

# The Weekly Almanian

The Student Publication of Alma College

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Alma, Mich., Tuesday, November 12, 1918

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## SKIMMING BOOKS IS AN ART

To Learn to Skim Books is Necessary to Broad Scholarship, Says President Crooks.

"Have you read that?" It was a book-friend who queried. One should have, of course, friends who are friends just because. And one should have church-friends, or automobile-friends, or garden-friends, or baseball friends as certain separate groups of people and he find common interests and agreements or discover ground for stimulating disagreements.

"No," I answered, but I know all about it." My good friend was not a literalist. He was a reader. My literalist friend would have protested. How can one know all about it if one hasn't read it? Would one say he knew all about a person whom he had met casually, perhaps only a few times?

Our conversation has much exaggeration in it and much suggestion. And yet I do not know all—or at least all I care to know about some casual acquaintances. I see a man in his own dooryard speak pleasantly to me, and after I'm gone he snarls at his little child and twists its arm for a trivial, very natural act. His red nose and his bull neck suggest much that need never be printed. There may be good in him, but I am too busy to search for it. I shall allow someone else to turn the pages of his life and read him. His cover and one incident I glanced at are enough for me.

Of course we may judge faultily from covers. When I enter a store and am greeted by a young lady clad in indecently flimsy garments chosen quite literally for show and not for wear, when she tucks her gum into her too red cheek and answers me with, "Hankerchiefs? you bet." I read quite an introduction at least and sometimes I fancy I have scanned her pages enough to know well her table of contents.

So sometimes with lectures. I stepped inside a university classroom on one occasion and heard a few paragraphs of a lecture on Browning. I am a Browning admirer. Not that he is my daily food. My mind has at least subsisted sometimes when I've absorbed no Browning for months. But I admire Browning; more than that, I love him. He does my mind good; he reaches such depths in me that I am encouraged to say that he does my soul good. But this professor, belonged in the mathematics department. He was a statistician by nature. He desired chiefly to know how many lines Browning devoted to each character, what relative importance attaches to the characters judged by the space allotted to each. I did not tarry. I chose to loaf around the campus. Browning statistics may be for some learners but not for me. I knew at once that a chair in that man's room would be uncomfortable. I knew I'd wriggle.

The preceding paragraphs are an introduction. Violating rhetorical rules let us now have the conclusion. Let us make it dogmatic: every student ought to learn to skim books.

I should be frantic in a library where one must decide one's needs from a catalog. I want to feel a book, to look at its title page, its introduction, its table of contents. I desire to read a chapter or two. I've finished the book. Only last week a book came and had brief attention. The title revealed little. A chapter or two, hurriedly scanned, showed me that the writer was taking advantage

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## Former Students and Alumni in Government Service

The following is the partial list of Alma students in Government service. It was impossible to get a complete list. If there are any other men whose correct addresses are known, please notify The Almanian staff at once:

- CLASS OF 1901—**  
(Ex.) Captain James C. Hartness, Co. E, 313 Engineers, Camp Dodge, Iowa.
- CLASS OF 1905—**  
James R. King, Chaplain 310 Infantry, Camp Dix, Wrightstown, N. J.
- CLASS OF 1906—**  
Wm. S. Humphrey, 1st. Serg. Co. L., 338th Inf., Camp Custer, Mich.
- CLASS OF 1907—**  
Paul Allured, Commissioner for Cantonment Work, First Presbyterian Church, Battle Creek, Michigan.  
(Ex.) John L. Jones, Co. A., 3330 Machine Gun Battalion, Camp Custer.
- CLASS OF 1909—**  
John D. Finlayson, Ph. D., Army Y. M. C. A., France.  
Theodore Nelson, 3rd Co., 1st Train Battalion, 161 Depot Brigade, Camp Grant, Ill.
- CLASS OF 1910—**  
(Ex.) John Marchmont, Camp Wdsorth, Q. M. Corps Finance, Spartanburg, S. C.  
(Ex.) Percy Slayton, 8th Field Bri. Signal Corps, Co. B, 4th Div., Camp Green, N. C.  
(Ex.) William Sutherland, Co. M, 1st Infantry, Schofield Barracks, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- CLASS OF 1911—**  
(Ex.) Moses O. Champney, Corporal, Aux Remount Co. 333, Camp Johnston, Jacksonville, Fla.  
1st Lieut. Leslie Koepfgen, U. S. Air Service, 20th Aerial Squad., A. E. F. France, A. P. O.  
(Ex.) 1st Lieut. Percy Monteith, Camp Custer, 338 Infantry, School for Aerial Observers, Ft. Sill, Okla.
- CLASS OF 1912—**  
(Ex.) Donald C. Call, Ambulance Co. 333, Camp Taylor, Louisville, Ky.  
(Ex.) William Chamberlain, Battery D, 329 F. A., Barracks 1306, Camp Custer.
- CLASS OF 1913—**  
C. J. Brilmeyer, 45 Q. St. N. E., Washington, D. C., (Army Medical School).  
1st. Lieut. Lester von Thurn, 29 Co., Cas. Detach., 8th Train. Battery, 157th Depot Brigade, Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Ga.
- CLASS OF 1914—**  
Archie Maybee, 124 E. 28 St., N. Y., Overseas Sec'y Y. M. C. A.  
(Ex.) 1st Lieut. Lester B. McAllister, Inf. U. S. R., Amer. Ex. Forces, A. P. O. 714, unassigned.  
(Ex.) Harold Rix, Ship's Company, Psychiatric Unit, Camp Decatur, Great Lakes, Ill.  
Walter Vogt, Co. E, Ordnance Supply School, Camp Hancock, Augusta, Ga.
- CLASS OF 1915—**  
Paul Austin, Sergeant, Med. Dept., Camp Hospital 52, A. P. O. 762, A. E. F. France.  
(Ex.) Dallas Brock, Mess Sergeant, Co. D, 310 Engineers, Bldg. 890, Camp Custer, Enroute France).  
(Ex.) Clifford Carey, School of Military Aeronautics, Princeton, Univ., Princeton, N. J.  
Lieut. Maurice Cole, F. A. O. R. C., U. S. P. O. 718, A. E. F., France.  
(Ex.) Lieut. Arthur A. McNabb, Co. 2, Camp McPherson, Atlanta, Ga.,  
(Ex.) Earl Woodruff, Veterinary Hospital, Va., No. 4, Medical Corps, Camp Hill, Newport News.
- CLASS OF 1916—**  
Oscar Anderson, M. A. C. T. D., East Lansing, Mich.  
Alonzo Beshgetoor, Co. C., 410th Engineers, Cleveland.  
Hymie Friedman, 23 Co. 6th Bri., 160 Depot Brigade, 164 Barracks, Camp Custer, Mich.  
Arthur J. McIntyre, Co. C, 310th Field Signal Battalion, Camp Custer.  
Arnold Robinson, Cadet, Sqd. D, Kelly Field No. 2, San Antonio, Texas.  
Ralph Chisholm, Hospital Unit 2, Ft. McPherson, Atlanta, Ga.  
Vern VanDuzen, Co. F, 64 Inf., A. E. F. France.
- CLASS OF 1917—**  
Isadore Friedman, 464 Aero Sqd., Amer. Ex. Forces, France.  
Efford Beverly, Kelly Field, 112 Aero Sqd., San Antonio, Tex.  
Clarence Halteman, Bugler, Revenue Cutter Service, Custer, Mich.  
Lieut. J. A. B. MacAuley, 337 Infantry, Camp Custer, Mich.  
Chester Robinson, Ambulance Co. 333, Sanitary Train 309, Camp Taylor, Louisville, Ky.  
Lester Doerr, Q. M. 3 Cl., 827 Guardian Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio.
- CLASS OF 1918—**  
Earl Coleman, Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., F. A. C. O. T. S., 12th O. B. S. Btry.  
(Ex.) Charles Depew, 6th Co., 2nd Battalion, 160 Depot Brigade, Custer.  
Lieut. Leland Fitch, 75th Inf., Camp Lewis, Washington.  
Gordon French, Co. B, 6th U. S. Engineers, Amer. Ex. Forces, France.  
(Ex.) Fletcher Gallagher, Sergeant, Field Hospital 25, Fort Logan, Houston, Texas.
- (Ex.) Tacitus P. Gies, Corporal, 1st. Reg. of Engineers, U. S. Exp. Forces, Co. A., via Paris, France.  
