The Importance of the Y. M. C. A.

I have been trying to think of some plan by which the young men of every department of the University could be brought together, at least once a week. For this purpose, I can think of nothing better than the Young Men's Christian Association.

It seems strange indeed to me, why we pay such little attention to things that are of most importance to us as students and absolutely necessary to our well being. We must stop a moment and reflect that just a few years ago we had no Howard University, where we could go and prepare ourselves for any desired profession, but it is a God-sent blessing, as a result of the prayers of our emancipated fathers and mothers.

Again, we must remember that there are thousands of our brothers, who are not in position to enjoy these glorious opportunities. Hence, you see how necessary it is for us to arm ourselves with the principles set forth in the Young Men's Christian Association, in order that we may be able to play our parts well in the drama of life and be of service to the unfortunate members of the race.

I believe in college spirit and also in class spirit, but do not believe in an over-measure of college spirit at the expense of those things that go to make us better men, after we shall have gone from school. Of course it is natural that the "Seniors" would not care to be worried with "Us Juniors" in their class meetings and social interviews. But when it comes to a Christian meeting, let us forget that we are Seniors and Juniors and come together as students of Howard University. And I feel safe to say that God will bless us and success will be ours in the end.

The designs of the Association are to encourage the Christian spirit among the young men and strengthen their ambition for the highest and noblest things of life. "Live for something, be not idle, for life is passing swift away, Have a purpose, true and noble, live it in thy life each day."

RICHARD M. DUKE, JR., Law Dept.

The New Conception of the Ether.

Recently the great Russian chemist, Wendelseff has suggested a new explanation, or a new conception, of the ether, and the scientific world is now discussing it with the keenest interest. Many regard it as a very bold speculation, which may have notable results.

Wendelseff's idea in brief is that the ether is simply the lightest of all gases. In other words, it is a chemical element, standing at the bottom of the series as far as atomic weight is concerned. Hydrogen is the lightest known element at present. But in the corona of the sun there has been detected, by spectroscopic means, an element not present on the earth which is lighter than hydrogen. This element has been called coronium.

May there not be yet another element even lighter than coronium? Wendelseff thinks there may. He finds reason from the "periodic law" of the chemical elements to infer the existence of two elements lighter than hydrogen. The heavier of these, which he calls Y, may be identical with coronium. The lighter, which he calls X, may be the ether itself.

On computing the atomic weight and the velocity of vibration of the molecules of the gas X, on the supposition of its identity with the ether, Wendelseff finds that it is almost a million times lighter than hydrogen, and that its molecular velocity is not less than 1400 miles per second. Such a gas, he holds, would permeate all space and would escape condensation in the immediate neighborhood of powerful attracting bodies like the sun. Even suns hundreds of times more massive than ours would be unable to prevent this rare gas from spreading throughout the universe. Still there would be some accumulation around strong centres of attraction. This ether would be somewhat denser around such centres than elsewhere. It would accumulate in this manner, not only about the sun and stars, but also about the atoms of the heavier elements. Thus explanation is found for the strange property of radio-activity. The light atoms of the ether are drawn toward the heavy atoms of such substances as radium and circle about them, some escaping, while others fall into the space of attraction, as comets are drawn into the solar system of the attraction of the sun. — Success.

Eureka.

The Eureka has elected the following officers for the next term, and is now ready for actual work: C. S. Cowen, President; J. F. Dagler, Vice President; W. R. Wilson, Secretary; J. G. Moore, Treasurer; A. J. Wright, Chaplain; J. Butts, Critic; R. L. Williams, Journalist; Buck Hunt, S. of A. The new administration will begin its work Friday night, January 20th, with the following program:

Popular Quotations — — — — — — — Society
Inaugural Address — — — — — — President
"Possibilities of the Next Generation," H. W. Scott
Debate: "Resolved that all Christian Nations should now disarm and depend upon arbitration for the settlement of disputes;" affirmative J. F. Dagler; negative R. H. Junior.

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A little band of missionaries headed by Messrs. Morton, Smith and Ward, has issued a call for volunteers to exterminate the Zoppe Zopps who have been committing recent outrages on Hoyle and Cavendish.

The Alpha Phi.

At the regular meeting of the Alpha Phi last Friday evening the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: President, J. G. Logan; Vice President, E. P. Davis; Secretary, Miss Lela C. Ewing; Treasurer, A. D. Tate; Editor and Journalist, Miss Eloise Bibb; Chaplain, W. D. Derrick; Sergeant at Arms, L. C. Dade.

Arrangements have been completed for the Henry A. Brown Prize Debate. The date has been fixed for the third Friday evening in March. The question to be discussed is: "The reduction of the Southern representation in Congress." The following have been selected as disputants: Affirmative, J. G. Logan, A. D. Tate and J. P. Vanderhost; Negative, J. C. Bagley, J. F. Roberts and C. E. Smith.

Because of the great interest that is now centering around the question to be discussed, speculation is rife as to the outcome.

What Is Russia's Object?

Secretary Hay has sent instructions to the American Minister at Peking directing him to make inquiries into Russia's representations of China's alleged violation of neutrality. This Government has received no information through its Legation at Peking nor through the various American consulates in China that the Chinese are violating the rules of neutrals.

Nevertheless, in view of Russia's expressed anxiety over the situation in China which her investigation discloses, the American Government is ready to do what it can to save China and other neutral powers from far-reaching complications which is feared would follow an extension to Chinese territory of the zones of hostilities.

The object of the Russian note is a matter of conjecture among officials of State Department and the Diplomatic Corps. While it is generally conceded that Russia primarily wants the Powers of the world to know that she intends to do her own will in case China continues the alleged violations it is generally thought that there is a deeper motive than this. First of all, it is believed that Russia wants to take some action against China, and is preparing the way for an attainment of this object without incurring the displeasure of the other Governments or breaking her agreement to preserve Chinese neutrality, which resulted from representations made by Secretary Hay.

One idea suggested which is a cause of concern is that Russia desires to enlarge the field of operations and carry the war beyond Manchuria. The great need of a base for a Russian fleet in the Far East suggests that Russia wants to seize a Chinese port and use it as a base for the Baltic fleet and the other fleet which may follow.
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THE UNIVERSITY JOURNAL, WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 20, 1905.

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The program for the Livingstone Missionary Society for Friday, January 20th, is as follows:
Address, "The Curse of Intemperance," Mr. E. I. Swan.
Paper, "Redemption of Africa," Mr. John F. Vanderhost.
Essay, "Value of a Definite Aim," Mr. W. E. Spatley.
Selection, Extracts by Mr. Clifford Jeter.

The following disputants will contest for the Maynard Prize Debate: S. B. Ross, W. E. Spatley, J. R. Wright, C. C. Gill, W. C. P. Baker and E. T. N. Newman. These speakers are elected by the members of the Literary Society.

"That all nations should unite in adopting the same monetary system and that system should be gold," was the subject of the debate at the last meeting of the Literary Society. Clifford Jeter in the affirmative and V. E. Johnson in the negative prepared their arguments with great care, and were highly complimented by the Society.

The question for the prize debate will be given in the next issue.

The Committee of the Board of Charities, appointed by direction of the District Commissioners, to investigate the condition of affairs, and particularly the recent mutiny, in the Reform School for Girls, is composed of John Joy Edson, Dr. Chas. P. Neill and Prof. Geo. Cook.

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