

The Spectrum.

Published by the Students of the North Dakota Agricultural College.

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AMERICAN INTERESTS ON THE PACIFIC.

The dawn of the nineteenth century saw the United States, a very young, but also a prosperous nation, possessed of a coast line of about two thousand miles. During that century, which is now drawing to a close, the nation has ever been sending pioneers into the primeval forests, across the mountain ranges, and over thousands of miles of trackless deserts to fairer fields beyond, until her territory has been enlarged, and her influence extended until she stands today, as one of the leaders of the world.

While extending her territory and influence, our nation has also endeavored to give to the people, the most liberal laws, and above all, has placed in the hands of the people the means of educating themselves.

Though advancing steadily and rapidly in every way, her path has at times been rough and stormy, sometimes striving with foes from without; again, almost torn asunder by internal strife, but through all her troubles, guided by an unseen hand, she has prospered and advanced. Tennyson says "That men may rise, on stepping stones of their dead selves, to higher things," and so it seems to have been with our country, which has risen, through adversity, to nobler efforts, until she stands today in the forefront of nations, the first great exponent of the equality of mankind, liberty-loving people, from all the effete despotisms of the Eastern hemisphere, have flocked to our shores, with a full realization of the benefits of our rule, and they have proven their gratitude for these benefits by ever being ready to protect the flag under which they were conferred. With such a country for our

home, and such influences to stimulate us, it is perhaps, not so wonderful that we, as a nation, should have grown until the dawn of the twentieth century sees us, a mighty people, looking southward over the gulf, and westward over the Pacific, and longing for new worlds to conquer, not, like Alexander with the sword, but by those more powerful weapons, civilization and education. As we think of America's opportunities on the Pacific, it is natural for us to look forward to a large increase of our influence in eastern waters. The Sandwich Islands, the Ladrões, and the Philippines, will be dependent upon our merchant marine for the development of their commerce with the United States. Our merchant marine, in its peaceful pursuits, will require the protection of naval vessels. We may therefore, examine our national relation to the Pacific, and find whether, from the value of our eastern trade, we will be justified in placing costly squadrons in the Pacific to protect that trade. Our western coast line, exclusive of Alaska, is about three thousand miles long, and on this coast line there are some of the finest harbors in the world. Hawaii, with its enormous sugar industries, is ours, and demands protection. The Ladrões and the Philippines will rapidly develop an enormous trade, to which we are entitled. Japan is rapidly building railroads and establishing commercial industries, which require vast amounts of modern machinery, most of which should be supplied by the United States. China, is also beginning to call for modern railroads, manufacturing plants and so forth, which can be supplied by the United States. Our food products

and cotton fabrics should also find a ready market in the East.

In July of last year Japan concluded a treaty with the other nations, giving tourists the privilege of visiting any part of Japan without passports, and this will draw a large passenger traffic to the East. Why can the United States not build vessels to carry our passengers and our manufacturing products to Japan, China, and the Philippines, and bring back Japanese and Filipino products in return? The Japanese and the English are at present doing most of our carrying trade, bringing our teas, silks, and spices

from the East. In the event of Japan and England being compelled to withdraw their ships, what are we to do? Can not American capital be used to advantage in the building of American ships for this trade? The more we think of the matter, the more are we convinced that the United States has need of a strong fleet on the Pacific, to protect our trade, and to insure the maintenance of the "open door" in China. Surely we must not sit still until the eastern nations come to our western shores, and crowd us back upon our own resources.

J. M.

THE VEGETABLE ALKALOIDS, NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC.

The major portion of mankind finds as much difficulty in understanding the nature of alkaloids as had Mr. Dooley when he tried to uphold the integrity of Dr. Nansen, when his friend, Mr. Hennissey, importuned him the information as to the report of the papers when they said that Nansen stopped off at Nootch-inchoot to study the Flora and Fauna; and then on his way back he encountered them again. Mr. Dooley replied, "I make it a rule of my life not to discuss any woman's character. If Doctor Nansen was off there skylarkin with Flora and Fauna, it's his own business, an' I make no inquiries. A lady's a lady, be she ever so humble; and as Shakespeare says, '*Cursed* be the man that raises an ax agin her, save of co-orse in the way of a joke.'" After his friend had departed Mr. Dooley leaned over and whispered to Mr. McKenna, "It sounds mighty suspicious, Jawn. I hope the Doc'll be able to square it with his wife."

When asked what an alkaloid is, we may choose any one of three courses. Either to say at once we don't know; to look supremely wise and say nothing; or to refer to some standard work upon the subject.

Although the word has no meaning to the majority of mankind, yet the alka-

loids are products of the organic world, so common that the most of us are in contact with them in some form daily. Let us explain that the active principles of tea and coffee are alkaloids, that these alkaloids give them their stimulating effects, there is, then a ray of intelligence; but should we go further and attempt explanation of the chemical nature of this class of products there is a maze of mystery.

