2-1905

Lookout, Volume 9, Number 8, February 1905

I. W. Patterson

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Patterson, I. W., "Lookout, Volume 9, Number 8, February 1905" (1905). Daily Campus Archives. 82.
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FEBRUARY NUMBER, 1905

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EGGS FOR HATCHING.

As has been customary the Poultry Department is prepared to supply a limited number of eggs for hatching, the object being to encourage the wider distribution of thoroughbred fowls throughout the state. The following varieties are offered: Barred and White Plymouth Rocks; White Wyandottes; Black Langshans; S. C. White Leghorns; R. C. Brown Leghorns. Eggs, 75c per 13. White Pekin Ducks. Eggs, 75c per 10.

After September 1st,
Breeding Stock will be furnished at Reasonable Rates.

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Success is in no other business more dependent upon quality than it is in dairying. The best prices are possible only for that perfect flavor and superior quality of butter that the best methods alone can produce. The use of

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President, I. W. Patterson.
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Captain and Manager, H. B. Risley.

Basketball Team.
Captain, G. M. Chapman.
Manager, S. P. Hollister.
Assistant Manager, D. J. Minor.

Baseball Team.
Captain, P. H. Cornwall.
Manager, R. G. Tryon.
Assistant Manager, T. C. Waters.

Students' Organization.
President, P. H. Cornwall.
First Vice-President, I. W. Patterson.
Second Vice-President, M. P. Laubscher.
Secretary, H. B. Risley.
Treasurer, A. Miller.

Class Officers.
Seniors, 1905—G. M. Chapman, Jr.
Sophomores, 1907—A. Miller.
Freshmen, 1908—H. T. Dyson.
Editorials.

When we first took upon ourselves the responsibility of managing this periodical, it was our intention, if such a thing lay within our power, to add several members of Grove Cottage to our list of contributors. Our readers have seen for themselves the indifferent success we have achieved. We admit ourselves to be utterly defeated in this project; still, we hold as strongly as ever that the feminine portion of the student body should help support the College paper. C. A. C. is co-educational, but the young ladies are constantly falling to a position farther and farther in the background. This condition exists simply because they will not assert themselves. If they are content to remain in their present subordinate position, who but themselves is to blame? We may safely say that the difference in the relative standing of the masculine and feminine of our constituency is greater than in other institutions of this kind. It is a question for discussion whether or not the inmates of Grove Cottage should be admitted to the students' organization, but there is no doubt that they could attain important positions in other directions—for instance, the management of the Lookout. We learn from our exchanges that it is not uncommon in Agricultural Colleges to have the College paper partly in the hands of the young ladies. We wish this might be the case at Storrs, but are forced to admit that there seems to be no immediate prospect of attaining the desired result.

We understand that a public debate between the two literary societies is in process of arrangement. This will be the first debate of its kind, as far as we are
able to learn, ever held here. It is to be hoped that in the future such contests will be of annual occurrence. A little friendly competition will raise the standard of work in both societies.

Although winter makes us more than ever conscious of our secluded and breezy situation, the true philosopher finds many consolations. Perhaps his most consoling thought is that he is absolutely free from the overheated room—sometimes claimed to be the bugbear of American health.

Why is it that more students do not compete for the Hick’s prize? During the past three years there have been in all five competitors. It seems as though the prize—thirty dollars for first, twenty dollars for second—is sufficient in itself to warrant a more brisk rivalry.

It looks as if a reaction from the western movement were taking place. Why is it that western farmers are buying farms in the East? Certainly it is not because the land is more fertile or more easily worked. We believe it is due to a nearer and higher market for farm produce. If a farmer does not desire to go into agriculture on a large scale, there is no doubt but that certain portions of the East furnish him better advantages than the West. If this movement continues, it will not be long before our rural sections will be repopulated.

The undefeated Girls’ basketball team of C. A. C. is a thing of the past. We trust the defeats will not be without the sweet uses of adversity.

Connecticut has been the object of considerable criticism of late on the outcome of her senatorial campaign. Boston papers are especially scathing in their remarks. Evidently, in her endeavors to locate a mote in Connecticut’s eye, Boston has forgotten for the moment the beam in her own eye. It is a well-known fact that she has a released criminal in a high municipal office. If Connecticut ever comes to such a pass, she will know where to look for advice which experience—the dearest but best of teachers—will enable Boston to give.

We learn with satisfaction that the Grange is in favor of the erection of a new dormitory at Storrs. The following is a portion of State Master Wood’s address at the meeting of the State Grange, January 11-13:

“Connecticut Agricultural College.

