

Coming next week—Special Armistice Day Number of the Spectrum. Edited by the Disabled Veterans of the World War.

The WEEKLY SPECTRUM

EDITED AND CONTROLLED BY THE STUDENTS OF THE NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Do you read the editorials? 39% of the student body does. What about the other 61%? Why don't they? We'd like to know.

VOL. XXXV, No. 4.

NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1921.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

Bachelor of Arts: What Is It?

The writer of this article was for ten years the registrar of one of the larger state universities. For a decade, therefore, he was exclusively concerned with those elusive entities known as grades, credits, and degrees. During that time there were recorded under his supervision nearly a million grades, each one carrying a notation as to credits. He had charge also of the meticulous engraving of something like ten thousand degrees. By virtue of his position he became learned in all the mysteries of the academic arithmetic by which these odd conceptions are supposed, a service that was necessary and useful if not distinguished, he was all the time the agent of a pernicious formalism that goes far to sap the vitality and reality of higher education throughout the colleges and universities of America.

Let us consider what these things are—grades, credits, and degrees. The marking system ordinarily takes the form either of percentages, with the "passing grade" at 70 or 75, or of a series of letters, the first four or five or six of the alphabet, with "passing" at C or D. The superficial convenience of this is obvious. A simple grade is much easier for both the instructor and the registrar to record than any other form of judgment on the student's achievement could possibly be. But the convenience is attained at the expense of reality. A grade of B, for example, looks remarkably pretentious—hit the same percentage. He will come nearer to arriving at the same mark under the literal system, with its fewer subdivisions. But even under that system two different instructors in the same course are likely to assign different marks to the same paper. This actually happens as often as not when in cases of dispute or appeal a paper is read by more than one teacher, though in such cases the two members of the faculty are usually anxious to concur. And the "standards," as they are called, vary still more from department to department. Yet all these marks, because they have the specious appearance of precision and tangibility, are added and averaged together, and decisions of academic life and death, honor and dishonor, are based on the results.

Credits are an even more remarkable institution. A credit is usually "the work of a class, meeting once a week for a semester with the necessary preparation, or the equivalent in laboratory, shop, or drawing-room." Thus a course in which the student recites three times a week is a three-credit course, and one in which the class meets five times a five-credit course. Admirably simple, is it not? But it is only when we come to concrete cases that the full beauty—and ruthlessness—of this plan become apparent. Six "credits" in the Dialogues of Plato or in Milton plus four "credits" in Surveying or in Stock Judging equal—ten "credits!" And 120 credits plus 1 Bachelor of Arts! But surely no one will seriously maintain that three hours devoted to a classroom reading of Keats and the same number or any "equivalent" number of hours spent in a recitation in calculus or on a botany field trip or in playing the piano have any real relation to each other, mathematical or otherwise. This does not imply the superiority of any one of these exercises over the others. It is simply to assert that they are all quantitatively immeasurable and incomparable.

The evil of grades is an ancient evil, but the whole machinery of credits is new. It came into being along in the nineties as a by-product of the elective system. So long as the curriculum in liberal arts was prescribed throughout—as the curricula in civil

CALENDAR OF NEAR EVENTS

Watch the calendar each week for events that may be of interest to you.
Friday, Nov. 4—6:30 P. M.—Polytechnic Club Banquet, Ceres Hall.
8:30 P. M.—Delta Phi Beta Sorority dance.
Saturday, Nov. 5—3 P. M.—N. D. A. C. vs Fargo College, Dacotah Field.
8:30 P. M.—Sopamome Dance. Open to all students of the college.
Monday, Nov. 7—4:30 P. M.—Address by Supt. Moore to Education Club, Little Country Theatre.
Wednesday, Nov. 9—4:30 P. M.—Cadet Hop, College Armory.
Thursday, November 10—7:30 P. M. Eighth Annual Industrial Course Demonstration Contest, Little Country Theatre.
Friday, Nov. 11—ARMISTICE DAY (College holiday) Watch the bulletin board for further notice of the day's program.
8:30 P. M.—Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity dance. Open to all students of the college.

ARMISTICE NUMBER OF SPECTRUM NEXT WEEK

Disabled Veterans Will Edit Special Edition Devoted to Events of the Day with Additional Features.
Three years ago this next Friday the World War came to a close with the coming into effect of the Armistice. It was a great day for America and the world. What did Nov. 11, 1918 mean to those American soldiers and sailors at the front, overseas, patrolling dangerous waters, or under arms at home? Read the answer in next week's Spectrum. The coming issue will be edited by Disabled Veterans of The World War, now students at the North Dakota Agricultural College. It will be devoted chiefly to current events of the day and special features such as "What is Uncle Sam Doing For His Disabled Veterans?", "An account of the Work of the Veterans' Bureau," "The American Legion in North Dakota", and numerous other features that will be of interest to you.

SHOW YOUR CARD

The above mandate will go into effect at the next Cadet Hop, Wednesday, Nov. 9. There was a time when conditions would permit the inviting of friends of the college to these pleasant afternoon informals. But with our greatly increased enrollment this year the Armory will no longer accommodate everyone when it includes people outside of the school. The purpose of the Cadet Hops has always been to promote a friendly feeling between all students of the college and to serve as a social get-together hour where students could become better acquainted. So from now on your registration card (which every student carries with him all the time) will be your passport when the door man finds it necessary to identify you. The only exceptions to this rule will be former students and alumni who are always welcome to our college functions. Don't forget your card. It may save embarrassment at the next Hop if the door man doesn't know you.

Down on the lower east side of New York, where sweatshops abound, a teacher was talking to her class about the four seasons. At the end of her talk she began to question. "Rebecca, how many seasons have we?"
"Two," replied Rebecca "Slack and busy."

Do You Read the Editorials?

How many students read the editorials in the Spectrum each week? Prompted by a desire to know, a member of the staff conducted a canvass during the past week to determine, if possible, what the actual value of the editorial column was to the school. Sixty students, fairly representative of the various schools and departments in the college and a number of the faculty were spoken to at random; the question being: Do you read the editorials? Did you read the editorial last week? or What did you think of the last editorial? Here are the cold facts (and they are pretty cold):

Did read the editorials..... 23
Did not read the editorials 37
Total numbered interviewed 60

Judged in terms of its editorial column the Weekly Spectrum is about 39% efficient in serving its intended purpose as a student organ. It is true that sixty students are a small fraction of the total enrollment, but the canvass was made as representative as possible and it is doubtful if the mark would have gone over 50% had the verdict of the entire student body been taken.

The aim of the editorial staff since the paper started this year has been to conduct a column devoted to an open-minded discussion of current events and happenings in our active college life which would find an appreciative response or stimulate an exchange of opinion. If the above figures are a true indication then the success of this endeavor has been a signal failure.

If other college papers were to try a similar test we wonder what the results would be and how they would compare with ours. In all probability, if the efficiency was 50% they would turn the column over to something else (we don't know just what), reduce the size of the paper or carry more advertising.

Or is it possible that the blame is not altogether with the management? Is the intelligence of the average A. C. student so low that he can find nothing in the editorials to furnish mental stimulus? Or has he such a perverted taste in the matter of reading that this kind of stuff holds no interest for him? We wonder.

What's wrong? We would most earnestly like to know. The only way to find out is to make an appeal to the student body for an expression of opinion. How can we make the Weekly Spectrum more nearly 100% efficient in serving its intended purpose of being a college newspaper for all the students of N. D. A. C.? Let's hear from you, if you have a worthwhile idea.

N. D. A. C. vs. Fargo College

Tomorrow Dakota Field

The team that defeated a team which held us to a tie

The Hilltoppers will give us a real battle---
Let's help our team win---everybody out

Sophomores Will Be Hosts To College

ANNUAL CLASS DANCE WILL BE GIVEN IN THE ARMORY FROM EIGHT-THIRTY TO ELEVEN O'CLOCK TOMORROW EVENING.

The renowned class of '24 will give their annual dance in the college armory tomorrow, to which all students of the college and properly escorted friends are invited. Lovers of the light fantastic will skip to the most entrancing strains of Farrel's aggregation of music makers. Informal dancing will be the order of the evening from eight-thirty to nine o'clock after which will follow a regular program dance. Favor dances and moonlights will provide something different by way of diversion.

Carence Fiske, Herbert Herbison and Leo Osman are in charge of the musical, favor and program end of the evening's entertainment which assures us that everything will run smoothly. Neal Coit, Leonard Hoisveen and Margaret Boerth have charge of refreshments—another assurance that dusty throats will not lack a sufficiency of

the soothing fluid. Tom Raye, Charlotte Wyard and Letitia Jones will see that a pleasing effect is made thru the appeal to our sense of sight; for with the help of the class they expect to turn the barren armory into a veritable paradise.

Patrons and patronesses for the evening are President and Mrs. J. L. Coulter, Professor and Mrs. O. O. Churchill and Professor and Mrs. A. H. Parrott.

The class of '24 extends to the college a cordial invitation to forget with us the burdensome cares of the week and let pleasure reign supreme.