Should we aim at a more definite statement than the former, we say: Every plant contains certain chemical substances which can be extracted by various agents as water, chloroform, alcohol, ether, etc., that in this group of extractives there are gums, resins, oils, acids, mineral deposits, glucosides, and *alkaloids*; that the alkaloids are generally bitter in taste, but as a class, have no distinctive physiological action, some being wholly inert, though others, such as, strychnine or atropine, being extremely violent poisons, even in minute quantities.

No physiological reaction of the alkaloids, as a class, can be given; but we class them in physiological groups according to their individual physiological reactions. As we might expect, the characteristic alkaloids of the various

species in a plant family have in common quite marked characteristics.

Still, the question is asked, what is an alkaloid? the answer might be, a class of extractives that remain when all other classes are excluded. But in order that we be more specific in our definition we would answer the question in this manner: Alkaloids are products found in plants which may or may not be poisonous; but if poisonous, may or may not be very poisonous; they may or may not be bitter in taste; they are not glucosides, nor resins, nor gums, nor oils, nor anything else, but just alkaloids. Now, what are alkaloids?

The earlier chemists, and some even at this time, were disposed to class alkaloids as the poisonous basic properties of plants and putrifying animal matter. Though the tendency is now to restrict the term to a definite class of plant extractives. The extractive substances of the animal kingdom is now divided into three classes, viz.: Those of the living cells, *leucomaines*, of the dead cells *ptomains* (putrifiactive alkaloids), and *toxins*. The former, as is also the *leucomaines*, are basic in character, the latter are not.

But when we attempt to define these three classes, so as to show their difference, we are attempting a task not so easy. As Vaughan has said, "The distinction between vegetable and animal alkaloids is not very well defined, and, in fact, there seem to be reasons for considering their formation as due to the same causes which bear an intimate relation to the physiology of the cells and tissues of both kingdoms. These vegetable tissues are known to contain not only what are ordinarily designated as ptomains, such as cholin, but also leucomaines as hypoxanthine xanthin, etc. Indeed in this latter group must be placed, on account of their relation to xanthin, those well defined alkaloid bases, caffen and theobromin. Not only are they representatives of these two divisions of basic substances com-

mon to both kingdoms, but their parent bodies, lecithin, nuclein, etc., are known to occur in both, thus giving rise to the same bases on decomposition."

In accordance with the above facts and other facts relating to their molecular constitution, this definition has been given: "Alkaloids are natural organic bases containing nitrogen, and having high molecular weights. They occur in many plants, and some in animal tissues. They are substituted compounds of ammonia, most are tertiary amines. They form salts with acids, and double salts with platinic chloride. They are generally crystalline bodies, soluble in hot alcohol, sparingly soluble in water. They have mostly a bitter taste, act powerfully upon the nervous system, and are used in medicine as quinine, morphine, and strychnine; they are often violent poisons. The names of most of the alkaloids end in *ine*, as, theine, which occurs in tea and coffee.

This is not far from the idea which we hold at this time upon the nature of alkaloids except that we restrict the term to "compounds of vegetable origin, generally of complex composition and capable of producing marked effects upon animals. They all contain nitrogen, and all have certain properties in common, with ammonia, more especially the power of combining with acids to form salts. They belong to the general class of organic bases."

Upon the same subject Witthous and Becker (see Medical Jurisprudence, Forensic Medicine and Pharmacology) have written as follows: "In the wider sense all organic nitrogenized substances, basic in character, and capable of neutralizing acids with the formation of salts in the same manner as ammonia, i. e., without the simultaneous liberation of or formation of water, are alkaloids. Under this view, not only are the vegetable bases, such as morphine, strychnine alkaloids, but many animal and synthetic substances, such as urea, the amines, (including such ptomains as putrescin and cadaverin), hydrazine, etc., also come

within this definition. But as those vegetable alkaloids whose chemical constitution has been determined either completely or partially have been found to contain the closed chain nucleose *pyridin* ($C_5 H_5 N$), and consequently belong to the second of the two principal classes of organic compounds, while the other substances mentioned belong to the first, the present tendency among chemists is to limit the application of the term alkaloid to basic derivatives of pyridin ($C_5 H_5 N$) and quinolin ($C_9 H_7 N$).

A few examples might be given though showing the possibilities which are before the chemist, but these we omit. Other alkaloids are obtained synthetically and the number becomes larger every year. Several of these synthetic products are replacing their organic counterparts, in that they are obtained in the pure form and thus their action is more specific and less liable to negative results.

We are entering upon a new era, the era of chemistry. No longer does the chemist grope blindly in darkness. He

knows whereof he seeks. Every effect is attributed to an antecedent cause, and consequently there is system, order has come from chaos. Our progress or growth, is not from sporadic efforts, but it moves ever onward in its advancement, not backward. Theory must be founded upon a reasonable basis or it must fall. The day of a superstitious reverence for things that are old is past. Facts unsupported by evidences are not accepted. This is a progressive world; every soul seems on fire with the spirit of the age; there is an intensity of purpose, a purpose to win. To this end vast accumulation of capital are diverted from the usual channels, and thus trusts and monopolies are formed. But amidst all this feverish rabble in which the natural passions become unnatural, in which that which is pure and beautiful in man's nature is dethroned, science upholds the banner of truth. "Truth for the sake of truth," is the watchword, and the truth must conquer.

