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Bridgewater State Normal School

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NORMAL OFFERING
A-SCHOOL MONTHLY

January 1897.
During the school year we are constantly receiving calls for grade teachers. We are frequently unable to recommend such candidates as are wanted.

One Fee Registers in Both Offices. Send for Agency Manual.

110 Tremont St., Boston,
169 Wabash Ave., Chicago.
On Monday, January 4th, there quietly and suddenly passed away in Boston General Francis A. Walker, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was at one time a member of the Board of Education and one of the visitors of this school. He at all times showed a deep interest in the school, aiding it in many ways. He was especially helpful at the time when there was the talk of a new building.

A brother professor spoke of him in this wise: "And now that noble figure is laid low, mourn as they may—city, state and
country—it is his family and his institute which mourn and will not be comforted, because he is not.” “This figure, now become a shade, a memory, was the student’s friend and elder brother.”

Of his predecessor in the presidential office he has spoken words which we may apply to himself: “All his life he had borne himself most faithfully and heroically, and he died, as so good a knight would surely have wished, in harness at his post, and in the very part and act of public duty.”

President Capen in his annual report speaks thus of co-education: “It is proper, after four years from the first admission of women on equal terms with men, to make some report of the results produced by this change in the policy of the college. Speaking negatively, I am constrained to say that the admission of women has not had a tendency to reduce the number of men entering the different departments. There has been no friction arising from their presence in the class-room, and they have not increased materially the difficulties of administration. On the positive side it may be said their work has been as well done as the work of men. They have raised the tone of the class-room and quickened the serious efforts of student life. Their presence also has brought an element into the social atmosphere of the college which is very agreeable and very wholesome.”

“Life is as large as we ourselves do make it, But little room is needed for the scope Of individual faculty, desire And practicable duty. If we fill More space than nature has allotted us We waste ourselves in tensious expansion, And all our force but drifts to feebleness.”

Alfred Austin.

With this issue the present Editorial Board resign the pen to the recently elected board. We take this time to thank one and all for their aid in making these few issues a success. There is still much to be done on your part. The editors will, I am sure, cheerfully receive all manuscript offered them, also all subscriptions. As we have said in a previous issue, write something, if it is only your name, and the request to have the paper sent you. Let the Alumni contribute to these columns the results of their experiences, that others may profit by their failures, or strive for like successes. To the incoming board we extend a hearty grasp, and hope that they, profiting by our failures, may make a greater success than we. Au Revoir.

Swing open wide, 0 Gate That I may enter in And see what lies in wait For me who have been born! Her word I only scorn Who spake of death and sin.

I know what is behind Your heavy brazen bars; I heard it of the wind Where I dwelt yesterday: The wind that blows alway Among the ancient stars.

Life is the chiefest thing That wind brought knowledge of, As it passed, murmuring. Life with its infinite strength And undiminished length Of years fulfilled with love.

The wind spake not of sin That blows among the stars; And so I enter in (Swing open wide, 0 Gate!) Fearless of what may wait Behind your heavy bars.

From “Matins’” [Francis Sherman.

The Sub-Brumal Tale of the Securifer Arbolicolicus.

Once in former days sub-brumal Like unto these days of brightness. All the peoples three times daily Gathering by this board of sustenance
Did cry forth with mightly clamor
For a tree of perfect branching,
Straight, and clothed with emerald verdure.
Who should seek this tree of gladness
How it down with ace of keeness
Bear it home on mighty shoulders:
Who perform this joyful duty?

Long time strove they in election,
When the ballots all were rendered,
When the counting task accomplished,
The unanimous secret suffrage
Chose from their assembled number
One famed far and wide, and nobly,
For his strength of mind and body:
Who might bear the load of Atlas
Or might wield the beam Herculean.
Him did they invest with office,
Him did clothe with mighty functions,
Gave to him the axe of keeness,
Galled him by a proper title
Securifer Arbolicolicus.
(Axe-Wielder in Wood—Like Matters.)

Him did they invest with office,
Him did clothe with mighty functions,
Gave to him the axe of keeness,
Galled him by a proper title
Securifer Arbolicolicus.
(Axe-Wielder in Wood—Like Matters.)

Who might hear the load of Atlas
Or might wield the beam Herculean.
Him did they invest with office,
Him did clothe with mighty functions,
Gave to him the axe of keeness,
Galled him by a proper title
Securifer Arbolicolicus.
(Axe-Wielder in Wood—Like Matters.)