“Many years ago the Connecticut Agricultural College was started under another name, and developed its present prosperous standing among educational institutions. Through all its years of prosperity and adversity the Grange has been its firm friend and counsellor. Its record is cherished by all real friends of agriculture for the good it has done and the many young men it has helped to become our foremost progressive farmers. I commend its interests to your careful consideration, feeling sure its management and purpose are worthy of your best thought. Years ago I remarked that a multitude of students was the best argument for liberal financial aid from the state. To-day the College is crowded and will ask the legislature to build and equip
a new dormitory. I think we should do what we can to help create a sentiment in favor of this and also aid in securing such further assistance as will fit the College for its greatest usefulness. The College has outgrown its first intent, and with proper treatment and support is destined to fill an important place in our agricultural future. More than this, I believe the College is ready to adapt itself for such training in mechanic arts as its students and circumstances require."

New Dormitory.

The Connecticut Agricultural College is overcrowded. Before the past fall term opened, it had a waiting list of applicants for admission next September. In fact, all of the boarding accommodations at Storrs were booked so early in the summer that it was necessary to omit the usual August entrance examinations, not only at Storrs but also at Hartford, New Haven, Danbury, and Norwich.

The need of a new dormitory, though more pronounced this year than before, has been keenly felt for several years. Resolutions have been passed repeatedly at meetings of the State Grange calling for improvement at the College in this respect. Recently after a hearing at the Capitol, the Governor, Comptroller, and Treasurer made a favorable report on the reasonable necessity of a new dormitory for sixty-six men. When announced at the annual State Grange meeting, this favorable report was received with marked enthusiasm.

Working plans and specifications have been prepared by Messrs. Davis and Brooks, of Hartford, who submitted the preliminary sketches. Bids will be secured at the earliest possible date, and it is expected that the most acceptable bid will be embodied in the bill prepared for the consideration of the Committee on Appropriations of the present General Assembly.

At least one-third of the new building will be required in order to relieve the present congested condition.

The new building will not only provide more wholesome quarters for students; it will also make it possible to equip the laboratory, in which eight students are now living, for the study of soils, fertilizers and seeds. No State appropriation will be required for this equipment, money for this purpose being provided by funds annually received from the federal treasury—funds which the Trustees of the College are forbidden to use except for teaching or research.

The work of the College has never stood so well with the farmers of the State as it does to-day. Its mechanical and domestic science courses are also appreciated. And its Summer School for teachers has during the past three years won a well-deserved popularity among those who are interested in country life, and who desire to see introduced into the public schools, particularly in rural communities, sensible and practicable ideas and methods in the teaching of those subjects which deal with nature and the rural home.

Another fact which has helped to build up the institution is the low cost to the student of its education. All expenses for teaching are provided for by United States funds. Tuition, therefore, is free in all departments. The cost to the student is
THE NEW DORMITORY
NEEDED AT
CONNECTICUT AGR'L COLLEGE.

GOOD QUARTERS
FOR
SIXTY-SIX MEN.

CONSTRUCTION PLAIN
BUT OF
BRICK AND STONE.

Direct sunlight in every bed-room, and in all studies but the six on the north end. Bathing facilities ample.
Building, bound to be quiet and practically fire-proof. No waste room; space utilized from
bottom of basement to roof. Convenient and healthy location.
the bare cost of living—board (including heat and light), clothes, and books. Some students even pay their entire expenses by routine work on the farm or grounds, in the orchards, gardens, or stables, or in and about the College buildings. The College keeps four representative breeds of dairy cattle—Jerseys, Guernseys, Ayrshires, and Holsteins. It has a half-dozen different kinds of poultry. It has oxen, steers, sheep and swine. It keeps different types of horses, including mares, colts, and a grand four-year-old Coach stallion imported from France. It cultivates numerous varieties of vegetables, and no fewer than three hundred different varieties of fruit. It has wooded reservations requiring work in forestry, and there is work amongst the ornamental trees, shrubs, and plants on the campus. Purely instructive work is not paid for; but much of the ordinary routine labor is not only remunerative to the student but instructive as well.

In 1890 the late Senator Morrill said before Congress: "The most valuable direct favor the Government has ever bestowed upon agriculture and the mechanic arts was unquestionably the endowment of the so-called agricultural colleges, where the leading object provided was 'to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes.' That they have done and are doing educational work most highly appreciated and of the widest practical value, and a kind of work never more urgently needed by our country than at the present time, there can be no doubt.

"The land-grant colleges are institutions that do not lift the cost of their instruction out of the reach of the many, nor generate habits of profuse expenditure, and are healthy homes for students, especially for those destitute of hereditary resources, who look only to a life of honorable effort and labor."

