The Honor System of Examinations in American Colleges

Ex. 6 February 1900
May 1900.
In choosing as a subject for a graduation thesis, "The Hindu system of examinations in American colleges", it is my desire to present some ideas on the advantages of this manner of conducting examinations. Also to outline the systems used in various representative institutions with comments on their general working, and in particular to present the plan which has been used for four years at Harvard—a plan which has been successful in the highest degree.
and which it is to typed,
way in the near future
given all examinations at
Haverford.
Sincerely yours are due
there who have to promptly
and kindly filled in the
"Thank you" presented to them
and who have otherwise
assisted in the preparation
of this thesis.

S. E. Freeman
Haverford College
May 1900
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From:

Ann Lept
Bowdoin
Columbia
Cornell
Dartmouth
Ghilanj
Harvard
Johns Hopkins
Lehigh
Oberlin
Franklin & Marshall
Dickinson
Tulane
University of Chicago

Phi.

Cal.
References (Cont.)

University of Virginia
Princeton
Hampden-Sidney
Washington & Lee
Vanderbilt
University of Kentucky
William & Mary
Yale

Wanner H. Tett
University of Chicago
In 1825, Mr. Jefferson, the founder of the University of Virginia, wrote in one of his reports: "It may well be questioned whether fear, after a certain age, is a motive to which we should have ordinary recourse. The human character is susceptible of other incitements to correct conduct, more worthy of employ and of better effect. Pride of character, laudable utilitarian and moral dispositions are innate characteristics of that lively age; and, when strengthened by labor.
affair and exercise have a happier effect on future character than the depositing motive of fear.

Applying this paragraph and officially the tenet "Pride of character, candor, ambition, and moral dispositions are inseparable concomitants of the indescribable that lives after" we find in it the keynote of the argument for the "inner system of examination.

Let us first run over the system that has existed in most colleges, but which, it can be said with a real deal of pleasure...
is in many places now being supplanted by the "Linotype." 

If the examiner in the room where he was to be examined suspected he cheated if he found it necessary and was able to do it without detection - he found in the room from one to a half dozen Professor, instructors or tutors whom business it was to watch over these being examined and to attempt to detect any attempt at fraud. He illustrate this open and told was this ex-

Pinage, it need only be stated that in such cases the watch or watches gave undivided attention to this work: in many colleges, they kept the line reading books or papers, but in the cases above it was thought to much risk for the attention to be divided in this way.

Again, the man overseeing the examination would walk to different parts of the room, carefully examining the different clusters and their occupants. She thought the men were watched and watched thoroughly watched.
So it may wonder then that under this system of excavation new things up in some places a full cup. Yet, after all, it was not a dissmasurable thing to use and in an examination Professor were in the room to watch for such pandos and if they could be cut into it was a thing to be toasted and told of in after years.

To pursue the estilid different rules in different places as to the efficacy of using pand is at different times. In general it may be said that a man who was a foo
Scholar and found it impossible to pass by
other means, cool light,
get out side "aid," but for
a good student, light for
hours to drink was in-
us capable. He could be
cast out from the relief
of his fellow student did
he want to such methods.

The venue were dates
written by Alumni, he is
particularly thinks of the
way this creat many in
his different college and
the day it was tested
urgent. Super especially
to a hotel by an Alumni
2 out of our large univers-
ties, in which time
hundred pages are given over to descriptions of the various methods of "skin-n ing" in use at that institution about 1870. Then for systematic cheating at examinations, all were worked on to prostand and actually murdered, with desperate means were taken to hold of papers, were going as far as to hire a professional forlager to bake into a public house and also to "crack" the college safe. There this triply men- tioned the attitude towards distinctly that came
as a result of this system. By my calculation of it, therefore, under this system, fear alone was the impulse used to deter a man from thinking in his world, and as the force of this fear became less and less by reason of the various methods invented to escape detention, the entire atmosphere of the debt born because changed — an "hour" different from the prevailing in the outside world. An up our college men in many places and this not
alone in connection with examinations but also in all dealings with factors, regulations and de- 
crees. To escape punish- 
ishment for an offence a man was, according to this idea of honor, justi- 
tified in using almost any means short of de- 
liberately lying.

