

# This Month

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A corner of the Administration Building

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● Tradition is a word that gets kicked around a lot on a university campus. Students are quick to declare something a tradition; just as quick to drop it in many cases. Sigfrid Floren, student member of *Sooner Magazine's* staff, was assigned to dig into the subject of traditions at O. U., from early days to the present. Little has been written on the subject—just a few articles in the student newspaper, a few sketches in the yearbook, and a few short articles in *Sooner Magazine* from time to time. C. Ross Hume, '98, 1900, of Anadarko, has written several articles and has probably done more than any other one person to preserve information about early-day traditions. Floren found, after looking up the written material and talking to old-timers on the campus, that "traditions" come and go on the campus, and only a few endure through a long period of years. His findings will be presented in a series of articles beginning with this issue.

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# The SOONER MAGAZINE

## Change in the Presidency

THE dignified and considerate way in which the Board of Regents acted on President W. B. Bizzell's request for retirement in 1941 will undoubtedly meet the approval of practically all alumni as well as the general public of Oklahoma.

President Bizzell will retire at the age of 65 and be relieved of the heavy burdens carried by the head of the University, but will remain on the staff as president emeritus, head of the sociology department and director of the University's Semi-Centennial Celebration.

In voting unanimously to keep President Bizzell on the University staff, the regents give due recognition to the great contribution he has made to the development of the institution, and his service to the State of Oklahoma. Dr. Bizzell's scholarly eminence, his integrity as an educator, and his wide acquaintance in all the fields of knowledge will make him one of the University's most valued assets as long as he cares to remain on the campus.

The fact that the Board of Regents took no action toward President Bizzell's retirement until the president himself suggested it—in spite of numerous political attacks against Dr. Bizzell in recent years—gives the state new assurance that the University is in fact, as well as in theory, not subject to undue political influence.

Alumni leaders are confident that the Board of Regents, with more than a year in which to act, will make a careful selection of President Bizzell's successor, and will make the choice on a strictly non-political basis.

The task of selecting a university president is no easy one for the regents. The alumni will do well to co-operate by not trying to exert any pressure for or against any qualified individual suggested for the position.

In September, 1939, *Sooner Magazine* published an editorial declaring the policy of the Alumni Association to be definitely against any politically motivated choice of a president; but to leave sole responsibility for making a choice to the regents. In other words, the alumni might oppose an individual if they thought he were clearly unqualified; but would not attempt to say who should be chosen from a list of qualified men.

At this time it can be reiterated that the policy of the organized alumni is to give any assistance it can to the Board of Regents, but not to sponsor any one individual for the new president of the University in 1941.

In the ensuing months, there likely will be many rumors that the organized alumni are supporting this person or that person. Unless the Executive Board radically changes the policy it has held to up to the present, any such rumors will be completely untrue.