EDWIN BOOTH DRAMATIC CLUB BEGINS YEAR WITH CHOOSING OF FALL TERM PLAY. Miss Lulu Bett, Three Act Comedy by Zona Gale, is Chosen by the Club for First Term.

Notice for tryouts for the Edwin Booth Fall Term play brought out a large number of new candidates particularly among the members of the Freshmen class. At the time of going to press the final decision for the cast had not been made in next week's issue. The first regular rehearsal will be held on Monday afternoon. The play will be given the evening before Thanksgiving, November 23.

University Gives "Aggies" Handsome Trimming

INTER-FRATERNITY BANQUET GOES OVER BIG

First Annual Inter-Fraternity Banquet Marked by Splendid Spirit of Cooperation and Friendly Rivalry.

Gathered round the long tables in the spacious dining-room of the Fargo Commercial Club, rubbing elbows with many a man whom they had seen on the campus and about the halls of A. C. for years but never knew by name, the Greek letter men of the college cast aside all organization lines last Wednesday evening and joined together in a mighty chorus vied with each other in singing "Hail, Hail, The Gang's All Here." From then on it was a rapid fire barrage up and down the line: "My name's Billican; what's yours?" and before the soup had all been inhaled strangers were no more and the brotherhood of A. C. fraternity men was a living reality,—the consummation of an earnest desire that has longed for expression these many years.

Following the dinner came a brief program of impromptu speeches by the presidents of the fraternities and President Coulter of the college. Prof. I. W. Smith, president of the Inter-Fraternity Council, as toastmaster of the evening prefaced the program with a few well-chosen words expressing his sincere pleasure with the manner in which the fraternities had so whole-heartedly responded to the invitation for a mixer. Following this came speeches by the various heads of the fraternities: Ronald Bentley for Alpha Gamma Rho, Harry Hoffmann for Alpha Kappa Phi, Lawrence Bohloff for Delta Pi and Matthew Tindall for Theta Chi, all expressing the unanimous desire for a greater unity of purpose and closer bond of friendship between their respective organizations that each might work for the best interests of our Alma Mater.

President John L. Coulter concluded the program with an expression of sincere pleasure in witnessing such a demonstration of harmony and friendliness among rival groups of college men who had evidenced by their presence at the gathering a real desire to set aside all personal or organization ambitions for the welfare of the college. His closing appeal was for a healthy rivalry that would stimulate every man to do his very best, a rivalry not born of hate but of frank friendliness that would result in a promotion of the best interests of the school first, last and all the time. And we feel sure that it was the one wish of every fraternity man, active and alumni, present that evening that Alma Mater would come first and the organization or individual after.

STUDENT COMMISSION APPOINTS ATHLETIC MANAGERS

At the regular business session on Monday evening the Student Commission voted for the following men to act as student athletic managers for the coming school year: Gerald Weisert, football; Fred Wilson, basketball; Leo Osman, baseball; Herbert Herbison, track; and Frank Roth, intra-mural.

The first of the intra-mural contests will be a football game between the Sophomores and Freshmen at 10 o'clock Saturday morning. The contest promises plenty of excitement and blood-letting as both classes are out for a victory since the no-decision fight on Home Coming Day in the Flag Rush.

THE MORE EXPERIENCED TEAM WINS A GAME NOT AS ONE-SIDED AS THE SCORE WOULD INDICATE.

Showing a remarkable interference and an ability to execute the forward pass almost at will were the chief assets in the 38 to 3 defeat handed out by the University eleven to the "Aggies" on University Field last Saturday afternoon. The lone tally in the "Aggie" column came in the early part of the final quarter after the Yellow and Green warriors had pushed the ball up to the University 40-yard line, where Bruegger kicked the ball from placement for a perfect field goal.

Under a warm October sun that beat down upon the crowded beachers with the heat of a June day, A. C. kicked off to the University. The U fumbled on the second play, the "Aggies" recovering the ball. The next few minutes of play looked all for the Fargo team as they worked the ball down to the University 10-yard line. Then the ball went over on a fumble and the Davis eleven began their irresistible march down the field making first downs in steady procession. The first touchdown for the U came at the end of the first ten minutes of play thru a pretty end run for 20 yards. The "Aggie" line held firm but the superior speed of the University backfield could not be matched and they circled our ends time and again for long gains.

But the game was not a runaway for the upstate eleven. Many times during the battle the "Aggies" held without allowing the University to gain and every foot of ground was contested. The game was a hard-fought contest in which the greener A. C. team suffered by far the greater number of injuries but in all fairness we must say that it was one of the cleanest fought contests ever witnessed between these two ancient rivals. The same stubborn fighters that the A. C. rooters have seen in action on Dacotah Field were in action at the University. There was little personal glory in the fight but every "Aggie" player fought with every ounce of strength in him and the student body has nothing but the best of praise for the team.

Thanks to the weatherman's favorable forecast of the night before a goodly bunch of the A. C. student body and outside supporters boarded the morning train, northward bound, or headed for the Forks by auto for the big game Saturday morning. By three o'clock over two hundred howling fans were crowding the east beachers of University Field with Doc's forty piece band just over the fence leading the anvil chorus.

Yes! We got beat, but it was a good game, worth going twice as far to see, and everyone reports a good time, all the time. University hospitality was the best in years. Here's to our upstate rivals. Come down to Dacotah Field next year and we will try and do as much for you including as good a beating as the one we got last Saturday.

Col. Muller To Inspect R. O. T. C.

Col. Muller to inspect R. O. T. C. Words was received by Major F. B. Carrithers this week of the coming of Lt.-Col. C. H. Muller on next Monday for the annual fall inspection of the R. O. T. C. Unit at this place. Students and faculty of the college will better remember Lt.-Col. Muller as the major who inspected our unit last year. Since that time he has won a promotion. After the inspection on Monday he will leave for Grand Forks to inspect the R. O. T. C. Unit at the University.

FROM RAIN AND SNOW Protect your Book Get a Waterproof Bookbag at A. C. Bookstore

EDITORIAL STAFF

Table listing editorial staff: MATTHEW E. TINDALL (Editor-in-Chief), JAMES I. BALLARD (Managing Editor), FRED D. WILKINSON (Business Manager), BERNICE G. NOYES (Associate Editor), HERBERT W. HERBISON (Associate Editor), SNORRI THORFINNSON (Associate Editor), ARTHUR OSTMAN (Athletics), HARRY E. HOFMANN (Dramatics), PAT MENDENHALL (Humor), HARRIET A. OSTBY (Society), GEORGE M. BOHNSACK (Military).

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—One Year, \$1.50; Single Copies, 5 cents. ADVERTISING RATES on application. Address all communications to Business Manager, THE SPECTRUM, Agricultural College, North Dakota.

EDITED—BY THE STUDENTS.

On the front page of this issue of the Spectrum appears an account of an experiment conducted by one of the editorial staff last week to determine what per cent of the student body read the editorials.

If the editor attempted to classify the above reasons and then set out with good intention of correcting the policy of his paper to meet the popular demand expressed or hinted at in these answers he would have a strange conglomeration of printed matter under the title of a college newspaper.

Perhaps, some of you have noticed the words at the top of the front page: "Edited and Controlled by the Students of The North Dakota Agricultural College". They mean exactly what they say.

It's up to you. Our paper can be truly representative in its weekly news items only in so far as you choose to make it so by constituting yourself a committee of one to see that the news is handed in.

OUR SOCIAL PRIVILEGES.

Those students who had the privilege last Saturday of journeying to the University and remaining for the dance in the Armory that evening probably became acquainted with some regulations for student social functions that were quite new to them.

And, let it be said to the honor of the students of this college, there is no existing reason why more stringent rules should be enforced to safeguard or better our social relations.

But when it comes to the matter of deciding what shall constitute improper dancing, dress or conduct the verdict is not so unanimous for the affirmative.

In some institutions these regulations are very stringent to the point of being unreasonable. For the benefit of those students who are not acquainted with the rules and regulations governing our social functions here at the A. C. we are printing them for your information.

DATES AND PERMISSIONS—All student organizations officially recognized by the institution must secure their dates and permission to hold parties in college buildings and public places off the campus from the committee on social entertainments.

CHAPERONS—At least two chaperons are required at all parties. The signature of a chaperon upon a social permit card obligates the chaperon to remain at the party until everybody has left the hall.

HOURS—All parties must begin not later than eight-thirty o'clock, except by special permission.

CONDUCT—Smoking on the campus or in college buildings is absolutely forbidden. Conduct unbecoming anybody in attendance at a social function will not be tolerated.

GUESTS—All parties held on the college campus are exclusively for college people. Guests may be invited by the organization in charge of the function.

Y. M. C. A.

Good Crowd At Open House

The Lobby of the Association Building was well filled last Monday evening when Dr. Coulter spoke to the men of the College. He emphasized the need on the part of every Agricultural College student of setting a goal for himself, and then of banding every energy to the accomplishment of that goal.

Following Dr. Coulter's address Matt Tindall, Editor of the Spectrum, gave a talk on college spirit. Clarence Jensen sang a tenor solo.

