

GUARDS ON THE CAMPUS

MMILITARY and naval routine includes guard post as a first essential to order and discipline. Accordingly Princeton's once peaceful campus has undergone a marked change and cloistered nooks resound with the harsh commands of the sentries. Accustomed to avoid unnecessary argument with sundry proctors, the undergraduate now has a new problem to face. The respective Units have posted a line of sentries around the dormitories and no one may come or go without the proper pass or countersign.

This guard is posted between the hours of seven-thirty and ten-thirty every evening. As this is the study period and the men must remain in their rooms, the guards have special instructions to challenge all comers, allowing no one to pass without the proper authority. The campus has changed from a free and easy place within which the night owl might roam, into a well policed camp.

Some humorous situations have arisen from the posting of rookie sentinels. When college opened, the Army issued an order forbidding members of the S. A. T. C. to patronize "icecream parlors" or to loiter on Nassau street. To enforce this order guards were posted all over town. As the majority of them were ununiformed Freshmen, a handkerchief was worn on the arm for the purpose of distinguishing them and proving their authority to stop the student-soldiers.

The following entry was recorded in the guard book kept by the Corporal of the Guard: "William J. Coan and Howard McClenahan were reported by _____, posted in front of Renwick's, for entering that place and refusing to leave when so ordered by the sentry. The men claimed that they were not in the S. A. T. C., but said that they lived in Holder." Bill Coan and the Dean reported again!

An investigation revealed the following facts: One night two upperclassmen who are members of the Naval Unit, quite within their rights, had sauntered into Renwick's for a "jigger." Supposing they were members of the Army Unit, the sentinel on duty pursued them and demanded that they leave the forbidden place at once. Recognizing their pursuer as a Freshman, the sailors were not slow to seize the opportunity for some harmless "razz." In a tone that commanded respect, one of the upperclassmen reminded the sentinel that Princeton tradition forbade Freshmen to enter the sacred realms of Renwick's. Temporarily nonplussed, the soldier paused for reflection, but, after some pondering he decided that military law superceded Princeton tradition and therefore his duties as a soldier necessitated and justified his invasion of Renwick's. He accordingly told the upperclassmen that if they did not leave the place at once he would have to put them out. Outnumbered two to one and tipping the scales at approximately 140, this was a bold and rash statement for one so young. The sailors invited the sentinel to execute the second part of his mandate—and once more the proceedings halted. In final desperation, the sentinel demanded their names and was joyously supplied with the information recorded above. He had not been in Princeton long enough to recognize the Proctor's and Dean's names, and in all innocence made the official report on the guard book, which stands as an enigma for future historians.

On another occasion, an army guard armed with an empty rifle attempted to halt a cadet from the School of Military Aeronautics. The aviator, actuated either by the spirit of fun or by some warped conception of injustice, refused to stop and continued on his way. Un-

able to shoot, the tyro sentinel discarded his useless weapon and raced madly after the offender. The love of contest immediately cropped out and the situation developed into an excellent foot-race. Buildings sped by, but still the aviator held his lead. Undaunted, the sentry pursued the culprit until he finally disappeared within the protecting walls of Brown Hall,—one of the aviators' barracks. Thus did the rookie fail to pass his first test.

The Naval Unit has also contributed its share of amusing incidents. Having stopped a commissioned officer one dark night, a naval sentinel was at a loss to know what to do with him. It was an embarrassing situation and one that demanded quick thinking. Suddenly remembering his book on Interior Guard Duty, which was tucked away in his pocket, the rookie dove frantically for this live-saver and proceeded to turn the pages. But it was too dark to read the rules, so the resourceful sentry lit a match, several matches in fact, and found the desired information. Having now detained the officer about ten minutes, the lowly sailor saluted in the approved manner and permitted his superior to pass on.

These are but a few of the amusing incidents which are occurring daily (or rather nightly) within the lines. Rivalry between the Army and Navy has developed and the sentinels are carefully instructed in every detail before they are permitted to assume their responsibilities, upon which the honor of their unit rests. Unversed in military matters, the members of both units are learning with surprising rapidity and are rounding into well-ordered organizations.