

The Weekly Almanian.

VOL. II, NO. 19.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1909.

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SEMESTER RECEPTION

Held at Wright Hall on Friday Evening.

INFORMAL PASTOR'S RECEPTION

Students Meet the New Pastor—Short Musical Program.

Once more the annual second semester Y. M. and Y. W. C. A. reception has come and gone. This social gathering proves itself of much value in many respects. At the first opening reception, in the Fall, a somewhat stiff formality usually prevails, because of the newness of everything to the first year students. By the second semester reception, however, this unfamiliar feeling is conspicuous by its absence, every one feels at home with every one else and the reception always proves an especially enjoyable occasion.

The one Friday night was no exception that proved the rule. Nearly two hundred people, students, faculty and towns-people gathered at the Wright Hall reception room and proceeded to make merry. The student body were more than glad of the opportunity to meet and become better acquainted, personally, with Rev. Mr. Crain and his wife, for whom, in an informal way the reception was held.

When everybody had shaken hands with everybody else, remarked the walks were quite slippery and that it would probably rain before morning, the master of ceremonies persuaded every one to be seated "and make themselves at home on the floor" or any convenient place. The girls quartet—"The only and original girls quartet of Wright Hall," then proceeded with some harmony of "passing sweetness" and incidentally a parody or two that called them back three times in succession. Following this came a little impromptu farce entitled "Ten Years Hence," in which a drive or two was taken at some members of the the company present. A branch office of "Pinkerton's Detective Agency" had been stumbled upon by an old Alma man who upon entering had found an Alma student of back in 1909 in charge. He had gathered together information concerning a host of old Alma men and the book of compressed knowl-

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The College Library.

It has often been said that the college library is the heart of the college and as the heart is necessary to set the blood coursing through the various channels of the body, so it is necessary that the college library should be made of the vital part of the college, and furnish the life blood of the institution.

The school gives the preliminary preparation and the library furnishes the means with which the individual may complete and round out his education. Investigation must be made along certain lines suggested in the classroom, references examined and material gathered from every possible source. Because of this it is distinctly a library for study and reference work. Upon the shelves are found the general works, reference books, dictionaries, cyclopedias, compends, files of periodical literature with their infinite sources of knowledge, Poole's and other valuable indexes to magazines. All these seem to confuse the student until he has learned to use them. But once having become thoroughly acquainted with them he is rewarded by the vast amount of knowledge he may gain through them.

In order that the books may be as easily accessible as possible a certain systematic arrangement of both books and cards is absolutely necessary. Here it is that seemingly unknown fixture of the library, the card catalog, is useful. It enables a person to find a book of which the author, title, or subject is known. It also shows what the library has by a given author, on a given subject in a given kind of literature and assists in the

choice of a book either as to its edition or its literary character. Since every book has at least three cards (author, title and subject) and many of them a greater number, it is very easy for a book to be found if only one of the headings is known.

Having found the card belonging to the book, the next thing is to know where to find the book upon the shelves. Here also there is a systematic arrangement; the books being arranged according to a certain classification called the Dewey Decimal System. All books are classified in some one of the following ten divisions. General Works, Philosophy, Religion, Sociology, Philosophy, Natural Science, useful Arts, Fine Arts, Literature and History. Each one of these ten divisions is sub-divided many times so that a close classification of a book is possible in most every instance.

As far as possible the books are arranged in stacks according to this system. There are, however, a few exceptions to this arrangement. The books in the memorial libraries, those purchased with special funds or the collections given by special people, are arranged in special stacks or alcoves regardless of their classified position. The tendency being to keep the books of each donor together especially if the collections consist of any great number of volumes.

All the books used especially for reference work, which pertain to all branches of knowledge, as dictionaries, cyclopedias, compends, etc., are arranged together where they will be most easily accessible to the student as he needs them from time to time. The reference work is an important branch of the library administration and to the

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WASHINGTON BANQUET

Zeta Sigma Gives Stagg Banquet at Wright House.

HILARITY REIGNS SUPREME

Eight Old Grads Return to Help in the Celebration.

