

# The Spectrum

*Published by the Students of the North Dakota Agricultural College*

Vol. X

FEBRUARY 15, 1906

No. 5

## Beowulf, the Hero



HERO-WORSHIP is necessary to the perfect development of the individual and nation. Every nation, since history began, has looked with respect, love and reverence to a hero, its ideal man. "No nobler feeling than that of admiration for one higher than himself, dwells in the breast of man. It is to this hour and at all hours, the vivifying influence in man's life," says Carlyle. From earliest ages man has worshipped that which he has considered the most perfect type of manhood. "Heroes," says Whipple, "are what all men feel they ought to be."

Nations have had different types of heroes; as the ideals of men, so the ideals of nations vary. No one type can be pointed out as noblest for they are very different, but each represents the highest pinnacle of perfected manhood which the people could imagine. The hero of early Greece was the man of art, of letters, of oratorical abilities. Rome's hero was the warrior, the spoiler of fallen foes and the vanquisher of mighty armies. Strength and physical feats were much admired and as the Greek worshipped truth and beauty, the Roman worshipped strength and might. Coming down further in the world's history, we see a Sir Arthur, with his manly virtues, his spotless honor, and his chivalric ideals representing the hero of the Middle Ages. The hero of to-day is a man singularly like and still much unlike any one of the other named heroes. He seems a combination of the best of each. He combines the Roman's daring valor, the Greek's love of beauty and the Cavalier's manly virtues and added to this, life, spirit and enthusiasm becomes a Washington, a Lincoln, a Roosevelt.

So, all nations have had their hero, and him they have often immortalized by a beautiful tribute or song. It is by this means that we know the character of the early Anglo-Saxon hero, Beowulf. It has been said by many that Beowulf was the personification of the Sun or some great God of the Anglo-Saxons. Be this as it may, he would naturally be credited with all the attributes of their ideal warrior and as such we shall now regard him.

He is, first of all, courageous. He cares little or nothing for his life and this is one of the first requirements of a hero. "So must a man do, when he thinketh to reach in battle enduring fame, he careth naught for his life," says the story. Beowulf is willing to risk his life many times—at the hall of Heorot and afterward in the land of the Geats. He performs feats which no other mortal dares attempt, and in so bold a manner, that the very daring of it

dazes us. Tearing the great arm from its socket is no ordinary feat and this the Danes well appreciated. They said:

“That neither south nor north, in the circuit of the waters,  
O'er outstretching earth-plain, none other was better  
Mid bearers of war-shields, more worthy to govern  
‘Neath the arch of the ether.’”

But courage alone will not make a hero. Courage is a not unusual quality of wild beasts,—a lion or a tiger may possess it,—yet these are in no way heroic. A man, in order to be a true hero, must be generous and unselfish. He must have worthy motives for his actions and must fulfill them in a generous manner. Beowulf's motive is always noble: the defence of someone weaker than himself. In one case, it is Hrothgar helpless against Grendel; in another his people unable to withstand the depredations of the fierce fire-dragon. He does not brave these dangers merely for the love of glory, but his deeper, truer motive is purely unselfish.

Hrothgar says,

“To defend our folk and furnish assistance  
Thou soughtest us hither, good friend Beowulf,”

and we like to believe that these were his sole motives.

Magnanimity and justice go hand in hand as other tributes with which those ancient peoples accredited their heroes. Beowulf, though easily offended and enraged becomes as easily reconciled and forgets the insult offered. Although extremely angered at the moment when Hunferth taunts him with defeat at the gigantic seven-day swimming contest, he afterward, when Hunferth is forced to concede all to him as being the greatest warrior, is kind and does not glory in his power. Instead, he commands that if Hunferth's sword, which he is now using, becomes damaged in the battle, Hunferth is to be given another from his private collection. Such magnanimity is an unusual virtue in those fierce long-gone days as is also the rigorous justice with which Beowulf is accredited. Several times, his justice is commented upon and it is one of the things on which he prides himself when he is about to die. Murder of people who were in any way troublesome, was very common at the time, but Beowulf at the last says: “I have joy of it all, that the ruler of Men may not blame me for murder of kinemen, when life leaveth my body.” Again it is said to him,

“He lived in honor, beloved companions,  
Slew not carousing; his mood was not cruel  
But by hand strength, hugest of heroes then living  
The brave one stained the bountiful gift that  
the Lord had allowed him.”

The ‘Rules of Men’ referred to was, no doubt, Wyrð of Fate, the principle God of the times. Although Beowulf's religion differs greatly from ours, his belief in his own infinite, Wyrð is the prime mover, the cause of all that happens. Even though the Christian element has been smuggled into the poem here and there, it is not made prominent enough to conceal completely the true ruggedness of the old Anglo-Saxon religion. It seems to suit those people exactly. A religion, teaching love, patience and self-denial would be

incongruous with the wild spirited warriors of those ancient, untamed days. His last thoughts are "Fate decrees it; so be it," and the same idea has followed him all through life.