With this view I judg- 
ed out the attitude of different institutions in regard to this matter. I addressed some thirty 
odd letters to the heads and students of various colleges in the United States and enclosed in
The letters the following questions:

1. Does the "lawn system" of examinations exist in any department of your institution?

2. If it does not, has any attempt ever been made to introduce it?

3. If it does, but long has it existed?

4. How was the system originated?

5. Do all the classes use it?

6. Who determines what classes shall use it?

7. Do the men sign a "Hall" or a signature on the examination paper accepted?

8. What is the form of
"Hands" if we is used?

(9.) If the event of a suspected case what action is taken and by whom is it taken?

(10.) Can you refer me to any published discussion of this subject?

(11.) What has been the general result of the system in your institution?

U.S. General remittals.

Under this last lead the answers was requested to give his personal views as to the merits, demerits in totality of the system. Almost without exception, answers was received for these ads.
dressed and in many cases personal letters were received containing additional information on the subject.

While not a very large percentage of these all dressed in the "book
system" entirely, in several it is used in certain departments and other colleges are considering the advisability of adopting it.

As many of the letters and replies are of a confidential nature, I shall describe why the system is used in a few colleges, but shall
use all replies in the
general remarks &ball
rather in favor of
examinations.

As the test known,
and in many respects the
model of other replies, is
that employed at the Univer-
sity of Virginia.

Since 1825 this reply
has ripled in true form
and has become one of the
oldest institutions of the
University.

In 1842 methods were
were rehashed and the
following pledge was pre-
pared:

"As hereby certify
inurn, that Vfter deemed
us assistance during the
time I have examined
for any source whatever,
whether oral, written or in
print, is giving the above
answer." This form is
still in use, with the
addition that in recent
years the pledge has been ex-
ended to also to preclude
the giving as well as the
receiving of assistance.
There is an entire absence
of any student committee
at the University of Virginia.
Furthermore, this
would mean simply the
transferring of responsibility
for the faculty to a committee
of students. It is also in
Wishing to note that a committee of the faculty is present at all examinations. The idea in this tenet is to lessen the temptation to cheat. In regard to the actual working of this system, I have been told that the men have every freedom during the examination. They may be one another and can leave the room if they wish. Though this act is discouraged.

Under this system, cheating at the University of Virginia is almost unheard of, when there is a suspected case, a court is convened for the student body,
A jury is empanelled and absolutely call students to appear for the prosecution and defense.

In the past ten years there have been but two cases of dishonesty and neither of them required any faculty action. The men voluntarily resigned for college.

At Hampden-Sidney the by-laws explicitly provide that if a pledge were fifty years old I was unable to find when or how it was originated, in answer to the inquiry in regard to this, I received the rather characteristic answer: "I do..."
not known for the reply originated. Suppose it is natural to Virginians who prize their homes as their lives.

A very simple pledge is signed by the one examined. "I hereby certify that I have neither given nor received assistance during this examination.

Here is no regular student committee at Hampden-Sidney. During the administration of the present President, Dr. W. I. L. Shadrack, there have been but five cases of cheating. Four of these were reported by the student body as the
Faculty and the other
were consulted volun-
tarily.

In reply to an inquiring
as to the general result of
the system at Hampden-
Sidney, I received the re-
ply, "Excellent!! We three
wise men; decide no other!!"

Lulane University, New
Orleans, has a unique sys-
tem in that it is a part of the
general student government
of that institution.

To the students of the
College of Arts and Science,
and of the College of Tech-
nology is entrusted the un-
feasibility of electing what
is known as the Academic
Board. This is made up from the President, Vice President and Secretaries of the four classes in the four named colleges. The Junior President is President of the Board; the Senior President is Vice-President and the sophomore President is the Secretary. All matters touching the well being and discipline of the academic corps are referred to the class officers of this Board. Their findings are reported to the Faculty of the college to which the student belongs. This faculty takes final
action.

