

# THE ALMANIAN

THE STUDENT PUBLICATION OF ALMA COLLEGE

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Number 21

## GAEOR PLACED ON ALL-MIAA

### ALMA GRADUATE'S WORK IS LAUDED

#### Miss Ruth Pierson Holds Prominent Place in Field of Bacteriology.

Friends of Miss Ruth Pierson, and the student body as a whole, will be interested in and proud of the prominence attained in the field of bacteriology by Miss Pierson. Miss Pierson graduated from Alma College in 1908. She is a niece of Mrs. A. F. Bruske, and was a resident in the home of President and Mrs. Bruske while attending college. At present she lives in East Orange, New Jersey. Parts of an article taken from an interview with Miss Pierson, which appeared in a Newark, New Jersey paper, "The Sunday Call," recently, are here reprinted.

"The average healthy person feels terror at the thought of disease and shrinks from contact with germs through whose medium smallpox, tuberculosis, diphtheria, and typhoid are contracted. But in her laboratory at the East Orange Health Department, Miss Ruth O. Pierson, bacteriologist, daily handles thousands of such germs, which she studies with eager interest beneath the microscope lens. Her trained eye detects almost in an instant what disease germs lurk in the specimen under examination, for to an experienced bacteriologist the germs of every disease, when magnified a thousand times, assume a definite aspect.

"Years of experience in public and private health work have equipped Miss Pierson with exceptional ability to build up the East Orange Health Department Laboratory to a high plane.

"Miss Pierson's interest in her particular type of work manifested itself early, when, as a school girl, she showed special aptitude in the sciences. When she entered college she had fully determined to specialize in bacteriology, and studied that branch of work at Wellesley and at Alma College, Michigan, later doing graduate work at the Boston Institute of Technology, Harvard and Tufts Medical schools and Brown University. At the University of California she made a special study of parasitology.

"Miss Pierson was a pioneer among women in the profession when she entered the field as a bacteriologist twenty years ago. The first position was in New Hampshire, where she was sent for a month and a half to assist in the settling of a milk problem. She then went with Boston Board of Health in the capacity of assistant bacteriologist, and remained there about a year. For the four years following, as assistant bacteriologist for the state of Rhode Island, she occupied offices in the State House.

"Associate directorship of the Co-operating Boards of Health of Wellesley Hills, Mass., was the next position to claim her attention. This system rendered complete health service to six towns and partial health service to six others, and Miss Pierson says, proved the work ability of a community system.

"At the beginning of the war Miss Pierson received an appointment to the American Red Cross, and was placed in charge of the United States Public Health Service at Chillicothe, Ohio, serving at Camp Sherman, in the extra cantonment zone.

"Under her direction a complete health service was given at the camp, including examination of specimens for various diseases, many sanitary surveys and periodic examinations of all the water and milk supplies.

"After the war Miss Pierson went to San Francisco, and leaving the field of public health in favor of private work, purchased and directed her own clinical and x-ray laboratories. Operating her enterprise of six years as a sort of private service to physicians in the way of blood tests, x-rays, and radiography of all kinds, she was exceptionally successful.

(Continued from page two)

### Drama Club to Give Three Plays Thursday

The regular meeting of the Drama Club was held Wednesday night, March 2, in Room 12 of the Ad. building. Plans for the presentation of three one-act plays in chapel were discussed; it was finally decided that on the night of March 17, the club would formally present the plays "The Pot Boiler", "The Game of Chess", and "Ever Young". Margaret Roberts was put in charge of the tickets for the affair; Louis Nickels was appointed stage manager, Inez Maurer property manager, and Clifford Erickson business manager.

Following the discussion a short program was given. Ruth Richards read a short, humorous play written by Elliot Crooks, a former student at Alma now at Columbia University. Then Ruth Hyde read some Rules for the Ideal Drama Club, which were not quite all that the title implies, and gave the members some hearty laughs.

### PHILOS STAGE ANNUAL PARTY

#### Large Crowd Enjoys Spring Formal Held in Elk's Temple Friday Evening.

The Elk's Temple was the scene of a very attractive dancing party last Friday night, March 12th, when the Philomathean Literary Society gave their annual Spring Formal. The music for the dancing was furnished by Gilbert's Orchestra from Saginaw.

Despite the very rainy weather the spirits of the gay throng were by no means dampened as they danced in what appeared to be a Japanese Pagoda formed by the clever arrangement of flowered lattices, pastel shades of crepe paper, and Japanese lanterns.

At the beginning of the second dance a Grand March was led by Alma Gilbert, president of the society, and Harry Williams, an alumnus of the college. The favors were then given out, the girls being given a combination pocketbook and vanity case stamped with a gold PHI while the men received bill folds of like design and having the same stamp.

There were present as guests of the society, Dr. and Mrs. Crooks, Dr. and Mrs. Randels, Mr. and Mrs. Bahlke, Miss Steward, Mrs. Steward, and Miss Foley. The out of town guests included Esther Oldt, Dorothy Doudna, Jennie Gilbert, Ron McGlone and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Zinn.

The success of the affair can rightly be attributed to the various committees. The decoration committee which was headed by Ethelyn Adams consisted of Gertrude Melody, Mabel Jaynes, and Mary K. Burt. The program committee was in charge of Alice Olsen with Elizabeth Martin and Irene Beuthin assisting. Miss Jessie Platt had charge of the invitations while Mary Shroyer was responsible for the punch.