M. F.

EFFECTS OF CONSERVATISM.

The question of the human race having fallen so low from the ideal position thought to have been held by its early ancestors, sorely puzzled the minds of ancient philosophers and prophets. The question of the human race developing so slowly, is equally puzzling to modern philosophers and religious teachers. Various causes have been assigned for this apparent retardation by different thinkers and upon these assumptions divers schools of philosophy have thrived.

The ancients, generally, assumed that Evil was an active power in itself, continually warring against the good which emanated from the Creator. This idea was more productive of followers than other theories; for in the study of nearly all peoples, we find that they worshipped an evil spirit. Here and

there were thinkers who rose above this polytheistic idea and claimed that evil was a necessary concomitant of nature itself. Exponent of this theory denied the assumption of the existence of two powerful forces warring against each other. They held, with Plato as chief, that there is and all-powerful Creator working for the ultimate good of things. He is opposed, not by a worker who seeks to tear down the beautiful structure, but he is opposed by the implacability of matter. The Creator does the possible with the material and conditions at hand.

It was not until Evolution was recognized as a superior basis of thought that the general "theory of things" became clarified. Then, all the forces of nature, combined with the reactive force of man's superior being, were seen

to be in constant interplay, each force struggling fiercely for the attainment of its end, and combining with all others, for the attainment of a higher end.

Evil may be studied in two fields. In one field where nature's forces work alone, evil results from the lack of harmony between the products of nature and the laws controlling nature. In the latter field, evil results from the lack of harmony and co-operation with the Eternal Cause or God. The continuance of evil is referred to the continued discord made necessary by the fact that each factor must continue along its old lines until it may safely reach forward and upward to higher environments. Evil expresses, therefore a relative state of existence, which is being constantly eliminated as a factor, in proportion to the increased harmony between laws and products of laws.

This continuance along set lines, whether within or without man's sphere of dominion, is designated as conservatism. It is a conserving of the present state of affairs; not because the present state is the correct one, but because it is the best state possible under the circumstances.

Concerning the status of affairs in the world outside of man's dominion, it is impossible to conceive it in better condition at the present moment than it is. Through Evolution, it is constantly tending to a better condition, but, as before stated, no faster than circumstances permit.

Concerning the world of action into which the will of man enters, the conditions are different; for here one may deliberately choose whether he shall perform an act which shall tend to uplift the race, or to perform one which shall tend to degrade it. But even here, looking at the history of a race through many centuries we find the elevating tendencies approximating the debasing ones and learn that circumstances over which man has no control, tend to shape his destiny.

By a study of the foregoing we may obtain an idea of the necessity of conservatism where man holds sway. When this element is present to a moderate degree, development takes a surer and more thorough course than when it is absent. Development is slower but it is compensated by the fact that it is many-sided and more lasting. A race in which science, art and religion are symmetrically developed has more elements of endurance in it than a race which has developed to an extreme in one direction.

A proper degree of conservatism is, then, a means to an end, that end, a higher stage of development. But while the idea is advanced that a certain degree of conservatism is essential to the highest welfare of the race yet that does not preclude the idea that constant change is necessary, to meet ever changing conditions. It is in this respect that the majority of mankind, willingly or unwillingly err. Many openly profess that what was good enough for their fathers to believe is good enough for them to believe. Others become fixed in certain habits of thought and if they wish to change they cannot.

Finally, conservatism is a constant in the evolution of the race. If present in moderate degree, the race develops normally and as rapidly as circumstances permit. New theories are thoroughly tested before being adopted and old methods are thrown by with hesitation. If present in an abnormal degree, wrongs accumulate through the centuries, religions become stereotyped, and an intellectual torpor settles over the land. At length some change must be made if the equilibrium is to be maintained, and so set have the conditions become that nothing short of a revolution will serve to inaugurate a change.

On the other hand, if everything tends to be radical, development is checked because no extended study is made of natural laws and a thousand schemes of various kinds are tried for

the benefit of man, all of which must inevitably fail because of the utter lack of harmony between them and the governing laws.

What then, is demanded of a country and of her citizens to enable them to attain to that high degree of civilization, the right of which they instinctively feel? Only a broad and liberal

education of the masses will serve to prevent them from becoming bigoted on the one hand and excessively radical upon the other. In the words of a famous orator. "We must educate, we must educate, we must educate or we must perish."

L. R. W., '99.

MECHANICAL NOTES.

Professor Rose has been on the sick list for a few days, but is again able to take charge of his classes.

