

# The Weekly Almanian.

VOL. II, NO. 15.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1909.

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## SLIDES ONE OVER

Mt. Pleasant Springs a Little Surprise Party.

## BETTER TEAM WORK WANTED

Team Makes Good Showing, However—Stickers and Lance Liven Things Up a Bit.

The college basket-ball team sojourned to Mt. Pleasant Friday afternoon expecting a hard game with the Normal five, and were not mistaken in their anticipations. After two halves of twenty minutes each of the hardest kind of fighting the score was announced as 25 to 30 with the balance in favor of the Normals.

Defeat was a sore disappointment as the players were confident of victory. Indeed the team showed reversal of form, which was due partly to the largeness of the Normal floor, which fully covers twice as much space as our own. Defeat was due to lack of team work and Campbell's failure at free throws from fouls, getting only three chances out of eight. Alma's guards, Phillips and Kefgen, had to take care of three men most of the time, and though they played a hard game odds were against them. Hoban did well in a scoring way, getting seven baskets from field throws, several of which were from near the center of the court.

At times the Alma team outplayed their opponents and clearly showed that they could cage the ball better, but again they seemed to be lost on the large floor and team work was lacking.

For Mt. Pleasant Capt. Stickers and Lance starred. The Normals used long passes almost the length of the field to good advantage. They showed considerable improvement over their form of a week ago, and ought to be given credit for their good showing.

Physical Director Dwyer of Saginaw Y. M. C. A. officiated and was most satisfactory to both sides.

The Mt. Pleasant Athletic Association had planned a pleasant program for the evening, as it was the dedication of their new gymnasium. The Normal boys played the Alma team, and the Normal girls the Flint Mutes' team, after which was a private party under the direction of the athletic committee.

Continued on second page.



WRIGHT HALL

### Social Reform

Miss Mullenbach gave a most interesting and instructive talk Saturday afternoon to the members of the Mission class studying social questions in our large cities. The subject of Miss Mullenbach's address was social conditions as she has herself studied them in the most congested parts of Chicago.

The most miserable and wretched parts, which we know as the slums were more lightly touched upon, for these are constantly changing, because they are composed of the foreign element which is always coming and going, leaving the old place in hopes of finding a cleaner one. So it is that at one time we find one nationality predominating and sometimes another. The one thing which is always there is the filth which constantly grows greater. Miss Mullenbach gave a vivid description of Haisted street, in the slum district. This is one of the dirtiest streets imaginable, with an appalling number of human beings. It was shown that the need for reform and help was very great, but that only temporary aid can be given by the settlement houses and other charitable institutions, because first of all there must be sanitary conditions in the homes and streets and this cannot be brought about without the cooperation of the owners of the tenements and men of influence. Jane Adams although doing a great work in Hull house is handicapped to a great extent because she is dependent upon certain people for the support of her work. These men give only money, when what is needed is that they make the tenements fit for human beings.

The most extended crowded district is that in which the great middle classes—the classes of skilled laborers live. Here in many

(Continued on third page.)

### ALUMNI.

The one department of the Almanian in which the majority of its subscribers are mostly interested in, and which the staff are most helpless about is the Alumni. To have things in decent proportion there should be at least one full column of Alumni news every week. If John Somebody '97 is elected to the chief seat of honor in his town, over across the states, how, in the name of all that's reasonable, is the staff going to be aware of the fact unless some one writes and tells us of it? On the other hand what an interesting column the Alumni column could be if the Alumni themselves would help make it so. The more that is contributed by the present students the more interesting is the paper from their standpoint, and exactly so with the Alumni. In the near future we hope to have a special Alumni number—this will be utterly impossible without the co-operation of the Alumni. Let us hear from you. Some have already sent in material and it has been greatly appreciated—others we'll wager who expect that department to be given more prominence than any other, never get the happy thought that they can help a bit themselves. The Alumni editor, Mr. Cobb, is no longer at Elsie, Mich. His address is Pasco, Wash-ton, which makes it a trifle out of the way for assuring any great degree of promptness. Any material you may have kindly send direct to the Alumni, box 81, Alma, Mich. Thanks. That's about all for the present.

Paul Delavan, ex-'10, sailed on Wednesday, Jan. 20th, for South America. He is a member of the expedition appointed by the Carnegie Institute, to catalogue the stars in the southern hemisphere.

Continued on second page.

## LITERARY SOCIETIES

Short Sketch of What We Substitute For the Fraternity.

## BEST OF FRIENDLY RIVALRY

Literary Societies Are Responsible For Advance College Has Made in Debating and Oratory.

In Alma fraternities and societies are tabooed, but the literary society has more than taken their place. The spirit of brotherhood has developed to a marked degree and this when coupled with real literary work is of inestimable benefit. Alma is well supplied with such societies and between them a spirit of friendly competition runs high, that has had an influence on all the college interests.

The men's societies consist of the Phi Phi Alpha and Zeta Sigma college, and Alpha Tau Alpha academy; while the women's are Froeble for kindergarten Alpha Theta for college girls, Philomathean for academy students, and Euterpe for music students.