#### ZETA SIGMA

At the last regular meeting of the society the following officers were elected for the coming term:

President—Carroll Clark.  
Vice-president—Keith Tarrant.  
Treasurer—Lauritz Dredahl.  
Secretary—Edward McKinnon.  
Sgt. at Arms—Erwin Hendershott.

A letter has been received from Harold Bailey, of the class of '25, who is now track coach at Southeastern High School, Detroit. He sent greetings to all his friends on the campus, and also the welcome news that he has prospective Alma students in view in his school. Harold writes that he has a good position and is enjoying life.

Clark and Prouty recently severed relations. Their agreement was to contribute to the Almanian under the pseudonym of "Able and Unable." Both of them couldn't be Able.

### MUSIC STUDENTS IN FINE CONCERT

#### Misses West and Spencer Please Large Audience Thursday Evening.

What will be remembered as one of the greatest musical treats of the year is the concert given in the chapel last Thursday evening by Miss Ethel West, soprano, and Miss Hannah Spencer, violinist. Miss Grace Roberts of the college music department appeared as accompanist.

The work of both of the young artists was well received and generously applauded by the large audience which filled the chapel completely. They received many congratulations on their work, and felicitations for their future. The department of music is to be congratulated in developing these musicians.

Miss Spencer played as her first number a selection in E Minor from Mendelssohn. Miss West sang four numbers "Caro, Mio Ben" by Giordani, "My Mother Bids Me Bind My Hair" by Hayden, "I Attempt From Lovesickness to Fly" by Purcell, and "Bois Epais" by Lulli.

Playing a group of three numbers, Miss Spencer next played "Romance" by Wienowski, "Berceuse" by Jarnefelt, and "Schon Rosemarin" by Kreisler. Miss West concluded her performance singing, "Springtime" by Becker, "Ayla" by Wood, and "A Brown Bird Singing," perhaps the best received of her numbers.

The concert concluded with Miss Spencer playing "Zigeunerweisen", a group of gypsy airs by Sarasate. The audience was especially enthusiastic over Miss Spencer's skill and technique in playing this concluding number.

### League of Women Voters Being Organized

The girls of the college had as visitors last Friday, Mrs. E. D. Dickinson of Ann Arbor and Miss Ann Whitson of Detroit. The purpose of the visit was to organize a College League of Women Voters. These two representatives of the National League also organized groups at Mt. Pleasant and an adult group in Alma.

Mrs. Dickinson and Miss Whitson were entertained by Mrs. R. H. Hamilton at a luncheon, which was also attended by Dr. Norman Thomas. They then met the town women, and organized a League. Mrs. H. M. Crooks was elected president. At four thirty, the college groups gave a tea in honor of their guests. Mrs. Dickinson told of her experience with the League of Nations, and about the many women who are holding active positions in international affairs. Her visit at Geneva last summer was very thrilling and full of unforgettable incidents. Miss Whitson, who is executive chairman of the State League, explained the details of the organization. Her very charming personality won every girl, and they all desired to become intimate friends with her.

(Continued on page three)

#### ALL M. I. A. A. BASKETBALL SELECTIONS

**First Team**  
Carlson \_\_\_\_\_ RF \_\_\_\_\_ Albion  
Gaelor \_\_\_\_\_ LF \_\_\_\_\_ Alma  
N. Schrier \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ Kalamazoo  
Goldberg \_\_\_\_\_ RG \_\_\_\_\_ Albion  
Muelenberg \_\_\_\_\_ LG \_\_\_\_\_ Kalamazoo

**Second Team**  
Kleis \_\_\_\_\_ RF \_\_\_\_\_ Hope  
Bromley \_\_\_\_\_ LF \_\_\_\_\_ Albion  
Gray \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ Albion  
Babcock \_\_\_\_\_ LG \_\_\_\_\_ Albion  
Anderson \_\_\_\_\_ RG \_\_\_\_\_ Alma

**Honorable Mention**  
Alma — Tiderington, Wolters, Karpp, Hawthorne.  
Kalamazoo—E. Schrier, O'Hara, Davis.  
Hope—Cook.  
Hillsdale—Harmon, Vos.

### District Tournament Staged Last Week End

Mt. Pleasant high school won the class B championship of the district tournament held in the college gymnasium last week end by defeating Alma high school 17-15. St. Louis defeated Clare high 16-13 to take the class C championship banner and cup. Middleton rallied in the last period to defeat Mc Bride 23-17 for the class D banner.

Twenty-one teams played in the 18 games conducted during the competition of Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Some of the very best basketball was exhibited by the contestants, the final game of Saturday evening being especially keenly contested. The winners and runners-up in this tournament will now go to the Mt. Pleasant tournament.

The college varsity defeated the college reserves in a fast exhibition game Saturday afternoon.

Friday night the reserves played Owosso high school team. Owosso presented a strong five, but were turned back by the reserves 23-16. Moco and Conlin were outstanding in the play of the reserves.

