

Mystery on the Campus

A SHORT article which we came across recently in the "University Monthly" of October, 1882 is found to be peculiarly up to date in the question which it asks; in that practically the same questions are brought up every year and yet the "curious little octagonal-shaped building near the South East Corner of the University" remains as much of a "mystery" as ever. The "Monthly" of November, 1882 printed a reply to these questions in the form of rather a long letter by an old graduate. Both the initial questions and the answering letter are reprinted as follows:

"It is traditionally reported among the students that that curious little octagonal-shaped building near the South East corner of the University is or at least was an Observatory. In order to get at the bottom of this mystery we propose the following questions in the hope that some old graduate may be found who is able to answer them:—

It is an Observatory?

What is that curious tube-like thing that projects from the roof?

Was any student ever inside the building? If so how did he get there?

Will money purchase an admission ticket?

If so, how can we gain entrance to it?"

University Monthly, October, 1882.

The answer in the following issue:

"To the Editors of the Univer-

sity Monthly:

Dear Sirs,—My young grandson, who graduated a year or two ago from King's College, as it was when I was a student, or as you now call it, the University of New Brunswick, brought to me a few days past a late issue of your Journal, and asked me if I could throw any light upon a subject which was a source of great perplexity to the students. He told me he had asked his father concerning the matter, but that he was unable to afford him any

information, which I was very much to wonder at, as my son Charles was a painstaking and diligent student, and not addicted to the frivolities, such as champagne suppers, hazing the watchman, etc., etc., which distinguished the college man in my days. However, if you will have patience with the prolixity of an old man, to whom, even at fourscore years, his Alma Mater is a subject of love and thoughtful regard, I will endeavor to recall what I can of the Observatory. If my remarks appear rambling or confused, you must remember that at my time of life the page is somewhat blurred and indistinct, and extend to me your kind forbearance.

As to your first question as to whether the building is an Observatory, I am certainly positive that when I was a student — to use an expression handed down through succes-

sive generations — that such was the purpose to which it was applied. To assist my memory, my grandson has brought to me Mr. Webster's Dictionary, an American compilation not in vogue in my college days, and in it I find Observatory defined as a place or building for making observations on the heavenly bodies. Yes, my enquiring and perplexed friends, the building about which hovers so great an air of mystery is an Observatory. I now proceed to your next query—the nature of the "curious tube-like thing that projects from the roof." Ah! indeed, times have changed. Well I remember how proud we old students were of our telescope, at that time the finest in the British Provinces. And now in your ignorance of its use, you speak of it as a "curious tube-like thing." Verily the old order has given

place to the new. Though we saw it but once in our College course, yet with us it was ever a pride and a boast.

You will gather from the remarks which I have made above an answer to your third question. Clearly limned in my recollection is that beautiful and ne'er to be forgotten night when our dear, old President — now, alas! numbered amid the obsoleté—out of the goodness of his kindly heart, took us, a heedless class with never a thought of the great honor done us, to that awful building, the Observatory. How lightly we behaved! Yes, I think we even actually laughed while within the sacred precincts. But all is over now. Little we thought of the graciousness shown us, less of the envy with which succeeding generations would regard us. My own experience in the Ob-

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Personnel of the 1933 Championship Rifle Team

GERALD A. SANSOM:—Team Captain. Senior. Learned to shoot at P. N. S. in 1923-24. Gerry's shooting history is brief, but he has had quite a career in military training and Cadet work. Among other things he has qualified for his Cadet Instructors Certificate, for his Lieutenant's commission and has instructed Cadet Corps at both Sussex High and Saint John Vocational Schools. At U. N. B. he has won one cup, one spoon and his shooting distinction crest; was top scorer of the last D. C. R. A. Indoor match and as a member of the 1933 D. C. R. A. Outdoor team, scored 96 out of a possible 105.