Lieut. Emmott Hoolihan, No. 355 Reg., Funston, Kansas.  
(Ex.) Kenneth L. Hoyt, Corporal, Waco, Tex., 249th Aero Squad., Richfield.  
(Ex.) Merrill Hyde, Co. G, 5th Reg., Camp Perry, Great Lakes Training Camp, Ill.  
(Ex.) Corporal Clarence P. Jessup, 485 Aero Squadron, A. E. F., via N. Y.  
Charles Kennedy, Gen. Hospital No. 13, Dansville, N. Y.  
Harold Lampman, 11th Co., 3rd Bn., 16th Depot Brigade, Camp Custer, Mich.  
Linton Melvin, Field Remount Squad. 318, A. E. F. France.  
Leo Miller, Post Hospital, Ellington Fields, Houston, Texas.  
(Ex.) Guy Milligan, 32 Div. N. G., 125 Inf., Medical Corps, Amer. Exp. Forces, France.  
William Murphy, U. S. Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Va.  
(Ex.) Robert Notestein, American Univ., Washington, D. C.  
Vern Richards, Football Barrack, Great Lakes, Ill.  
(Ex.) Lieut. Mark Spinney, 160 Depot Brigade, Camp Custer.  
(Ex.) Ross Schermerhorn, Prov. Motor Ambulance, Co. L, Camp Greenleaf Annex, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.  
Donald Smith, U. S. S. M. A., Barracks 1, Champaign, Ill.  
(Ex.) Kirby L. Wilkins, 28th Co., 7th Battalion, 160 Brigade, Barracks 978, Camp Custer.
- CLASS OF 1919—**  
Emberson Ardis, 31st Co., 8 Bn., 160 Depot Brigade, Camp Custer, Mich.  
(Ex.) Frank Barnard, Kelly Field No. 1, Sec. Batt., Line No. 28, So. San Antonio, Texas.  
(Ex.) Alton Case, Band, 5th Cavalry, Fort Bliss, Texas.  
(Ex.) 1st Lieut. Victor Colson, 126 Infantry, C. O. Co. L., A. E. F. via N. Y.  
Myrddyn Davies, Army Y. M. C. No. 55, Camp Lee, Petersburg, Va.  
Russell Gaffney, Am. Ex. Forces in Russia.  
George Hebert, Supply Co. 310, Q. M. C. N. A., A. P. O. 701, Am. Ex. Forces.  
(Ex.) 1st Lieut. Charles Robinson, 126 Infantry, Co. E., A. E. F. via N. Y.  
Carlton Spooner, Battery A. Second Trench Mortar Battalion, Trench Artillery, A. E. F. France.  
Frederick Thurau, Sergeant, Camp Johnston, Jacksonville, Fla., Miss. 2nd M. Co. Unit 2.  
Stanley Warner—Navy, Alma College, Alma, Mich.
- CLASS OF 1920—**  
Claud Baribeau, Barracks A-2, Field Hospital 323, Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C.  
Ernest Bay, Machine Gun Troop, 15th U. S. Cavalry, Am. Ex. F., via N. Y.  
(Ex.) William Blair, Chanute Field, 268 Aero Sqd., Rantoul, Ill.  
Ralph Dean, P. O. 701, A. E. F., Troop B, 15th Cavalry, France, via N. Y.  
(Ex.) Edward Foote, Q. M. M. R. Shop 304, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.  
(Ex.) Sergeant Homer W. Grimes, Field Hospital, Camp 322, Camp Jackson, S. C.  
Wm. J. B. Hicks, Douglas, Arizona, 17th Cavalry, Troop D.  
Fred Holt, Rec. Co. 42, Block J 38, Camp Johnston, Jacksonville, Fla.  
John Lott, 4th Training Co., 4th Training Camp, Fortress Monroe, Va.  
Murray J. Martin, Troop K, 11th U. S. Cavalry, Camp John H. Beacom, Calexico, Calif.  
Clayton B. Moon, U. S. Army A. E. F., A. P. O. 767, France. M. T. C.  
McKinley Payn, Evacuation Hospital Co. 13, Battalion 14, Camp Greenleaf M. O. T. C., Chicamauga Park, Ga.  
Clair Perrigo, Base Hospital 123, Camp Greene, Charlotte, N. C.  
(Ex.) Ralph Sawvel, Amer. Ex. Forces, France, Med. Dept., 125 Inf., 32 Div. N. G.  
(Ex.) Louis Seig, Co. 2, 161 Depot Brigade, Camp Grant, Ill.  
(Ex.) William P. Walker, Battery B, 328 Fld. Artillery, Camp Custer.  
Thomas W. Wright, Great Lakes, Ill., Co. D. 62 H. T. S., Camp Taylor.
- CLASS OF 1921—**  
Harold Bailey, 1st Co., 4th M. M. Regt., A. P. O. 713, A. E. F. France.  
Earl Buchanan, 3rd Car Co., 1st Prov. Regt., Camp Hancock, Ga.  
Douglas Franklin, Battery A, 319th Fld. Art. (heavy), A. E. F. France.  
Cadet Dorr Frisbee, Squadron No. 5, Ellington Field, Houston, Texas.  
James Hopkins, Machine Gun Troop, 15th Cavalry, A. E. F. France via N. Y.  
Clarence Marzolf, Quartermasters' School, Main Camp, Great Lakes, Ill.  
Malcolm Milks, Trench Co. 9, 23d Engineers A. E. F.  
Harold Narrance, Taliaferro Field 3, Fort Worth, Texas.
- Prof. Reese F. Veatch, Camp Gordon, Atlanta Ga., Song Leader.