The annual Stagg banquet of Zeta Sigma Literary Society was given at the Wright House Monday evening. Held in honor of the father of our country, everything was exceptionally appropo to the occasion. What made it especially delightful was the returning of so many old Zeta Sigma men, graduates of the college, who are making good out in the busy world and who dropped their responsibilities for a time, to return and make merry with the present members of the society. Rev. Louis Brooke, '96, of Howell, Rev. Samuel Todd, Field Secretary of the College, Joseph T. Northon, '96, of Farwell, George Sutton, '08, Fred Soule, Steven Hill, and others gathered about the festive board, with the present generation, and proceeded to fraternize in the most brotherly manner. It surely was an inspiration to the present members to meet so many of the old men, who have borne their share of the responsibilities of Zeta Sigma, and who have reaped their full share of benefit, from what she bestowes upon us all.

The programs were a work of art and the menu tasted as good as it looked in fancy print on fancy paper. Stories and no end of them—good ones for preachers at that—helped to lubricate business, which was chiefly making the elaborate menu look like zero. When the time for the "flow of wit and wisdom" had arrived, every one could truthfully remark with the Dutchman, "Poys—patting his 'omni bowpoint—'Poys' I ish so full."

When the toastmaster Rev. Louis S. Brooke shoved back his chair and braced himself, so that he could the better withstand the recoil of his effusions, the real purpose of the evening made itself known. Never in the history of stagg banquets given by Zeta Sigma has there been such an array of toasts. It goes without

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Simply Misinterpreted.

How sublimely simple it is to be misunderstood. For eighteen issues we have stumbled through our weekly contribution to knowledge, with an eye on the public and our ear to the ground and as yet no complaint of any kind has come within our editorial ear shot, nor has any peculiar action detrimental to the general welfare of the college paper, been seen to result from any issue of the same. But at last it has come, it leaked out from some source and what we characterized in our first issue as "unjust criticism and prejudiced insinuation" is in our midst. We have to face it, we can't get around it and in fact we don't intend to try. The little sparrow has whispered about that for want of copy—due of course to the editor's negligence and not caused by any lack of interest on the part of class reporters, or any one else equally as responsible as the editor—it seemed best to run a cut "to fill space, which insinuates that basket ball was not what it should be, that track and base ball will have to pull us through." True—Vol 2, No. 18, page 3 is the guilty party, but any one with the intuition of a babe, could see with one eye shut that the meaning of the cut is financial and could mean nothing else whatever. If you met a beggar on the street holding out a cup and the sign, "please help," on his breast, ordinarily people would infer that he wanted money, hence it is obvious that the cut means simply, that at present, the financial end of athletics is not at the high water mark and that a successful season of track and base ball will pull us through—financially, nothing could be plainer—and the facts are true, yet the little bird has it, that a reflection on the

other athletic endeavors was intended. Again, how sublimely simple it is to be misunderstood.

A Mass Meeting

There is nothing like a mass meeting to stir up enthusiasm, to get the student body in general interested, and furnish impulse, at the same time, to those taking part in the game, debate or whatever the meeting is called in the interest of. Wednesday at 4:15 a mass meeting—an oratorical mass meeting—is called to arouse interest in the State oratorical contest to be held at Kalamazoo, March 5. Alma must place high in both the ladies' and men's contest—our orators have been working—they must feel that they have the students back of them. Every one turn out and liven things up.

WASHINGTON BANQUET.

(Continued from first page.)

saying and if any one ever doubted the fact, that it takes old men to make a successful banquet, Monday evening's showing would certainly remove the doubt.