Membership cards were issued to those students requesting them. After refreshments Dick Falkenstein led the men in the singing of old songs, ending with the "Yellow and the Green."

Membership Campaign Successful

The Membership Campaign conducted by the Association has up to the present brought in over two hundred members, with a great many men yet to be seen. The membership work will go on intermittently through the next few weeks.

The Finance Campaign is under way this week. The men of the campus are rallying to the support of the Association in a splendid fashion, in spite of the fact that this is a remarkably hard year for finance. The Red Triangle Auxiliary served an excellent dinner to over fifty faculty and students workers last Monday evening.

TRI-STATE STUDENT SECRETARY HERE THIS WEEK.

Reginald C. Bell of Minneapolis, Secretary for the colleges of the two Dakotas and Minnesota, spent the week at Agricultural College. On Tuesday evening he addressed a group of parents of North-end boys on Boy Problems.

Mr. Bell leaves here for Minneapolis on Thursday night. There he will be at work in the University of Minnesota for a few days.

DEPUTATION TEAM CONDUCTS SERVICE

The Deputation Team of the Association conducted the evening service at the First Baptist Church last Sunday. The words of one of the members of the church following the service were these: "That was the best program our church has had in many years."

The Team gave its program following the song service conducted by Prof. Preston and the Chapel Choir of Moorhead State College. The program follows:

Snorri Thorfinnson, '24—"The Coming Disarmament Conference." Theo. Thorfinnson, '21—"The Church and Industry."

Richard B. Falkenstein, '22—"Why I Intend to Enter Some Definite Form of Christian Service."

Y. W. C. A. Notes

The regular organization meeting was held last Wednesday evening in Ceres Hall at seven o'clock. Kipling's "If" was read by Ethel McGulgan and illustrated with characters of men in the Bible by various cabinet members.

Miss Carrie Hovland has been appointed Social Chairman during the absence of Ella Radcliffe, and comes as a very welcome addition to our cabinet.

Spend a pleasant study hour in our Blue Room (south door of Association Building.) 'Tis a real rest room and you are always welcome.

During the last week members of the cabinet and others have made an effort to meet and welcome the new girls entering recently organized courses, as well as older girls who had not yet been approached.

Architectural Club Meeting

The second bi-weekly meeting of the Architectural Club was held last Thursday evening at which time the following men were voted into membership: Stubbe, Kratzke, Gillespie, Bonsack, Olson and Bechtel, all of whom are Freshman architects.

Features of the evening's program were a paper on "Optical Illusions as Practiced by the Greeks" by Kratzke and a movie film showing scenes from Morocco, Dalmatia and Holland of particular interest to student architects.

The date for the next regular meeting was set for Nov. 10 at which time the program will consist of an inspection trip thru some modern building in the city of Fargo.

STOCK REDUCING SALE

YOUNG MENS

Suits and Overcoats

\$22.50

for suits and overcoats worth up to \$30.00

\$32.50

for suits and overcoats worth up to \$42.50

\$42.00

for suits and overcoats worth up to \$55.00

THE GLOBE

64 BROADWAY

FARGO, N. D.

BEFORE YOU DECIDE ON A SUIT

SEE OUR \$40 SPECIAL

Tailored to Measure.

BROADWAY TAILORING COMPANY

Phone 805-W

116 Broadway, FARGO, N. D.

We Keep You Looking Your Best---

The smart, clean-cut, style of the new Adler Collegian Clothes will stand out as your first impression when you see them here.

SUITS \$35.00 to \$50.00 OVERCOATS \$35.00 to \$85.00

C. A. SWANSEN CO.

514-516 Front Street,

FARGO, N. D.

Buy Your Clothes Where You Can Save Money

YOU CAN ALWAYS DO BETTER AT THE



Magill Block

Fargo, N. D.

Welcome Back To Old A. C.

REMEMBER OUR NUMBER

3606

when you have organization parties.



CHOICEST ROLLS AND BREAD

MADE TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS.

—AT—

BARKER BAKERY

BILL WILLIAMS, Proprietor.

A. C. Class '14.

PARTICULAR CLOTHES FOR PARTICULAR MEN.

Hart, Schaffner and Marx CLOTHING

Holmes Clothing Company

KNOX, STETSON AND GORDON HATS.

HANAN AND PACKARD SHOES.

OFFICIAL COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHERS

New Garden Studio

MAKERS OF FINE

PHOTOGRAPHS

Quick Service on Developing and Printing.

619 First Avenue North

Opposite Grand Theater.

Seasonable offerings in Society Brand Clothes and up-to-date furnishings for young men and men who stay young at the—

S. & C. Clothing Company

"THE HOME OF THE BEST"

520 Front Street

W. G. Sauve, Prop.

College & School Emblems FARGO JEWELRY MFG. CO. N.P. BLOK - FARGO, N.D. Includes various crest logos and decorative borders.

Remember--

The Mary-Elizabeth Shop

When in need of a Frock, Suit, Coat or Blouse. We cater to the "Young College Miss". Style and Quality considered our prices are the lowest.

Remley & Johnson Co.

Picture for Home, School and Office

Artistic Picture Framing, Artists Materials, School Supplies, and Fine Stationery, Films and Kodak Finishing

FARGO ART STORE

J. M. INGBERG, Proprietor
PHONE 4745 301 Broadway, FARGO, N. D.

OLYMPIA CANDY STORE

Why Not Send Her a Box of Our Choice Homemade Candy for a Birthday Gift?

202 Broadway Phone 1094-J

METROPOLE CAFE

SPECIAL DINNERS AND SUPPERS—50c

We cater for Parties and Banquets

519 N. P. Avenue Phone 3237

FOR FIRST CLASS TAXI SERVICE

Nick Konen Taxi

482—PHONES—707

Nash, Buick, Hudson We Never Close
FUNERAL HEARSE.

The Store for College Men

WHO CARE FOR

Style, Quality, and Price

ALEX STERN & CO.

GRANDMA'S Doughnut Shop

203 BROADWAY, FARGO, N. D.

Talk of the Town For Light Lunches

We bake our own pies and pastry, waffles, doughnuts, cereals and sandwiches. The Home of the Electric Toast.

Try our Coffee once and we know you will be back.

"Say it with Flowers" Every Day

THERE ARE THINGS HAPPENING

HOME GROWN FLOWERS

For All Occasions **Shotwell Floral Co.**
PHONE 424 FARGO, N. D.
Established over a quarter of a century



SEE US AND SEE BETTER.

Don't delay for one day the important matter of your eyesight. We are here to help your eyes now,—not next year when they may become beyond help. Make an appointment to-day for the health of your eyes.

Hagen-Newton Co.

JEWELERS and OPTICIANS,
Fargo, N. D.

It pays to Advertise. So Does It Pay to Patronize Our Advertisers. They are Back of the College. Trade With Them.

BACHELOR OF ARTS: WHAT IT IS?

(Continued from Page 1.)

engineering and chemistry and medicine and law still are—there was no need of this device. The student completed the course of study as it was laid down, and when he had done so he was given a certificate to that effect. This was perfectly straightforward and sound. But with the advent of the elective system it was deemed necessary to find some method of calculating when the student was eligible for a degree, conceived of as the inevitable god, and some misguided genius devised credits.

The dilemma is a real one. Suppose we put aside credits as a meaningless absurdity, and ask what, without the support of this fiction, the B. A. degree now means.

You are an employer, and a young man comes to you with this degree as an evidence of qualification. What does it tell you? Well, he has spent four years at a college or university and during that period has devoted a reasonable minimum of hours per week to some of the subjects of the curriculum. That is about all. Could any form of certificate possibly tell less? When it tells so little, is it worth while to have it at all?

It is to be noted that these animadversions apply but little as yet to the various sciences (in engineering, chemistry, agriculture, and the like) or to the degrees in law and medicine. In those fields the courses are still largely prescribed. The degree of Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering, for example, represents a very definite body of knowledge acquired. However, the demand for electives in these curricula is growing, and the proportion of electives, now negligible, is gradually being increased. As this process goes on the professional degrees will approximate the meaningless which the degree in arts has already attained. That seems to be the goal of the present development.

But what is the answer? Granted that credits are an unreal and unsatisfactory method of computation, how shall we figure degrees? Surely we must have some kind of records. Indeed we must. Far be it from a registrar, to depreciate the importance of records.

Does not the difficulty arise from the assumed necessity of maintaining the mediaeval institution of the degree—the Artium Baccalaureus? The meaning of the contemporary B. A., so far as it has any meaning, is, of course, totally different from the original significance of those words. By what compulsion must we cling still to that ancient Latin formula? Suppose we abandon the idea of the B. A.—of all degrees whatever. Would not the situation clear at once? Would anyone think of continuing to use these silly credits? Should we not be ready to install a system of records, and certificates based on them, that would really mean something?