## REV. HESS ADDRESSES CHAPEL

"Education from the Viewpoint of a Minister" is Subject.

Rev. Hess in his talk, "Education from the Viewpoint of a Minister," explained the greatness of these days most strikingly. "When the glaring headlines of the newspapers bore these words 'Peace—Hostilities Come to End,' all duties were forgotten in the overwhelming joy of the moment. Then came the news that the report was false. Something had failed and the thing that had failed had been humanity. Men and women had failed. The difficulty facing us with the Hun is the same as the difficulty the preacher faces with humanity. If people knew the truth they would live it, but most people do not know it. Germany cannot be trusted because she does not live the truth. Viewing education from the standpoint of its effect upon humanity, we think of this phrase from Lieut. Col. McCrea's poem, 'On Flanders Field,' 'Take up our quarrel with the foe.' This task which is ours today is 'some job.' What they have left unfinished we must finish. It is a task which calls for an increase of service to the state and to humanity and is a task which demands the best that is in every man and woman. Education is a result which is going to come in the days that lie before us.

"As we grow older we stop thinking and it is these people who are older and whose ideas are already formed who are trying to shape the world today. During the Civil war there was a church in South Carolina which had a bell of wonderful tone. During General Sherman's march to the sea this was taken and broken into small pieces. A man in England secured these pieces and succeeded in finding the foundry a man who had been there at the time the bell was made. Further search revealed the formula by which it was made and then the very mould in which it was cast. A new bell was made, an exact reproduction, which now rings in the same church. It performs the same function now that it did before but, it is just metal. It has no mind and therefore does not change, but the men of Poland and the Balkan states are not metal and we dare not shape our thinking prior to July 14, 1914. Men who stand high in the news of the press cannot think as rapidly as the President and they say that there can be no League of Nations. What would the mothers of Belgium say to a league of nations which would make impossible the destruction and ravages of their country? Men cannot be put back in a mold which has lost its usefulness. Society must be reformed. When peace negotiations have ceased and the Hohenzollerns and the Hapsburgs have been dealt with as they should be and when the boys come home what then? The men who are at the front have put in every ounce of strength there, and society must be shaping itself for those that return. The State and Nation must be rebuilt for those who have made the sacrifice.

"We must look to this institution and other such institutions for the rebuilding of the nations. The effect of education on the young men and young women as to enable them to do their tasks in their communities.

"Dr. J. Odell in an article in the Atlantic Monthly says 'that the fundamental thing which brought men into common fellowship was prayer. When the rivers of blood have lost

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**THE SERVICE FLAG  
AND WHAT IT MEANS**

Christopher Columbus in the year 1492 planted the first flag on American soil. In the many stages of colonization that followed, each section realized the need of a banner, and accordingly various emblems were designed and adapted. Finally, in 1777 when the severance of the colonies from their mother country was irrevocable, a national banner was decided upon. And from that time on the Star Spangled Banner has been the symbol of patriotism and loyalty for the United States of America.

Today the "Stars and Stripes" have the same appeal as in 1777; the historic present has the same banner as the historic past. But, floating side by side with this stary banner is another flag, a flag with the same purpose and ideal but with a special meaning. It is the service flag, the flag of honor. We see it everywhere, hanging in the window or floating from its staff. It represents the greatest sacrifice it is possible to give, it represents a man given for his country. Very fittingly it has been called the "Child of Old Glory." In its deep border there is the red, standing for love and courage; the white representing purity and cleanliness; and the blue meaning truth and loyalty. No one can appreciate its meaning without feeling a democratic spirit of brotherhood and fair play; of cleanliness of life, and bravery.

Whether it be for the men who go to the battle front or whether it is for the women who remain at home the purpose of the banner is the same. Love, courage, purity, and loyalty, these represent a man. And no matter what the changes of the war will be, the nation's standard will be the same.

**ALMA'S GOLD STAR**

It was only last February—less than a year ago—that we first hung up our service flag. We were proud of it then for it meant much to us. It represented, we thought, what Alma was giving toward winning the war. But though we had this feeling for it, still our flag was not then a real part of us. It was something new and we did not understand its true meaning. To many of us it meant only a number and we were proud because that number was so great. Not until last spring did we begin to realize that it stood for something more than this. Then we saw one of the stars changed to gold; Frank Sullivan had died. And though he was the first Alma man to pay the great price, still we noticed that it was not the first star on the flag that changed. It was Frank's own star—one surrounded by those of his own classmates.

Thus was first brought home to us the fact that each star of our flag means one certain man—an Alma man, who so believed in the cause of his country that he pledged his life to it. This feeling has grown more and more strong within us as we have seen other stars change their color. We know now that our flag means men—men who have known and loved Alma just as we ourselves do. Our blue stars stand for those whom we hope may some day come back to us; our gold for those who were with us for a time but have now passed on. There are six of these last and just as their stars are bright on our flag, so are the memories of their lives bright in our minds. We remember Frank—"Sully" his friends used to call him—quiet, cheerful, sincere; we remember Eliud Sanchez, earnest, smiling, simple-hearted. Perhaps not many of us of this later day personally knew Harry Leonard or Amni Wright Lancashire, but we remember with pride all that others have told us of them. Then, there are our last two stars, Edward Foote's

and Dwight von Thurn's. We can never forget Ed., the gladhearted man who, just as he never failed Alma, did not fail his country when she needed him. We remember Dwight, thoughtful, always cheerful, always courteous.

We hope to be able sometime to tell to those of our blue stars our pride in them. But we cannot do this for those of our gold stars; we can only honor their memory and we do.

**BIG CAMPAIGN FOR WAR FUNDS  
BEGINS TUESDAY**

Dr. Charles Merriam of Grand Rapids to speak to students.

The big United War Work Campaign will begin Tuesday. The work of the Y. M. C. A. and other organizations which are serving the troops at home and overseas has been so justified that the association as a whole has been commandeered by the government. A big drive has been planned for the week beginning November 11, in which seven organizations unite. It was thought that better results would be obtained if a united campaign was attempted. Therefore the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., National Catholic War Council, Jewish Welfare Board, American Library Association, War Camp Community Service and the Salvation Army will cooperate in the big drive.