Beowulf was courageous, unselfish, generous, magnanimous, just and courteous and he believed staunchly in his God. There are not many more attributes which are found in the modern hero. Carlyle, in his essay, "The Hero as King," includes sincerity and reticence. Sincere, Beowulf certainly was—there is no trace of falseness in his whole career. His reticence is not as marked, although he is no idle braggart. Before condemning him for his frequent, vaunting speeches, in which he tells in an heroic strain of his own mighty deeds, we must consider the custom of the times. Then it was considered perfectly proper to sing, with no visible modesty or hesitation, of one's own might and prowess in battle. Every warrior did so; the more he could tell the greater he was. In this respect, we differ to-day; we prefer that others should sing our praises. Cromwell, whom Carlyle regards as an ideal hero, was a silent man, thoughtful and modest. He was like Beowulf in his faith in God, a faith carried to such an extreme as to be often called fanaticism. But Carlyle says that "a man's religion is the principle thing about him," so this may be the reason why Cromwell and Beowulf are so similar.

A hero among heroes, a man amongst men,—such is Beowulf, greatest of Anglo-Saxons. As Ulysses to Rome, and Siegfried to Germany, Beowulf is to England, a type of manliness, virtue and courage: A Hero. G. H.

## A Forest Fire



IT WAS only yesterday that I looked across yonder blackened waste from this very place and saw a picture far more beautiful than any mortal could paint. Down near the ground a few autumn flowers were still in blossom protected from the early frosts by a heavy growth of golden willows and other small trees. Everything else had put on the sombre garb of winter. Leaves that but a few weeks ago were green and danced in every breeze changed to every color of the rain-

bow and fell trembling to the earth wherever they were distributed by a rude gust of wind. The stately elms stood out in bold relief being overtopped in turn by the more majestic pines.

As I stood there in a reverie, thinking of the quiet and peaceful way in which Nature does all her work, I was rudely aroused by a strong gust of wind that swept by me and seemed to be hurrying to some great concourse beyond.

Looking up I saw far to the southward a column of smoke rising toward the heavens. In much alarm I turned quickly about and struggled to the top of a steep bank just at the edge of the forest. Here I could get a good view of the whole landscape from where the smoke was rising. The wind had now become a gale and I was amazed to see how quickly that slender column had

increased to an enormous pillar of smoke and flame. The fumes were getting stronger every minute and a dark pall was cast over the earth.

Above the howling of the gale I could now hear the low growl of the flames as if they had been teased to fury by some enormous giant. The southern sky was completely blotted out. When some special viand was found by the searching tongues of fire, great masses of black and yellowish smoke would belch up as if volcanoes were breaking out. Countless millions of bits of spluttering flame would rise and fly through the air like shooting stars and would light again great distances ahead. These would start new fires, making it appear as though fiends were stalking through the woods and applying the torch here and there.

The fast descending sun was now almost obscured. Through the openings in the dark wall it appeared red as if from weeping at the awful destruction. Like flaming swords, great shafts of flame that singed the very clouds would burst through that hideous wall disappearing almost as quickly as they came. Crashing sounds punctuated the continuous roar as great trees toppled and fell. The earth itself trembled like the frightened men and animals that retreated before the flood of fire. These sensations combined so vividly as to give the impression that rebellion had broken out in the infernal regions and that a deadly conflict was being waged behind that dark and ominous curtain.

I was now forced to leave the place where we are now standing and I took a position where I could get a good view of the effects of such a baptism of fire. The change in the scene was as remarkable as the fire itself had been. Where but a short time before had stood a beautiful forest was now a smoldering plain. Many hundred small blazes told in the gathering darkness the final paragraph in this tragic scene.

W. H. M.

---

## Dreaming and Canoeing

WE HAD paddled since early in the morning, and now that supper was over we rolled up in our blankets and went to sleep on the banks of the Mississippi, thirty miles above Sandy Lake. We had planned to reach this lake before evening, but now it was dark and we were a long way from it.

I could not sleep, however, and getting up I awoke Alex and asked why we could not paddle all night. He readily consented, and soon we were off. During the day a sharp watch had to be kept in order to avoid running on sunken logs. This night, however, the moon was out and we could see as plain as day. My eyes soon began to water under the strain as I whirled the canoe out of the way of some dark object or poked my paddle at a shadow, thinking it was a log.

Now the clouds began to hide the moon. The banks gradually faded into the blackness of the night. I could hardly see Alex who was in the back of the canoe. The embankment was too steep to make a landing and I realized what would happen if a hole were knocked in the boat. However, there was nothing to do but keep on. Suddenly there was a slight bump and an ugly grating sound as we slid over a log sunk too deep to do us any damage.