Then to find the tree predestinate
Strideth forth the great axe wielder;
Whitherward should blind chance lead him,
East or West or North or Southward?
Answereth thus his mind of sapience:
Surely now some secret influence
Spreadeth and distilleth subtly
From the silver flood of Carver;
It hath charms of potent binding
For the wearied lore-disciple.
If to mortal frames and natures
It hath given force unwonted
Why may not its balm of blessing
Have instilled into the plant world
Dwelling by its placid borders
Somewhat of its magic essence?
Thus his questful ways directed
Him by the well known pathway
To the flood of swelling fulness
Traces all its borders sharply
Finds no tree of size sufficient,
Perfect, straight, and clothed with verdure.
Spake he to the Lake Spright sadly,
Wherefor find I by your lakeside,

We have need of others counsel
We have need of others presence
We need star eyes ever present
We need star eyes ever present
We need star eyes ever present
We need star eyes ever present
We need star eyes ever present
We need star eyes ever present
We need star eyes ever present

A Visit to the Old North Church.

"If the British march by land or sea from the town tonight,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch
Of the North Church tower as a signal light!
One if by land, and two if by sea."
Christ Church, or better known as "The Old North Church," is situated on Salem Street, in the extreme north end of the city, and near the summit of Copp's Hill, one of the ancient landmarks of Boston. It was built in the year 1723, the corner stone being laid by the Rev. Samuel Myles, rector of King's Chapel, on the fifteenth day of April of that year, with the following words: "May the gates of Hell never prevail against it." It was opened for public service on December 29, while yet in an unfinished state.

The church is a substantial brick structure of medium size. Surmounting the brick work is a tower of wood, built in sections, and surmounted with a spire, the extreme height of the whole being one hundred and seventy-five feet. It is said to be a very pleasing piece of architecture, the design of which is attributed to that great church architect, Sir Christopher Wren. The spire was blown down in 1804 during a heavy gale, and was rebuilt in 1807. In 1848 it was taken down, repaired, and replaced in position.

This tower contains the first peal of bells ever brought to this country. These bells, eight in number, were purchased by subscription. Each bell has an inscription around the crown telling its own story. They are now considered the best and sweetest toned bells in the country.

It was from this tower, that on the 18th of April, 1775, was hung by Robert Newman, the sexton, the lights which sent Paul Revere "Through every Middlesex village and farm, For the country folk to be up and to arm!"

To commemorate this event, which linked the history of this church with that of the nation, the city of Boston caused a tablet to be placed on the tower, October 17, 1878.

On entering the church the appropriateness of the architectural surroundings is suggestive—the high galleries, arched ceiling, fluted columns, large windows with small panes of glass, and its straight line architecture.

The deep receding chancel is unchanged. In the centre, immediately over the altar, is a painting representing the Last Supper, the work of a Mr. Penniman. The painting over the chancel, representing the descent of the Holy Spirit—a dove and three cherubs—is the work of a Mr. Johnson. It has been in position over a century. Below it are the words, "This is none other than the House of God and this is the Gate of Heaven."

At the back of the church and looking toward the front, stands the organ. It was purchased and erected in its present position in 1759. In front of the organ are four statuettes. These were captured from a French vessel during the French war in 1746, by a Captain Grushae, who presented them to the church. They were intended for a Spanish church in the settlements on the St. Lawrence River.

Returning once more to the chancel, upon the desk we find a Bible, a very large and valuable edition printed in England in 1717. It is a copy of an edition quite celebrated on account of an error in printing. In the title at the top of the page on which a portion of the twentieth chapter of St. Luke is printed occur the following words: "The Parable of the Vinegar," instead of "The Parable of the Vineyard," on account of which error it is called the "Vinegar Bible." It may be interesting to note that this Bible was presented to the church by King George II, in 1733, together with fine large Prayer Books. He also presented it with a large chalice, the small paten or cover for chalice, and the large plate called receiver, and two flagons, as a portion of their communion service. These pieces are all of a very plain pattern in Sterl-
ing silver, and very valuable. They are inscribed as follows: "The gift of His Majesty King George II to Christ Church at Boston, in New England, at the request of His Excellency, Governor Belcher, 1733."

In a niche, at the left of the chancel, is a bust representing George Washington, which was presented to the church in 1815. It is reported to have been made by a celebrated Italian artist. Some claim it to be one, or a copy of, Houdon’s celebrated bust. It is said that when General Lafayette visited the church in 1826, while admiring it, when asked if it was a good likeness, very emphatically replied, while pointing to the bust, "Yes, that is my old friend and comrade, George Washington."