But what kind of records do I propose? My answer is: Real records. These might comprise, for each course the student took, a printed synopsis of that course and, attached, a report from the instructor of the student's accomplishment therein—what parts he had mastered and what parts neglected or failed to grasp; what aptitudes, proficiencies, and enthusiasms he had displayed; what ineptitudes, dullness, indifference. The registrar's office would come to contain for each student a file of such synopses and reports. Such a record might be of most definite value to the student himself, to his parents, to prospective employers—even to college officers.

The advantages of the abandonment of degrees may be illustrated through a consideration of one or two of the corollaries that would follow.

In the first place, we should have no further need of grades. We should not even have to say whether a student has "passed" or "failed". That arbitrary doom exists solely for the purposes of degrees. For all other purposes the real part-colored story of the student's accomplishment would be better. Give up degrees, and we should at the same time relegate the imaginary line between 69 and 70, or between D and C, to the limbo of absurd superstitions.

Another corollary is even more revolutionary. In the absence of degrees the sacrosanct number four, as applied to the years of a college course, would, I am persuaded, soon lose its mystic virtue. It is not an odd dispen-

sation of academic Providence that for whatever purpose under heaven a student comes to college it takes him exactly four years to achieve it—as evidenced by a degree? Whether he wishes to become a poet or an accountant, a poultry farmer or a chemist, a teacher of dead languages or a filler of dad teeth, the time described is four years—neither more nor less.

The standardized quadrennium is silliest, perhaps, in liberal arts and sciences. A satisfactory mastery of the subjects included under that heading would require, let us say, two hundred years. On the other hand, many purposes for which students may and do enter the "general course" may be amply fulfilled in two years or three. There is no dividing line anywhere. Yet the effort of the colleges, through the powerful compulsion of degrees, is to hold all the students for four years and force all of them out at the end of that period. Would it not be a happy result of an abandonment of degrees that young men and women could come to universities and study there as long as they and their parents felt that what they were getting was worth the expenditure of young life, and then depart in peace and without the odium that now attaches to the ex-student not an alumnus? Each student could take away with him, at the end of one year or five years, in lieu of a meaningless degree, duplicate copies of such real records as I have described, giving an intelligible account of the subjects he had studied and the amount and character of his progress therein.

But an escape from grades and the overthrow of the four-year fallacy are, after all, only minor illustrations of the far-reaching general advantage to be expected from discarding credits and degrees. The great pervasive evil resulting from these fictions is the introduction of an aspect of unreality and formalism into nearly the whole work of nearly all the students. Credits and a degree, rather than the pursuit of knowledge, are made to seem the goal of the student's endeavor. If your son in his sophomore year registered for a course in Shakespeare, the chances are he did so, not from a desire to become acquainted with the poetry and living characters of the greatest bard and dramatist, but for the sake of three credits towards a "group requirements." And it was not his fault; it was my fault as registrar and the dean's; we told him he must have three more credits in that "group." That was the reason we gave him for taking Shakespeare! Of course the faculty grumble continually because the students so generally work only for

(Continued on Page 4.)

Go to the Shop of Personal Service. Years of Experience with College Men has Made it Possible to cater to your exact wants.

OSCAR OLSON, Barber,
Rear Room of College Grocery.

DIXON

LAUNDRY COMPANY
PHONE 666 307 BROADWAY
Service and Quality

North Dakota Agricultural College

For Completeness of Equipment and Facilities for Instruction is Unsurpassed in the Northwest.
THE COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OFFERS

Agriculture—Architectural Engineering—Architecture—Biology—Chemistry—Chemistry and Engineering—Civil Engineering—Home Economics—Mechanical Engineering—Pharmacy—Science and Literature—Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

These courses are available to those who have completed the equivalent of a High School training. For those who have not had such training.

THE AGRICULTURAL AND MANUAL ARTS HIGH SCHOOL OFFERS:

Complete Secondary Courses in Agriculture—Domestic Science—General Science—Mechanic Arts—Rural Teachers.

SPECIAL COURSES

Business Training, Draftsmen and Builders, Farm Husbandry, Homemakers, Pharmacy, Power Machinery. THIS COLLEGE offers to the young people of this state an education which is thoroughly in line with modern thought and demands. It spends no time on dead languages or such subjects as are of little practical value. It aims to fit young men and women to think and investigate for themselves; to deal intelligently with the social, agricultural and industrial problems of the day.

THE LABORATORIES are thoroughly equipped, and the instructors are specialists in their line. Extra advantages are offered in chemistry, physics, botany, literature, mathematics, engineering, and the social, economic and political sciences.

Graduates from Approved High Schools are admitted to the Freshman Class. Board and Room \$6.25 to \$7.50 PER WEEK.

WRITE TO THE REGISTRAR FOR CIRCULARS, CATALOG, AND ADMISSION BLANKS
College, High School and Business courses started September 23. The Special and Industrial courses will open October 17th.

BUSINESS TRAINING

Thorough courses, trained experienced teachers, modern equipment, service that satisfies. Over eighty per cent of our graduates have been placed in Fargo offices. This shows how we stand at home.

During the past few days we have placed students from our school and other schools with banks, law firms, insurance companies, land and loan offices, oil companies, schools. The A. C., the State University, etc. Call or write for particulars.

Interstate Business College

FARGO, N. D.

OSCAR HALLENBERG E. R. WRIGHT
CENTRAL DRUG STORE
66 BROADWAY
Exclusive Agents for Huyter's and Johnston's Chocolates.
Moore and Conklin Pens, Eversharp Pencils.

WYNAND BROS. TAXICABS

525—PHONE—216
NEW CARS PROMPT SERVICE
Always Open 201 Broadway

—VISIT—
THE NESTOR BILLIARD ROOM
—OR—
THE TOPIC BILLIARD ROOM
—FOR—

CLEAN, INTERESTING RECREATION
THE REINEKE CO.

COLLEGE GROCERY

STAPLE AND FANCY GROCERIES
FRUITS AND CONFECTIONERY

Soda Fountain in Connection Phone 3134

See us for lowest prices on Sheet

Music, Band Instruments, Music

Rolls, Records and

EVERYTHING KNOWN IN MUSIC

Stone Piano Company

Stone Bldg. FARGO, N. D.

Old Shoes Made New
SHOE HOSPITAL
GEO. P. HOWELL, Prop.
Rapid—Right—Reliable

Prices Right Phone 1669
Special Attention paid to Parcel Post Orders.
13 Broadway, Morton Blk, Fargo, N. D.

"COURTESY" Is Our Motto

BEST
Tables
Fountain Service
Stock of Cigars, Tobacco and Pipes.
IN THE CITY
Grand Billiard Parlor

KINGSBURY
TAILORING CO.
PHOTO FIT
SERVICE

VENUS PENCILS

FOR the student or prof., the superb VENUS out- rivals all for perfect pencil work. 17 Black degrees and 3 copying.
American Lead Pencil Co. 230 Fifth Ave. New York

DANCE PROGRAMS
ENGRAVED CARDS
Printing of All Kinds

Knight Printing Co.
Phone 602 FARGO

Patronize our advertisers. Their patronage has made possible the publication of this paper.

Suits and Overcoats

Hand tailored to measure—Hundreds of Brand New Woolens—

\$30.00, \$35.00, \$45.00.

Come in and Look over these values



Dakota Pressing Parlors
Dry Cleaning, Dyeing, Pressing
and Repairing

Work Called For and Delivered
Promptly.
Phone 103, Necktie Pressed Free
301 Broadway FARGO, N. D.

CHICAGO CAFE
214 Broadway

American and Chinese Service

Best Meal In Town

R. R. HALL P. G. JOHNSON
THE PANTORIUM
DRY CLEANERS AND HATTERS
Phone 658
110 Robert St., FARGO, N. D.

—Expert Watch Repairing—

Diamond and Stone Setting a Specialty
FULL LINE OF FINE JEWELRY
CUT GLASS, SILVERWARE
FOUNTAIN PENS
C. J. BELLES & CO.
JEWELERS
318 Broadway Fargo, N. D.

"House of Cleanliness"
Model Laundry
Agency: College Grocery
FARGO, N. DAK.

Telephone 1109-W

E. W. Johnson
JEWELER

Student Work a Specialty
604 Front St. South FARGO, N. D.

OUR
Rest Rooms

ARE ALWAYS OPEN

Meet Me

—AT—

The Merchants National Bank



TELEPHONE 776

Keep Memories Bright.
Send the Folks at Home a
Photo of Yourself.

E. B. McCracken
PHOTOGRAPHER
112 Broadway FARGO, N. D.

HALL-ALLEN SHOE CO.
Dependable
Shoes

107 Broadway Fargo, N. D.

Eyes Examined and
Glasses Fitted by
Anderson-Varnson
Company
Registered Optometrists
108 Broadway
Next to Garrick Theater

The EYES of the WORLD



"JUST BRING AN HONEST FACE"

Crescent Jewelry Co.

YOUR
CREDIT
IS
GOOD
HERE
—
PAY
SMALL
SUMS

HAVE
YOUR
EYES
EXAMINED
NOW!
—
EXPERT
OPTICAL
SERVICE

ACHOTH
Achoth's baby chapter at North-Western University, Evanston, Ill. is to be installed Saturday, Nov. 5th. Buy your doughnuts from the Achoth girls at the Fargo College game next Saturday. None better.