The Phi Phi Alpha and Zeta Sigma being both for college men, have by their competition raised not only their own standards but have given decided impetus to debating, to oratory and to all literary work. Both have been in existence many years, growing up and improving with the college. Their regular work consists of prepared papers and speeches on current and timely topics, also impromptu speeches and debating. Each society has a room of its own tastefully and comfortably furnished, where each Monday night they meet in literary discussion.

The Alpha Tau Alpha does a good work in introducing its members to parliamentary usage and literary work so that when its members become college students they may take their place in the college societies with the least possible friction and the greatest advantage to themselves.

The Froeble society as signified by the name is a society for the future development of those studying kindergarten work. As signified by their pin and derived from their great leader and originator Froeble their purpose is three-fold, physical, moral and mental, striving

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### STATE CONTEST.

The local oratorical contest is over. The winner has proven himself worthy of his subject and what remains in a long hard grind in preparation for the state contest at Kalamazoo. It is no longer a society at stake, it is the college. Alma's representative must have the support of the college, he must go into the contest with the thought that the whole student body is back of him and that first place is in front of him, that Alma must win the day. Few there are who stop to consider what it means to win out in oratory. The foot ball hero has encouragement from start to finish. The students turn out to watch him practise, his team mates continually cheer him up and urge him on to his best efforts. The day of the game arrives. By the help of ten other men he succeeds in breaking through the line for a touchdown and wins the day. His enthusiastic admirers rush in when time is called, boost him to their shoulders and carry him in triumph from the field. He gets what he wants from the college, along the little matter of jobs, etc., receives a sweater and an A, which he has honorably earned—at the end of the season. All well and good, he deserves all this, he has worked for it. Now, consider the hopeful orator. What does he go through? First he must have a subject—simple enough—but is it? He thinks and thinks and then he thinks some more. Just as he begins to get well nigh desperate he has a "thought throb." A subject at last and then "he must to work," read—read—read—grind—grind—grind. Then the outline and then the writing—midnight oil, no inspiration, try again—possibly a paragraph, Students to watch you and cheer you on? Not yet. Team mates to encourage you?—hardly. Alone, unaided, writing,

thinking, planing, criticism, changing, re-writing—more midnight oil and then the task just begun. The contest arrives. You win—glory? Yes—for a few brief moments. Sweaters and A's—not exactly. Get busy—state contest coming. If you win, good, the man of the hour. If you loose, well you have the experience at least. There you are—the contrast in a nut shell. Oratory is no dream or any vain pronouncing of big words in public for private gratification. Oh no. Oratory is patience, oratory is nerve, oratory is work and then some.

What does Whitman say?  
\*\*"O I see arise orators fit for inland America;

And I see it is as slow to become an orator as to become a man"

Let us stand by our representative—if he wins—bully for him—if he looses—bully for him—here's to Johnny.

### SLIDES ONE OVER

(Continued from first page.)

The local team was not allowed to enjoy the pleasures of the evening, but were compelled by the "Powers that be" to hurriedly leave after their game to catch the early train so as not to be away from home over night.

Alma Mt. Pleasant  
Fraker (Capt.) R. F. Finch  
Campbell L. F. Stickles (Capt.)

Hoben C. Lance  
Ketgen R. G. Crawford  
Phillips L. G. McCarthy.

Final Score—Mt. Pleasant 30; Alma 25; goals from field, Crawford (2); Lance (6); Stickles (6); Hoben (7); Campbell (2); Phillips (2); Ketgen (1). Goals from fouls: Stickles four out of 8, Campbell 3 out of 9, Hoben 1 out of 2. Referee—Dwyer, Saginaw.

Regular work was begun by the candidates for the track and basketball team during the past week. Capt. Chapel of the track team led a party of a dozen or more men on a cross-country run Wednesday, and this will be continued whenever weather permits.

Saturday morning Coach Carithers began instructing the baseball men and will hold regular practice in the gym until spring vacation.

The boys are handicapped in basket ball because they haven't a larger floor, and are not allowed the use of the gymnasium for practice only three times a week. Plans for securing the Sanitarium gymnasium for basket ball games have been fruitless so they will have to contend themselves with and make the best of present conditions.

A Wright Hall maiden named Chrissie,

An excitable gay young missie  
Got it into her head,

That she couldn't like Fred  
Yet how often she murmurs—where is he?

### ALUMNI

Continued from first page.

This work will take three years. Mr. Delavan spent the Saturday before sailing at Columbia University with J. H. Marchmont, ex-'10, and N. H. Angell, ex-'19.

George Horst '08, spent a part of the holiday vacation in New York City. On Saturday evening, Jan. 2, he addressed a meeting of boys at Union Settlement on the subject, "Greater Things Than Life."

Fred J. Soule '06 is the leader of a large men's Bible class in the Central Presbyterian church, New York City, of which Rev. Wilton M. Smith, D. D., is pastor.

Teacher—Why don't you speak louder?

Pupil—A soft answer turneth away wrath.—Kazoo Index.

A mitten maketh a warm hand, but a cold heart.—Albion Pleiad.

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**LITERARY SOCIETIES**

(Continued from first page.)

ever to the highest point of goal. Their literary aim is to gain ease at public speaking and good parliamentary drill.