During the last College year there were in attendance at the land-grant colleges, of which The Connecticut Agricultural College is one, 52,489 students. Of these 3,146 were in four year courses in agriculture, and 7,550 in shorter courses in agriculture, dairying, horticulture, and veterinary science. Their graduates in 1903 numbered 4,524; and since their founding, 53,252.

These figures, taken from Secretary Wilson's last report, and Senator Morrill's remarks may be of interest as showing the great educational movement of which the work of our institution is a part.

In conclusion it will suffice to say that in the construction of the new dormitory all extravagance will be avoided. A modest but pleasing design has been chosen. The materials called for are brick and lime-stone, with slate and metal roof. Inexpensive wood will be specified for interior finishing. It is designed that the building shall be practically fire-proof. Direct sunlight in all bedrooms, and in all studies, excepting six on the extreme north end, will be provided for. There will be ample bathing facilities in the basement; and in order to reduce expense there will be no plumbing above the basement, except for steam heating.

Rufus W. Stimson.
College Notes.

Bright and early on a morning not so very long ago, a mysterious little triangular flag was seen floating from the top of the college flag staff. The flag was yellow, and bore on its field, the cabalistic figures 908. From the color, together with the mysterious legend, those familiar with the wiles of the advertiser concluded that the fluttering bit of bunting was intended to advertise some sort of tobacco. Later, the discouraged freshmen explained that the symbol stood for the numerals representative of their class. They further set forth to their wondering friends, that the pole itself was intended to call to the mind of the casual observer the number, one; from this as a premise, they argued, that an ordinarily astute intellect would naturally proceed to the numerals displayed on the triangle, and thus reach the solution of the puzzle in the number 1908. They furthermore explained that it was up to the class of 1907 to remove this emblem of freshman ambition and industry. It was, when explained as a challenge to the sophomores, promptly and silently removed. With it, disappeared the hal­yards.

Nor is the freshman flag the only thing that has disappeared in a mysterious manner. Gone, too, are the faucets and sinks that of old adorned the hallway in the New Dorm—and with them have gone, as well, the good times when the heroes of the Dorm waged fierce battle with streams of water for weapons. The armory failing, the wars have ceased. What will our old-time brethren do, when they return for a visit, and undertake to show us how things were done in the good old days of yore?

At the meeting of the State Dairymen’s Association recently held in Hartford, the College was represented by a fair number of the alumni, and by the students of dairying. Among the speakers were Professor Beach, and Dr. Lehnert.

Some careless person recently left a quantity of broken glassware on the floor of the shower bath-room. It is hoped that if his thoughtlessness cannot be re­formed, he may be the one to run across his own proposition.

We are all familiar with the saying that “Murder will out!” Many members of the Shakespearean Club have good evidence, and one member from personal experience, that “swiping will out.” The case is interesting and will bear a little space here. The one member, before re­ferred to, swiped a handful of matches from the cottage and putting them in his coat pocket forgot all about them until later in the evening, when, trying his skill in wrestling with a rival in the art, the matches were ignited. The victim of his own depravity was soon seen in ex­cited and continuous action. He called aloud for a fire extinguisher. It is said that he has sworn off stealing matches, and does not even carry a match-safe around with him any more.

What promises to be an interesting public debate is to occur in the near future as a result of a challenge by the Eclectic Literary Society to the Shakespearean Club. The subject has not yet been chosen.

The record of the Girls’ basket ball team, which hitherto has been one un-
broken victory, is no more, and defeat at the hands of New Haven High School started the ball rolling. Undisputed victory is not common in athletics, and defeat comes sooner or later to all, but the defeats that come now should make the team more than determined to start anew the old record and to make an effort to hold it for another three years!

The C. A. C. Bulletin for December and January is now out. It contains an elaborate description of the proposed new dormitory together with the plans and cut of the proposed building when completed. The need for such a building is also set forth; figures showing what other states are doing for their agricultural institutions also appear in the bulletin.

Cablegram—London, Jan. 28. Lord Barker has just received a grant of £150 from the Bishop of Cheshire.

What is it that makes Dewey so anxious to go down to Copeland's Friday nights? He says that he is teaching Davy how to play the guitar. We are glad to note among his other good qualities a fondness for children.

Please, Miss Richards, can I wait on the Cushing Academy girls?—Nash.

The semi-annual collection of crockery from the rooms in the dormitories occurred during the week of January 28. Mr. Fenn made diligent search in all the rooms for dining hall property, and we all know he found a goodly collection. Since then there have been many inquiries for the lost cups and pitchers that everyone seems to have brought from home.

Oliver Tuller is taking a course in physical culture. Part of the course involves a fast one day in each week. Evidently he failed to appreciate good advice for he missed breakfast by mistake, but forgot all about physical culture at dinner time.