It seemed as if we had been going on this way for hours, and I had begun to feel easy again, when very faintly, then louder, I could hear a sound. What was it? We knew there were no rapids above Sandy Lake. Louder and louder it grew. Our canoe seemed to fly along with the swift current. The moon shone for a second and revealed a pile of logs on the banks of the river. Now the awful truth dawned upon us. We were running into a log-jam. In the center there was a narrow opening through which the water fairly boiled. Into this we were shot with the speed of a cannon ball. For a moment the canoe held its upright position and then went over like a flash.

In that brief instant during which I was carried along in the darkness by the roaring water, my whole past came before me. Things that had occurred years ago seemed as if they had happened but yesterday. How would my mother take it? She had never really wanted me to take this trip. And Alex—

“Hello there! What is the matter with you? You are throwing the clothes around like a maniac.”

I awoke with a start to find the blankets thrown off me and my arms around a tree.

A. B.

I WAS sitting by my study table, a pen in my hand and my theme tablet before me. I was writing. Splendid sentences slipped off the end of my pen as it raced across the paper—sentences filled with wonderful words and more wonderful thoughts.

There was no stopping and pondering about what to write—no wondering whether to say this or that—the words just poured out of the penhandle, it seemed, and I was writing theme after theme.

Then I could see words up in one corner written in red ink—“Very Good”—“Splendid thought”—“Clever work”—etc.

I was delighted with myself and thinking there was no need of my troubling myself about themes any more, when I heard an awful noise. Up I jumped to see the clock staring me in the face and saying: “Six o’clock. Time to get up. You have to write a theme before you go to school.” It was only a dream.

L. M.

THE long, summer day had come to a close and dusk was deepening into darkness. The full moon, which was slowly emerging from the tops of the pine trees, looked like some fugitive scanning the surrounding country to make sure that all was safe before he left his secluded shelter. With slow, noiseless strokes I paddled my canoe along the shore of the silent lake. The tall trees on the bluffs looked like sentinels watching my stealthy approach and I was almost prepared to hear a stern, “Who goes there?” from one of them. Away across the water the crazy laugh of a loon was heard and was answered by another loon even more distant. On one of the hills a coyote gave its demoniac cry and I involuntarily looked over my shoulder. Nothing marred the smooth surface of the lake but the trail I left in the black water. With a start I realized that I had passed the landing I was seeking, and, turning, I made my way back to camp.

K. V. H.

## Science Department

**J**ANUARY 9th and 10th Prof. Bolley was in attendance at the meeting of the Minnesota Crop Breeders' Association at Minneapolis and delivered an address on "The Principles of Controlling the Diseases of Farm Crops." The subject was discussed from the standpoint of sanitation and plant breeding.

**T**HE new plant house attached to the Botanical Laboratories as an annex is rapidly becoming a useful adjunct to the class work, and work of the Experiment Station. Two classes are making special use of it during the present term. The class in plant physiology finds it an extremely interesting and suitable place for carrying out investigations upon the principles involved in plant growth and nutrition. The present Senior class consists mostly of agricultural students, and the experiments being conducted this term have a direct bearing upon features of agriculture with reference to plant nutrition. A number of experiments are now running to determine the effect of different plant foods and chemical substances upon plant growth and development. Numerous minor experiments are carried out by the students with a view of learning the various plant characteristics, conditions affecting growth, etc.

Some of the boys were much astonished to learn that many plants are readily susceptible to the action of anesthetics, such as ether and chloroform, responding to the action of these drugs in less than half a minute. The large class in Agricultural Botany carry on part of their experiments in seed testing and seed germination in the plant house and get much information in the line of principles of plant growth and culture from observations made during daily excursions among the growing plants.

**A**SIDE from the student work, various experiments are running to determine questions of much moment to agricultural teaching. Among those of most interest to visitors are the sterilization glass cage experiments, in which plants are grown in sterilized soil, and under glass cover in such manner that while they receive a regular supply of air it has been freed of dust and possible floating spores and germs of disease. At present wheat and flax are being grown under these conditions. Many farmers believe that rust, for example, may start in the wheat or flax crop by way of the seed. It is hoped by the experiment to learn whether any plants ever become diseased in this manner. Profs. Bolley and Pritchard have demonstrated that the grains of wheat may be internally attacked by rust, a fact new to science, but it is not yet proved that these seeds may produce rusty plants.

**T**HE class in advanced bacteriology is making bacterial soil analysis a special feature of study. They will examine the soil in the native prairie, of old wheat land, and of old flax land, to determine what differences, if any, exist in the bacterial flora of the soil. They hope to make many tests at different depths ranging from one inch to three feet in depth.

**T**HE Biological Department of this institution is fast becoming equipped in all the modern appliances for investigations and teaching work. One of the latest additions to the list of apparatus, and one which will be highly apprecia-

ted by the teaching force and students, is a Bausch and Lomb Projection and Photomicrographic Apparatus. The machine is equipped with all the latest appliances for projection by electrical attachment, and may be arranged for projection from lantern slides, microscope slides and microscopic objects, photographs, book illustrations, solid or opaque objects, small objects suspended in fluids, etc. It is also arranged for special work in photographing direct from the microscope.