As regards the "turn-up" at Tulane a well
wishing friend at the end
of his examination paper
had to be written from
unreceived assistance
during the examination.

A suspected case would
of course be referred to the
Academic Board and
final action taken by the
Faculty.

In such a disciplinary
basis depends the final
and consistent action of
the Faculty and the Acad-
emic Board. It has
been most satisfactory
at Tulane.
At Vanderbilt University, the system has, at least nominally, always existed, but in the early days, either a regular proctor or his assistant was always present at all examinations. This has since been done away with, and the fullest discretion is given to the students. A simple pledge is all that is required.

In special cases, which are very few, are referred to an "Four-Committee" made up of the President of the Senior class with three other seniors, and the Prez. -
deeds of the three other classes. This committee has practically final action.

The system in use at Washington and Yale is very similar to that used at Hampden-Sidbury. It has the full consent of the President of Amherst President. Professor General Wilson.

Leaving the College and taking up life in New York, it must be said with us little regret that the "town system" is far less used than in the institutions north of the Mason and Dixon Line. When it is used a dif-
Pence it is to noted in the pledge signed. In the Northern colleges a student is usually daily required to certify that he has neither given nor received aid, nor has he seen any one act dishonestly.

Of the larger Northern colleges, Princeton has perhaps the most general and best developed system. Practically absolute freedom is given the men during examinations. They leave the room for any likes or to at a time, under tells, and in fact have all work uninterrupted until course.
As in the Federal Colleges, a simple pledge is exacted from each man. A suspected case is acted upon by a Student Committee. The University-Faculty acts upon the findings of this committee and administers discipline. The registrar has the full endorsement of the Princeton authorities and has worked well throughout. The five or more years it has been in operation

In 1893 the standard of honor in examinations at Cornell fails to reach
Answer: That the student body, realizing that the lives of the University was threatened by this evil, selected a large committee of representative students to investigate the matter. This committee, after fully discussing the question, decided that the best means of elevating the standard would be to exclude all professors and pupils for the worse during the examinations and to have all the men upon their honor not to cheat. The following regulations were presented to the Faculty with a petition.
that they be adopted:

1. Each student must in order to make his examination valid, affix the following form with his signature thereon: "I have neither given nor received aid in this examination.

2. The functions of the present Committee on Discipline of the Faculty, as for the jurisdiction in cases of9 punishment, are as follows: Hall shall devolve upon a Court, composed of the President of the University, and ten undergraduates, including...
Four renew, three renew, two re-elect and one fresh man. The decisions of this committee and to be communicated by its president to the faculty and to the student body.

(3.) The faculty will dispense with the presence of its presidents to prevent unnecessary attendance.

(4.) The members of the student committee are to be elected at special class elections, held early in the fall term of each year, with the exception of the fresh man.
representative, who is to be elected near the close of the term.
The faculty decided to give a year's trial to this plan and at a large mass meeting of students, it was decided to adopt this scheme.

Although there were some cases of disharmony during the year, the system as a whole was such an improvement over the old one, and so satisfactory to the faculty that at the end of the year they offered to enlarge the number of this Student Committee and to give it
Powers of original judicial functions were all matters of college discipline. This power was accepted by the students in 1894 and the "Student Committee" was changed to the "Student Self-Government Committee." In the fall of 1896 there was a faculty-corporate action and the Student Committee ceased, no attempt being made to save the new faculty-corporate system.

After the Eastern College, Williams has perhaps the most complete system of lower examinations. This system was started
in the fall of 1895 - at the suggestion of a professor to one of the classes while teaching. They adopted this and in their final year persuaded the other classes to adopt it. At present each class as it enters college adopts the system.

Great freedom is allowed the men. They converse and also leave the room at times.

The pledge required is a simple one: 

"I have received the given name of and shall use it as my examination.

A student, Tribune, 1894-95, Tribune, 1895-96."
of offenses and one freshman deals with all sus-
ppected cases. The investiga-
tion is open or secret, at
the option of the accused. The
committee also determines
the punishment under the
following regulations: In
the case of a fraud by a mem-
er of the Junior, Junior-
ian Sophomore class, the
penalty shall be a recom-
mandation to the faculty
of his separation from
college. In case of a
fraud by a member of
the Freshman class the
penalty shall be a re-
commodation to the
faculty of suspension.
For a time it is determined by the committee.