On the morning of February 1st, Professor White gave an illustrated lecture on mushrooms to his botany class.

On Wednesday evening, February 1st, the freshmen rhetoricals of the class of 1908 were given in the College chapel. The speakers chosen to compete for the Hick's prizes next term were Miss Foster, M. H. Griswold, O. C. Burgess, and F. A. Loveland.

We are very sorry to learn of the departure of our fellow-student and friend, Mr. Gillette. He has been with us since last summer and was foremost in all his classes bringing up many new and interesting questions, upon which he seemed to be very well posted.

Messrs. Tryon, Waters, and Laubscher have taken up temporary residence in Agricultural hall. The air in the Old Dorm is too confining, so, as a matter of health, they have moved to the cooler regions.

The rats of the cottage have also moved and now occupy the Old Dorm in great numbers. A raid on rats is the next racket and we hope it will terminate without anyone getting a vacation.

On the evening of February 3rd, the great event of the season, the military ball took place. We shouldn't want to say that it was the best military ball ever seen at Storrs, for that would be vanity; but we can say without reserve that every one had a good time, and that is what a ball is for!

The floor was filled from the first steps of
the grand march to the “Home, Sweet Home,” with a good natured crowd. All know what a small floor we have at Storrs, and they know it requires no little patience to keep a large gathering in good humor. The programmes, owing to a misunderstanding, did not arrive until after the first dance. The decorations were pretty and appropriate. Among the out-of-town guests were: Miss Sauer, of Unionville; Miss Bartlett, of Broad Brook; Misses Macauley and Ohlweiler, of Bethel; Misses Dewey and Pierce, of Wapping; Miss Minor, of New Haven; Miss Dimock, of Merrow; Misses Olker, Green and Monteith, of Simmons College; Geo. Hollister, Greenwich; Frank McLean, of Baltimore Dental College; S. M. Crowell, of Middletown; and Prof. C. P. Close, of Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station.

Athletic Notes.

Basket ball is without a doubt losing popularity with the high schools throughout the state. In one day we had letters cancelling three games with three different high schools. While we would rather play some good team it is often times a choice of not playing at all or of playing some local town team.

Connecticut, 8. New Haven High School, 16.

January 21st the Girls’ team of New Haven High School played the C. A. C. girls and won by a score of 16 to 8. It was the first defeat which the C. A. C. Girls’ team ever experienced.

Our girls were playing under strange rules and in the second half they were penalized seemingly more than was necessary by the New Haven coach. At the end of the first half the score was C. A. C., 6; N. H. H. S., 4.

Line-up:

C. A. C. N. H. H. S.
Miss Clark....... r. f. Miss Stow
Miss Shurtleff...... l. f. Miss Dobbins
Miss Eddy....... c. Miss Ruth
Miss Donavan..... r. g. Miss Olmstead
Miss Hurlburt..... l. g. Miss Stanford

Baskets—Miss Donovan, 3; Miss Hurlburt, 1; Miss Ruth, 6; Miss Stow, 1;
Fouls—Miss Ruth, 2.

The Difficulties of the Manager of Athletic Teams at Storrs.

The management of athletic teams at Storrs is not such an easy matter as might be supposed. Each manager has a difficult task before him. The football manager begins the year with the most distasteful part of all, it is that of soliciting money. The funds thus raised are the main support of the athletic association, and must be divided between the three managements according to their needs. The chief source of income by solicitation is the faculty. They contribute the larger part of the funds available at the beginning of the year. Another source of income is from the students. This, however, does not amount to much as each student is taxed only twenty-five cents a year. And of the students present only about seventy per cent. pay even this small tax.

There are also a number of miscellaneous sources such as the alumni, entertainments, etc. These contribute varying amounts; but these are not to be depended
Upon. Summing up these various sources we find that we have in the neighborhood of one hundred and thirty dollars as a yearly allowance.

This small amount makes it necessary for the managers to figure in the closest possible manner in order to arrange suitable games, and equip their respective teams. Under these circumstances managers cannot afford to pay large guarantees for games to be played at home, as these games do not receive proper support from the students; nor can they afford to take long trips where they receive but half the expenses.

One of the great misfortunes is that the college is not situated in a large town where outside support at games could be had. As it is, the faculty are admitted free because of their generous support given in the way of subscriptions, and only a small part of the students show college spirit enough to attend the games, so that only a small amount is collected at the gate.

In order to make a respectable showing and play against respectable teams, the athletic funds ought to be increased. This could be done by methods adopted by other colleges and schools. For example a compulsory tax is laid on each student, this tax ranging from three to ten dollars a year, and the payment of this admits them to all athletic contests, free of charge.