Mr. Brooke himself was the inspiration of the occasion and his remarks completely convulsed with laughter or sobered to seriousness the members present. Certainly as long as he is available Zeta Sigma will have none other for her toastmaster at the annual February twenty-second banquet. It was regretted that the Rev. Sherman S. Divine of Detroit, could not be present, to respond to the first toast of the evening. Letters from Soule, Bradfield, Winton, Gaunt, Porter and Cooper were read at this juncture. Each one was heralded with applause and the general wish was expressed that they might be present in person also. Stephen B. Hill opened the flow of wit in "A Few Sounds From An Old Flute" or better, as he expressed it, a few tootings from my old horn. Steve was his old self and discoursed in his original way, so familiar to those who knew him about the campus. Maynard Cook in "Honest George and Modern Prevaricators," combined the serious with the humorous in a delightful way and brought home some sober truths, from the life of the great Washington, besides taking a dig or two at some of the fellows present. "The Repasts of the The Past," responded to by Frank R. Hurst, '04, scored a hit and at once revealed to those who were his new friends, his ability to entertain and demonstrated to those who knew him of old, that he had lost none of his old time skill, in that direction. Stories—ye Gods! what stories that man did tell and the way he told them, showed that it was an art with him. Nor did he forget

Washington himself and his dialect poem of the cherry tree episode, in closing, threatened to break up the assembly with a long continuous roar of laughter. Mr. Whittemore followed with his toast, "Zeta Sigma's Evolution," and surely the manner of his introduction by the toastmaster was sufficient to make that gentleman do some thinking in certain directions. His toast was an enthusiastic one and highly seasoned with prophecys, for the future, as well as gratification for what had already been accomplished. Seriously and earnestly Mr. Whittemore stuck to his topic and when he had finished none doubted the truth of his statements, nor questioned their application to Zeta Sigma, past, present and future. "Zeta Sigma's Scraps" was wittily treated by Rev. Samuel P. Todd, next in turn, and he clearly proved that without scraps, and those with worthy competitors, Zeta Sigma would amount to nothing; that it was this very thing which brought out the true mettle of the society and made it appreciate what it had already gained. The last toast of the evening, "Life's Demands," by Jas. T. Northon, '96, capped the climax and stirred those who heard it to the deepest feeling. Truly it was a wonderful address and given with the knowledge, born of experience. By means of a rare combination of humor and deep thought Mr. Northon's address commended itself to its hearers. None present will forget the impression of his words, the inspiration of his thought, and the enthusiasm of his earnestness, certainly a fitting conclusion to the whole affair. After some concluding remarks by the toastmaster, the annual Washington birthday banquet of Zeta Sigma passed into history, as the most successful yet given.

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PROPRIETOR

CAMPUS NOTES

Not a few familiar faces were seen about the campus over Sunday. George Sutton, '08, (Sut.) Steven Hill, Ex-'11, (Big Steve), Rev. Samuel B. Todd, Alma College, Field Secretary, Frank Hurst, '04, Joseph F. Northon, '96, and Miss Elvena Hoover, '08.

Miss Helen Collins is visiting Miss Laura Brown. Though not a student at the college, Miss Collins, however, has visited here enough to have a large acquaintance among the students.

Miss Kathleen Gillard is entertaining Miss Floradora Roberts of Saginaw for a few days.

"Johnny" Johnson was elected base ball captain for this spring. Johnny is Alma's star pitcher and has played a consistent game for three seasons. He certainly deserves the honor and will do his best to lead the nine through another championship year.

Did anybody say we were not going to have open houses this year? Let us hope not. The two open houses are, without question, the two most entertaining social events of the year.

Last number on the lecture course Friday evening. Make hay while the sun shines.

Between Marshall, Campbell, Phillips and McComb a fellow has to be sort of careful what he says about head waiters. Pardon this intrusion on Swipe notes.

A joke is a joke and is well taken by the majority of people, but the original and clever person scattering snuff about for the last six weeks would do well to try something new, for a change, and avoid coming to grief sooner or later. This is no joke.

Fact is Sutton and Campbell struck a compromise that was agreeable to all three concerned?

Student Fund Minstrel.

The promised student fund minstrel show held forth in its inky array Saturday evening, before a fairly good sized audience. For being staged in a weeks time and with only one complete rehearsal before being produced, it proved exceptionally good. A larger audience would have been somewhat more encouraging but, on the whole, the student body and down town friends responded in a gratifying manner. The committee turned over nearly thirty dollars to the faculty for the student fund. This was the first attempt at an annual student fund public, but the idea will undoubtedly grow in popularity, from year to year. A start has been made and that is half of the battle.