The total sum to be raised is \$250,000,000. The Y. M. C. A. will receive 58.65 percent and the Y. W. C. A., 8.80 percent. The remaining 32.55 percent will be apportioned among the other five organizations. The quota for the students of Michigan has been estimated at \$70,000, about \$10 for each person.

The necessity for this fund needs hardly to be spoken of, because it is so familiar to everyone. Hostess Houses will be built in army and navy camps. Clubs and Recreation centers will be established. Patriotic League units will be organized just as they were from the \$50,000 fund of last year. In the U. S. alone 67 hostess houses were built, 145 clubs and recreation centers were established, 25 International Institutes for Foreign Born Women were organized, besides the Army Service Institutes, Industrial War Centers, etc., that were established.

In France and Russia the work was carried out on a similar plan with special attention to camp community services and housing centers for nurses and French munition workers. While there are Young Men's Christian Associations in almost every country in the world, the American Association will be most responsible for this work, because it is the nation which has the most to give.

Dr. Merriam, who has just returned from Y. M. C. A. service in France and England will speak to the students in the chapel on Tuesday. Dr. Merriam went over on the Orissa which was torpedoed and sunk off the Irish coast. He has come direct from the American front at Chateau Thierry, where he was when the fighting was the thickest. He has a thrilling message to tell and a particularly able and forceful manner of telling it.

It is hoped that the students will respond heartily. Alma went over the top in last year's drive; let's do it again. Let us show our men overseas that we appreciate what they are doing; that we will gladly give our assistance to the organizations which are helping them in the final winning of the war.

**Y. W. C. A. NOTES**

This is Prayer week for the Y. W. C. A. Each night a short meeting will be held at 9:45 in which the effort will be made to show the need of prayer for the various countries and their existing conditions.

The opening meeting of this series was led by Miss Robinson on Sunday afternoon. She gave us several ideas of prayer of different types, attitudes, and forms; and explained them by vivid passages. One selection from "The Glory of the Trenches" showed the prayer-life of a soldier; how he lives his prayers and feels them all through the days.

The girls were very much interested in the meeting and Miss Robinson's treatment of the subject. It is hoped that the interest will be kept up during the week, and that the enthusiasm will grow as the meetings continue.

Miss Hazel Tuck is doing government work in Washington.

**CHAPEL SERVICE**

Sunday morning, November 10, we enjoyed a rather unusual order of services. After the hymns and scripture reading Professor Brokenshire told us that about an hour before President Crooks had sent word to him of a change in the plans for the morning addresses. He then introduced to us Ora L. Smith of Ithaca. He spoke of his unwillingness to take part in the campaign for the United War Work, on account of the many demands upon his time but that after he had talked with Sergeant Rice and had heard him speak he had decided to give his entire time to the drive.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week are to be the days when volunteer contributions are to be made. It is hoped and expected that the entire amount, \$85,000, for Gratiot county will be subscribed voluntarily. As yet we have made no real sacrifice in comparison to what the people of ravaged Belgium and France have made, and so it is up to us to make our giving as generous as is humanly possible. It is the "acid test of our patriotism." When the lay-down from the strain of fighting comes, as it may come very soon, instead of lessening the need for the work of the Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., K. C. and the various other organizations, it will be many times increased.

After these prefatory remarks Mr. Smith introduced Sergeant Rice, who told some of his experiences which show the necessity of the work done by the Y. M. C. A. and the Red Cross. Sergeant Rice enlisted July 13, 1917, and sailed from France September 6, 1917. After remaining in a training camp until February he went into the front line near Verdun. There he took part in two trench raids and was gassed with chlorine gas while on outpost duty. Later, after a few days in a rest camp behind Paris he was again sent to the front where he was in the fighting at Belleau Woods. There the town which they occupied was under continual shell fire, and all they got to eat was chocolate cookies, etc., that the Red Cross provided. In the battle about Chateau Thierry Sergeant Rice was wounded twice. At Soissons he was gassed with mustard gas and was sent to a hospital in Paris.

While in the front line he was without pay for six months and if it had not been for the Red Cross and the "Y" he would have been unable even to write letters. Sergeant Rice also spoke of the need for recreation, for men who are far from home and among strange men often become lonely. The "Y" and the Red Cross provide entertainment in the form of moving picture shows and other entertainments.

In closing Dr. Brokenshire spoke of three memorable incidents in his life and the occasion on which he heard Sergeant Rice speak he classed as one of these.

Sergeant Rice is the brother of Grace Rice of our college.

**BASKET BALL!**

Basketball practice will open this week and prospects are certainly looking good for this year. It is expected that Alma will play all other members of the M. I. A. A. who are in the S. A. T. C. unit. Games will be played between each squad for the squad championship of the company. With but one letter man of last year, two second team men and a number of likely looking Freshman, the team will be as strong as last year's if not stronger. Among the newcomers are Crittenden from Howell, Tebo and Glenn Richards from Detroit, Temple from Sandusky and Tomion from Howell.