If this method were adopted in our own institution, and a tax of five dollars laid on each student, with our present number about five hundred dollars could be raised, which amount, together with one hundred dollars contributed by the faculty, would make a total sufficient to carry on all athletic contests in a way that would bring credit to the college.

This, however, does not lie in the hands of the students, but with the faculty. All the students can do is to support all games and entertainments pertaining to the Athletic Association.

We do not want the faculty to gain the impression from this article, that we are finding fault with their contributions, but rather that we wish to thank them for their great interest and the financial support which they give the association.

Grafting.

Among the different methods of propagation in common use by the horticulturist, one of the most ancient and perhaps the most used, is grafting. Grafting is a method of propagating plants, especially trees, in which a cutting, or cion from a young growth of the variety desired is fitted and placed upon a root or a branch with root attached which is used as a stock for the cion to grow on.

Grafting is used for a number of different purposes. A grafted or budded tree is almost certain to produce fruit true to name, or the same variety that is set. Seedling trees, on the other hand, seldom or never produce fruit-bearing any resemblance to the tree or fruit from which the seed was taken. Then, again, by grafting, the time in which the tree will produce fruit will be much shortened. Grafting is used in some cases to produce dwarf trees, which are used where space is to be economized or where quality is desired regardless of quantity. It is em-
ployed in some special cases to adapt a tree to growth on certain soil, as for instance, a peach grafted on a plum root will grow better on a clay soil than if growing on its own roots. The process of grafting is limited to varieties of the same or similar species and in a few cases to different genera. Thus a peach would not be grafted to an apple or vice versa. Of course it goes without saying that only healthy trees or plants should be used in grafting.

To obtain success in grafting, it is necessary that the work be done carefully and thoroughly. Few tools are necessary for the work, a sharp knife of approved form being sufficient for most light wood. In working on larger wood the knife is supplemented by a saw and sometimes by grafting chisels. The principal thing is to secure a perfect union of the growing parts of stock and cion, and then to cover the union carefully so as to keep air and moisture away from the grafts. For this purpose grafting wax is commonly used. This is usually made by putting in a kettle four parts by weight of rosin, two parts beeswax, and one part tallow. These are boiled one-half hour or until the rosin is well dissolved. The mixture is then thrown into cold water and pulled like molasses candy, as soon as it can be handled.

The cions used in grafting are usually cut late in the fall from one year old wood. They are then labelled carefully and packed in sawdust or sphagnum moss to keep them moist, and stored over winter in a place where the temperature is even and preferably not lower than freezing. They are not hurt by freezing but repeated freezing and thawing will weaken the vitality of the cions.

Grafting is divided into three branches, dependent on the methods used. These are bud grafting, cion grafting and inarching. The first two are the ones most generally used by the horticulturist, inarching being used only in special cases where it would not be safe to use the bud or cion method.

Some of the more common methods of cion grafting, according to the manner in which the stock and cion are joined, are splice, tongue or whip, veneer, cleft, crown, and saddle grafting. Of these methods a little description may be in order.

The splice graft is made by simply cutting the stock and cion slantingly; tying the two with waxed string, and covering the joint with wax. The veneer graft is used on pithy wood which cannot be cut into. A slight layer is cut from one side of both stock and cion. The growing parts of each are then placed in contact and the whole tied with waxed string and paper.

The cleft graft is used almost wholly in top grafting. That is, when it is desired to graft young wood of one variety on to the top of an old tree. In this work the stock is usually two inches in diameter, while the cions, of which two are commonly used, are less than one-half inch in diameter. The stock is split with the grafting chisel and the cions cut wedge-shaped and put one on each side of the cleft with their cambium or growing layers in contact with that of the stock. The whole joint is then very carefully waxed over to keep out moisture.

Crown grafting is often used for the
same purpose as the cleft, especially when it is not desired to split the stock. The cions are cut with a shoulder having a very thin piece of wood below it. The bark of the stock is then split down a short distance and the cion set under the bark so that it bears against the growing layer of the stock.

The saddle graft is sometimes used when the cion is of larger size than the stock. The cion is cut with a V-shaped base to set on to the top of the stock which is made wedge-shaped to receive it. The joint is tied and waxed like the other methods.

The graft which is used almost wholly by nurserymen in propagating apple and some other fruit trees, is what is known as the whip or tongue graft. By this method the cions of the variety it is desired to propagate are grafted to pieces of one year old roots of seedling trees.