A vote of four-fifths of the committee present is necessary for conviction.

The general law system has been very successful, as far as absence of abstaining is concerned; it has been highly successful.

It is interesting to note that the Yale Law School has recently adopted the Iowa system.

The University of Pennsylvania has the system in one department; Chicago uses it in several departments; Lehigh has a va-
The Unde system. Dartmouth and Amherst are discussing its adoption. None of the Western colleges adhered to use it. Harvard University of California had a similar system, which it soon gave up.

Before closing this discussion as to the system in use in various colleges, after which I shall make some general remarks on the "open system" as a system of examinations.

Smith's "rules of examiners" both as to length of the system as well as at Harvard.

At one of the early classes
meetings of the class of 1900, held soon after its entrance into Harvard in the fall of 1896. The adoption of an "lair system" by examinations was objected to, the suggestion came voluntarily from a member of the class. After some discussion, a motion was adopted providing for the appointment of a committee to investigate the various systems in use at other institutions, also to cooperate with the faculty at Harvard and to report the result of their work to the class. The matter was fully
and carefully discussed at a Faculty meeting and it was finally agreed that would the class adopt such a system. By some might lie in an a set of examinations.
The committee reported its results to the class and there was a general discussion as to the system to be adopted. Almost all the systems in use were talked over and finally by a vote lacking one of unanimity the following system was adopted:
Every freedon was to be allowed to meanwhile
while in an examining
They could move about, cur-

voir, and even leave the
room if necessary. Hugh

this latter privilege has been
indulged but once since

the adoption of the system,
in my knowledge.

The petitioner in question
remains in the room—

A Halls form having
printed on it, “I have

neither given nor received
aid in this examining

nor have I been any one
cheat,” is given to each

man, which “Halls” he

fills up and apposes to

his examining paper.

A com mittee of five
is elected each fall by the class, to act upon any suspected case and also to adjust other differences existing in the class. Should any "flanks" case be unsolved, it is a duty of the committee of five who would investigate the case secretly and recommend to the faculty the punishment it thought just. As a matter of fact, since the adoption of the "hon- ky-tonk," there has never been a suspected case in the class.

As to the general working of The Ryelein, it has been...
highly successful in every way and believe this
has unqualified support
of the faculty.
Upon the resuming the sys-
tem was amaranth off to
only to a mid-year and final
examinations, as the class
were nine and nine
practically the wish that
could be put in it. The
system was restored un-
til now is often used in
quarterly examinations
written words of any
thing.
To illustrate the con-
idence placed in the
men, it is necessary to
mention only that in fev.
eral cases where men
have been too ill to be pre-
sent at an examining.
They have been allowed to
take it in their own way,
alone, and in one or two
cases papers have been
sent to them at their
homes.

It was very much is the
man's own wish. This privi-
lege is granted, is shown
by the case of one man
who took his own examina-
tions at his home. On his return
to college the President
grilled him with the re-
mark, "Well—it is evi-
dent he did not cheat."
He had failed to pass any
The subjects of the present sophomore and freshman classes have adopted the "Four-Units" plan practically as in the junior class. It is to be hoped it will be put a question of a year or two before it will be in use throughout the college.

In describing the plans of examinations in use in different colleges, I have hoped to give a general idea of the various methods taken to do away with our paper and pen college work. I was with the give some ideas on
The "Turn-system" as a system as gathered from letters from the heads of institutions, interviews, and personal experience at Harvard.

In the first place, there is a very delicate thing to deal with; it diminishes text in silence and before any man are put under a system which affects their honor directly. It must be fully and clearly understood that there is a sentiment among them that is offensive to such a system. For this reason it seems to me that no such system can be a success unless it is adopted volu-
tarily and with almost un
commonly by an institution.