DELTA PI
Harry Swanson, John Jensen and Leonard Hoisveen visited the Moorhead State Teacher's College last Saturday disguised as members of a surveying party. We haven't heard as yet what luck they had. Delta Pi announces the initiation of Arnie Helegeson and Eli Anderson.

ALPHA KAPPA PHI
"Bill" Bena spent Home Coming Day and the first of the week with the boys before pulling freight for Conway. Brother Ralph Irick returned the last of the week from a two weeks extended visit to Chicago and Madison. While at the latter place he was the guest of "Tony" Flamer who is attending Wisconsin U. this year.

Athenians, Attention!

Athenians, more "pep" in the rear ranks. Shake a palsied nerve and get out to meetings. Those "as which are" have the spirit(s) but "them as ain't" must cast their books under the bed and hike for the usual gathering place on Thursday evening at the usual hour of seven-thirty P. M.—there to enjoy, not the usual, but the unusual for we have an extraordinary combination of circumstances awaiting you. Skipper Noyes is at the helm and assisted by a worthy crew. Come next Thursday, then, and see what you can do, which was undone before.
The program:—
Song..... Society
Reading..... Ethel McGuigan
Piano Solo..... Theresa Kalberer
Current Events... Mildred Brainard
Business Session.

ARMISTICE DAY PLANS
NEARING COMPLETION.
Altho final plans have not been completed for the Armistice Day program certain tentative arrangements have been made that will be of interest to all students of the college.

The day will be a holiday for the express purpose of observing it in the manner intended when it was set aside as a national holiday,—a day dedicated to honoring the names of our soldier and sailor dead and those men who fought in the World War for humanity's cause. Present plans are that the college will join with the cities of Moorhead and Fargo in a civic celebration. The first thing on the schedule will be a program in the Armory followed by a parade headed by the college band and cadets in uniform. All students of the college are expected to join in this. The line of march will lead down Broadway where the parade will join with that of the two cities and thereafter be under the direction of the civic committee.

Full details of the day's program will appear in next week's Spectrum which will appear on Thursday morning. Watch for it.

Lyceum of Engineers To Initiate on Friday

A class of eighteen candidates have made application for membership into the Lyceum of Engineers this year. The Lyceum has been going good this year, starting off with a bang, and is one of the few organizations on the campus that has already completed its program for the year. Supervision of the initiation on Friday evening will be in the hands of Larry Bohnhoff, James Stark, W. P. Bates and Leonard Hoisveen. Candidates seeking admission are A. M. Anderson, C. E. Brockmire, A. B. Dickel, O. Finstad, S. Gunness, Paul Kratzke, C. Kruesil, G. Leifson, Irvin Martin, Everett Metcalf, James McGlynn, Frank Schwarz, Arthur Swanson, Henry Stube, S. Thompson, Walter Willis, Wayne Watts and Charles Wells.

The initiation committee will be assisted by active and alumni members. H. H. Bohler, Ed. Cooper, Emil Sandquist, James McLaughlin, Elmer Dynes and J. H. Herz. Don Bishop, Sander Anderson and John Jensen will be in charge of the feed that follows the initiation.

The date for initiation was changed from the regular Thursday meeting night to Friday evening in order to thoroughly, and without impartiality, administer justice to the eagerness candidates.
All applicants listed above will report promptly in the proper regalia at the Engineering Building on Friday evening at 7:30 P. M.

EDUCATION STUDENTS ORGANIZE

Students of the Education Department of the college recently completed the organization of the A. C. Education Club, the purpose of which is to discuss thru a series of programs the problems in the field of vocational and general education, and to promote the interests of all students preparing for these professions.
Any student of the college registered in the School of Education may become a member. Officers elected at the first regular business session are:
President.....Bernice Noyes
Vice President.....Lester Bullard
Secretary.....Marian Pannemaker
Treasurer.....Hubert McClellan

BACHELOR OF ARTS: WHAT IT IS?
(Continued from Page 3.)

grades and take courses "for credit." But what else can they expect? They themselves teach the poor youngsters to do so.

Young people are remarkably single-minded. When a lad has registered in a course for the sake of the credit it will bring, he does not forget his object. He is usually inclined to consider any incidental knowledge that the instructor may try to thrust upon him, to say nothing of any enthusiasm he may seek to evoke, as beside the point and to be ignored as far as possible. And studying for grades is a very special art, quite distinct from studying for subject matter. Grades come, not from the subject matter, but from the professor. If, therefore, you are after a 90 or an A, keep your eye, not on the course, but on

the professor. Study him—his favorite topics and pet jokes, his foibles and blind sides, the kinds of behavior and recitations and papers that he likes. The subject matter—whether it be economics or applied mechanics or soil physics—is only an incidental medium.
But, some will maintain, it is necessary to have these petty, immediate, possibly unreal goals for the students to work for. These youngsters aren't interested in Shakespeare. They wouldn't take him at all, most of them, except for the "credit."

Well, in the first place, if that were true, our whole system of higher education would be a gigantic fraud—as indeed it partially is at the present time. There is little reason why wealthy men should contribute millions and the various states tax themselves to the tune of tens of millions to perpetuate any such pathetic, ineffectual subterfuge as this argument confesses our higher education to be. But, in the second place, it isn't true. Post-adolescence is well known to be normally the period of passionate enthusiasm for the things of the mind and spirit. It is the young who keep knowledge and thought alive—if they have a chance. It is the stupendous crime of our academic accounting that it teaches young men and women to subordinate all their curiosities and enthusiasms to the petty technicalities of the registrar's office, to become—in place of seekers after knowledge—languid, cynical time-servers for credit and skillful toadies for grades.

Of course the poison doesn't work in all cases. There is in our colleges a saving remnant of youth who refuse to be corrupted, stiff-necked young rebels, scornful of the values their elders set before them and able to maintain the integrity of their spirits against the system. These indocile ones are likely to take high rank in one or two chosen subjects, but they neglect other courses which they are forced to "elect" and so "get in bad" (in their own phrase) with the general administration. They frequently leave without a degree.

But these are only a few. Young people in general are not refractory, but terribly docile. They accept the system as they find it and go cheerfully and faithfully ahead, working out its implications, and eventually receive with due éclat—a sheen skin. And, in the meantime, they find an outlet for their unsatisfied energies and initiatives in intercollegiate athletics, new varieties of dancing, and student "activities" in general—so called in contrast to the passivities of the classroom.

It is my contention that this need not be so—that if we would tear out the whole mechanism of grades, credits, and degrees, so as to make it perfectly clear that the only reason for studying any subject is the subject itself, a vast number of our youngsters would, with a certain surprise at first, but eventually with satisfaction and delight, begin to give real attention to the content of their courses. And if there are those for whom this content, when fairly presented on its merits, has no attractions, who really at the age of eighteen or twenty require the puerilities of grades and credits and the empty goal of a degree to hold them—surely they should enter at once upon some career of useful labor and not continue, as they are now led to do, to waste their own time and

the money of pious donors or of the state in merely formal contact with intellectual things.

—MAX McCONN.

A lusty lunged auctioneer was holding forth in the market place of a small town. Taking up a box of cigars he shouted:
"You can't get better, gentlemen. I don't care where you go, you can't get better!"

"No," replied a cynical voice from the crowd, "you can't. I smoked one last week and I'm not better yet."

"Could you do something for a poor sailor?" asked the seedy looking wanderer at the gate.
"Poor old sailor?" echoed the lady at work at the tub.

"Yes'm, I followed the water for 16 years."
"Well," said the woman after a critical look, "you don't look as if you ever caught up with it."
Then she resumed her labors.

"Did your brother have any luck when he was hunting tigers in India, John?"
"Yes, sir, great luck—he never met any."

Nurse: "Why, Bobby, you selfish little boy! Why didn't you give your sister a piece of your apple?"
Bobby: "I gave her the seeds. She can plant 'em and have a whole orchard."

Merchant: "Yes, we are in need of a porter where were you employed last?"
Applicant: "In a bank, sir."
Merchant: "Did you clean it out?"
Applicant: "No, sir. The cashier did that."

Passenger: "Say, does this car always make this noise?"
Driver: "No, only when it's running."

Mrs. Brown: "I hear the Vicar thinks your daughter has a real genius for reciting, Mrs. Smith."
Mrs. Smith: "Yes. All she wants, he says to me, is a course of electrocution, just to finish her off like."

"Broken arm?"
"Yes."
"Accident?"
"Oh, no. Broke it while trying to put myself on the back."
"What on earth for?"
"Minding my own business."

GARRICK

FRIDAY and SATURDAY

All Star Cast

THE LURE OF YOUTH

"EDGAR THE DETECTIVE"

MON. TUES. WED.

An All Star Cast

"COINCIDENCE"

PATHE WEEKLY.

Students always Welcome to inspect
Our Modern Printing Plant.