It may be well to note that in this church on June 14, 1815, was organized the first Sunday School known in this part of the world. There was on the first day enrolled as members 365 pupils. The old roster is still to be seen, with its quaint names for the lanes and alleys in that part of the city.

Reviewing Stand.

Wars and rumors of war, but no sword has been drawn by one civilized state against another through the whole of the year just passed. In many places the year has brought much bloodshed. There has been fighting in Crete, while the tale of massacres of the Armenians in all parts of the Turkish Empire is far from being complete. In all of these massacres Abdul Hamid embodies, as he does in his reign, the great object lesson as to the real nature of Turkish rule.

Without some such expression it would have been impossible for us to conceive the spirit which prompted those medieval European enterprises which we call Crusades. The question now is, how to govern the Sultan and make him amendable to the Powers. Russia wishes to take military possession of Constantinople, but the Czar is reported to have vetoed the program by observing that he was not in favor of coercion, yet nothing but coercion will ever bring the Sultan to terms. For years he has been playing for time and has won. He is one of the shrewdest of monarchs. Time is what he wants, and as long as Europe sits on the stilts and continues to smile his heart will not soften.

Much fighting has been going on in Crete in Cuba, in Madagascar and in the Phillipine Islands. The struggles on both sides, especially in Cuba and the Phillipines, has been marked by atrocities, of which the civilized world hears a little. In Madagascar, a French expedition against the Capital, has placed the French in nominal possession of the Island. Italy has suffered a great defeat in Abyssinia. This defeat shook down the Crispi ministry, and crippled Italy in the estimation of the European powers.

Famines in one part of India or another were of almost yearly recurrence a hundred years ago. The greatest triumph of the English rule has been its success in bringing from one district the surplus food to the relief of the starving in another. But things have taken a different phase. For the third year in succession the crops have failed, and there is fear that India is to suffer more than she has for fifty years.

In Cuba there still continues the bloody, barbarous warfare, waged by the Spanish against her rebellious subjects. General Weyler has taken the field in person, and an effort was made to push the fall campaign with decisive effort. There comes at the same time the announcement of the successful crossing of the "trocha," supposed to be impregnable, by Antonio Maceo, on December 4th.
This was followed by a great sensation in Cuba—a sensation that intensified the popular American feeling against Spain. It was reported that Antonio Maceo, the intrepid leader of this rally, had been killed in the resulting skirmish. Friends of the Cuban cause spread abroad a detailed report of how Maceo had been treacherously persuaded to meet certain Spanish leaders under a flag of truce, and that, with the members of his staff, he was murdered by men in ambush. Now comes the report that he was only seriously wounded, and is now out of danger, and on the road to recovery.

This affair had a great effect upon the American people, many believing Maceo had been treacherously murdered. Chief among the Cuban resolutions offered in the Senate was one for which Senator Cameron of Pennsylvania assumed responsibility. This was a short resolution, expressly recognizing the independence of the Republic of Cuba. The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, after a long, secret session with Secretary Olney, surprised the country on December 18th, by agreeing with practical unanimity to make a favorable report upon the Cameron resolution. It is well understood that a long discussion must ensue in the Senate, and that this debate could not take place until after the holiday adjournment of Congress. It remains therefore to be seen what will become of a resolution which, although probably in harmony with the feelings of a large majority of both houses, is also, evidently enough, quite contrary to the views and wishes of President Cleveland as outlined in his message.

Now to return to our little island of Cuba. It is true that the death of Maceo will seriously affect the cause of the insurgents, for the death of so effective and gallant a general as he was is a serious loss to any army or cause. His work is to be carried on in the West by General Rivera with General Gomez in command of the East. General Weyler, the Spanish military governor has been going through the motions of campaigning, but there is little to show that in his various excursions from his palace at Havana he has really participated in any engagements, or done anything that exhibited either military ability or personal courage of his ferocious cruelty there can now be no doubt.

Mr. Cleveland did not have much to say about the Venezuelan question in his message, beyond declaring that “negotiations for a treaty of general arbitration for all differences between Great Britain and the United States are far advanced, and promise to reach a successful consummation at an early date.” It is believed that this will be concluded in a few weeks, as the crowning act of Mr. Cleveland’s second term as chief magistrate.