Last week the classes in Mechanics, under Professor Ten Eyck visited the different machinery houses in the city.

The junior engineers took a number of indicator diagrams from the engine in the Moorhead Roller Mills a few days ago. Most of the cards were very good and a number of them have been computed by the classes in engineering.

Plans have been submitted by government engineers for controlling the level of the Great Lakes to the extent of three feet by means of a mammoth dam to be built across the Niagara River at Buffalo, New York. In case of low water level its value to commerce can be at once recognized.

The Engineers Club held a very interesting meeting last Friday afternoon. The subject was electricity. Professor Keene gave a general talk on the subject while Professor Rose made some interesting experiments before the club, illustrating some of the fundamental principles of this very interesting subject.

Improvements have recently been made in the great power house at Niagara Falls. There are now ten 5,000-H. P. turbines, instead of three as heretofore. Changes have been made in the methods of regulating and transforming the currents. The generator pressure at the power house is 22,000 volts while that on the transmitting line is at present 11,000 volts and it is proposed to raise this

to 22,000 providing, suitable transformers can be constructed at each end for such a high potential.

The wireless telegraph system promises to become one of inestimable value. It is already being used to some extent for sending messages and orders in the army and also a means for communication between ships at sea. Think of the immense saving it will mean to the telegraph company in the cost of wiring the long distances between stations, of the trouble and expense of laying and maintaining submarine cables if it can be perfected so as to transmit messages for great distances. The only trouble would be in the number of receiving stations that would be fitted up to receive the messages. But this could be overcome by each system having its own code.

The Mechanical Department is about to prepare a pamphlet containing the chemical analysis of water used for boiler purposes throughout the state. Quite a large number of such analyses are already available and in the course of time samples will be obtained from every section of the state. This book, together with a map, which will be especially prepared for such use will enable boiler operators to see at a glance the condition of boiler feed waters in any section of the state, with the necessary formulæ to prevent the formation of boiler scale and of priming.

One of the problems confronting the navy department, is that of securing competent engineers for the government vessels. In the course of a few weeks

there are to be launched and equipped, four new first-class battle ships and to make up the engineering force of these ships men have to be taken from vessels going out of service temporarily or the navy yards. It seems strange that such a condition exists. After all the talk about the over-supply of men along mechanical lines, but it is true nevertheless. The trouble is that the labor mar-

ket is over-loaded with men, but not with men who have the experience or qualifications necessary to fill responsible or difficult positions, where skill and brains are necessary. It seems to us that here is an opportunity and a lesson for the graduates of the Engineering Departments of our Colleges and Mechanical Schools.

EXCHANGES.

Father.—“Albert, can't you possibly cut down your college expenses?”

Son.—“Well, I might possibly get along without my books.”—Ex.

The Clemson College Chronicle comes to us in a new and very attractive dress this year. In their last number the benefits of the college are set forth in very good form in a well-written article on that subject.

The February Industrial Collegian contains an article on “Imitation” that places the word in a little better light than it is usually thought of. The “Ink Spots” in this number are, if anything, a little ahead of the average.

The last number of the Purdue Exponent is devoted entirely as a memorial number to the late president of Purdue University, Dr. Smart. This is a very appropriate and touching proof of their regard for the deceased president.

The Georgetownians, despite the stirring times in Kentucky comes promptly to hand. It contains quite a lengthy and well-told story, entitled “Over the Lake.” Its exchange department, however, is entirely missing and consequently detracts from the otherwise good appearance of the paper.

The Polytechnic is one of the latest and best exchanges that have recently

appeared on our tables. It is an evidence that it is not the literary department of a college that makes good college papers, but that the science men of purely technical schools can do as well.

The Mercerian, still up to its high standard, comes punctually to our tables. The last number has an article on “The College Man in Life,” which every student, young or old, would do well to read. This number also clips THE SPECTRUM in its exchanges.

The Phreno-Cosmian contains a letter straight to the point from one of the alumni on the changing of college colors. Those in any institution who favor such a change would do well to read this article and find out what a college flag represents. The same number also contains a fine article on “The Profession of Law.”

“Co-education has not yet been adopted at Delaware College.” So says the February Review in a well written editorial on that subject. While the majority of the trustees are against it and the faculty is divided in its opinion there seems to be no question in the minds of the students themselves as to what is proper and desirable.

Senator Depew will have to pay \$50,000 for the Corcoran House in Washington, which he has leased for six years. His aggregate salary for that

period will be only \$48,000. How he is going to make both ends meet, would be a good problem for the arithmetic classes.

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With this month ends another school term and with the ending of the term a number of students will leave for their respective homes and occupations. But we hope this is not a final leave taking. The term just ending has been a very successful one—a period where intelligence has been intelligently applied. All have profited much by the time thus spent. As a start has been made may it be the first of a series of steps up the ladder of

knowledge and the first of a number of terms spent at the Agricultural College.