Let us furnish you with:
*Business Announcements,
Wedding Announcements,
Letterheads, Statements,
Blank Books,
Loose Leaf Books,
Loose Leaf Ledger Sheets,
Fountain Pens, (the best)
Everyday Greeting Cards,
Christmass Cards (the largest Assortment),
Everything in Printing and Stationery.
Prompt Service and Prices
Always Right.*

PHONE 791 315 BROADWAY
FARGO, N. D.



\$50 Complete with Case.

How often have you wished you had a Typewriter at home. Especially a Corona, the typewriter that folds up and is so easy to carry anywhere.

Rent a Corona for a few months, initial rent payments applied on purchase price.



TYPEWRITERS SOLD ON
PAYMENT PLAN

Office Specialty Co.

631 First Avenue North
All Makes of Typewriters
Rented and Sold on Pay-
Plan.

The March of Progress

Is just as rapid with the individual as his mental and physical efficiency permits—and this is certain—poor eyesight is one of the greatest handicaps, hence our warning should be heeded. Get good glasses now.

Consult our optometrist. Remember we guarantee satisfaction.

—"See Us To See Better."

F. W. Peterson Co.
JEWELER and OPTOMETRIST
118 Broadway.

Northern School Supply Co.

Roberts St. and N. P. Ave

We invite you to call at our store when in need of any kind of School Supplies needed by the Student or Teacher.

Our Line is very
complete

CANVAS LAUNDRY
Mailing Cases
MONSON TRUNK FACTORY,
Phone 293 618 Front Street

Caps Hosiery

—THE—
HOME OF FINE
TAILORING

ELMER O. FLATEN
318 Broadway, Fargo

Phone 1066

Shirts Collars

He was telling her about the members of his football team. "Now, there's Reilly," said he, "in a few weeks' time he'll be our best man."
"Oh, Philip," she gushed, "what a nice way to ask me!"

UNIFORMS
O. D. WOOL SHIRTS
ARMY LAST SHOES
WEST OF N. P. DEPOT
CORNER STORE

HEADQUARTERS
U. S. ARMY AND NAVY GOODS
OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS
NORTHWEST ARMY and NAVY SALVAGE CO.

U. S. ARMY BLANKETS
U. S. ARMY LEATHER PUTTEES
U. S. ARMY O. D. WOOL
BREECHES
FRONT ON EIGHTH
STREET

Remember--

The Mary-Elizabeth Shop

When in need of a Frock, Suit, Coat or Blouse. We cater to the "Young College Miss". Style and Quality considered our prices are the lowest.

Remley & Johnson Co.

Picture for Home, School and Office

Artistic Picture Framing, Artists Materials, School Supplies, and Fine Stationery, Films and Kodak Finishing

FARGO ART STORE

J. M. INGBERG, Proprietor
PHONE 4745 301 Broadway, FARGO, N. D.

OLYMPIA CANDY STORE

Why Not Send Her a Box of Our Choice Homemade Candy for a Birthday Gift?

202 Broadway Phone 1094-J

METROPOLE CAFE

SPECIAL DINNERS AND SUPPERS—50c

We cater for Parties and Banquets

519 N. P. Avenue Phone 3237

FOR FIRST CLASS TAXI SERVICE

Nick Konen Taxi

482—PHONES—707

Nash, Buick, Hudson We Never Close
FUNERAL HEARSE.

The Store for College Men

WHO CARE FOR

Style, Quality, and Price

ALEX STERN & CO.

GRANDMA'S Doughnut Shop

203 BROADWAY, FARGO, N. D.

Talk of the Town For Light Lunches

We bake our own pies and pastry, waffles, doughnuts, cereals and sandwiches. The Home of the Electric Toast.

Try our Coffee once and we know you will be back.

"Say it with Flowers" Every Day

THERE ARE THINGS HAPPENING
HOME GROWN FLOWERS

For All Occasions
Shotwell Floral Co.
ESTABLISHED OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY



SEE US AND SEE BETTER.

Don't delay for one day the important matter of your eyesight. We are here to help your eyes now,—not next year when they may become beyond help. Make an appointment to-day for the health of your eyes.

Hagen-Newton Co.

JEWELERS and OPTICIANS,
FARGO, N. D.

It pays to Advertise. So Does It. Pay to Patronize Our Advertisers. They are Back of the College. Trade With Them.

BACHELOR OF ARTS: WHAT IT IS? (Continued from Page 1.)

engineering and chemistry and medicine and law still are—there was no need of this device. The student completed the course of study as it was laid down, and when he had done so he was given a certificate to that effect. This was perfectly straightforward and sound. But with the advent of the elective system it was deemed necessary to find some method of calculating when the student was eligible for a degree, conceived of as the inevitable god, and some misguided genius devised credits.

The dilemma is a real one. Suppose we put aside credits as a meaningless absurdity, and ask what, without the support of this fiction, the B. A. degree now means.

You are an employer, and a young man comes to you with this degree as an evidence of qualification. What does it tell you? Well, he has spent four years at a college or university and during that period has devoted a reasonable minimum of hours per week to some of the subjects of the curriculum. That is about all. Could any form of certificate possibly tell less? When it tells so little, is it worth while to have it at all?

It is to be noted that these animadversions apply but little as yet to the various science degrees (in engineering, chemistry, agriculture, and the like) or to the degrees in law and medicine. In those fields the courses are still largely prescribed. The degree of Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering, for example, represents a very definite body of knowledge acquired. However, the demand for electives in these curricula is growing, and the proportion of electives, now negligible, is gradually being increased. As this process goes on the professional degrees will approximate the meaningless which the degree in arts has already attained. That seems to be the goal of the present development.

But what is the answer? Granted that credits are an unreal and unsatisfactory method of computation, how shall we figure degrees? Surely we must have some kind of records. Indeed we must. Far be it from a registrar, to depreciate the importance of records.

Does not the difficulty arise from the assumed necessity of maintaining the mediaeval institution of the degree—the Artium Baccalaureus? The meaning of the contemporary B. A., so far as it has any meaning, is, of course, totally different from the original significance of those words. By what compulsion must we cling still to that ancient Latin formula? Suppose we abandon the idea of the B. A.—of all degrees whatever. Would not the situation clear at once? Would anyone think of continuing to use these silly credits? Should we not be ready to install a system of records, and certificates based on them, that would really mean something?

But what kind of records do I propose? My answer is: Real records. These might comprise, for each course the student took, a printed synopsis of that course and, attached, a report from the instructor of the student's accomplishment therein—what parts he had mastered and what parts neglected or failed to grasp; what aptitudes, proficiencies, and enthusiasms he had displayed; what ineptitudes, dullness, indifference. The registrar's office would come to contain for each student a file of such synopses and reports. Such a record might be of most definite value to the student himself, to his parents, to prospective employers—even to college officers.

The advantages of the abandonment of degrees may be illustrated through a consideration of one or two of the corollaries that would follow.

In the first place, we should have no further need of grades. We should not even have to say whether a student has "passed" or "failed". That arbitrary doom exists solely for the purposes of degrees. For all other purposes the real part-colored story of the student's accomplishment would be better. Give up degrees, and we should at the same time relegate the imaginary line between 69 and 70, or between D and C, to the limbo of absurd superstitions.

Another corollary is even more revolutionary. In the absence of degrees the sacrosanct number four, as applied to the years of a college course, would, I am persuaded, soon lose its mystic virtue. It is not an odd dispensation of academic Providence that for whatever purpose under heaven a student comes to college it takes him exactly four years to achieve it—as evidenced by a degree? Whether he wishes to become a poet or an accountant, a poultry farmer or a chemist, a teacher of dead languages or a filler of dad teeth, the time described is four years—neither more nor less.

The standardized quadrennium is silliest, perhaps, in liberal arts and sciences. A satisfactory mastery of the subjects included under that heading would require, let us say, two hundred years. On the other hand, many purposes for which students may and do enter the "general course" may be amply fulfilled in two years or three. There is no dividing line anywhere. Yet the effort of the colleges, through the powerful compulsion of degrees, is to hold all the students for four years and force all of them out at the end of that period. Would it not be a happy result of an abandonment of degrees that young men and women could come to universities and study there as long as they and their parents felt that what they were getting was worth the expenditure of young life, and then depart in peace and without the odium that now attaches to the ex-student not an alumnus? Each student could take away with him, at the end of one year or five years, in lieu of a meaningless degree, duplicate copies of such real records as I have described, giving an intelligible account of the subjects he had studied and the amount and character of his progress therein.

But an escape from grades and the overthrow of the four-year fallacy are, after all, only minor illustrations of the far-reaching general advantage to be expected from discarding credits and degrees. The great pervasive evil resulting from those fictions is the introduction of an aspect of unreality and formalism into nearly the whole work of nearly all the students. Credits and a degree, rather than the pursuit of knowledge, are made to seem the goal of the student's endeavor. If your son in his sophomore year registered for a course in Shakespeare, the chances are he did so, not from a desire to become acquainted with the poetry and living characters of the greatest bard and dramatist, but for the sake of three credits towards a "group requirements." And it was not his fault; it was my fault as registrar and the dean's; we told him he must have three more credits in that "group." That was the reason we gave him for taking Shakespeare! Of course the faculty grumble continually because the students so generally work only for

(Continued on Page 4.)