On advice is men two
of my letters is colleges refer-
ning this. I found that it
was customary to ask each
incoming class to pledge itself
and members to do nothing
dishonorable throughout the
course. In such cases it
is easy to see why term-
ner cultivations are not a
success.

There is more or less dis-
likeliness in every pursuit in
life - the school boy and
college man are no exceptions.
at times a class friend
which nicely can not use
such a system.

curious, enter a college; if these men are forced to be examined and their honor not only will they be cheating but worse than this the college itself is putting temptation in the way of the men.

"I firmly believe that the "fraternity" system can be adapted throughout a college, as a college institution, and when the fraternity is a small student body and a sort mental club. I mean this especially to apply to the larger universities. Here the fraternity may be used in the college department if the student sentiment justifies it, but
If it is used at all, it
would be effective with any
other department and its
classes. This may not be
true in all cases, but it
holds true in the majority of
them.

Rept is the voluntary adoption
of the "team" system. I con-
side the absolute absence
of faculty interference as
most important.

In one of the Pacific
Coast Colleges a system was
adopted some years ago
in which each man was
placed on his honor not
to cheat and teachers his
proxies were present at
each examination.
That he lived up to this work
such a system is worse
than what at all is the
idea of putting a man on
his time and the watch-
ing him. I see we need
thorough our reason in this
and can not understand
for it would originate.

If we are to have super-
vised examinations, let
us have them, but if we
are to have lower examin-
ings let us have them
as such and not by the
presence of justice until
a man is showing him
his trust is not worthy
to be trusted.

As is the investigation
I feel, action should first be taken by a student committee. This should report to the Faculty. Their finding and also recommendation would any punishment they deem necessary. Of course, ten a great deal depends on the kind of men you have on this committee. But also a strong moral sentiment in the college will work for the appointment I am able to do.

There is thought in the world a sentiment against women who informs me another and infected is this feeling more strongly developed than among
Collegemen. In this case, it seems to me it would be best to abolish the clause used in some systems, requiring a man to certify that he has seen no cheat in the examination, as long as such a clause is contained in the pledge. The examination can not be said to be entirely under the "true" system, as it is a transference of faculty to another person, and, unless the sentiment is very high, the student today prefers to be watched by professors and to be relieved of the necessity of informing against a fellow-student. At Harvard, this clause...
it required and it is successful because there is a
very decided sentiment against it but I felt
that the system would be
equally successful without
the clause and if it would
to me I am here again.

Many objections are made
by the men- system Rep.
commissioners by those who
claim that the absence of
proctors from the work leads
to make the examinations
less orderly and the men
are prevented from fulfilling
with their best work on
account of the many dis-
tractions such as new new-
vig about and converse.
Whether this will is acted as some say it is may be doubted. It is nevertheless a fact that the will does exist but is usually in the classes who have newly adopted the religion. It is an will that usually works its own cure; a severe closure from the student commits will end it if it does not cease of its own accord.

I think it is only fair to the men that they be relieved as much as possible for every temptation to act dishonestly or of giving the appearance of doing with this in view. I think it
advisable not to overcrowd an examination room and also to start a sentiment against promiscuously hearing the room during the examination - not that a man should not be trusted to do this when necessary, but it may put him in the way of severe temptation tended to interfer with his work.

The criminal in society is the exception not the rule; society is not constantly watched by a detective force in fact their must be good grounds for suspicion before a man comes under the eye of the law; why
Would it be otherwise in college. The student J. which are supposed to be of a moral and intellectual tone above the average.

When a tidy J. student. How that help itself be trusted and pure themselves worthy? Must spring up between the Faculty and them, a closer relationship and better feeling. How could exist when the professor is looked upon as a detective.

Yet up hope that this relative this may become closer and closer, and
Not then way developed in our American Colleges that probates dishonor in all college relations as thinly as it does in outside affairs - with this is found to come a higher tone, not only in this respect but in respect to all questions of college morality.

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Since finishing this thesis, I have learned that the Junior of Harvard law, at a class meeting adopted the term 'syn-

θia.' It is used throughout the college.

ΣΧ ΣΧ ΣΧ