**M**ETEOROLOGISTS are interested in securing observations at high altitudes by means of kites, and lately at the aeronautical observatory at Lindenburg, Prussia, a record of height was made by sending a kite up to an altitude of 21,100 feet. This was accomplished after sending up six kites attached to each other by the use of a length of wire line approximating 48,000 feet. The instruments carried by the kite recorded a minimum temperature of 13 degrees F., as compared with 41 degrees F. at the earth's surface. At the maximum altitude the wind blew at the rate of fifty-six miles an hour as compared with eighteen miles an hour at the surface. This maximum altitude exceeds by nearly 1100 feet the previous record made by M. Teisserene de Bort in the Baltic Sea, flying his kite from a Danish gunboat.—*Harper's Weekly*.

**W**IRELESS telegraphy has been maintained for several years across the Gulf of California, and now the Mexican government has awarded contracts for a plan that will afford communication over a distance of about 200 miles, not only between the various stations of the system, but with shipping stations as well. The Mexican government has a trained staff of wireless operators, and it is thought likely that this method of communication will undergo important extension through that country.—*Ex.*

**A**LTHOUGH oculists have long desired to photograph the back ground of the eye, their many attempts have failed until only recently when Dr. Walter Thorner, of the University of Eye Clinic in Berlin, devised an apparatus with which it is possible to obtain photographs of the eye. The difficulty heretofore has been lighting up the interior of the eye-ball sufficiently to take the picture, but after experimenting in photographing cat's eyes, he found that by focussing the eye in soft light and then igniting a flashlight composition by an electric spark, he could light the eye sufficiently for a moment to produce a good image on the plate. By means of the photographs it is possible to tell a diseased from a healthy eye as in the case of shortsightedness and in this manner oculists may also watch the development of eye diseases step by step thus obtaining valuable information in their work.

**R**ECENT scientific investigation along the line of colors in fruits and flowers has shown there are only three coloring substances used by nature. The first is the "green chlorophyll" of the leaves of trees and grass; the second is the "anthopy" the yellow of some fruits and flowers; and third the "erythopyll" the red of the beet. By combination of these three colors all the varied hues of the many flowers are made. The vegetable dyes, used so extensively in earlier days, were made from the juice of plants. The bright red of the tree beet and the brown juice of some trees are even used yet in some places for stains.

## Athletics

SINCE the last issue of *The Spectrum*, our basket ball teams have played several games, and have reaped much credit, not only to themselves, but to the whole institution. Our girls are invincible. They have not yet met with defeat and are going right after the championship honors. Our boys after having played and defeated all the formidable teams of the state, have, however, suffered a defeat from an outside team. The boys are showing good form and are doing splendid work. If they continue this development, we entertain no fear of forfeiting the championship to any other team in the state. Basket ball is taking well amongst the students who show their appreciation by their large attendance at the games. Much credit is due to the managers for having secured such a complete schedule.

### A. C. vs. Valley City H. S.

ON January 12th our basket ball teams went to Valley City to play the High School teams. Two snappy games were played which resulted in a double victory for the A. C. The girls, however, came pretty near meeting their Waterloo. The first half ended with a tie score, 7 to 7. The second half continued, closely contested as the first. Four times the score was tied, as one team and then the other gained an advantage. The game got faster and more exciting as the game progressed; but, finally, when the smoke of the battle cleared away, it revealed the score of 15 to 14 in favor of the A. C. girls.

The boys game was a one sided-affair as far as the score is concerned. The A. C. boys took the lead from the start and clearly outplayed their opponents. In the second half the Highs were unable to make a single field basket on their stronger opponents. The game ended with a score of 45 to 12 in favor of the Farmers. Carpenter and Birch, our new acquisitions, showed up strong and proved themselves valuable additions to the team.

After the game a social reception was given to the players. Best of feelings prevailed and a merry time was spent. Our teams are loud in their praises of the hospitality shown by the High School of Valley City.

### A. C., 31; Fargo Athletics, 23

"WE have met the enemy and they are ours." On January 20th our boys met the Fargo Athletes in the A. C. Armory and took them into camp to the tune of 31 to 23. The game was fast and furious, at times bordering on the line of roughness. The pace set by the Athletes was almost too much for the Farmers at first; so they took a lead and held it throughout the greater part of the first half. When our boys got their second wind they speeded up and showed more speed and endurance than their opponents could muster. The game grew fiercer as the time progressed. Each team was determined to win. At this stage of the game Slingsby and Birch made several baskets in quick succession and thus saved the game. Wambem and Lofthouse at center played a hard game; the rivalry between them at times was intense as they struggled to outdo each other. Ed Corbett replaced Charles Corbett in the second half; no other changes were made in the two teams. French and H. Nesbit officiated and gave general satisfaction.

The first and second team girls played an exhibition game as a curtain



raiser for the big game. The score resulted in 24 to 8 in favor of the first team. Miss Doleshy and Miss Rice showed up best for the first, and Miss Fields and Miss Aamoth for the second team.