### NOTED SOCIALIST IS ALMA SPEAKER

#### Hon. Norman Thomas Speaks to Students Friday Morning and Evening.

Mr. Norman Thomas, executive director of the League for Industrial Democracy, visited Alma last Friday. Where here he spoke on several occasions to the student body. Addressing the regular chapel service Friday morning he took as his subject "The Challenge of Waste," at an evening meeting he addressed a group using as a topic "Some of the Unsolved Problems of Peace." Mr. Thomas also addressed some of the Economics classes on the more radical aspect of socialism.

Mr. Thomas is a man who has gained considerable prominence in his field. He is a graduate of Princeton, and also of Union Theological Seminary. While a student many honors were conferred upon him, he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, a prominent debater, and valedictorian of his class. After graduating he went into settlement work, and spent some time in travelling before he entered the theological seminary.

He is a contributing editor of "The Nation" and "The World Tomorrow." Recently he served as secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and in 1923 edited the New Leader. Since then he has taken up his work with the League for Industrial Democracy. Most of his time is spent traveling and lecturing.

His talks were very interesting and tended to create and stimulate student interest in concerning themselves with the problems to be faced in the coming generation. He came to Alma under the auspices of the Alma Men's Christian Union.

#### BETA TAU EPSILON

The regular meeting of the Beta Tau Epsilon Literary society was held in its club room last Monday evening, March 7, 1927. Election of officers for the rest of the year was held. Following is the list of officers:

President—Alpha Musson  
Vice-President—Gilbert Scheib  
Secretary—Charles Nims  
Treasurer—Lorrimer Grant  
Sergeant at Arms—Robert Jones  
Almanian Reporter—David McAlister  
Keeper of Archives—Aburn Gustafson  
Room Manager—Earl Closser

After the business meeting Earl Closser entertained the members with his wonderful music which he was able to bring from the piano. Mr. Littlejohn then gave a report on "Mothers' son" by Captain Dingo.

The Literary Meeting was then adjourned to the De Luxe Shop where Janitors Littlejohn and Bare performed their part of the program.

### ALBION, KAZOO EACH PLACE TWO

#### Anderson Placed on 2nd Team. Four Other Alma Men Get Mention.

Albion, the year's champions, were given two positions on the all M. I. A. A. basketball team, Kalamazoo, the runner-up, also got two players on the mythical five, and Alma, who holds third place, received one position. Gaelor and Carlson of Albion were selected as forwards, Gaelor with three votes for first team, and Carlson with four firsts and a second. Neil Schrier was placed at center with five first team votes. Muelenberg of Kazoo was unanimously placed at guard. This is his third straight year on the mythical five. This record is only equaled by those established formerly by Carty of Alma and Vroeg of Kalamazoo. Goldberg of Albion made the other guard position with three firsts and a second.

The first team selections were quite clear cut, but second team selections were harder to make. Hope placed Kleis at forward, Albion placed Bromley at forward, Gray at center, and Babcock at guard. Anderson of Alma was selected for the other guard position.

Four Alma players received honorable mention, these being Tiderington, Wolters, Hawthorne, and Karpp. Davis, E. Schrier, and O'Hara of Kazoo were mentioned in this list, as were Harmon and Vos of Hillsdale, and Cook of Hope. Olivet was the only team failing to have players mentioned. It was the consensus of opinion that Alma would have placed more men if her second semester team had played the entire season. Coach Schouten of Hope remarked that he would have named Seng, Gaelor and Tiderington if they had played the whole season. Gaelor, however, received the honor even though he entered the season late. Gaelor received honorable mention in the selections of last year.

Albion took the lead early in the season and held it almost all the season, except when Kazoo tied up with Albion by defeating them at Kazoo. But Alma knocked Kazoo off at Alma which put the race into a tie. Albion regained the lead and cinched the championship by defeating Alma in their second game by the scant margin of one point.

Hope had a good team, showing some flashes of real playing in some of her games. They were able to defeat only Hillsdale and Olivet however. Hillsdale could defeat only Olivet during the season. Olivet was saved from being blanked this season by the game Alma forfeited to her because of the playing of Simmons. Following are the final association standings.

Albion	9	1	.900
Kalamazoo	8	2	.800
Alma	6	4	.600
Hope	4	6	.400
Hillsdale	2	8	.200
Olivet	1	9	.100

### Prof. and Mrs. Cook Write Back to Alma

Professor A. P. Cook and wife are at present enjoying a very pleasant visit in Sarasota, Florida. On Wednesday, February 23, they journeyed to Winter Park, where they attended the inauguration of Dr. Hamilton Holt as President of Rollins College. Professor Cook describes a very interesting visit to a grape fruit packing house. During their visit at Winter Park, they spent the nights at Kissimmee. Sound advice as to the pronunciation of this word is given by the Professor. He says, "when you pronounce this word away from home, accent the second syllable and give the i the short sound. Only at home should you accent the first and last syllables."

In a couple of days we expect that Joe Hot will have learned all the words to the newest song, "When I First Met Mary."

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**ALMANIAN PLATFORM**

1. Completion of the Alma College building program.
2. The ALMANIAN an expression of student thought.
3. Immediate completion of the new athletic field for use.
4. Better and closer relations between students and alumni.

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

Something college students should participate more in, is church attendance, especially in Alma, a Presbyterian school. There is a startling scarcity of college faces in the pews of our churches. To try and place the reasons for the existing condition, and see if they can be improved, is the object of this editorial.