With the evolution of the College may also be noted the evolution of the work done by its students as shown by their public appearances. A gradual improvement can be noted, from a few years back to the last declamation contest, in the quality and delivery of declamations, orations and literary society work. The better teaching facilities, the better equipments and hence the greater interest created along these lines are the cause of this. This is good not only for the students but for the College as well. We are judged by our work and if that work is good our reputation will grow and spread and cause others to cast their lots with us.

The increased amount of college spirit and college enthusiasm manifested now as over former days, especially as shown at our recent oratorical and declamation contests could not be but noticeable to one who has been here for some time. A year or so ago when these events occurred there was scarcely enough college spirit to cause an attendance of all the students, much less to create strong society or class interests, while at these last events every nerve was strained days before by the different societies to aid their representatives to win, and during the contests at times the air was rent with the yells of the different organizations. This is a condition that should exist. It is this spirit of rivalry and enthusiasm which tends to bring forth the best results. The institution is young and the students have been new in college ways but the short time that has passed since its existence has done its good work and this interest now started will grow and continue to bring forth good.

An article in the February SPECTRUM advocating a change in the name of this institution seems to have been misunder-

stood by some. The purpose of the writer was not to belittle or cast any reflection on the agriculturist or the student pursuing studies relating to agriculture, nor was it the purpose to have the institution vary a hair's breadth from the good it is doing in making intelligent and educated farmers. But while this is an agricultural state and the college as a state institution should shape its course to suit the majority, yet there should be and are subjects taught and courses arranged to accommodate those wishing to follow other business or professions. The name as it now stands does not indicate all this, as was said in the previous article. People are constantly looking over the institution and expressing surprise at its scope and say they thought it was simply a school of agriculture as its name implies. Now, if a name will show it up in its true light without doing it an injury or detracting from its usefulness why not give it that name—that is call it The State College and School of Agriculture.

The address of Professor Butler of Columbia University before the National Educational Association was of great interest to those interested in education. He spoke in part as follows: "Development so rapid, changes so startling, inventions so undreamed of, crowd each other in a whirl of confusing images, when we try to picture this century and to note its salient facts. More leaders of enterprise and more captains of industry have appeared during this one hundred years than in all previous recorded history. The average of human intelligence and of human efficiency has been raised to a point in the United States, certainly, which a hundred years ago, would have entailed notoriety and perhaps distinction." The twentieth century is pre-eminently the period of individual liberty—political, religious, intellectual, industrial; and its manifold triumphs and achievements are due to the large opportunities which have been

granted the individual initiative and the individual expression. The greatness, the shortcomings and the contradictions of the twentieth century are alike due to this."

He pointed out the fact that education has always borne the impress of the civilization whose product it was, made a strong place for the more harmonious working together of the different schools and colleges of the country and for the adoption of those studies which can be applied in every-day life.

The nations that have left their imprint engraved in the rock of time, have been those that were imbued with some definite or indefinite conception of an Infinite Being or Power to which they repeatedly prostrated themselves in prayer, imploring mercy and making supplication for those things which were deemed requisite and necessary for their preservation in this life and happiness hereafter. Modern religions are the lineal descendants of those ancient forms or in other words, ancient religion modernized. To a careful student of the ancient forms, there is something enchanting in the earnestness with which they worshipped and the zeal with which they pursued their ideals—theirs was a prayer incessant. On the other hand, a careful observer of the modern methods will not fail to note the periodicity which seems to affect Christian and non-Christian alike. The apparent effort made to gain the reputation of devoutness and sincerity is manifest on every side, and recalls the allegory of the publican and sinner, with the former greatly in the majority. Even the pulpits are filled often times by men who for pretence offer long prayers and whose intensity at times would break down the powers of an ordinary man in a comparatively brief period. As Elisha suggested to the Priests of Baal, they seem to imagine their Lord, out on a hunting trip or other expedition, that requires the full force of their vocal organs to make Him return and wait on them. But it is even

worse than that. The poor publican for that lone offense has suffered many a stinging rebuke by persons who never went up to pray, but to see who was there, to observe their neighbor's new spring bonnet, or perhaps—to see a girl home. Such is the modernized form of ancient earnestness. In college life we have the same condition. People coming under the pretense of students, yet their manner of study is becoming so periodic and the lapse of time between the periods so great that we can scarcely call them students. The old and noble motto,

“Pray without ceasing” has been so abused and handled with unclean and hypocritical hands that the word prayer has become to many earnest and upright students the synonym of hypocrisy. In study, as in everything else, nothing will succeed but an earnest and persistent determination and no matter how much we long and wish for any attainment we will never succeed until we get down in the trench and dig. Such an endeavor is an earnest prayer and God today is as willing as of old “to help those who help themselves.”

ATHLETICS.

Professor Bolley has been elected general athletic manager as provided for in the new constitution.

Why wouldn't now be a good time to look over the apparatus and get it in shape so that when the weather and ground are warm and dry enough, no time will be lost in getting down to work for field day?