#### FARMERS vs. NORMALITES

THE A. C. and the Valley City Normals have met and its results is a double victory for the Farmers. On January 26th the Normalites came to our camp, to retrieve former defeats, but instead met with dissatisfaction. The girls contested for athletic supremacy first, and put up a strong game, but were unable to make more than one field basket in the first half. The game was fast and hard, with frequent mixups throughout both halves. The Normalites, although they were getting badly beaten, never gave up one minute, but stuck to the game until the final whistle blew, announcing the score 17 to 6 in favor of the sturdy farmer girls. Both teams were weak on throwing fouls. Only one foul was made to count out of a possible eleven. The boys game proved itself a surprise. The Farmers expected a cinch, while the Normalites were determined not only to win but to retrieve themselves with a handsome score. The game was fast and ferocious from the start, while the rivalry became more intense as the game grew older. The first half ended with a score of 21 to 18 in favor of the A. C. The second half began with a snap and ginger, that only good support from the rooters can produce. The Normalites made several baskets in rapid succession, and were now in the lead. Now began an interesting contest; first one team and then the other was in the lead. It was anybody's game, but when the final whistle blew the score tallied 38 to 36 in favor of the A. C. Both teams played a fast game and showed up strong on offensive but lacked considerable on the defensive work. Hill and Carpenter did find work at passing the ball, but they did not guard their men close enough to satisfy the critics. We give the Normal credit for having a good team, but with a better defence work, we should win by a handsome margin. Olsgaard at center for the Normals got the best of the argument with Wambem who is able to hold his own with the best of them. Birch and Slingsby played their usual strong game. Officials: G. Nesbit, Referee: French, Umpire.

#### A. C. 13; RED MEN 14

ON January 31st, our boys lined up against the famous Red Men of Redwing, Minn., who, after having defeated everything in the middle states, are making a championship tour in the West. We had much respect for these giants of national fame and repute. We dared not hope for victory, but felt, nevertheless, confident that our boys could keep them busy. After the game had progressed for sometime, in rough football tactics, we had an occasion to change our opinions; we knew our boys could not only keep them hustling all the time, but that we could defeat the great scoring machine of Redwing. But, alas, we reckoned without a host! We had not considered their referee, Mr. Neil, the greatest scoring unit on the team. When the Farmers outplayed the Red Men and took the lead in the second half referee Neil got into the game with telling effect. Every time the Red Men got the ball near their basket, the referee would insist on calling "held ball" thus giving the stronger men a chance to get the ball, and if possible, quickly shoot a basket. When the umpire gave the A. C. a point for hacking, the referee flatly refused to allow it. Finally, to bring his decisions to a climax, he ruled out a clean field

basket and instead called a foul on Birch. This gave the Red Men a point and decided the game.

Neil's position was this: He had to win the game in order to continue their western tour as champions. As long as his team was in the lead, he was in a position to referee a 'square' game, but when his team was losing, he changed his tactics and did everything in the power of a referee, to give the game to the Red Men. The crowd remonstrated against his rank decisions, but he knew his orders and remained firm.

The Red Men play a hard fast game and are very strong on defence. Their offensive work is not so good; being especially weak at throwing baskets.

Their game is to guard their men closely and if possible deliberately foul a man to prevent him from shooting a basket. Our boys showed much improvement in their defensive work over the last game, especially was this marked in the work of Hill and Carpenter at guards.

Officials: Neil, referee; French, umpire.

The cadet band made the occasion happy by giving several selections during the intervals of the game. A preliminary game was played before the big contest between the A. C. and the Fargo High School Girls, in which the former won by a score of 20 to 3.

#### A. C. GIRLS vs. NORMAL GIRLS

ON Friday night, the A. C. girls  
 With glowing cheeks and tied-up curls,  
 And Valley City's darlings too,  
 With ribbons red and jackets new  
 Appeared right promptly in the hall  
 To play their game of champion ball.

The whistle blew, the game began,  
 And fiercer work, I'm sure no man,  
 Has ever seen with girls at play.  
 Oh, faster A. C. ! Win the day.  
 The rooters now the girls extol  
 Oh ! joy unbound ! A. C. 's goal.

The first half o'er, we're in the lead;  
 Now to your tactics give good heed.  
 One goal—another,—now again !  
 The girls are playing fast as men.  
 At last the whistle sounds—'tis done,  
 By almost treble score, we've won.