Squad teams already are creating much interest and there will be a number of snappy games played before the regulars start on their schedule. Any man who knows anything about basketball, get out and try out for the team. Get the Alma spirit and help Alma to have another championship.

In his usual delightful manner Prexy made glad the hearts of all by his remote suggestion as to the removal of the quarantine. When? you ask! Ah! that is one of the secrets which the future will reveal, but trusting in the powers that be, we cannot help but feel that relief is near. It might—and then—it might—not you know.

Miss Esther DePuy left for her home in Grand Ledge Friday because of her father's illness.

CIGARS

BATHS

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The Oldest and Best in Alma.  
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SHOE SHINE THREE FIRST-CLASS BARBERS

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and Oils  
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Confectionery  
Store  
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CHOCOLATES

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Classy Line  
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Lamps and  
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Electrical Co.

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Furnishings and Shoes  
call at the  
Square Deal Store

LOUIS ROCKSTEIN  
Proprietor



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WORD FROM "PINGY" RICHARDS

Dear Brother:

I have been waiting for considerable time to get a real letter from you, but guess I'm out of luck! Can't understand why you don't get busy and write me, of course I realize that you were set back for a while with your arm. I used to work that same stall myself. I am mighty anxious to hear from you and learn all about the old school. I received an Almanian and believe me I certainly enjoyed every word of it. Brud Hyde and I nearly fought over it. I want you to see Pelton and pay my subscription or have your paper forwarded to me. Also ship all the back numbers.

I am playing football and attending officers' material school, which certainly keeps one going every minute. We had it pretty soft until last week, and now it is just the opposite. We have a schedule to follow from 7 a. m. to 9:30 p. m. every day. We can't even go outside the barracks without special permission. We attend classes all morning, football afternoons and signal practice evenings. Our former coach was canned because of too much politics on the team. Now we have an Annapolis man as head coach, and he sure is hard boiled.

I am on the first team, which certainly is fast company, most of them all American or Western. There are two all Americans on the second team. It has been rather hard sliding for me, coming out after the entire squad had two months practice on me, but I made the grade. Bill Sultz, another old Alma man, is on the first squad too. Brud is on the second. We sure are proud of our old school. We have swell suits, fur lined coats and everything.

Give my best to all the old men there, Burch, Barney, Pelton, Warner, Anderson and all the rest. I'm mighty anxious to get back there and will my first chance. Russel's and Tulle's letters in the Almanian certainly looked good to me. I read them not less than a dozen times.

Be sure and pay my tax for the paper, as I haven't drawn a penny since leaving Detroit. I was informed that I owed the U. S. fifteen dollars, so don't know when I'll get any.

Yours,  
Bro. "Rich."

Football Barracks, Great Lakes,  
Ill.

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER  
FROM HAROLD LAMPMAN

I am writing under rather adverse circumstances. Right now the man next to me is watching every move I make and every word I put on paper. Ha, ha, now he isn't. I knew that would bring him to time. He's such a queer sort of fellow. A box was sent me the other day, as boxes sometimes are, containing cake, cookies, etc., and as usual I passed it around. I had nothing to cut the cake with except my pocket knife, and as a consequence I didn't get it very even. He reached over and took the biggest piece and after he had tasted it had the nerve to say that it was better cake that we had for mess! Gee whiz, I could have hit him. But this is squealing. Excuse me this time.

Well as usual we are in quarantine again. The "flu" has hit us and hit us hard. There aren't enough men left in our barracks to go out and drill so the "weller" ones get some fatigue or guard detail every day. I have drilled two days in the last two weeks; worked the rest of the days, Sundays included. I am getting real used to K. P. and as for my ability at building roads and digging for new barracks just ask the sergeant.

We sure had some mix up this morning about getting up. The new time was supposed to take effect this

morning and also a new schedule of calls. Well anyway we were supposed to have two hours more sleep than usual. Some of the buglers got mixed up and blew first call an hour and a half too soon. You should have heard, no you shouldn't have heard, our top sergeant raved to think we made so much noise that he couldn't sleep as long as he wanted to. We went to reveille after a long time and just as he got back in, it began to rain and has rained ever since. I haven't had but one Sunday off since I have been in camp and I am hoping I can get at least part of today to my self. Tonight I go on guard at 4:30.

I have seen two trains of empty coaches being pulled up here this morning. I suppose a bunch of men will travel out today or tonight. We saw two go out day before yesterday. They say the division is short about 7000 men, and we expect that some of us will be called most any day. About a dozen have had orders to change residence already.

Earl was up to see me yesterday. We exchanged news, gossip and various other items of interest. He leaves tomorrow for O. T. S. at Camp Taylor. I am mighty glad for him. He certainly is deserving of it and will make a fine officer. I think our class is furnishing its share of officers.

Thanks heap for the reception program it makes me think of old times all right. I would like to have been there. Was "Stub" Warner back for the reception or is that a different one? How is school coming? Are they going to publish the Almanian this year? etc.

As ever,  
Harold Lampman.  
11th Co., 3rd Bn., 160th D. B.,  
Camp Custer, Mich.