The kicking contest for the honor of wearing the foot-ball medal came last Friday as scheduled, with the results that J. McGuigan will carry it on his manly breast for another month. What is the matter with Bottenfield and Green?

The ladies have closed a very successful basket-ball season. Their only regrets are that after defeating the “All Stars” they couldn't find other fields to conquer as the University of North Dakota or Minnesota Teams.

With the breath of spring comes the thought of base ball. The prospects along this line this season are particularly en-

couraging. Most of the old players of two years ago are back and with a lot of available material in the new men to pick from the indications are that the base ball manager will be able to make a team that will be a winner.

Another basket-ball season about to close and no banner or cup for us. Although the dove of victory did not seem to hover over us very much, yet the boys have no reason to feel ashamed of their season's work. The margin between the two scores has always been small and the crowd has always got their money's worth by seeing a good game. As for passing and guarding, the boys were easily the leaders, but their weak and fatal point was in throwing baskets. Up to the present time the game has been new to our institution, while the “Y” and Fargo College are old hands at it, but now that we are educated up to it we are going in next winter to win. Financially, the league has been a success.

Examinations for this term will be held Wednesday and Thursday and the term will close Thursday night, March 22, so those who go home will have an

opportunity to remain to complete the term's work and still reach home Saturday.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS.

"Reddy," yell.

"Be sure and get onto your job."

We are glad to see Miss Taylor once more.

Last week the batallion had their picture taken.

It is evident that thorough preparation for any contest is essential to success.

Several A. C. students wrote at the teachers' examination, March 9 and 10.

Rev. Ordway gave a chapel talk on "Education, Practical and Theoretical," last Tuesday.

Nearly all of the station staff are scheduled for papers at Farmers' Institutes during the month.

The program, as arranged for the spring term, is posted and students may make all arrangements for classes before this term closes.

The College Mandolin and Guitar Club made its "debut" at the declamation contest and was enthusiastically encored.

With this fine weather and the near approach of spring comes the thought of the near approach of examinations.

It would be a good thing for all students leaving at the end of this term to subscribe for THE SPECTRUM before they go.

It is reported that one of our young ladies made the statement that it took two invitations to get a girl for a party. Remember this boys when you get a girl for your next party.

Yeller Smith of Fargo College and Yeller W. of the A. C. have signed articles to yell to a finish in the armory for the state championship which the afore-said Smith snatched from Sitting Bull some time since.

Editor Best of Fargo College paid us a visit last week.

On the evening of March 3rd Miss Senn gave one of her popular receptions to the students. The features of the evening was a collection of etchings loaned by a New York gentleman, and some cream chicken served by some of the young gentlemen of the institution.

Now that the spring term is at hand it is time for the different classes to be making up and beginning work on their class day programs. It is only by putting considerable time and thought in these things that makes them really a success.

Miss Widlund of Cooperstown spent an afternoon in the department recently the guest of Miss Larson of Moorhead.

The members of the Senior Class were guests of honor at a dinner given March 15 by Misses Stapleton and Manning.

From the present indications we fear that we will be "swamped" by oratory during the first week of April. We can stand chapel orations when they are dribbled along through the term, but when we get them all in one week it is too much, so we enter a protest.

To those who understand:—Jno. Anderson is on the war-path on account of the mysterious disappearance of three lemon pies from his refrigerator last Thursday. Remember, in the future, that when you are in need of the necessities of life, keep out of private property.

The other day one of our Juniors received, through the mail, a tempting looking bon-bon box, but on opening it he found instead of delicious sweets or an infernal machine, two loud, joyous, highly flavored, Bermuda onions. We would advise the recipient to purchase a box of "Sen Sen."

I. D. McBain, 03, attended the declamation contest.

"Mr. Benedict, there is no boy in this building your equal."

Miss Senn delivered a lecture on "Household Economics" at Abercrombie last week.

Forty-four students are busy in the D. E. department, finishing their term's work this week.

A dinner was served on March 14 to the members of the board, Miss Ford acting as hostess.

Miss Grace Martin, a former student, is attending the Normal School at Edmonton, in Alberta.

Miss Senn had a very interesting article in the February Sanitary Home on the "Influence of the Beautiful."

We are sorry to say that our Basket Ball team did not christen the new Basket Ball suits as was hoped they would.

Contrary to the hint given out by the local department in last month's issue crayon is still scattered over the classroom floors.

A few of our most popular young gentlemen have been entertained a couple of times the past month by the ladies of the Moorhead Normal.

One of our rising young men has recently purchased a new thirty-dollar Crimson Rim and a fourteen-dollar coat; still they wonder why men drink.

In the last declamation contest the Athenian Literary Society, through Miss Hill won the gold medal and the Philomathian, through Mr. Osgood the silver.

The latest fad—stealing mufflers. Tom Osgood says that he is going to begin and buy his by the wholesale, as it costs too much to buy them as he needs them.