W. H. M.

## Agricultural Notes

RUSSIA'S gravest economic problem at the present time is probably an agricultural one. What is known as the black-earth belt of Russia comprises 625,000 square miles of territory with Moscow as its center. This is the most fertile land in the whole empire and supports a population of 52,000,000 of people, two-thirds the total population of the United States. Ever since the emanci-

pation of the serfs 44 years ago, a one crop system has been in vogue on this land, nothing except wheat being sown. The logical result is a dire impoverishment of the soil. The financial policy of the country demands that the peasant pay his taxes on a certain date in September, and as wheat is the only staple crop convertible into cash at that time no other crop of importance is grown. Professor Mendelejeff, one of the world's greatest chemists, has made careful investigations of the chemical makeup of the soil and is authority for the statement that unless the government takes the matter up this land is doomed. He reports an alarming condition of affairs. In ten years twenty-five per cent of the nutritive qualities of the land had been lost and at the present time the average yield per acre of this land, once unsurpassed in fertility, is only one-third that of Germany, which has a meagre soil, but is carefully cultivated.

THE advanced class in stock-judging spent Saturday, February 3rd, at "The Elms," W. W. Brown's excellent stock farm at Amenia. The boys inspected the fine herds of Shorthorns and Poland-Chinas owned by Mr. Brown and tried their ability at placing classes. Competition in all classes was very close and the boys were satisfied that the day spent in close application to the scale of points had been very profitable to them. Mr. Brown met the contingent at the train and escorted them to the farm, where they were most royally entertained. Mr. and Mrs. Brown left no stone unturned to make their visit an enjoyable as well as a profitable one. The boys had intended to return home in the evening but a bad storm during the day delayed the train and prevented them from getting back till noon of the next day. During this long wait they were entertained at their hotel by Mr. Brown.

THE bill now before Congress for the removal of the federal tax on denatured alcohol should receive the hearty endorsement of every farmer who is far-sighted enough to realize at least a few of the benefits to be derived from it. New channels would be opened for the sale of farm products containing starch or sugar and the alcohol itself would soon prove indispensable as a fuel, for heating or lighting purposes and as a substitute for gasoline now used for motive power on the farm.

PRESIDENT JESSIE, of Missouri University, says: "Unless a boy has a deep seated tendency for some other profession, it does not seem to me wise for him to ignore the great opportunities that agriculture offer, no matter whether he was born in the country or in the city. In my opinion no other occupation offers so rich rewards, all things considered, as agriculture offers to those who are willing to train themselves for it earnestly and intelligently as they would train themselves for law or medicine. If a boy will put the same amount of time and study into his training of agriculture that he would put into his training for law or medicine, he will in the great majority of cases make more money, enjoy greater freedom, better health and develop stronger character."

THE United States Department of Agriculture employes over 2,000 specialists who are continually making researches in all branches of scientific production. The Federal Government appropriates over \$6,000,000 annually to carry on this extensive work. It is estimated that the Division of Entomology of Washington is saving the people of the southern states yearly the sum of \$125,000,000 to \$187,000,000 by their method of fighting the cotton-boll weevil.

# The Spectrum

Published Monthly by the Students of the  
North Dakota Agricultural College

Entered at the Postoffice at Agricultural College,  
N. D., as second-class mail matter.

## TERMS

One year, prepaid, - - - - - \$ .75  
Single copies, - - - - - .10

Subscribers are requested to give prompt notice  
of any non-delivery or delay in delivery of maga-  
zines. All communications to be addressed to  
Business Department, "THE SPECTRUM,"  
Agricultural College, N. D.

## EDITORIAL STAFF

E. G. Schollander, '06 - - - Editor-in-Chief  
F. Birch, '06 - - - Business Manager  
H. Carpenter, '08 - Ass't Business Manager

## ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Genevieve Holkesvig, '08 ..... Literary  
Bessie Rice, '08 ..... Exchanges  
Oliver W. Dynes, '07 ..... Agriculture  
Emily May, '06 ..... Science  
W. R. Porter, '06 ..... Local  
Karla Van Horn, '09 ..... Local  
John A. Swenson, '06 ..... Athletics

## EDITORIAL

WHERE are the Juniors? Two years ago the Junior class of 'naughty five' originated the novel idea of publishing one number of The Spectrum during the College year and by so doing introduce themselves to the College students and to the public. The material published in the number was to be strictly original within the class, and for that reason it would act as a gauge in showing of what grade of material they themselves were made. Their work was certainly a credit to them. The Juniors of last year willingly took upon themselves the task of continuing the idea introduced by the class previous, that a precedent might be permanently established. They went at it with grim determination to equal if not excel the worthy class of 'naughty five.' The success, the paper itself will show. Now, Juniors, it is up to you to continue this work of publishing one number of The

## COLLEGE DIRECTORY

### ORATORICAL LEAGUE

John Tlysel ..... President  
C. I. Gunness ..... Secretary

### AGRICULTURAL CLUB

C. W. Hennis ..... President  
A. Thomas ..... Secretary

### ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Charles Oswald ..... President  
John Weaver ..... Secretary

### GIRLS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Emily May ..... President  
Karla Van Horn ..... Secretary

### EDITH HILL CLUB

Karla Van Horn ..... President  
Agnes Halland ..... Secretary

### ATHENIAN LITERARY SOCIETY

John Swenson ..... President  
Ruby Hicks ..... Secretary

### PHILOMATHEAN LITERARY SOCIETY

R. M. Dolve ..... President  
Laura Morrison ..... Secretary

### Y. M. C. A.

D. Glomset ..... President  
C. I. Gunness ..... Secretary

Spectrum, doing it manfully and conscientiously, or forever acknowledge your inability as a Junior class to produce the original matter, that will show whether you are of true gold or a lifeless sponge.