The operation is as follows: The cions are cut four inches long with the lower end slanting and having a cut downward from the slant parallel with the bark. The roots are cut in like manner, but only three inches long, being first trimmed of all side rootlets. The stocks and cions are then fitted together and tied with waxed string. These grafts, in regular nursery work, are usually made in a graft shop during the winter months and stored in damp sawdust until they can be planted in the spring. By that time, a callus will have formed about the stock and cion where they are joined, and the plant will soon start roots and develop a healthy growth if the grafting has been properly and carefully done. This same method is often used for top grafting young trees in nursery work. T. H. DESMOND, '06.

Alumni Notes.

Wednesday night, February 1st, the annual banquet of the Connecticut Agricultural College alumni was held in Hartford. About forty-five members were present. Among the number were S. W. Hayes, '86; W. J. Irvin, '87; C. H. Savage, '88; Merton Chapman, '89; C. B. Pomeroy, Jr., '90; H. G. Manchester and A. R. Yale, '91; C. G. Allen and H. E. French, '92; E. Y. Beard, W. H. Bishop and W. A. Warren, '93; C. R. Green and A. J. Pierpont, '95; Mrs. G. E. Eddy, C. T. Curtis, Stancliff Hale, O. F. King, Mrs. G. E. Palmer and E. H. Waite, '96; B. S. Taylor, '97; H. L. Garrigus and G. E. Smith, '98; R. H. Gardener, E. F. Manchester and Mrs. W. E. Lucchini, '99; R. P. Dewey, '00; E. P. Brown and F. F. Downing, '01; H. L. Bushnell and G. H. Hollister, '02; Mosley Hale, '03. The following were called upon for toasts by toastmaster, C. H. Savage; Hayes, '86; Chapman, '89; Pomeroy, '90; Allen, '92; Green and Pierpont, '95; Mrs. Eddy, King and Waite, '96; Garrigus, '98; Downing, '01; Hollister, '02. Several of the college faculty and upper classmen were also present. President Stimson was called upon for an address and gave some of the conditions and needs of the college. A resolution was passed approving the erection of a new dormitory.

We are pleased to learn that several of our alumni are representing their respective towns in the legislature this winter.

'85. Frank Fenner is at present conducting a poultry plant in partnership with his father in Mansfield. He still carries on his mercantile business in Waterbury.
'92. We are pleased to announce the marriage on January 8th, of Rev. Seth Buell to Miss Eva A. Smith, of Revenna, Neb.

'96. O. F. King, of South Windsor, Conn., has been appointed clerk of two legislative committees and is also clerk of the farmers' organization.

'98. N. J. Webb has left the employment of the Eagle Lock Company, Terryville, and expects to go to Ohio.

'99. E. C. Welden is employed by a mining company in New Mexico.

'00. Osmun is taking a post-graduate course at Massachusetts Agricultural College.

'01. E. P. Brown, who is in the employ of H. G. Cheney, of South Manchester, Conn., has recently been in Madison, N. J., buying several fine head of Guernseys for his employer.

Ex. '03. A. N. Clark recently visited the College for a few hours.

Ex. '04. Miss Moriarty is teaching school in Turnerville, Conn.

The military ball was held in the College hall, Friday night, February 3d. Among the alumni present were J. N. Fitts, '97; Edmonds, '00; Crowell and Hollister, '02; McLean, '03; Shurtleff, Miss Monteith, Miss Dimock and Miss Sauer, '04.

The alumni played the varsity basket ball team and were defeated. Only three alumni played—Crowell, McLean and Shurtleff.

Miss Monteith and Miss Dimock, with three college girls, defeated the regular girls' team at basket ball Saturday afternoon.

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Economic Fungi and the Farmer.

The term, "Economic" fungi, is used to distinguish all those fungi which obtain their nourishment from living plants; and, by so doing, cause disastrous results, known as plant diseases, to their hosts. Another less important group, the edible fungi, come properly under this head; but we shall confine ourselves strictly to those members which are injurious to plants. The attacks of each fungus are limited to only certain species of plants; some of the lower forms attacking only one species; the higher forms, several species. There are very few individuals among the higher plants which are not susceptible to some member or members of this group, and there are comparatively few diseases not caused by fungi. Moreover, there are few species of fungi which are not susceptible to certain preventives or remedies.