Professor Bolley is deliberating as to whom he will appoint as manager of the different athletic departments.

Efforts are being made to secure a collection of fifty samples of Georgia woods, for illustration in class work.

It is reported that Professor Waldron furnished part of the refreshments for Miss Senn's reception. It was later discovered that it was wholly unintentional on the professor's part.

On the first of the month a number of students from the Wahpeton "U" paid this College a visit. Messers Green and Fowler escorted the visitors through the various departments.

Professor Keene has just received a number of lantern slides which by a new process in photography show the natural colors of the objects photographed. A trial with the lantern shows them to be very clear and natural.

On the 15th ult. Miss Damia Peck, a former student of this institution, was married at the home of her parents to Mr. Berry, chief bugler of the North Dakota troops. THE SPECTRUM extends congratulations to the happy couple.

At the oratorical contest, the Wahpeton crowd made itself conspicuous by the waving of canes and colors from the balcony. During a moment of great excitement one of the canes happened to come in contact with the hands of a true college-spirited student, who could not resist the temptation of capturing an enemy's colors. It is reported that the flag staff was of Brazilian redwood with a nickel dog's head, and that it is prized by its owner, not for its intrinsic value, but because it is an heir loom of the family. He says that the cane was doubtless not taken with the intention of keeping as no gentleman would do such a thing. We would like to call the owner's attention to the unwritten college law: That all ensignia of rival institutions are legitimate spoils.

Miss Reynolds paid a visit to Sheldon friends February 25.

Messrs. McBain and Goff, former students of this institution, paid us a visit last week.

What was so striking about Osgood's appearance last Friday that caused all eyes to be turned upon him?

A concert of the choir and mandolin and guitar club is promised for the spring term, provided the members recover from colds so they can rehearse.

Mr. W. C. Langdon a graduate of The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is taking advanced work in chemistry this term.

C. K. Stark: "I hereby announce myself a candidate for mayor of the City of Fargo. Votes solicited 'Tu'-fers' furnished gratuitously."

The competition drill, Wednesday afternoon, drew a large crowd of spectators. Captain Keye and Lieutenants Geary and Hildreth of Company B, N. D. N. G., acted as judges. They decided in favor of Company B, captain, Greene.

Sunday's program with one of our boys:

8 to 10 a. m., take a bath.

10 to 12 m., study six pages of zoology.

12 to 2 p. m., dinner.

2 to 6 p. m., write a letter to Michigan.

6 to 9 p. m., study "prep" physiology.

By this time next year it is expected considerable addition will have been made to the institution in the way of floor space. A large building, consisting of recitation room, reception halls, and the like are to be things of the near future. The body of the Chemical building is to give Professor Ladd more room. The whole of this latter building will not be immediately dedicated to the advancement of chemical science, but a

portion reserved for class room work in other subjects until the professor becomes accustomed to having moving space. Plans are already drawn for the enlargement of the Mechanical Laboratory and the Gymnasium. In fact, while we are already the leading educational institution of the state, yet with the present rapid growth the indications are that in the near future ours will be the leading institution not only of the state but of this part of the country as well.

The Call: It must be particularly gratifying to the students and faculty of the Agricultural College to have won the highest honors at the state oratorical contest held in this city last week. It is significant of other things. It shows what can be done with crude material from the farm. Peter Stewart is a plain, successful farmer and his son, who won first place in the recent contest, was born and raised on the farm. He is only one of thousands of country boys in this state who, with opportunity, would distinguish themselves in any field of effort, and no better schooling can be found than that afforded by the Agricultural College. While it affords practical instruction to the boy who is fitting himself to become a plain farmer, it also affords the very best opportunity for those who would enjoy a thorough education. It deals more particularly with those subjects with which the great majority of citizens of the state must become familiar to work to good advantage. It is a great mistake to suppose that because it invites the farmer's children to take short courses of study and lectures during each winter that its work is confined to a narrow scope. Its higher courses of study are equal to the best and it has a splendid equipment of laboratories and a fine corps of professors and instructors. The work they do is thorough and practical, and the Agricultural College has a promising future. Fargo is proud of its management and The Call bespeaks for it a brilliant record.

Will there be a chorus class during the spring term?

Contrary to expectations, the six chickens were sufficient for 175 guests.

Molloy's "Little Tin Soldier" is very popular with some of our singers.

It is rumored that we are to have a new military detail before many days.

The chorus class did not meet on Wednesday evening on account of the military drill.

It is reported that the ladies of the institution are going to get out a ladies' edition of THE SPECTRUM.

The Juniors are discussing the possibility of putting on a play for their class program commencement week.

The class in stenography will continue during the spring term. It will meet at nine o'clock instead of eight.

Manager Thompson deserves great credit for the way our basket ball enterprise has turned out financially.

A question box has been placed in College Hall to receive short contribution thought worthy of THE SPECTRUM.

The "Collegians" give their regular monthly entertainment at Loyal Knights Temple on Friday evening, March 16th.