In the first place, on the ground that our mind is fairly typical of the student body, we feel that we have had all the religious services we need, or perhaps better, care to have, during the week and that is the reason we stay at home Sunday. And we believe that this attitude is somewhat typical among those who do not make a practice of very regular church attendance. Very often we have heard the remark, when someone bravely pipes up, "Let's go to church,"—What's the matter with you, don't we get enough of that stuff around here without going to church when we don't have to?"

We go forward on the ground that the great majority of our students are interested in religion. We do not feel that it is because of lack of religion that many do not attend church. It is rather attributed to the simple fact, that very few persons will voluntarily attend church services of one kind or another six days a week. Many regular church attendants would not be there for Sunday services if they had been at services five times already that week. Recently a majority of the student vote on compulsory chapel evidenced a desire for chapel attendance to be limited to three times a week. Should we obtain the desired three chapel a week system, would we not then be more prompt to attend church? Why not make church going on Sunday compulsory, to some extent, by an honor system, and at the same time institute a three day a week chapel system? This should satisfy all the malcontents of the present system. It would also accomplish more regular attendance of Sunday services on the part of the student body, and surely this is to be desired. Church comes late enough in the day so that most of us are up; it does not seem possible that there is more attraction in the Sunday newspapers than in the services of the church; yet by continually abstaining from church attendance we have established ourselves in the habit, and some stimulus is needed. We don't believe that any will care to argue that we get more out of chapel that we would from church services on Sunday. Church going is present to all of us as a duty which we should fulfill, and could it not be made to appear as a duty which we would be glad to fulfill and obtain benefit from? We think so very definitely.

And finally, even if nothing is done by our faculty to lessen the requirements of chapel attendance, we feel that the student body should look at church going in a different light. We are inclined to let our duty to our church slide at this stage in our life. Down in our hearts we all realize our church obligations, as every Christian should. Let's improve this condition.

**SENIORS, JOBS AND OTHER THINGS**

by  
**Harry J. Burton**

Consumers Power Company, Jackson  
Chairman for Michigan of the  
Committee on Co-operation with Educational Institutions, National Electric Light Association.

Written for the Wisconsin Engineer.

It used to be a matter of profound wonder to me why so many men graduated from college without knowing why. The graduate often cannot tell why he went to college. He has no definite plans as to his future life work.

In reply to a direct question as to what he intends to do, he will answer, "Oh, you know what a college graduate expects." Or he might say, "Anything at the start." Ask him to name the job he would pick if given his choice. You will find that

he cannot give anything like a definite account of what he would like to do. He sometimes has an idea of what he expects to do eventually, but he has no plan as to the best way to occupy his time in the interval.

The point I want to make is; Seniors do not start to think definitely about jobs until after they graduate. I will agree that a lot of time is put in on the subject before graduation but the fact remains that the average student graduate is far from having a definite idea as to what he intends to try and do as his life work.

I said in the beginning that I used to wonder about all this, now I know from experience that the new graduate's knowledge of the nature and requirements of the field of work he should be most interested in is most hazy and frequently incorrect. He may form an opinion of a job by observation of the behavior of a prominent man whom he may know,—the thought being, "Well, if he can hold a job like that, I should worry." He often does not realize that the case under observation is exceptional, or that the job is not held because of the trait or quality observed, but in spite of it.

The question of character is nearly always underestimated by the graduate. He is sure that "hard headed business men" are not interested in personal habits, especially when shop or plant jobs are concerned. There is no question in my mind but that character is a most important factor. Dean Cooley, of the University of Michigan, has said that the requirements for a successful engineer are:

"93% Character and Honesty, 1% Tact, 1% Technical Training.

Good health is an essential quality for almost any job. The Mann report of the Carnegie Foundation, published some years ago indicated that the qualifications for the senior job-seeker, stated in the order of their desirability, are as follows.

"Character, Judgement, Efficiency, Understanding of Men, Knowledge, Technique." Study this list and measure or rate yourself before applying for a job. Are you reliable? Are you a good team-worker? Do you inspire confidence and go out of your way to assist others? Are you willing to do more than is required? Are you accurate? Are you level-headed? Economical? How about your technical knowledge?

You may ask the question, "Just what is expected of a graduate, what may he expect?" Let us put the matter to a test. An executive is sitting in his office. Some recent graduates are without, waiting to be interviewed. They are senior job-seekers. One is called into the office. He slouches in, hat on head. He does not know what he wants, but can do anything. He admits it.

The next one is called and starts in by stating that he has just spent four years studying electrical engineering and he immediately hands the executive the copy of his school record and references. The executive asks: "What did you do during vacation?"

"Worked in the old man's store, canvassed a little, made pretty good money."

"Do you wish to get a job as a salesman?"

"No."

"What practical experience have you had along electrical lines?"

"None, outside of my work at college."

In reply to further questions he implies that although he has no definite idea of the job under consideration, he expects to reach an executive position soon and with little effort on his own part.

The next man called in, says he wants work and wants it badly and that he is willing to do anything, and he adds, "Of course, within reason." He is a good talker, sold books during two vacations, played in a band at a resort one summer. When tentatively offered a certain job he "frankly does not want that kind of a job." He knows why he went to college and it was chiefly to get away from such work. He does not say just what kind of a job he does want and it may or may not be because he is too modest. The executive wonders why he went to college and studied engineering and also why he applied to an engineering concern for a job.