EDWARD McK. NASON:—Sophomore. Learned to shoot at Saint John Vocational School in Oct. 1931 and since then has made quite a name for himself as a marksman of merit. Ted's trophy list sounds like a jeweler's inventory. Here it is: Dominion Marksman bronze, silver and gold medals, the Maiden Aggregate Cup, five U. N. B. spoons, two cups, two D. M. Vases and a number of individual competition prizes. He scored second highest in both the 1932 and 1933 D. C. R. A. Outdoor Competitions and represented U. N. B. on N. B. Rifle team at Ottawa in 1933. Scored 100 out of possible 105 in 1933 D. C. R. A. Outdoor Competition.

J. ROSS CAMERON:—Graduate member of the Rifle Association. Learned to shoot indoors at Fredericton High School. Commenced outdoor shooting in his Soph. year at U. N. B. and placed on the D. C. R. A. team that year. Was a member of the team again the following year. Attended Provincial Rifle Meet at Sussex in 1932. As top scorer of 1932 U. N. B., D. C. R. A. team, led the individual scoring of the Dominion with 104 out of a possible 105. At U. N. B. he has won six spoons and two cups. Shot 95 as a member of the 1933 Dominion Championship team.

DOUGLAS F. BROWN:—Sophomore. Learned to shoot indoors at the Charlotte St. School, Fredericton, in 1927. Placed on F. H. S., D. C. R. A. team under Capt. J. E. Page in 1932. In his pre-college shoots, won one spoon, four bronze medals, one silver and one gold medal. At U. N. B. he placed on two outdoor and two indoor D. C. R. A. teams, the 1933 Freshman Interclass Championship team and won two spoons, two cups and his distinction crest. Doug also led the D. C. R. A. Outdoor Championship team for 1933 with a score of 101 out of a possible 105, and led the indoor team for March 1933.

DONALD E. NICKERSON:—Senior. This Marysville marksman learned to shoot on the Devon Ranges while attending the Fredericton High School. In those good, old days he won the cup for highest score in the outdoor shooting (1928), won two spoons, one bronze and one silver medal. At U. N. B. Nick was a member of the D. C. R. A. Outdoor team in 1930 and again in 1933. He also placed on a number of indoor teams. For prizes in these later shoots he won one spoon and his shooting distinction crest. Scored 96 out of 105 in the last D. C. R. A. Outdoor Competition.

DOW C. KITCHEN:—Sophomore. Another product of the Fredericton High School, Dow learned to shoot on the indoor and outdoor ranges while attending that institution. By so doing he won a first class spoon for outdoor shooting, the bronze, silver and gold medals; a special class gold medal, and the I. O. D. E. Cup for indoor shooting. He also represented F. H. S. on several D. C. R. A. indoor teams. At U. N. B. he did not enter actively into shooting competitions until 1933 when he won a cup, a spoon and a distinction crest for outdoor shooting. As a member of the 1933 D. C. R. A. Outdoor team, shot 95 out of a possible 105.

H. KENNETH CORBETT:—Freshman. Ken came up the Hill from Fredericton High School with a goodly assortment of medals and prizes and stated that he had learned to shoot under Capt. Page's instruction, back in 1930. His prize list includes one spoon, one bronze, one silver and one gold medal, and a special class gold medal for participation in a D. C. R. A. Competition. At U. N. B. he has won one cup and scored 97 for third place in the 1933 D. C. R. A. Outdoor Championship team.

W. HERBERT SUTHERLAND:—Junior. Bert came all the way from Ottawa, Ont. to learn to shoot at U. N. B. and then returned to Ottawa to represent the Head-Quarters Rifle Association on the Ottawa Ranges, last summer. He was entered in the tyro class and took prizes in the four leading events. He also tied for first place on the 500 yard range, extra series. At U. N. B. he has won his shooting distinction on the outdoor ranges at Devon and is a member of the 1933 D. C. R. A. Championship team. His score in the last named competition was 95 out of a possible 105.

RALPH F. MacPHERSON:—Freshman. First handled a rifle as a member of the Fredericton High Cadet Corps but states that he did not learn to shoot until he arrived at U. N. B. in 1933. At U. N. B. he has won one cup and as a member of the 1933 D. C. R. A. Championship team, scored 96 out of a possible 105.

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