DEMOCRATISING THE UNIVERSITY

A PROFESSOR'S SUGGESTIONS

Professor W. Jethro Brown writes—

So much has been said of late about making our University a more democratic institution that I have been a little unwilling to find space in your columns to add my voice to the debate. But I think it is of some importance to point out that if the University were ever to become a democratic institution, it would not be by accident, but would be the result of a deliberate effort on the part of the students and the faculty to make it so. The University is a complex institution, with many interests and many problems, and it is not easy to decide how these interests should be represented. But I believe that the best way to decide this question is to hold a referendum among the students, and to let them decide which of the existing organizations, or which new organization, they wish to have as the official representative of the student body.

The view that the University should be a democratic institution is not new. It has been expressed in the past, and it is expressed again today. But I think it is of some importance to point out that the University is not a democratic institution in the sense that the word is commonly used. It is true that the University has a council, and that the council has the power to make rules and regulations for the conduct of the University. But the council is not elected by the students, and it is not representative of the students in the sense that the word is commonly used. The council is elected by the faculty, and it is representative of the faculty in the sense that the word is commonly used.

The University is a very important institution, and it is of some importance to consider how it can be made more democratic. I think that the best way to do this is to hold a referendum among the students, and to let them decide which of the existing organizations, or which new organization, they wish to have as the official representative of the student body. The University is not a democratic institution in the sense that the word is commonly used, but it can be made more democratic by holding a referendum among the students, and by letting them decide which of the existing organizations, or which new organization, they wish to have as the official representative of the student body.