THE Annual Tri-State Grain Growers Convention of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota closed its doors to the public on the nineteenth day of January. No one who has attended its meetings from year to year can say but that the session just closed eclipsed all the former meetings in attendance and general interest. No doubt some people take this opportunity of coming to Fargo for a general spree, but the majority of farmers come for the instruction that could be obtained, and for the purpose of visiting the metropolitan city and the Agricultural College. Many of the visitors have sons and daughters attending the A. C. Were it not for this gathering during the winter, a very small percent of the parents would ever come to Fargo, nor would they know of the real value of the Agricultural College and its

true relation to the students. The old adage that "seeing is believing" is certainly true in this case, as no description on paper can truly represent the work done by the boys in the carpenter and forge shops, in the farm machinery department, nor in the sewing and cooking department for the girls, until the rooms and apparatus loom up before them. On the other hand, it makes the visitors note the crowded condition in some of the buildings and the need of more room. The Spectrum hopes that it will be an eye opener to many and that the legislators will not turn their back coldly to the needs of the sons and daughters of the people whom they represent, when petitioned to provide adequate means of education.

—

**I**N a very short time our Nation will commemorate the birthday of George Washington, "The Father of Our Country." The memory of his great work and the sacrifice he offered to obtain the foundation for the greatest nation yet born, is heralded by every true American citizen. If a time should ever come when his people will forget the work started by him, there will still stand an emblem, erected in the City of Washington, and dedicated to his memory, that will last for centuries yet to come, namely: the colossal Washington Monument. As one comes down along the Potomac river from the north towards the City of Washington, an observer can see a white column as if suspended in mid air, long before the city itself comes into view. Coming nearer it steadily increases in size until one gets into the city itself. But its massiveness and magnificance can not be fully appreciated until one gets near the base of the monument itself. It stands on a rise of ground about a mile west of the Capitol and rises 555½ feet above the surface.

The shaft is of white marble and is 500½ feet high, 55 feet square at the base and 34 feet square at the top of the shaft. From here a pyramid rises 55 feet high and terminates in a point. The walls are 15 feet thick at the base and taper to 18 inches thick at the top of the shaft. The foundation upon which it rests is of rock and cement 36 feet deep and 126 feet square. On the inside along the walls is a winding stair-way that reaches to the top of the shaft. In the center of the shaft also reaching from the floor to the top is an electric elevator. Inserted into the walls on the inside are a large number of marble granite and bronze tablets, which are tributes from societies and different states. Some of these are very handsome and interesting to the ones venturing to walk down the stairway. It takes from fifteen to twenty minutes to walk down leisurely. At the top of the shaft are port holes, from which a grand panoramic view of the city and the Potomac River is obtained. One can hardly help trembling, as one looks down to the ground immediately below the shaft, and realizes how utterly helpless and infinitely small man is, after all, when a bird's eye view can be obtained from above this busy world. Looking down the elevator shaft on the inside, imagination and fear again seizes one, for it seems but a bottomless pit, even the electric lights gradually fade and dwindle away. Yet there seems to be a strange fascination to look continually downward over the railing, as one walks down the stairs. After one has seen the shaft from below and climbed up to its top within and gets a full realization of its gigantic size, it seems but a fitting tribute to the man whose gigantic work and determination it represents, and whose birthday we all commemorate the twenty-second day of February.

## Local Happenings

"Van" is becoming famous as a bread-maker.

Prof.: What is CO<sub>2</sub> used for?

Student: A fire distinguisher.

Puzzle—who is it? Miss Holsvig—Huxsvig—Hulkesvig—Holkesvig.

Prof. Pritchard has been suffering from a severe case of conjunctivitis.

M. H. Fallis was a visitor at the College and took in the Red Men vs. A. C. basketball game.

P. M. Peterson of Oakes, a former student of the College, was a visitor here for a few days last week.

Miss Ida Smith came down from Valley City with the Normal team and visited at the College for a few hours.

Prof. Keene at the Alpha Mu dance: "Be careful girls or you will get into the corner with the antiques."

Student during Exam: Does each of these ten questions count ten points?

Professor Halland: Not if you don't answer them.

Prof. Bolley dreamed that the girls were so glad to see Laura Morrison on her return from the hospital that they all kissed him.

On February 2nd, Dr. Batt addressed the Bay View Study Club of Fargo College on "The Friendship of Goethe and Schiller."

We are all very sorry to learn that Professor Churchill had to give

up his work for a few days on the Farmers' Institute force on account of illness.

Question in Ancient History Exam: What Gods did the Romans worship?