The next man is called. He is asked to be seated. In answer to a question he states simply and to the point that he is a recent electrical engineering graduate. He gained some little experience as a substation operator and as a trouble shooter. On being questioned further it is learned he also had some transmission line construction experience, having worked during one summer vacation as a "ground-man." He would like very much to get some steam experience, both in the turbines and boiler room. "What branch of the work do you expect to follow as a life work?"

"When I have had enough exper-

ience I would like to be a designing engineer."

"Will you be content with that all your life?"

"I hope some day to become a public utility executive."

When questioned further regarding his desires and ambitions it is learned he has consulted not only the professors at college but some of the leading engineers in the country, either by correspondence or in person when they had visited the college.

The college record of the applicants interviewed was practically identical and they all "applied for" the same job. Who got the job? No, it does not matter what the executive had to offer. You can bet your bottom dollar he did not let one of the boys slip through his fingers.

What is to be done about all this? The answer is fairly simple. It is, start as soon as possible to have a goal in sight and train for it. The man who persistently aims at the bull's eye learns sooner or later to hit it. He will not continue to shoot all over the lot. You do not think of trying to make the team without practice. You would be laughed off the field. Work and play for the final result. Don't worry too much about it. Don't be afraid of making a wrong choice. A definite goal is better than none. All winds are unfavorable to a ship without a definite port in sight.

Actions speak louder than words. Sometimes you can hear neither because of clothes. Pay attention to details, shoes, fingernails. This does not mean that you have to put on a false front, and an affected manner. Deal with facts. Should you make a misstatement in your eagerness to make a favorable impression, immediately correct it, even if apparently unnoticed. Remember the boss has interviewed graduates before, possibly a thousand or more. Also remember he often has had plant or shop training as a foundation for his job. The time to think of what you are going to do or say when starting out to land your job is now, whether you are a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior.

It is true jobs are often a question of supply and demand, but the right kind of a man can land one almost any time. Such a one came into my office some years ago, during a severe industrial slump. He appeared very much discouraged. Because of conditions we could not put on another man. I helped him prepare a list of ten industrial concerns who were likely to have jobs according to his specifications, which were definite. It was about 8:00 o'clock when one left my office and I bet him he would land the job he wanted before he had tried the tenth place. About 2:00 o'clock he telephoned me that I had won the bet.

You can bank on this statement. If the graduate has character and an objective he need not worry. The fact that he is a graduate is sufficient evidence his technical training is, or should be, taken care of. Work we must, whether we have a college education or not. If we do not work with our hands we must toil in some other way. Should you get a job and find you do not like it, don't get dissatisfied with the job, get dissatisfied with yourself and look ahead and plan the next step of the journey toward your goal.

**WRIGHT HALL NOTES**

Inez Maurer is recovering from her heart attack, brought on by her attendance at church, Sunday. Let this be a warning to all; Do not make any sudden changes in your routine of living.

Helen Frances and Virginia are becoming very fond of the violin. It is even rumored that Pom and Francis may take up violin technique. At least the girls would have time to go to French class then.

The sudden outbursts of spring are causing all kinds of unusual occurrences. It is needless to recall the episode of the ear-ring, which belongs to the period of the very first flashes of spring. But we wish that we have noticed the great quiet that prevails "partout" at Wright Hall. The girls walk around on tip-toes; they have lowered their voices so that they are as soft as the very breath of Spring. They close the doors very, very gently. On the glorious, inspiring, sunshiny days the girls sit about in intimate little groups; men are completely forgotten. Their grosser intellects would not appreciate the spring breezes that blow by the only sound to disturb the group, except perhaps the occasional turning of a page of Milton, Browning, or even Shakespeare. Someone may even sigh, unconsciously of course, "O Sir content you." Yes we have been given a touch—a wee touch of spring. And as this touch grows and expands we shall see the complete fusion of the two kindred spirits—the soul of spring and the soul of woman. By spring proper we expect that the wings that have been ordered for the Wright Hall girls will have arrived from Sears and Roebuck.

**ALMA GRADUATES WORK IS LAUDED**

(Continued from page one)  
But though the west was alluring, Miss Pierson returned east when opportunity offered, and was located temporarily at a hospital in Vermont, where she had charge of the bacteriological laboratories and complete x-ray department. She came a year ago from Vermont to East Orange.

"Miss Pierson is having a more interesting time building up the small laboratory in East Orange than if she were directing the work of the largest and best equipped laboratory in the world, for it is a constructive work. She is building something and watching it grow, and as it expands she feels the real thrill of accomplishment. She is exceptionally proud of the fact that the rating of the health department of East Orange has risen so that it stands fifth in a group of 80 cities its size, but she looks forward to the time when it will top the list by a big margin."

The article was headed by a fine portrait of Miss Pierson at her microscope.