Go to the Shop of Personal Service. Years of Experience with College Men has Made it Possible to cater to your exact wants.

OSCAR OLSON, Barber,
Rear Room of College Grocery.

DIXON

LAUNDRY COMPANY

PHONE 666 307 BROADWAY

Service and Quality

North Dakota Agricultural College

For Completeness of Equipment and Facilities for Instruction is Unsurpassed in the Northwest.

THE COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OFFERS

Agriculture—Architectural Engineering—Architecture—Biology—Chemistry—Chemistry and Engineering—Civil Engineering—Education—Home Economics—Mechanical Engineering—Pharmacy—Science and Literature—Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

These courses are available to those who have completed the equivalent of a High School training. For those who have not had such training.

THE AGRICULTURAL AND MANUAL ARTS HIGH SCHOOL OFFERS:

Complete Secondary Courses in Agriculture—Domestic Science—General Science—Mechanic Arts—Rural Teachers.

SPECIAL COURSES

Business Training, Draftsmen and Builders, Farm Husbandry, Homemakers, Pharmacy, Power Machinery. THIS COLLEGE offers to the young people of this state an education which is thoroughly in line with modern thought and demands. It spends no time on dead languages or such subjects as are of little practical value. It aims to fit young men and women to think and investigate for themselves; to deal intelligently with the social, agricultural and industrial problems of the day.

THE LABORATORIES are thoroughly equipped, and the instructors are specialists in their line. Exceptional advantages are offered in chemistry, physics, botany, literature, mathematics, engineering, and the social, economic and political sciences.

Graduates from Approved High Schools are admitted to the Freshman Class. Board and Room \$6.25 to \$7.50 PER WEEK.

WRITE TO THE REGISTRAR FOR CIRCULARS, CATALOG, AND ADMISSION BLANKS
Collegiate, High School and Business courses started September 28. The Special and Industrial courses will open October 17th.

BUSINESS TRAINING

Thorough courses, trained experienced teachers, modern equipment, service that satisfies. Over eighty per cent of our graduates have been placed in Fargo offices. This shows how we stand at home.

During the past few days we have placed students from our school and other schools with banks, law firms, insurance companies, land and loan offices, oil companies, schools. The A. C., the State University, etc. Call or write for particulars.

Interstate Business College

FARGO, N. D.

OSCAR HALLENBERG E. R. WRIGHT

CENTRAL DRUG STORE

66 BROADWAY

Exclusive Agents for Huyter's and Johnston's Chocolates,
Moore and Conklin Pens, Eversharp Pencils.

WYNAND BROS. TAXICABS

525—PHONE—216

NEW CARS

PROMPT SERVICE

Always Open

201 Broadway

— VISIT —

THE NESTOR BILLIARD ROOM

— OR —

THE TOPIC BILLIARD ROOM

— FOR —

CLEAN, INTERESTING RECREATION

THE REINEKE CO.

COLLEGE GROCERY

STAPLE AND FANCY GROCERIES
FRUITS AND CONFECTIONERY

Soda Fountain in Connection

Phone 3134

See us for lowest prices on Sheet

Music, Band Instruments, Music

Rolls, Records and

EVERYTHING KNOWN IN MUSIC

Stone Piano Company

Stone Bldg.

FARGO, N. D.

Old Shoes Made New SHOE HOSPITAL

GEO. P. HOWELL, Prop.

Rapid—Right—Reliable

Prices Right Phone 1669

Special Attention paid to Parcel Post

Orders.
13 Broadway, Morton Bldg, Fargo, N. D.

"COURTESY" Is Our Motto

BEST

Tables

Fountain Service

Stock of Cigars, Tobacco and Pipes.

IN THE CITY

Grand Billiard Parlor

KINGSBURY TAILORING CO.

PHOTO FIT
SERVICE

FOR the student or prof., the superb VENUS' out- rivals all for perfect pencil work. 17 Black degrees and 3 copying.
American Lead Pencil Co.
220 Fifth Ave.
New York

DANCE PROGRAMS ENGRAVED CARDS

Printing of All Kinds

Knight Printing Co.

Phone 602 FARGO

Patronize our advertisers. Their patronage has made possible the publication of this paper.

Suits and Overcoats

Hand tailored to measure---Hundreds of Brand New Woolens---

\$30.00, \$35.00, \$45.00. Come in and Look over these values



Dakota Pressing Parlors

Dry Cleaning, Dyeing, Pressing and Repairing

Work Called For and Delivered Promptly.

Phone 103, Necktie Pressed Free
301 Broadway FARGO, N. D.

CHICAGO CAFE

214 Broadway

American and Chinese Service

Best Meal In Town

R. R. HALL P. G. JOHNSON

THE PANTORIUM

DRY CLEANERS AND HATTERS
Phone 658

110 Robert St., FARGO, N. D.

—Expert Watch Repairing—

Diamond and Stone Setting a Specialty

FULL LINE OF FINE JEWELRY
CUT GLASS, SILVERWARE
FOUNTAIN PENS

C. J. BELLES & CO.
JEWELERS

318 Broadway Fargo, N. D.

"House of Cleanliness".

Model Laundry

Agency: College Grocery
FARGO, N. DAK.

Telephone 1109-W

E. W. Johnson

JEWELER

Student Work a Specialty

604 Front St. South FARGO, N. D.

OUR

Rest Rooms

ARE ALWAYS OPEN

Meet Me

—AT—

The
Merchants National
Bank



TELEPHONE 776

Keep Memories Bright.

Send the Folks at Home a
Photo of Yourself.

E. B. McCracken

PHOTOGRAPHER

112 Broadway FARGO, N. D.

HALL-ALLEN

SHOE CO.

Dependable
Shoes

107 Broadway Fargo, N. D.

Eyes Examined and
Glasses Fitted by

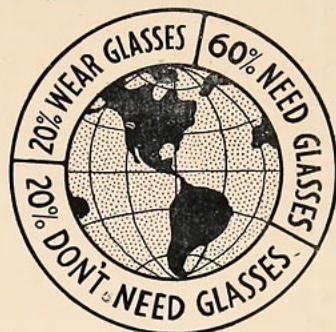
Anderson-Varnson
Company

Registered Optometrists
108 Broadway

Next to Garrick Theater

He was telling her about the members of his football team. "Now, there's Reilly," said he, "in a few weeks' time he'll be our best man." "Oh, Philip," she gushed, "what a nice way to ask me!"

The EYES of the WORLD



"JUST BRING AN HONEST FACE"

Crescent Jewelry Co.

YOUR
CREDIT
IS
GOOD
HERE
—O—
PAY
SMALL
SUMS

HAVE
YOUR
EYES
EXAMINED
NOW!
—O—
EXPERT
OPTICAL
SERVICE

ACHOTH
Achoth's baby chapter at North-Western University, Evanston, Ill. is to be installed Saturday, Nov. 5th. Buy your doughnuts from the Achoth girls at the Fargo College game next Saturday. None better.

DELTA PI
Harry Swanson, John Jensen and Leonard Hovsven visited the Moorhead State Teacher's College last Saturday disguised as members of a surveying party. We haven't heard as yet what luck they had. Delta Pi announces the initiation of Arnie Helegeson and Eli Anderson.

ALPHA KAPPA PHI
"Bill" Bena spent Home Coming Day and the first of the week with the boys before pulling freight for Conway.

Brother Ralph Erick returned the last of the week from a two weeks extended visit to Chicago and Madison. While at the latter place he was the guest of "Tony" Flamer who is attending Wisconsin U. this year.

Athenians, Attention!

Athenians, more "pep" in the rear ranks. Shake a palsied nerve and get out to meetings. Those "as which are" have the spirit(s) but "them as ain't" must cast their books under the bed and hike for the usual gathering place on Thursday evening at the usual hour of seven-thirty P. M.—there to enjoy, not the usual, but the unusual for we have an extraordinary combination of circumstances awaiting you. Skipper Noyes is at the helm and assisted by a worthy crew. Come next Thursday, then, and see what you can do, which was undone before.

The program:—
Song..... Society
Reading..... Ethel McGuigan
Piano Solo..... Theresa Kalberer
Current Events... Mildred Brainard
Business Session.

ARMISTICE DAY PLANS NEARING COMPLETION.

Altho final plans have not been completed for the Armistice Day program certain tentative arrangements have been made that will be of interest to all students of the college.

The day will be a holiday for the express purpose of observing it in the manner intended when it was set aside as a national holiday—a day dedicated to honoring the names of our soldier and sailor dead and those men who fought in the World War for humanity's cause. Present plans are that the college will join with the cities of Moorhead and Fargo in a civic celebration. The first thing on the schedule will be a program in the Armory followed by a parade headed by the college band and cadets in uniform. All students of the college are expected to join in this. The line of march will lead down Broadway where the parade will join with that of the two cities and thereafter be under the direction of the civic committee.