Bright Student's answer: Jupiter, Mars, Bolley, and Vesta.

Mr. Schollander is never dead broke; he always has a Nichol. And besides a Nichol means more to him than it does to most people.

Heard on the street car, as it stopped at Tenth Avenue and Thirteenth Street: "What are the Wambems getting off here for?"

We Freshman deem it an affliction,  
Deprived of our sweet Benediction.  
Whate'er her motive to depart  
We know 'twas with an Aiken heart.

Daniel Golmset has left the hospital entirely recovered of the pleurisy and we soon expect to see his smiling face and flaming red hair on the campus as of old.

Student: Are you busy, Prof.?

Prof. H.: Not especially, but some chap just blew his head off in the laboratory. I guess I had better take a look at him before long.

Prof. Kimberly: I would like to hear Bolley pray. He would probably say: "Dear Lord, we are full of rust and covered with smut; we thank thee for formaldehyde."

We understand that there are no basket ball teams at the University this year or else they have been kid-napped like the U. base ball team was

after the game with the A. C. last spring.

Adolph Mikkelson, '05, was a visitor at the College one day in the latter part of January. Orpheus was greatly pleased with our new buildings, the students in general, and the girls, in particular.

The V. C. Normal girls didn't forget to tell the A. C. players of their faults. Miss Rice was told that she was clumsy on her feet and Miss Doleshy was informed that she was a——. It won't do to tell.

The faculty basketball team at the University of Minnesota defeated the regular team. Why not have a game between our faculty team and the first team as a curtain raising event some evening in the near future?

A new delivery route has been inaugurated by Prof's. Bell and Householder, between the College and a lady's home. But instead of the ordinary mail being carried in the hand cart a female was substituted instead.

The members of the advanced Physics class (all boys) spent one afternoon finding the required temperature for the manufacture of kisses at Francis Hall. It is feared that the cooking classes will become much larger if this occurs very often.

The Edith Hill Girls' Club held a meeting Monday January 29th for the purpose of electing officers. The following were elected: Miss Van Horn, President; Miss Hicks, Vice President; Miss Halland, Secretary; Miss Thompson, Treasurer.

Asst. Librarian: That bell makes my head ache.

Prof. Minard: Why don't you step on it?

Asst. Librarian (looking at the bell near the ceiling): I can hardly step that high.

The Agricultural Club as usual is doing very good work this winter in debate, parliamentary practice, and public speaking. It is a wonder the literary societies don't wake up, shake the dust off their feet, and try to keep somewhere near the Agricultural Club in literary work.

During the storm, last Saturday evening, Professor McDowell was lost and a searching party of about fifteen men spent several hours searching for him. Professor Parrott rendered the searching party very efficient aid by looking from a window on the corner of 11th Street and 11th Avenue North.

Superintednent Hicks of the City Schools gave a very interesting talk in Chapel on February 5th on "Some American Thrones." He showed in a very able manner how money, fashion, and capital are as great tyrants and exact more from their subjects than any of the old monarchs of Europe who reigned with an iron hand.

## Our Exchange Table

WE ARE glad that the U. N. D. appreciates our efforts, but are sorry indeed that it cannot fully appreciate good poetry. Truly, was a poem ever written which stated facts so graphically, U. N. D.?

THE *College Signal* comes to us from Massachusetts. This exchange is a fortnightly paper and is rather local in its interest except for its "Inter-collegiate Column." This paper also contains an account of the "John Barrett Prizes."

THE *Manitou Messenger* is a good magazine from cover to cover. Its stories are well written, the second one having probably the more original plot, and some of its editorials are fine, especially that one on "Student Unity." Its exchange column is certainly a well-handled department.

FROM Troy, N. Y., comes our old friend *The Polytechnic*. This paper contains a number of scientific articles which are well illustrated by good cuts and diagrams. We note that they are having a chemical

clusion of that exciting story, "Lampoon." Come again.

A NEW exchange which has just lately arrived at our tables from Tennessee is *The Clarksville Index*. This is an enterprising little paper from a High School there and some of its literary efforts are commendable. "Four Years at College," although its chapters are short and some statements improbable is a good rendering of that "old story, ever new." Why not try some poetry, *Index*? You are a little severe in criticizing the Exchange column of other papers, are you not? We agree with you, however, that the exchange department should be present and in as flourishing a condition as possible. It is the only mode of communication between the schools, for that reason they should be stong.

THE *Transit* is a new exchange and we wish to welcome it. It comes from the School of Engineering of Kentucky and contains a number of articles of interest to all pursuing an engineering course. Among them is one on the "Recent Progress on Cape to Cario Railway," which is interesting to anyone, despite its technicalities and statistics. The articles are not written by the students but are gleaned from other technical papers, so as to come to the notice of many who would otherwise overlook them. In this respect, the idea is a good one. This paper has a novel feature introduced in that each class has its separate news column and there is also a calendar of the month, containing brief notices of the principal happenings.