DRAKE IS WINNER IN CONTEST

The following clipping taken from the Livingston Republican of October 23, is of special interest to us, because Rev. Hurd Allyn Drake was graduated from Alma in 1911:

Rev. Hurd Allyn Drake, Presbyterian church pastor has carried off the blue ribbon for the Synod of Illinois in a Stewardship Prize essay contest participated in by hundreds of ministers from all over the United States.

Rev. Drake was awarded first prize \$200 in cash for the best 3,000 word essay on Stewardship, "Christian Stewardship; Its Principles and Practice" was title of the prize essay. Contributions were made with a pseudonym in sealed envelopes.—Elgin, Illinois, Courier.

Y. M. C. A. DOING FINE WORK

Under the splendid leadership of Mr. Krueger the "Y" of Alma college is a great help to the S. A. T. C. men. At present a soldier is able to secure free stationery at the Y. M. C. A. room, and we expect that by the time this issue of the Almanian reaches its readers the men will be able to purchase at the canteen in Pioneer Hall, choice books, candy, and many other things that are so much appreciated by the men in training.

The "Y" is also providing excellent entertainment for the men. Since they are very busy, it is not possible to have long programs, but at present short group meetings are being held on every Sunday, Tuesday and Friday evenings.

"Tac" Geis, a former popular Alma student, who has been representing us in France for some time, has been "gassed." "Tac" had gone over the top for the fourth time and was helping to construct a bridge over a stream when a shell struck his helmet. At present he is in a hospital suffering from the effects of the gas and our sincerest wish is a speedy recovery.

Notice to our Patrons.

Our theatres have been closed indefinitely by an order of the city officials.

We are sorry to be obliged to deprive the citizens of Alma of their much needed recreation during these times of stress. The closing order was served upon us without giving us an opportunity to arrange anything and we are therefore obliged to fulfill our contracts with the film people and with our employes at a tremendous expense.

We think enough of the welfare of the people of Alma to endure these burdens as long as the people wish us to remain closed and hope that upon our reopening we may be rewarded with your continued good will and patronage.

A. H. ASHLEY, Manager.

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FLOYD H. KRUEGER, Agent

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THE BENEFITS WILL BE MUTUAL

**SKIMMING BOOKS IS AN ART**

(Continued from page one)  
of the Great War to spread his little religious hobby out for the gaze of the unwary reader. With exaggeration I say I know all about that book. I do not, of course, but I am satisfied, content with my ignorance of a book that has no marrow for my intellectual bones.

A volume of poems is at hand. I find involved sentences at best. I am through with a poem and have neither images for my imagination's quickening, nor well-wrought expressions for my mind's stimulation, nor rhythm nor new thought—nothing for that too small part of me that loves verse. I dip into the centre, I try toward the end, I try the very end. Everywhere is dullness, everywhere is laborious joining of words, words, words. I know that book but I haven't read it. Moreover I shall not read it, unless some compulsion is upon me other than the attraction of the writer.

Another sort of book arrives. It calls itself "The Way to Peace." How many ways to peace the theorists have found! As an argument the volume has merit for the author's views are well stated. I do not read the book, but I turn its pages. I read certain pages. I recognize the argument. I conceive the author's point of view. Again, I do not read the book, but I know in quite a satisfactory way what the volume offers. Some day may come when I shall desire to refer to the argument, I may make use of the facts collected and the conclusions drawn. But until I know that I have need of it I shall postpone the reading of that work. I am neither agreeing with it, nor condemning it. I do not require it now. I shall not read it.

So a student must know many books. For every work he actually reads, he must scan several, or even many. He must become a habitual scanner of books, even habitually a skimmer of books.

I remember that "skimming" used to be an intellectual crime. More than once did I hear as a schoolboy the accusing words, "You didn't read it; you skimmed it!" Great joy was it to me in high school to have reinforcement from the great essayist Bacon: "Some books are to be tasted, others to be chewed and digested." Skimming, by the way, is a term, employed to fit a domestic operation that has for its aim the securing of the cream. And yet, oddly enough, skimmers of books seem to be accused of being after the skimmed milk. I never feel the danger of being accused now-a-days when I remark that I've skimmed a book.

The test, I suppose, comes from one's ability to get the cream. Not every one knows how to remove the cream from the top of a crock of milk without taking much of milk as well. I remember a skilled hand that was able to use any cup or dipper at hand. When she declared the cream off a crock, I never cared to drink the milk remaining. The riches had been gathered. The modern housewife confesses less skill, it seems to me, when she chooses a special implement called a skimmer that has holes in the bottom through which the milk, unskillfully gathered where only cream was desired, may flow back into the crock.

The point is, skimming must be learned. It requires skill resulting from much practice. One must learn to skim as well as to read. Unskillfully done there is little result, little cream for the feeding of the mind. Skillfully done, there is cream of thought and only a small volume of the original milk is handled.