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## THOUGHTS MORE OR LESS LITERARY

Perhaps the most discussed novel of 1926 was Theodore Dreiser's "An American Tragedy." It is a lengthy story, filling two volumes of rather fine print and becomes tiresome at times because of its verbosity. The plot is briefly this. Clyde Griffiths, the eldest of a godly, ignorant street-preacher, after an unfortunate automobile accident in Kansas City finds it best to run away. In Chicago while working as a bellhop he meets his rich uncle, a collar manufacturer from Lyncurgus, N. Y., so in a few weeks he travels east and begins to work in his relative's factory. Time passes and although he is practically socially ignored by the Griffiths, Clyde is finally advanced to be the head of the department. There he meets and falls in love with one of the girls. Months later he is desperately in love with another girl, who is beautiful, wealthy and reciprocates his feeling. Eventually the first girl demands that Clyde must marry her and in accordance with his suggestion they travel away supposedly for that purpose and a short outing. Clyde had read of a mysterious drowning and that possible solution of his troubles continually haunts him. At first they visit a lonely lake and in an accident the girl drowns, for Clyde made no effort to save her. His following actions are such that in the resulting trial he is convicted of murder and electrocuted.

Quite frankly, with the exception of two very fine short stories (The Lost Phoebe and Old Ragaum and His Theresa) and several absurd poems, this was my first introduction to Dreiser. And it is monumental piece of writing. Some have even suggested that here is the great American novel. It is idle to make such predictions, but I would readily wager that it will be read when Ferber, Glasgow, Hergesheimer and Lewis are forgotten.

Dreiser's faults are very evident: a passionate love for exact detail necessary and unnecessary, a lack of style and form, awkward phrasing and sentences and occasional triteness in expression. Yet, he writes with such rare understanding and sympathy that it is impossible to leave the book without being deeply moved. He is not the crusader that Sinclair was when he wrote "The Jungle", nor does he stoop to tricks. He has sensed the infinite sadness that life possesses and write about it simply and truthfully. There is little humor (and that, I suspect, must be unconscious) and fewer 'glad' passages. He has decided to write of the actual world and does not dilute with imagination his description of character or individuals, for that would distort them. From the book one deduces that he believes that life is a great, overpowering force, unknown and unseen like The Damned Thing in Bieres' story, and persuaded to the belief that it is futile to fight back.

From the first a tragic end seems inevitable and I cannot read the saying 'The wages of sin is death' into the book. Clyde is a solitary, forlorn figure hounded incessantly by an unrelenting fate. He battles feebly, for he lacks moral stamina and intellectual integrity, against things that he believes to be wrong; he fights bravely and yet is overcome by his weakness. Such a character excites sympathy akin to pity and I could not read the closing chapters without inwardly hoping that the Governor would ultimately reduce the sentence to life imprisonment. But Fate is inexorable. Throughout there is that deep appeal to the feelings which never descends to mawkishness.

Dreiser has been damned and formally cast from the realm of American literature by the astute critics of the extreme right, but so was Whitman. Now 'Leaves of Grass' may be found even in college libraries of avowedly puritanical tastes. Perhaps the future generations may be likewise aware of Dreiser's greatness.

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS BEING ORGANIZED

(Continued from page one)  
While the girls were signing the membership cards, Hannah Spencer played a violin solo, "To Spring" by Greig. Then a staff of officers was proposed which had been previously drawn up by Marion Forrester, Alma Gilbert, Cathryn Lee and Olga Dawn. It was accepted by a unanimous vote making Lucile Wolfe, president, Ruth Hyde, vice president, Helen Frances Miller, treasurer, Irene Beuthin, secretary, and Gertrude Burch chairman of committees.

Miss Steward entertained the guests at a dinner party, and they remained to hear Dr. Thomas speak. At eleven o'clock a meeting was held at which the executive board and Mrs. Dickinson and Miss Whitson made plans for the activities of the Alma College League of Women Voters for the ensuing year.

## CAMPUSOLOGY

(For publication only. Copyrighted 1927)

Back again in the old place—bet you're glad to see us—after an absence of a week. The Froshology was good, we thought, there were some really good cracks and of course the twenty or more from College Humor were up to the usual College Humor standard. You can put this down to professional jealousy.

In our mail this week we received the following communication:

Dear Mr. Editor: The inclosed (we think they mean enclosed) is matter which the author fondly hopes will be considered for publication in the Almanian. It might fit in under Campusology (goodness, what a low opinion they have of us) and then it might fit in somewhere else. Thank you for whatever courtesy you may or may not show this material.

The moral of this little epistle is that all cats do not wear fur, but we'll print it just the same.

There are several over-mean pens on this campus of ours.

Let's all hope they have their rewards.

\*\*\*

Ask the student marshal why a fat man's brains are like a billiard ball. (It's one of his little jokes.)

\*\*\*

For close designs and crooked counsels fit—a lover.

\*\*\*

Doc Hogan tells us about the lumbering industry up at E. R., about the sashes, stills, etc. which come from there. But Doc forgot about the bay windows and the dining room ornaments.

\*\*\*

Riley perspires for new worlds to conquer. He has signed up for calculus.

\*\*\*

Johnson had his Boswell; Murray has his West; Samuel had a gentleman; Charlie has the rest.

\*\*\*

Leichty's formula for getting his name in who's who is sleeping through chapel.

\*\*\*

'If familiarity breeds contempt there are quite a number of contemptible people in this neck of the woods,' said the top Museum step to the bottom Museum step.

\*\*\*

Now that we've printed the cracks, nobody can deny our right to comment on them—

\*\*\*

"Over mean" in statistics means above average.

\*\*\*

About the brains and the billiard ball—pretty smooth eh?

\*\*\*

To this author goes a handsome medal for being the first to think of this excellent pun, for who would think of dropping the s and adding ed.