Full details of the day's program will appear in next week's Spectrum which will appear on Thursday morning. Watch for it.

UNIFORMS
O. D. WOOL SHIRTS
ARMY LAST SHOES
WEST OF N. P. DEPOT
CORNER STORE

Lyceum of Engineers To Initiate on Friday

A class of eighteen candidates have made application for membership into the Lyceum of Engineers this year. The Lyceum has been going good this year, starting off with a bang, and is one of the few organizations on the campus that has already completed its program for the year. Supervision of the initiation on Friday evening will be in the hands of Larry Bohnhoff, James Stark, W. P. Bates and Leonard Hovsven. Candidates seeking admission are A. M. Anderson, C. E. Brockmier, A. B. Dickel, O. Finstad, S. Gunness, Paul Kratzke, C. Kruesil, G. Leifson, Irvin Martin, Everett Metcalf, James McGlynn, Frank Schwarz, Arthur Swanson, Henry Stubee, S. Thompson, Walter Willis, Wayne Watts and Charles Wells.

The initiation committee will be assisted by active and alumni members. H. H. Bolmer, Ed. Hooper, Emil Sandquist, James McLaughlin, Elmer Dynes and J. H. Hess. Don Bishop, Sander Anderson and John Jensen will be in charge of the feed that follows the initiation.

The date for initiation was changed from the regular Thursday meeting night to Friday evening in order to thoroughly, and without impartiality, administer justice to the eighteen candidates.

All applicants listed above will report promptly in the proper regalia at the Engineering Building on Friday evening at 7:30 P. M.

EDUCATION STUDENTS ORGANIZE

Students of the Education Department of the college recently completed the organization of the A. C. Education Club, the purpose of which is to discuss thru a series of programs the problems in the field of vocational and general education, and to promote the interests of all students preparing for these professions.

Any student of the college registered in the School of Education may become a member. Officers elected at the first regular business session are: President.....Bernice Noyes
Vice President.....Lester Bullard
Secretary.....Marian Pannebaker
Treasurer.....Hubert McClellan

BACHELOR OF ARTS: WHAT IT IS?

(Continued from Page 3.)

grades and take courses "for credit". But what else can they expect? They themselves teach the poor youngsters to do so.

Young people are remarkably single-minded. When a lad has registered in a course for the sake of the credit it will bring, he does not forget his object. He is usually inclined to consider any incidental knowledge that the instructor may try to thrust upon him, to say nothing of any enthusiasm he may seek to evoke, as beside the point and to be ignored as far as possible. And studying for grades is a very special art, quite distinct from studying for subject matter. Grades come, not from the subject matter, but from the professor. If, therefore, you are after a 90 or an A, keep your eye, not on the course, but on

the professor. Study him—his favorite topics and pet jokes, his foibles and blind sides, the kinds of behavior and recitations and papers that he likes. The subject matter—whether it be economics or applied mechanics or soil physics—is only an incidental medium.

But, some will maintain, it is necessary to have these petty, immediate, possibly unreal goals for the students to work for. These youngsters aren't interested in Shakespeare. They wouldn't take him at all, most of them, except for the "credit."

Well, in the first place, if that were true, our whole system of higher education would be a gigantic fraud—as indeed it partially is at the present time. There is little reason why wealthy men should contribute millions and the various states tax themselves to the tune of tens of millions to perpetuate any such pathetic, ineffectual subterfuge as this argument confesses our higher education to be. But, in the second place, it isn't true. Post-adolescence is well known to be normally the period of passionate enthusiasm for the things of the mind and spirit. It is the young who keep knowledge and thought alive—if they have a chance. It is the stuporous crime of our academic accounting that it teaches young men and women to subordinate all their curiosities and enthusiasms to the petty technicalities of the registrar's office, to become—in place of seekers after knowledge—languid, cynical time-servers for credit and skillful toadies for grades.

Of course the poison doesn't work in all cases. There is in our colleges a saving remnant of youth who refuse to be corrupted, stiff-necked young rebels, scornful of the values their elders set before them and able to maintain the integrity of their spirits against the system. These indocile ones are likely to take high rank in one or two chosen subjects, but they neglect other courses which they are forced to "elect" and so "get in bad" (in their own phrase) with the general administration. They frequently leave without a degree.

But these are only a few. Young people in general are not refractory, but terribly docile. They accept the system as they find it, and go cheerfully and faithfully ahead, working out its implications, and eventually receive with due éclat—a sheen skin. And, in the meantime, they find an outlet for their unsatisfied energies and initiatives in intercollegiate athletics, new varieties of dancing, and student "activities" in general—so called in contrast to the passivities of the classroom.

It is my contention that this need not be so—that if we would tear out the whole mechanism of grades, credits, and degrees, so as to make it perfectly clear that the only reason for studying any subject is the subject itself, a vast number of our youngsters would, with a certain surprise at first, but eventually with satisfaction and delight, begin to give real attention to the content of their courses. And if there are those for whom this content, when fairly presented on its merits, has no attractions, who really at the age of eighteen or twenty require the puerilities of grades and credits and the empty goal of a degree to hold them—surely they should enter at once upon some career of useful labor and not continue, as they are now led to do, to waste their own time and

the money of pious donors or of the state in merely formal contact with intellectual things.

—MAX McCONN.

A lusty lunged auctioneer was holding forth in the market place of a small town. Taking up a box of cigars he shouted:
"You can't get better, gentlemen. I don't care where you go, you can't get better!"
"No," replied a cynical voice from the crowd, "you can't. I smoked one last week and I'm not better yet."

"Could you do something for a poor sailor?" asked the seedy looking wanderer at the gate.
"Poor old sailor?" echoed the lady at work at the tub.
"Yes'm, I followed the water for 16 years."
"Well," said the woman after a critical look, "you don't look as if you ever caught up with it."
Then she resumed her labors.

"Did your brother have any luck when he was hunting tigers in India, John?"
"Yes, sir, great luck—he never met any."

Nurse: "Why, Bobby, you selfish little boy! Why didn't you give your sister a piece of your apple?"
Bobby: "I gave her the seeds. She can plant 'em and have a whole orchard."

Merchant: "Yes, we are in need of a porter Where were you employed last?"

Applicant: "In a bank, sir."
Merchant: "Did you clean it out?"
Applicant: "No, sir. The cashier did that."

Passenger: "Say, does this car always make this noise?"
Driver: "No, only when it's running."

Mrs. Brown: "I hear the Vicar thinks your daughter has a real genius for reciting, Mrs. Smith."
Mrs. Smith: "Yes. All she wants, he says to me, is a course of electrocution, just to finish her off like."

"Broken arm?"
"Yes."
"Accident?"
"Oh, no. Broke it while trying to pat myself on the back."
"What on earth for?"
"Minding my own business."

GARRICK

FRIDAY and SATURDAY

All Star Cast

THE LURE OF YOUTH

"EDGAR THE DETECTIVE"

MON. TUES. WED.

An All Star Cast

"COINCIDENCE"

PATHE WEEKLY.

Students always Welcome to inspect
Our Modern Printing Plant.



Let us furnish you with:

Business Announcements,
Wedding Announcements,
Letterheads, Statements,
Blank Books
Loose Leaf Books,
Loose Leaf Ledger Sheets,
Fountain Pens, (the best)
Everyday Greeting Cards,
Christmass Cards (the largest Assortment.)
Everything in Printing and Stationery.
Prompt Service and Prices
Always Right.

PHONE 791 315 BROADWAY
FARGO, N. D.



\$50 Complete with Case.

How often have you wished you had a Typewriter at home. Especially a Corona, the typewriter that folds up and is so easy to carry anywhere.

Rent a Corona for a few months, initial rent payments applied on purchase price.

CORONA
The Personal Writing Machine

TYPEWRITERS SOLD ON
PAYMENT PLAN

Office Specialty Co.

631 First Avenue North

All Makes of Typewriters
Rented and Sold on Pay-
Plan.

The March of Progress

Is just as rapid with the individual as his mental and physical efficiency permits—and this is certain—poor eyesight is one of the greatest handicaps, hence our warning should be heeded. Get good glasses now.

Consult our optometrist. Remember we guarantee satisfaction.

—O—

"See Us To See Better."

F. W. Peterson Co.

JEWELER and OPTOMETRIST
118 Broadway.

Northern School Supply Co.

Roberts St. and N. P. Ave



We invite you to call at our store when in need of any kind of School Supplies needed by the Student or Teacher.

Our Line is very
complete

CANVAS LAUNDRY

Mailing Cases

MONSON TRUNK FACTORY,
Phone 293 618 Front Street

Caps Hosiery

—THE—
HOME OF FINE
TAILORING

ELMER O. FLATEN
318 Broadway, Fargo
Phone 1066

Shirts Collars

U. S. ARMY AND NAVY GOODS

OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS

NORTHWEST ARMY and NAVY SALVAGE CO.

U. S. ARMY BLANKETS
U. S. ARMY LEATHER PUTTEES
U. S. ARMY O. D. WOOL
BREECHES
FRONT ON EIGHTH
STREET