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Founded by GENERAL O. O. HOWARD

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A UNIVERSITY COURSE IN LYNCHING

WE are glad to note that the University of Missouri has opened a course in Applied Lynching. Many of our American Universities have long defended the institution, but they have not been frank or brave enough actually to arrange a mob murder so that the students could see it in detail. The University of Georgia did, to be sure, stage a lynching a few years ago but this was done at night and the girls did not have a fair chance to see it. At the University of Missouri the matter was arranged in broad daylight with ample notice, by five hundred men and boys who were "comparatively orderly", and it was viewed by some fifty women most of whom we understand were students of the University. We are very much in favor of this method of teaching 100 per cent Americanism; as long as mob murder is an approved institution in the United States, students at the universities should have a first-hand chance to judge exactly what a lynching is.

In the case of James T. Scott everything was as it should be. He was a janitor at the University who protested his innocence to his last breath. He was charged with having "lured" a fourteen year old girl in broad daylight far from her home and "down the railroad tracks". He was "positively identified" by the girl, and while the father deprecates violence he has "no doubt" of the murdered man's guilt.

Here was every element of the modern American lynching. We are glad

that the future fathers and mothers of the West saw it, and we are expecting great results from this course of study at one of the most eminent of our State Universities.

THE FEAR OF EFFICIENCY

FOR a long time there was a delicate and convincing argument for not admitting Negroes to certain privileges and perquisites: they were not sufficiently trained to pursue engineering; they had not sufficient command of English to write; they exhibited no ability to paint. Such arguments were quite unanswerable. One cannot ask privilege for the ignorant and ungifted simply because they happen to be black. But those who are wise have noticed some curious changes in the attitude of the white world recently. First it came in concerted and desperate effort to keep any tests of Negro ability in competition with white folk from being made at all; it is quite common to find Negroes excluded from public competitions, from examinations like those for the Rhodes Scholarships and tests for the Army and Navy. But we have heretofore been told that in the high and rarified atmosphere of Art, international and inter-racial freedom and comity, and eagerness for ability unstained by discrimination of any sort was eagerly desired.

In this hope we have been recently disappointed. Representatives of the National Academy of Design, the Architectural League, the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, the Mural Painters, the National Sculpture Society