\*\*\*

The person who wrote this must have felt that Doc was something more than a dining room ornament. Maybe he wouldn't let Her sit with Him.

\*\*\*

The crack about Murray and West sounds like someone disappointed in love.

\*\*\*

Just one more word—this is the first and last anonymous contribution which will be printed in this column. All contributions must be accompanied by five dollars in cash and two tickets to get us out of town.

\*\*\*

The Philomatheans staged a party in Alma Saturday night while Zeta Sigma contributed immeasurably to one in Mt. Pleasant, the Friendly Town.

\*\*\*

Some of the Frosh were amusing themselves with a hearse Wednesday evening. Some day the time will come when they won't think a hearse is a joke.

\*\*\*

The password to the party next Saturday night will be "Oh, Min." This is the Ear-To-The-Ground Department functioning again.

\*\*\*

Well, Angus has run out of wise-cracks and I never think of any so das iss alles.

Angus, Elliott and Addison.

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**"McFadden's Flats"**  
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Thursday and Friday  
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**ANNA Q. NILSSON**  
in  
**"The Masked Woman"**  
with  
**HOLBROOK BLINN and  
CHARLIE MURRAY**  
COLLEGIANS—"Making Good"

Saturday, March 19  
**JACK HOXIE** in  
**"The Western  
Whirlwind"**  
also starting "The Fire Fighters,"  
a serial as good as "The Silent  
Flyer."

Sunday and Monday,  
March 20 and 21  
**KENNETH HARLAN and  
ANNA Q. NILSSON** in  
**"Easy Pickings"**  
Buster Brown in  
"Buster's Dark Mystery"

**Society Notes**

**ALPHA THETA**

On Monday evening, February 28, 1927, the Alpha Theta Literary Society observed another of their quaint customs by celebrating the "Feast of Bacchus." At a late hour, the maidens climbed the stairs to the Society room where all was in readiness for the evening's ceremony. The meeting was very informal, with Miss Elizabeth Sidebotham relating in a charming manner the rare old myths concerning the Feast and its participants. Every one listened spell bound to her engaging narratives. Then Miss Lila Schaefer told an Italian tale "Griselda" by Boccaccio, in an fascinating and bewitching style. Next, Mrs. Elizabeth Bouwman told the members "What Alpha Theta has meant to me," in such a way that every girl was proud to belong to that Society. Then, "Ike" and "Fritz" harmonized a bit for us with some popular melodies and also introduced some new airs which charmed their listener's ears. After refreshments especially prepared and suited to the occasion, the gay group sang the Society song and adjourned.

**KAPPA IOTA**

The meeting of the Kappa Iota Literary Society on February 28th was called to order by the president, Cathryn Lee. In response to roll call

each member gave the characteristics of a character in a modern novel. After a short business meeting, Helen Frances Miller favored the group with a piano solo—"Romance."

An impromptu, "You Are Part Owner of a Hundred Miles of Books" was well given by Virginia Hull, after which the meeting adjourned.

Three new members have been pledged to the Kappa Iota Literary Society. They are Ethel Deering, Monroe; Hilda Cashmore, Wyandotte; Lena Hall, Alma.

The meeting of the Kappa Iota literary society was called to order by the president, Cathryn Lee, for its regular meeting, Monday, March 7th. Roll call was answered by the life of a character from a modern novel.

The program consisted of a reading by Lola Foster intitled "My Aunt". This was followed by a song by Mildred Baetz

**PHILOMATHICAN**

The members of Philomathic literary society responded to roll-call Monday night, February 28, with a brief talk on Famous Women of the Bible. After reports of the various committees for the Philo party had been given, Myrtle Keiller of Elk Rapids, Michigan was formally initiated into the society.

The program given after the initiation service was a very enjoyable one. Kathryn Boyd gave a reading on The Creation of Women, which afforded much amusement because of the writer's great imaginative powers. Gertrude Melody read a very interesting paper on Ancient and Greek Women, while Helen Benson's talk on Biblical Women was also enjoyed.

**AGONIES OF SAM KAPUTCHE**

or  
**HAT THAT TOUCHED CLOUDS**  
By Barrymore Belasco

A drama in X acts. (Let X equal any simple number like 283)

Act X.—

(Scene is laid in the palatial Ad Building of Alma College. The windows are open and the summer breezes blow playful whisks of snow into the faces of the bright and smiling students. The time is 8:41. Sam Kaputche, the hero, enters R. at main door of building and meets Flaming Lulu, a fair Wright Hall Coed)

Sam. (in quiet voice) Hello Lulu. Lulu. (Silence)

Sam. (In louder voice) Hello Lulu! Lulu. (Now ten feet past him and still silent)

Sam. (Louder than ever) Hello Lulu!

Lulu. (Now half way up the diamond studded stairs, is still silent)

Sam (At the top of his lungs) Hello Lulu!!

Lulu. (Deathlike in her silence as she closes the classroom door of room 1362 on the 8th floor)

Sam. (As he goes out the front door screams) HELLO LULU!

(He is again greeted with utter silence. Sam clutches spasmodically at his throat and falls down in a dead faint.)

**QUICK CURTAIN**

Act X—18

Scene is laid on a street of Alma. Glowing Sarah, roommate of Lulu is discovered walking down the street. She meets Sam, meanwhile gazing fixedly into the sky. Sam looks at her expectantly.)

