

THE CHRONICLE.

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WOMEN IN THE UNIVERSITY.

SINCE the close of the last college year, the opinion has gone abroad that the authorities of the University were disposed to deny to certain individuals privileges to which they were legally entitled. The recent action of the regents, wherein they "recognize the right of every resident of Michigan to the enjoyment of the privileges of the University," may lend additional weight to the accusation, in the minds of the accusers. For, reason they, if "no rule existed in any of the University statutes for the exclusion of any person from the University who possessed the requisite literary and moral qualifications," why has not this fact been stated by the officers of the institution, when information on this point has been sought from them? It may also have been asked, if, since there are laws existing by which the government of the University is to be directed, the executive officer is to wait for the opinion of the regents before settling any point involving the mere application of these laws? The whole controversy, however, seems to have taken a definite form, and reached a settlement in the resolution recently adopted by the regents, and from which we have quoted. The immediate effect of this resolution is to publish the fact that anyone of whatever color or sex, possessing the required educational and moral qualifications, will be admitted to any department of the institution on application. A more remote result will be the application of a few women for admission to the several departments during the next year or two, then a loud demand, on the part of those who favor this movement, for an additional endowment from the state to provide more ample accommodations, and to furnish means for meeting the particular wants of woman in college.

The general principle here involved, that women

should have the same educational advantages as men, very few at present deny. That there are colleges in the country, to the privileges of which women are not admitted, is not owing to a lack of recognition of the fact that woman's need of, and her right to, means of education are as imperative as man's. Where she is excluded, it is done through doubt as to the propriety of educating the sexes together, or through the belief that the peculiar circumstances of the institution in question will not warrant such an innovation, and still maintain the rank which it now holds, and attain that to which it aspires.

The problem relating to the joint instruction of men and women is one of those whose solution has not yet been obtained, and it is doubtful whether it ever will be reached save through experience. In regard to it, each forms his own opinion, and believes it because it is his opinion. We are not prepared to cry out enthusiastically in favor of either side. If, however, experience should decide in favor of the coeducation of the sexes, we are inclined to think the verdict would be nearer what our honest opinion is at present than if the opposite were the result. Upon the question as to whether the present circumstances of the University favor the admission of women we may perhaps speak more fully hereafter. Right here it may be said, however, that for the people of the state, knowing that the University is already crowded beyond its capacity to render tolerable accommodations, to demand that more be admitted, and those too its daughters for whom it is supposed to have the highest respect and most devoted care, without offering a cent to provide facilities for their instruction and general accommodation, seems like an act of consummate stupidity or misdirected affection. If the people, in suggesting to the regents that the women were demanding the privilege of participating in the higher education fostered by the state, had also suggested that funds should not be wanting to supply the most ample provisions for all who should be admitted to the University, there might have been observed a show of wisdom behind the act which now appears almost like an insult to those whom it professes to honor. The adoption of this resolution, the necessary result of the tendency of the times, will be hailed by many as the boldest charge which progress has made on conservatism. It is without doubt a step in the right direction, but the first step which calls for a second.

VARIOUS TOPICS.

WHETHER or not we make a formal announcement that this is the *Annus Domini* 1870, is, we console ourselves, a matter of little importance; for, all the same, it will bring its joys and sorrows, its prosperity and adversity; new-born children will somehow gladden and perplex the household; Hymen will select his victims; and Death will claim his own. All the world will be a "stage" this year just the same as it was last; and, when 1870 closes, all of us will be precisely one year older than when it began. (See Josh Billings's "Allminax.") During the year the senior class will depart "hence," and females, more or less, will flock hither; the University will probably have a president, and the class of '73 a sophomore cap. Such being the case, who would die in 1870?

The regents of the University held their regular winter meeting last week. Nothing of any special interest was done, unless the admission of ladies be so regarded. The board made no provision for our fair friends; they simply passed a cold resolution. Pretty "cheeky," to say the least! One of the regents said the people of the state demanded that women should be admitted to the University. Why, in the name of common sense, don't the "people of the state" endow the institution liberally, so as to make the admission feasible? The authorities here can scarcely take care of the "boys," and that, too, simply from the want of money. But, give the "girls" an equal chance and we'll all "die game," if die we must through the culpable neglect of that stingy legislature.

The ages of the students who enter the literary department of the University may be pretty accurately determined from the following statement concerning those who have entered during the present college year: One has been admitted aged fifteen; nineteen, aged sixteen; twenty-five, aged seventeen; twenty six, aged eighteen; twenty-three, aged nineteen; seventeen, aged twenty; thirteen, aged twenty-one; eight, aged twenty-two; one, aged twenty-three; three, aged twenty-four; three, aged twenty-five; three, aged twenty-six; and one, aged twenty-eight. The average age of successful candidates for admission during the year of 1869-70 is, therefore, nineteen and one-seventh years. There have, however, been four added to the list since the above statement was made, two of whom

were aged eighteen, and two, nineteen. One hundred and seventy-seven have applied for admission, thirty of whom have been rejected, leaving the number of those who have entered the department one hundred and forty-seven. Taking the average here given as the standard of those entering, we find the average age of the graduating classes to be little over twenty-three years.

According to the catalogue, there are seventy-nine students at the Agricultural College, at Lansing. Seventy-seven are from Michigan. Of these, nine will graduate this year at an average cost to the state of \$5,000 per graduate! Considering the money it requires annually, and taking into account the comparatively little benefit resulting, one would be at a loss to decide why it is that several of the states are uselessly squandering state endowments and United States grants in establishing agricultural colleges as separate institutions. Such attempts are, with scarcely a single exception, notoriously unsuccessful. What wonder that state legislatures are the subjects of ridicule the country over?

The inauguration of Col. W. W. Folwell as president of Minnesota University took place December 22, in the hall of the university building at St. Anthony. The institution may be said to have fairly entered upon its career. Thirteen years ago, when the hopes of the West went far beyond the possibility of immediate realization, the university grounds were laid out and the building erected; and for ten years it stood as a solitary monument of anticipations that were. During the most of this time its only occupants were a man and woman and three or four squalid children; and when in 1866 we visited it, said lady was anxious to know if we wouldn't buy it. Since the successful close of the first term and the inauguration of its president, we suspect no one thinks of offering it for sale. We are sometimes led to think that Michigan has been remarkably liberal towards her schools, yet facts substantiate the assertion, that some of the younger states have made provision for a school-fund double that by which our own institutions of learning are supported. Among the most liberal is Minnesota. When the people and those in immediate authority have determined, as their policy, to allow the schools in their care only so much as is absolutely necessary to keep the doors open to the public, the prospect for future progress cannot be very flattering.