Skimming books require as much attention as reading. Skimming is not to be done with a part of the reader's mind. The inconsequential words, the illustrations necessary only to the careless or the uncomprehending mind, are not so much skipped as definitely set aside. The mind learns what to disregard and disregards as intuitively as the tacker disregards every one but the man with the ball, or again, as the watcher disregards every one on the field but the one about to make a catch. Just as one's attention must be riveted to the play in the watched game so the reader's mind must be thoroughly attentive.

Skimming presupposes rapid reading; to learn to read rapidly is essential to broad scholarship. The slow reader, let us say, laboriously reads two books a week, if indeed the labor of reading is not so great that

he cannot force himself ever to read so many. This means, let us say, one hundred books a year; in forty years, four thousand volumes—a very liberal estimate for a slow reader, and one that supposes what is usually untrue, that he will forever plod along with his reading. I am not ready to say that four thousand volumes in a lifetime will not make a scholar. It may produce a specialist. Nevertheless, the modern man who desires to know what the world is doing and what the world thinks must know something of more than one hundred books a year.

For example, how many books must one read to know the Great War we are, let us hope, just seeing come to an end? If one book, and the assumption is not true, were to acquaint us with the effect of the War on each race or nation, there will be a volume for Armenia, America, Ireland, England, India, Africa, France, Germany, Belgium, Bulgaria, Roumania, Serbia, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Canada, Australia, Holland, Russia, Finland, Japan, China, Siam, and, shall we add, each South American country—well over a score of books. No single volume can tell us of each separate battle. No single book can give us the thoughts of the soldiers or the experiences of individuals. No single volume of ordinary size can give us acquaintance with the diplomatic situations or the financial problems. A slow reader, willing to devote all his reading hours to the war and nothing but the war, could hardly hope in years to be conversant with the important facts. Before such a task the rapid reader stands agast, the slow reader will not begin.

Teachers of reading to children seem out of all their differences in theory as to word methods, sentence methods, syllable methods, to arrive at one common conclusion: to learn to read, one must read. In olden days a single primer did duty for long months. The child learned many a page. Over and over he read the same book, long after he had arrived at complete hatred of it and long after its educational value had vanished.

So to learn to skim, skim. (Somehow I had almost slipped into a misprint and had written swim instead of skim). Here now are four books. It is better to skim three and begin on the fourth to find it the book of the year for you, than to choose at random two or three of the four and read them through, only to find that neither is desirable. The skimmer has found a real book, and knows something of several others, and has time to attack another group.

A valuable practice for students is to learn how to discover the proper books. It is true that respected advisors and book reviewers may guide you. Still the dietician's recommendations do not always find response in my appetite. The head of our table frequently entices me with "That soup is good today" but on some days I do not want soup. And if her best recommendation were, "That bread pudding will do you good," I fear that I must summon my determination to conserve scraps, to my desire for the camouflaged stale bread. No one can guess my mental appetite day after day—not so much as one can guess my physical desire for food in its almost infinite variety.

Some books are to be tasted—and only tasted. To learn to be a taster of books is to learn to be a reader. To learn to skim is an accompaniment of to learn to read.

**PHILOMATHEAN**

On Monday evening the regular meeting of the Philomathean literary society was held. Roll call was answered by a current event. After the business was completed the program was given. Marion Reed read a paper, China's Social Calling. In which she discussed the social conditions in China today. The ideas in regard to the position of women especially have changed to a marked degree. She said also that the work of the education of the Chinese people is progressing very rapidly, so that now schools and colleges are to be found in all the larger cities of the Republic.

Dorothy Reed gave some personal experiences of her father and mother who were missionaries in China for four years. Dr. and Mrs. Reed were in China during the years of unrest before the Boxer rebellion. The whole of southern China was ravaged by bands of men who burned and

killed on every hand. They were especially bitter against the missionaries and Christian Chinese. On one occasion the mission where Dr. Reed was stationed received word secretly that a band of men was planning to attack them the following night. There were only a few men there at the time and there was small hope of holding out against such an attack, but every thing was barricaded and guards stationed to watch. All night they waited but nothing happened and the next day people told the missionaries that the band had gathered on the hill opposite the compound but feared to come against it. This is one of the many experiences which shows the care of God for those who trust in Him. Miss Reed spoke of the manner of living and means of travel as well. It was indeed a most interesting talk.

**HONORED FOR SCHOLARSHIP**

The college honors for excellence in scholarship have been awarded to Carrol Wenger, who has 128 honor points to his credit and to Dele Van-deuzen, who has 106. The women to receive honors were first, Charlotte Hawes, who gained 160 honor points, and second, Lura Miller, who has —honor points.

**HAD YOU HEARD THIS BEFORE?**

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Cook are to be congratulated most heartily. Yes, it's a boy.

Carrie Roland Armstrong and her young son were recent Alma visitors. They came to meet Lieutenant Armstrong who was here in command of soldiers who were to deliver government trucks.

**REV. HESS ADDRESSES CHAPEL**

(Continued from page one)  
themselves in the minds of men we must look to religion for peace in men's existence. Religion is the biggest thing after all. Christianity, the ultimate foundation of peace is the religion that Paul knew. Your task is to carry these things to the next generation and give it to them."

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