In order to throw light upon further procedure, let us examine a thin section of an attacked plant through a compound microscope. The filaments of the fungus are seen in long, thin threads among the cells. These filaments, either by forcing themselves through the cells or by sending out short projections, absorb the cell contents; and in a surprisingly short time cause serious results to the plants infected. The reproductive bodies, according to the species, appear as spherical, ovoid, or cylindrical bodies attached to the main filament or to short branchlets from this structure. These bodies are filled with minute spores, the seeds of all the lower plants. When the spore-case is ripe, the spores are discharged in large
numbers; and by means of air currents are carried to new host plants. An entire field of this certain host plant under consideration may be infected in a short time. The structure and reproduction of the different fungi may vary greatly. The filaments (mycelium) may become massed and hardened on the surface of the plant, as in the grain ergot—forming very noticeable bodies to the naked eye; the spores may be produced naked or in peculiar bodies hardly recognizable as spore-cases; or the spore-cases may be compound (the case containing smaller cases, inside of which are the spores). All these forms, however, are based upon the simple description given.

The farmer, being a raiser of crops, must needs come constantly in contact with economic fungi, and there is no farmer who has not sustained a loss of greater or less importance from these pests. The spores of the fungi are nearly everywhere, only certain weather conditions being necessary to cause infection of the plants. The effect which these fungi have on the farmer's welfare is tremendous. According as the attacks of fungi are serious or not and ill or well-treated, the farmer will end his days in want or in a comfortable home. A fact which may emphasize this statement is that the great famine of 1846 which took place in Ireland was due entirely to a common fungus, the potato blight. Many other examples of historical interest might be mentioned.

Now let us consider the importance of a knowledge of these fungi to the farmer. It is true that after certain fungi have established a foothold, nothing he can learn at the present day will suffice to rid him of the pest. However, if he can detect and recognize the disease before it has gained headway, he can prevent any appreciable loss by destroying the infected plants and using a suitable preventive on those remaining. Still better, he can treat his crops with a preventive as soon as he sees the weather is right for infection; and, thereby, destroy the vitality of the spores which fall on the leaves, germinate, and infect the plant.

But the average farmer knows little of the habits of fungi, and treating a disease before it has made its appearance seems an impossibility to him. Let us suppose, for example, the farmer's seed-bed has been attacked by the damping-off fungus, a serious pest to seedlings. The owner of the bed sees nothing wrong, until one morning he finds several of the young plants lying flat on the ground, the tops still green. He probably considers this the work of some insect because of the rapidity with which it has been done. Thinking that the inroad on his plants will not be great, he gives little thought to the matter. A few days later, if the weather has been suitable for the spreading of the fungus, he sees that great havoc has been made. Still ignorant of the nature of the disease, he is ignorant of the cause and of the remedies; so that next year the same thing may happen over again with the same result. Now if this farmer had been aware of the existence of a fungus which attacked the stems of seedlings, if he had known its causes, its remedies, and its preventives, he could have saved his seedlings by judicious planting in the first place or by transplanting after the dis-
ease had started. The damping-off fungus has been chosen for an example because of the blind nature of the disease, its disastrous results, and the simple methods of avoiding or remediing it.

However little the average farmer may know about economic fungi, he cannot be without some knowledge on the subject. Some assertions previously made may appear to be contradictory to this statement. It is true that a large number of farmers know practically nothing about fungi, but they do know that under certain conditions their plants will die. A moment's thinking will make this point plain. There are few plant diseases not caused by fungi, and there are few plants not susceptible to infection. Successful farming, therefore, is greatly dependent on the combating of these diseases. A farmer may know very little of fungi as they exist, but to raise crops successfully he must know something about the conditions under which the common fungi thrive and the means of preventing their attacks. Any farmer knows that peas planted late in the season are very apt to be attacked by a peculiar disease which causes the vines to turn white and the pods to wither, that damp weather is suitable for potato blight, and that soggy, wet soil is not the place to plant garden seeds; but that the disastrous results are the work of fungi he does not know. Mushrooms, moulds, and the other fungi he can easily see appeal to him as vague, uncanny, organisms which live on decaying substance; and he little thinks that the death of his plants is due to a fungus of which he sees only the effects, or perhaps, the fruiting bodies such as the fuzz of the potato blight, the black knot of the grain ergot, or the brown spots of the rusts. Owing to his belief that fungi live only on decaying substance, he thinks that the fungi on his plants—those which he can easily see—are there because the plant is dying or dead. That fungi enter living plants, sap their strength, and cause their death, never crosses his mind. He has little idea that the very foundations of his successful planting and caring of crops are greatly dependent on those uncanny organisms called fungi.

