we are generally wrong. For the practices in effect today are time-tested; they are necessary whether we desire them or not. Over the ninety-six years of St. Dunstan's existence, the formulators of such rules as we today are subjected to, have found from the experience gained in their dealings with thousands of students, that the present set-up,

if you will, is the only workable system. And it is a good system, one benefiting us and providing us with an invaluable training and lessons for which we will be thankful in the years to come. At this stage of our lives too many of us just don't realize what is beneficial to us. So why blight the happiness that can be ours during these years by continuous bickering, carping and complaining? The rules are for our benefit. We, in senior, realize that fact more and more with each passing year. And your reaction will invariably be similar in the future, if not so at present.

Do you intend to continue your scholastic endeavours so that they find their culmination in the receiving of a degree in some three years time? No doubt that is your present ambition, or if it isn't, it should be. For our communities and province, our nation and Church require well-trained leaders; and that is precisely what you are being trained to be: good human beings who will be good leaders of society. A college degree is almost a necessary prerequisite to the obtaining of influential positions where there is undoubtedly the greatest need for men of principle, men with dynamic Christian ideals. To discontinue your studies before obtaining a degree would be folly if such a halt could at all be avoided; for a 'little knowledge is a dangerous thing' and the amount you would possess at that time would be comparatively negligible. Comparatively, we say, for although you would possess a great deal more than those who never knew the privilege of higher education, your degree of learning would be small as compared to what could be learned. Besides, it is not till the final years of college that we become aware of the over-all view of knowledge; that our learning becomes organized; that our minds become ordered. Again, our college—or any other college for that matter—does not pretend to fully educate us in the strict sense of the word, for education is a process which continues in the inquisitive mind till death. But her graduates are educated in the sense that their minds are so cultured and ordered that they can cope with any situation and judge correctly in matters academical or practical. Abundant knowledge they have too, but it is flavored with a certain humility which arises from a realization of how much they do not know; and an insatiable desire to know more. The above attitudes and frame of mind indicative of a graduate are seldom found among students of the lower years. So, to better yourself, and to better our society, persevere in your studies though doing so may involve the sacrifice of certain pleasures and comforts for a few short years. It will prove worthwhile.

How about extra-curricular activities? As you well know college life is not confined solely to a consideration and mastering of text-books, although it is the most important aspect of our training (consult another article in this issue entitled **The Golden Years** for a more complete knowledge of our duties while at college). There are many outside activities which we call extra-curricular; and these range from the various sports and games to participation in the many campus societies and organizations such as Students' Union; our debating society, and **Red and White**. This aspect of college training is also vitally important. Not for you? Well look at it in this light. The first teams in football, basketball, and hockey in the years to come will be drawn partly from the ranks of your class; who those members will be depends largely on the degree of interest and perseverance you apply now. Don't fail to reap the benefits obtainable in these capacities. Likewise the future debating teams, the executive of the Students' Union; the heads and members of the various campus societies; the contributors to **Red and White**—all these will find representatives from your class. Now, then, is the opportune time to discover your aptitudes and interests and, realizing them, to focus your attention on the particular phase suited to your abilities. Your time spent as an active participator in this phase of college life will never be a cause of regret to you.

Finally, what of the future? Unfortunately, perhaps, we can't expect it to take care of itself. We ourselves must mould it and plan for it. The first thing we should consider is what we are going to do as a life work. And the time to consider our respective callings is now; not in senior year. For those students who have no notion of their vocation and who do not bother to discover it, are seldom exemplary; seldom do they derive full benefit from the training to which they are exposed. They usually drift aimlessly through the years, profiting less than they might, and less than those who at least harbor aspirations. So, confide in some particular member of the faculty; make every effort to discover your capabilities, your aptitudes, your interests. Seek guidance in the matter of choosing your courses, and map out your entire college course now.

You have a wonderful opportunity here at St. Dunstan's to develop yourselves and become responsible human beings, leaders of your fellow men. We have given you a few helpful hints that we hope will assist your efforts in acquiring a sound training. Think them over.

—EDITORIAL.