The complete company, that is, of the minstrel show proper, included such stars as Misses Fraser,

Peasley, Henderson, Bailey, McDonald and Pollard. The local black faced experts, Dickenson, Waring, Inglis, Anderson, Boyd, Frost and Graves, finished the roll and succeeded in making things move in a lively and entertaining manner. Maynard Cook occupied the chair of the interlocuter with a dignified pose, suitable to the occasion. Miss Crosby was an able accompanist and before the "show" began and at certain intervals, an orchestra of three pieces elucidated harmony, the members being Miss Crosby and Messrs Brown and Chatfield.

The "show" proper consisted of two parts, as all minstrel shows do, the minstrel and the oleo. The song hits of the minstrel show were: "Thursday is my Jonah Day," sung by that melancholy nigga, Harry Marsh; "Don't get married any more ma," by Miss McDonald; "I got another one," by the black faced comedian Seymore Boyd; "Abraham Jefferson Washington Lee," promulgated by Fred Dickenson, the curly haired dark complexioned end man; two quartet numbers, "Loves old sweet story" and "Sleep Kentucky babe." The songs were interspersed by an occasional joke and a story or two told by the end men. The oleo was made up of individual numbers of the varied mixture. An oration entitled A. B. C. started the program. This was followed by a comical sketch illustrating the troubles of trying to handle a corpse. The Siamese Twins held forth in the next number introducing the time worn song, "Don't be angry with me father," with variations. A little song entitled, "Its naughty to be kissed," elicited much applause, from most quarters, followed by the whole company in that touching melody, so rarely heard in college atmosphere, "Good night ladies," completed the program.

The College Library.

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student should be the most important factor in his work, supplementing as it does his work in the classroom.

One of the most useful and at the same time most interesting of library aids is the periodical literature. The library may not be able to purchase the most recent books on pending questions, scientific investigations, etc., but when supplied with current periodicals it affords abundant resources concerning the most recent information and advanced thought. They are of inestimable value not only

because of the time element but because of the variety of treatment and expression which add interest and value.

Limited though the library may be in many ways, it still offers to the student vast opportunities of supplementing and rounding out his college education. If he improves his opportunities and profits by the association with the great minds of the ages the library will live in his memory not only as a workshop but as the "heart and brain of the institution."

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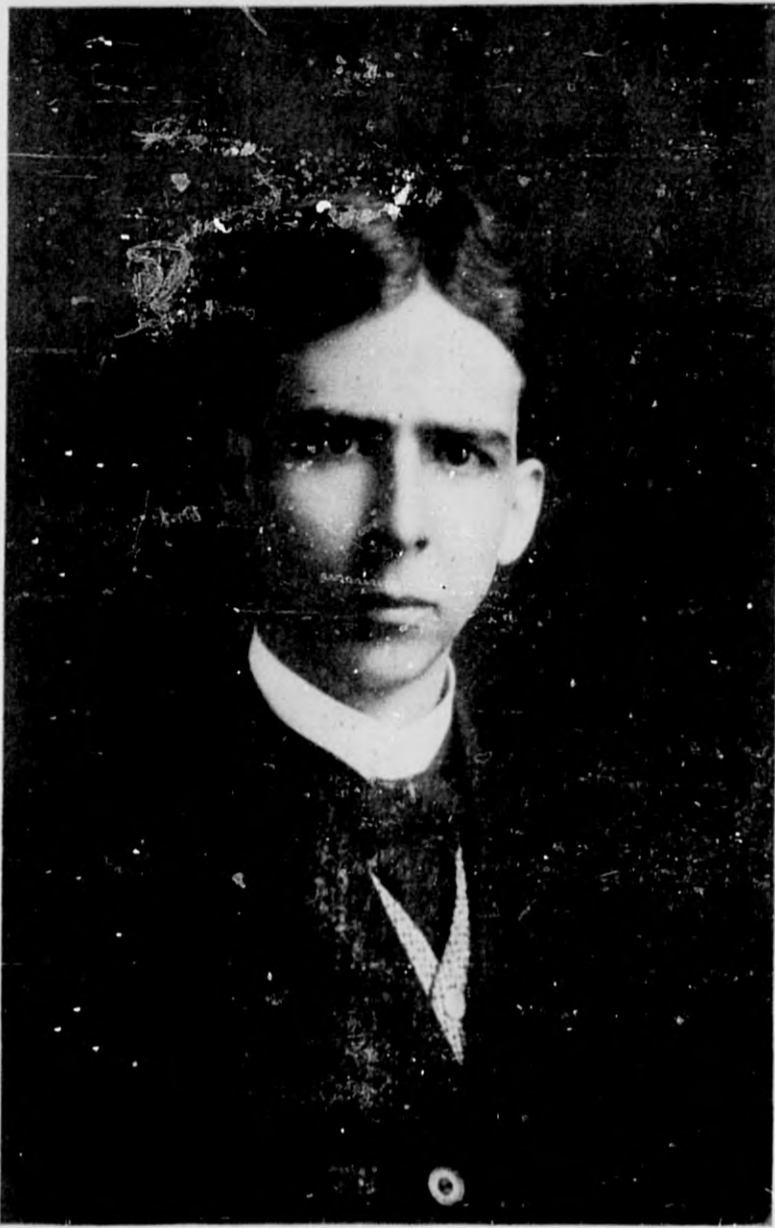
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Prof. R. D. T. Hollister.