Because of variations in the habits of the different fungi, it is highly necessary that he have a true knowledge of them rather than a vague idea of the causes and preventives of their attacks. What would be a remedy for one disease would have no effect on another. The reason for this is that some of the fungi have the filaments on the epidermis, gaining their nourishment by projections into the epidermal cells; while others have the filaments inside the plant tissue. The former may be remedied by certain solutions; while for the latter, only preventives are of use. Weather conditions produce various effects on fungi, and consequently the treatment will vary according to the season. We see of what great importance it would be to the farmer to recognize the diseases, to know their habits, and to use the suitable preventives or remedies. He could then save money formerly invested on useless remedies, more successfully combat the diseases, and be able to increase his produce greatly. Many famines which are found in the annals of history could have been prevented if the individual farmers had possessed a knowledge of modern
treatment of fungus diseases. Notwithstanding the differences of opinion as to the benefits to be derived from potato spraying, it is very probable that the famine in Ireland would never have been if this process had then been known.

If what has been said concerning the importance of a knowledge of economic fungi be true, this question may arise in your minds: Why is it that more farmers do not possess a knowledge on a subject so vitally connected with their welfare?

The answer is that scientific men have not long been studying economic fungi with success, and until recently they have thought the subject too deep for the average farmer. A few years ago it was thought sufficient to state to the farmer the proper conditions under which to plant and care for his crops in order to obtain the best results. Practically nothing about fungi, the destroyer of the crops, was stated. Bulletins were sent out from experiment stations stating the proper time of the year, the land best suited, and the best mode of caring for the crops; but nothing was said concerning the destroyers of the plants. The result of this kind of knowledge is easily seen. If the farmer carried out what the bulletins stated, he of course did much to keep off the fungi; but the best of this kind of care is far from a sure preventive. If the weather be right, his crops may be attacked notwithstanding his most careful efforts. If this happened, the farmer was at a loss. He did not know what was the matter with his crops, and of course could not tell the proper remedies for certain diseases.

Much has been done in late years to change this condition. Experiment Stations are now sending out bulletins which accurately describe the gross and microscopical appearance of the different fungi and, also, the proper preventives and remedies. Each disease is taken up separately and fully, and the bulletins are distributed as widely as possible. In this way the farmer is able to recognize the diseases and combat them successfully. Of still more importance in this connection is the work done by agricultural colleges. In the largest and most important of these institutions a course in economic fungi is compulsory to those students taking the regular agricultural course. The consulting botanist does considerable to help the farmer by prescribing treatment for the diseases sent him. It would be much better, however, if the farmer could recognize and treat the disease himself; because in the two or three days which must elapse while he is waiting for a reply, the disease may gain such a foothold as to be almost beyond control. In the more slow diseases or if the weather be dry, consulting a botanist would be a great aid to every farmer; for advice would come in plenty of time.

From the work done in late years by experiment stations and agricultural colleges to increase the farmer's knowledge of fungi, we see that the eminent agriculturists realize that such knowledge is invaluable to the successful tiller of the soil. There is an immense amount of experimental work done on the treating of plant diseases, and it is only right to expect that in the future it will be considered as
next to impossible for a farmer to be without the benefits of these experiments.

We see, then, that fungi play a very important part in the welfare of the farmer, that the very foundations of agriculture are greatly dependent on the diseases produced by fungi, that a knowledge of fungi would save many a crop and would have prevented many famines found in history, that experiment stations and agricultural colleges are at present doing much to enlighten the farmer on the subject, and that in the future we may safely expect that to till the soil successfully the farmer must know the habits of all the fungi attacking his plants.

Exchanges.

The Riverview Student for January is a most satisfactory magazine. Its fund of stories is large and its various departments are cleverly handled.

The Collegian contains two articles to be noted: "Gainst Dreadful Odds" is well planned technically, but football is old, and a conglomeration of love and football is still more hackneyed. An article on Thanksgiving, too, is well written and makes an old and familiar subject interesting.

The Decaturian is a well written paper; it contains several well written stories, but more space might be given for exchanges.

The Skirmisher from St. Matthew's School is an awkward size for the number of pages it contains.

The Owl, Fresno, Cal., has a very attractive cover for the Christmas number.

The Bulkeley News is welcomed at Storrs. Its editors evidently possess a high appreciation of the columns of our contemporaries.

The Crimson and White, always interesting and welcome, does not devote much time to its exchanges.

The Purple and Gold, of November, shows a very decided improvement upon former numbers.

The Guard and Tackle is a very good paper in many respects; it contains some very good reading matter.

We were glad to receive the first issue of The Oak. Later numbers will, no doubt, show an improvement in arrangement.

The Editor of our College Notes
Had aspirations high;
He longed to put the little straps
On his shoulders, safe and dry.

So a gay, young belle from Danbury
Imported he one day,
And thus he schemed, quite cleverly,
To help him on his way.

And then our brave Commander
He easily took the bait,
And as it soon came Sunday
He wisely made a "date."

Now Sunday walks are pleasant
So they stayed out very late;
But keep your eye on Bennett
And see if he swallowed the bait.

— Anon.
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