This fine spring weather the students are anxiously awaiting the annual chapel talk on little birds and other little things.

Mrs. Burnam showed that her heart was right by wearing the yellow and green when she sang at the oratorical contest.

Mr. and Mrs. Beals tendered a reception to a number of the older students, at the dormitory on Wednesday evening, March 14th.

A bevy of Normal girls visited the College last Monday. Clate Worst had the honor of escorting the girls through the different departments.

DECLAMATION CONTEST.

In no department of the College has more advancement been made during the year just passed than that given to declamation work.

The contest on March 9 was beyond doubt, as a whole, superior to anything of the kind that has taken place heretofore and the contestants may justly consider that it was no disgrace to themselves nor to their societies to take part and yet be beaten, and the winners may justly feel proud of the conquest. The program, as a whole, was without blemish from start to finish. A feature worthy of mention was the punctuality which permeated the whole. It is characteristic of western life to be tardy in almost everything but this was graciously dispensed with on this occasion, and members of the audience who were late were unable to obtain seats, a thing which should encourage punctuality. It is unnecessary and impossible to criticize the individual contestants. It is sufficient to say that all did well and reflected credit on the College and those who trained them. The judges—Mrs. C. A. Pollock, V. R. Lovell and Judge Young, awarded first place to Miss Edith Hill and second place to Mr. Thos. Osgood. On the decision being announced, College and Society yells, that for volume and euphony have not been paralleled since the Red Men left the plains, resounded for the space of fifteen minutes. After which Dr. Hinebauch presented a gold and a silver medal to the respective winners. Professor Ladd was chairman of the meeting and the music was furnished by home talent and consisted of the following: Mr. Cronan, vocal solo; Miss Spencer and Mr. Treat, piano duett; Miss Elita Olsen, violin solo; College choir, song; Mandolin club.

INTER-COLLEGIATE CONTEST.

The annual inter-collegiate oratorical contest was held in the Masonic Temple, Fargo, Thursday evening, March 1, four

institutions of the state being represented. That the contest aroused much more interest than previously, on the part of the people of the city and state was shown by the crowds and their enthusiasm. The contestants were all young men and the orations were generally very well delivered.

The following was the program:

- Duet Boiden.
Mabel Spencer and Walter Treat.
- An Unseen Conflict
.....W. Howard Hubbel.
Fargo College.
- The Reply to Hayne.....
.....G. R. Rounsevell.
University of North Dakota.
- Frederick DouglassR. L. McArthur.
Red River Valley University.
- Soprano Solo Selected.
Mrs. Grace Lincoln Burnam.
- Orange, His Relation to the Reforma-
tionR. S. Brasted.
Fargo College.
- The Hague Conference
.....J. H. Douglas.
University of North Dakota.
- Abraham Lincoln W. E. Plaxton.
Red River Valley University.
- Citizen of Democracy....E. D. Stewart.
Agricultural College.
- Music, Mandolin and Guitar....Selected
Decision of Judges.

While the judges were preparing their decision the colleges vied with each other in giving their "yells" and the effect upon sensitive tympanums can scarcely be imagined by one not present. For the time being the hall was converted into a veritable pandemonium.

When the announcement was made that E. D. Stewart held first place the A. C. rooters "broke loose" and the air fairly rang with the vociferation of the "Farmers." The second place was won by J. H. Douglas of the University of North Dakota.

Mr. Stewart received the highest mark on thought and his delivery was very animated, forceful and impressive, thrilling the audience, who could not help

but feel the earnestness of the speaker.

Mr. Douglas had a very easy manner and a polished delivery and his oration was one the most pleasing of the evening.

The judges on thought and composition were, Judge Amidon of Fargo, Rev. A. Gesner of Grand Forks and Rev. Geo. Huntington of Northfield and on delivery, C. A. Nye of Moorhead, Rev. E. D. Gallagher of Casselton, President McFarland, Valley City.

Following the contest a banquet was partaken of by over a hundred guests. Judge Pollock acted as toast master and toasts were responded to by Mr. Geo. Perley of Moorhead, Professor Squires of Grand Forks, President Robertson of Wahpeton and President Worst of Agricultural College.

DONT'S.

- Don't scream.
- Don't applaud an anthem.
- Don't use song books for note paper, hammers or missiles.
- Don't forget your mail.
- Don't forget to pay Spectrum subscription.
- Don't forget to come to chapel.
- Don't forget, that three unexcused absences means——
- Don't crack hickory nuts with Louis' paper weight.

The English grammar classes are becoming more skilled in the technique of the English language than previous classes, due largely to a higher degree of efficiency on the part of the students.

New students, when you see anything you don't understand, ask someone who knows, for information; don't handle everything that excites your curiosity. Some things are seriously injured by rough handling. If your bump of inquisitiveness is rather highly developed, better find some means to reduce the said bump, for if you proceed in the future as you have during the past month, you may have occasion to meet the fool-killer.

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