The Alpha Theta society was founded many years ago at the very beginning of the college, and the intention at first was co-operation with the Zeta Sigma society, but wise heads saw the future futility of this and so the two societies were organized separately. The plan of work of the Alpha Theta is decided upon each semester by a committee who usually decide upon some central subject around which the work is grouped, both research and current magazine work.

The Philomathean is similar to the Alpha Tau Alpha and enables the academy girls to become adept in writing and delivering papers, and conducting their meetings in an orderly manner. The Euterpe is of recent organization, but is filling a long felt want in providing a ground where the music students may meet and confer on their own line of work.

So much has been said of the various tasks of the society, but the social phase must not be completely neglected. Banquets and spreads, intermeetings and exchange of programs, and public recitals, come at such intervals as to add zest to the work. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy is an adage in which the Alma societies believe, and so amid their regular and serious work are interspersed such good times as linger long in the memory.

**'Twas Midnight.**

Deeply sleeping were the co-eds,  
When the cries of men came upward,

And boys beneath their windows  
Yelled, "Ice cream, at the front doorway."

Out of bed, all in a hurry,  
Jumped the co-eds to discover  
What the cause of this commotion;  
Why the boys were there at midnight,

"Let a rope out of the window,"  
Was the next command they  
shouted;

Ropes were slung down to fellows,  
Where in huge knots there were  
fastened,

(Ropes were knotted, not the  
fellows),

Fastened to the stolen treasure;  
Then with giggling, puffing, pulling  
Gradually the load ascended.

Rings were bent and hands were  
blistered,

But why heed such little trifles  
When the booty soon they'd capture?

"Sixty-three" at length received it  
By the girls united effort.

With a farewell to the plunderers,  
Off to others' rooms they hastened.  
Hastened co-eds to awaken,

That they too might scrape the  
freezer.

Such a scramble for the dishes,  
In the midst of talking, laughing,  
Till at length the maids were eating,

Seated on the floor or tables,  
Chairs or beds or radiator.

How those girls ate was quite  
funny,

Not a cookie nor a wafer,  
Just ice cream was all they wanted.

But it tasted so delicious  
That they ate and ate and chuckled,

Just to think the stolen freezer,  
From the hands of them, who took  
it,

Had arisen then at midnight  
To the rooms of "Bill" and "Bobby"

To the realms of only co-eds.

"Never were there boys like  
Alma's,"

Was the verdict of the maidens,  
As off to their rooms they scrambled

Back to dream of boys and freezers,  
Back to shiver 'neath the bed-

clothes.

**Exhibitions To Burn.**

Friday and Saturday evenings  
there will be doings, the junior  
and Sophomore exhibitions being  
the chief drawing cards. Of course  
the big event of each evening will  
be the spread, the oratory and  
debating being a mere formality  
necessary to be gotten over with,  
before the really practical things,  
such as sandwiches, coffees, ice  
cream and cake, etc., etc., can be  
looked into. In order to induce a  
goodly company at each performance  
the respective committees  
have decided to issue rations to  
every one who has the courage to  
come. This statement, however,  
is unofficial.

The program on Friday evening  
will include orations by Miss Bond  
Messrs Chapel, Whittemore, Nelson,  
Carson and McComb. Besides  
this the music school will  
lend a hand—and perhaps a voice  
—to create an enjoyable evening.

After the feast of knowledge and  
music comes the feast of good  
things. Saturday evening's program  
will take the form of a debate,  
upon the question, Resolved,  
That organized labor is justified in  
its use of the boycott. The affirmative  
team includes the able speakers  
Mr. Lindley, Miss Dykes and Mr.  
Call. The negative Mr. Koefgen,  
Miss Hood and Mr. Graves. These  
teams stood highest in the series  
of debates held in class and the  
exhibition will decide the final  
supremacy. And after all this  
frivolty comes another good spread.

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the respective committees  
have decided to issue rations to  
every one who has the courage to  
come. This statement, however,  
is unofficial.

The program on Friday evening  
will include orations by Miss Bond  
Messrs Chapel, Whittemore, Nelson,  
Carson and McComb. Besides  
this the music school will  
lend a hand—and perhaps a voice  
—to create an enjoyable evening.

After the feast of knowledge and  
music comes the feast of good  
things. Saturday evening's program  
will take the form of a debate,  
upon the question, Resolved,  
That organized labor is justified in  
its use of the boycott. The affirmative  
team includes the able speakers  
Mr. Lindley, Miss Dykes and Mr.  
Call. The negative Mr. Koefgen,  
Miss Hood and Mr. Graves. These  
teams stood highest in the series  
of debates held in class and the  
exhibition will decide the final  
supremacy. And after all this  
frivolty comes another good spread.

Friday and Saturday evenings  
there will be doings, the junior  
and Sophomore exhibitions being  
the chief drawing cards. Of course  
the big event of each evening will  
be the spread, the oratory and  
debating being a mere formality  
necessary to be gotten over with,  
before the really practical things,  
such as sandwiches, coffees, ice  
cream and cake, etc., etc., can be  
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