Sam. Nice day.

Sarah (Still deeply interested in the sky)

Sam. Beautiful weather.

Sarah (Sees new cloud which she had not seen before)

Sam (Thinking he has caught her eye, and thinks it is now safe to continue action, makes graceful gesture with his right arm.

Sarah (No response)

Sam (Stops his gesture so suddenly that he severely strains his arm.) Oh, oh (sinks to the street in an unconscious comma. Lights fade and the curtain is drawn sorrowfully)

Curtain shows passing of a night. Act X—18 Scene 38

(Scene same as before. Sam is seen still lying on the street unconscious. Knockout Wilhelmina, friend of Lulu and Sarah, comes by, entering R. in company with Slam Bullneck, the athlete. Slam sees Sam.)

Slam. Wilhelmina, don't you think we ought to—

Wilhelmina. No, Slam, I don't think we should do that, and besides we are not allowed to dance down town you know.

Slam (Still trying to draw Wilhelmina's attention to poor Sam's prostrate form) But my dear, we certainly should—

Wilhelmina. No, Slam, I said no, and I mean no. I simply won't cross the Dean of Women.

Slam (Still trying) Don't you see

Wil. No I don't see and you simply must drop the subject. I positively refuse to fall in with your plans, and besides I would much rather talk to you than dance anyway.

(Slam and Wilhelmina stumble over Sam's form)

Wilhelmina. Slam, it is a wonder

that these Alma street cleaners would do their duty.

(Whereupon, Slam is staggered but manages to get off the stage at L.)

**QUICK CURTAIN**

Act X—128—

(Sam has returned from the hospital and is in fair condition again. Scene is laid in reception room of Wright Hall. Married and near married couples occupy the south side of the room at B. C. stage. Lofty Lids occupy R. stage while restless eyed men are scattered here and there. Music is furnished by an unknown musician playing on a brokendown piano. Sam is bringing the wall of the room to a high polish with his back. Suddenly he receives a great inspiration. Crosses to R. Stage and confront Mary Lou, a friend of Lulu, Sarah and Wilhelmina.)

Sam. Mary, may I have the next dance?

Mary (No answer)

Sam. Ahem, ahem! Mary, may I have the next dance?

Mary. (Comes out of her trance)

What did you say?

Sam. (Repeating very clearly)

May I have the next dance?

Mary. No.

Sam. Why not?

Mary. Because.

Sam. Because what?

Mary. I have the next dance engaged.

Sam clutches at a chair to keep himself from falling but misses the arm of it by several inches and he tumbles to the floor as Mary Lou goes upstairs without waiting to have the next dance. As Sam goes unconscious he has a suspicion that Mary did not have that dance after all.)

**QUICKER CURTAIN**

(Curtain goes up again showing Sam making an exit parallel to the stage in the company of two burly stage hands.)

Next week will be printed the companion play entitled "HOW THE WORM TOOK A HUNDRED AND EIGHTY DEGREE TURN" or "THE HIGH LID CRUSHED OVER THE EARS." This promises to be even more enthralling and powerful than this above printed drama.

**LIBRARY NOTES**

Do you relish "a little nonsense now and then?" You may find it in Leacock's College days.

Do you know much about X rays? You might add to your knowledge through Clark's Applied X rays.

Have you given any thought as to WHO are the Microbe hunters? Do a little hunting yourself in the work by De Kruif, just added to the library.

Would you like to belong to the Literary Guild of America? You may decide the question after reading about it and learning its advantages. Are you studying the Moslem word? There are a few works to be found in the card catalog relating to this subject.

Has your thought and interest been aroused through the recent debates on Mussolini and his policies in the present and future welfare of Italy? You might be glad to gather information along this line as reviewed in the Graphic Survey of March 1st.

Have you the North American Indian interest in footprints? You might find a few of a different type left on the sands of time by worth while men and women whose trails have been notched by their biographers.

Are you seeking suggestions for novelties in planning parties and entertainments? Possibly you may not have noticed the Dennison publication now under its new form Dennison's party magazine, to be found on the Periodical shelf.

Do negro melodies and songs appeal to you? Try out the music to be found in The book of American Negro spirituals, two volumes of which have been recently added to the library. These are compiled and edited by James Weldon Johnson, the musical arrangements being by his brother J. Rosamond Johnson, both men of ability of the negro race.

Do snappy pithy remarks strike your fancy? Glance through "The world's best epigrams, pungent paragraphs containing the best modern epigrams, proverbs and puns gleaned from the world's periodicals." An example from these is "The man who wakes up and finds himself famous hasn't been asleep." Could this be called on Irish Bull? Have you seen the early imprint of the little book on Irish bulls written by Maria Edgeworth and her father, which forms a part of the Irish exhibit in the library?



We are on our way to The Almanian. Watch for us next week.

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**"The Man of the Forest"**

Wednesday, March 16

CLARA BOW

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"Free to Love"

Thursday and Friday,

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BETTY BRONSON

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"Everybody's Acting"

This is especially good.

Saturday, March 19

GEORGE O'HARA

in

"A Timid Terror"

Sunday and Monday

March 20 and 21

LON CHANEY

in

"The Ordeal"

Tuesday and Wednesday

March 22 and 23

DOROTHY GISH

in

"LONDON"