Macbeth Coming to Town.

MACBETH and the rest of his troupe will be in Alma March 2, and present their Shakespearean drama, Macbeth. Alma is very fortunate in securing this noted troupe and everyone who fails to hear them will miss one of the rarest treats of the Alma platform. The members of the troupe have consented to give the proceeds to the Alma college debating league to defray the expenses of the coming Alma Olivet-Hope-Debate.

Professor R. D. T. Hollister of the University of Michigan, the noted impersonator, will take the part of Macbeth, also Lady Macbeth and the remainder of the parts. Remember the date, March 2nd, at the Presbyterian church. Admission 35cts.

The Otsego Union says:

"The High school lecture-recital last evening was an entire success. The assembly room was filled. Professor Hollister is a remarkable success in his dramatic impersonations. He is an attractive speaker and his rendering of the play was most vivid. All present seem thoroughly pleased. There were many words of praise, none of criticism.

Mr. Hollister's recital of Macbeth was pronounced by most critical people the best entertainment the town has had in many years. There is a demand for his return.

E. E. GALLUP,
Supt. of Schools, Chelsia, Mich.

Curses Foiled Again

He sets alone in the fading light. Why are his hours so heavy with gloom, his face so deathly white? But this his heart is faint with care, his courage never flinches. His eyes are fixed in a glassy stare. What is it his firm hand clinches? A little courage; he murmurs, "Yes, a little and all is won." A chalking gurgle more or less, a gasp and all is done. Without a shudder or eye lid wink. Oh! It makes the heart recoil. That he so quietly drank—a does of castor oil.—Ex.

Brains.

Thomas L. Masson, in Lippincott's Magazine, thus wittily discourses upon the fruitful theme:

"Brains are common to all parts of the country, and traces of them have even been discovered in summer at Lenox, Bar Harbor, and Newport.

"They are originally used to obtain money, but when money is obtained by them it usually takes their place.

The quality of brains varies in different localities. Mixed with ginger, they become valuable. With a spine, they are a necessity in every household.

"At one time they influenced literature, but the discovery was made that literature could do without them. Since then they have been almost exclusively devoted to advertising.

Brains are employed in various enterprises. They make bridges, railroads, and other systems of transportation. They also create capital, and are used extensively in evading the law. They mix with water and gasoline, but are absorbed by alcohol.

"Brains are bought and sold in open market. They may be traded in on the exchange in Washington and Albany or in other political centers. The best quality, however, are not traded in. Indeed, oftentimes they are not even heard of until long after they have passed away."

SEMESTER RECEPTION.

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edge was secured and its contents read. Much fun and incidentally a good natured hit or two was procured in this manner. After the play Mr. McNitt sang and as usual scored a hit. This was the signal for another general mixing and after half an hour of sociability refreshments were served "according to scheduled time." This brought to a close a most sociable and enjoyable evening.

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