In Mexico, our sister republic, President Porfirio Diaz has recently been inaugurated for his fifth term. The constitution of Mexico has had to be changed a time or two to allow General Diaz to administer affairs. Upon the whole, General Diaz is a most excellent ruler for Mexico, and the country is fortunate in his continued occupancy of the presidential chair.

In England there is rapidly approaching the time for the opening of Parliament. There is one measure to be submitted which stands head and shoulders above them all, the Education Bill. It is now expected that Parliament will yield so far to the Church party as to introduce any measure sanctioning rate aid for voluntary schools. It is more probable that there will be a central grant, not made to all schools, but to needy schools, the need of the schools to be decided by some local representative body.
Athletics.

At the present time this department of school life is somewhat in the background. There are several reasons for this state of affairs, the principal ones of course being that the foot ball season is over and the base ball season in the future. Still there are many things which can be considered in an article on athletics, apart from the two games mentioned above.

During the winter months the outdoor exercise of students, and of every one in fact, is necessarily somewhat limited, but there are means of exercise which are within the reach of the students of almost all schools. Nearly every school of any pretension has a gymnasium nowadays, and the Bridgewater State Normal School is among the number. During the winter months students should be more careful in taking regular daily exercise. When the weather is not to one's liking and the outward conditions not at all favorable, it seems to me that a person, leading the life that we do here, where the time for exercise is necessarily limited, should pay all the more attention to getting what he can from the time usually devoted to exercise and recreation.

There are many who do not like to take exercise simply for the sake of exercise and the good it will do them, and they are not satisfied unless there is something of the competitive and test element in their recreation. This is well enough as far as it goes, but I often think that there is too much of it at the present time. The idea with many is simply to excel others, and they do it at the expense of nerves and muscle which they cannot afford. The true idea in athletics in our American schools and colleges at the present time is to increase the mental capacity, and ability to use that mental power, by giving the student a vigorous and healthy physical basis.

We often hear a great deal said with regard to the "undue prominence" which athletics hold in modern school life, and there is no doubt but that some of it is true, still the fact remains that college presidents and faculties and men connected with the management of our institutions of learning all over the country believe in, and give their support to, athletics as a part of school and college life.

Speaking in general, there is one thing to be feared in this department of the school, and that is the near approach to professionalism which is due mainly to that spirit of intense rivalry which has sprung up between so many schools and colleges, and also on account of the great interest which the public takes in all matches between their teams.

This tendency has not become very apparent as yet, and we hope it never will, but occasionally we find instances of it.

But to return to the idea of regular exercise, gymnasium training is something within the reach of all of us here, and can be made to serve good ends if taken properly, and we have every advantage for knowing how to take it. It is this training that gives a man the development and qualifications, or at least many of them, which enable him to go out into branches of sport which require more of him. A man needs a good physical basis to play through a season of base ball or foot ball, or even to go through the trials of a field day. No one can afford to go into these branches without having something of this previous training. The gymnasium is doing a great deal for young men and women in our cities these days. It might also be said that almost all classes and ages of both sexes take an interest in physical exercise or physical culture, which ever you are minded to call it. A few calls at some of the best known gymnasiums in Boston would easily convince one
of that. Young, middle aged and elderly men are seen taking their regular exercises during the winter months in the various "gyms," and doing it because they realize the value of regular exercise. During the rest of the year the majority of them seem to take up with the wheel, but more of this hereafter.

At present our gymnasium is used mostly by the young ladies. Considerable interest has been aroused among them this winter in the game of basket ball, and various teams have been formed and the finer points of the game are being brought out. This is a move in the right direction, I think, for the physical development of women is a subject which is much discussed at present.

Perhaps some of the readers of this article saw the two clay models made under the direction of Dr. Sargent, of Harvard, a few years ago. One of these was a "composite" of five thousand Harvard students at the age of twenty-one, and the other of the same number of girl students from various colleges. The model of the latter I am sorry to say was not equal in point of correct development to the former. Time may change this, however, and I certainly hope it will, with the aid of modern ideas.

Just at present another indoor gymnasium meet similar to the one held last year, is talked of. It is hoped that all will be interested in this, and that each will do what he or she can to help it along.

Of course, while there is skating there will be a tendency on the part of many to go skating, and we hope that when it comes time to practice for the meet there will be a strong tendency in that direction. It is too early yet to say much about base ball, but we hope to see a strong effort made to put a good team in the field, and later on we can tell much better about it.

Piano Recital.

A very pleasing piano recital was given in Assembly Hall, on Friday evening, the 8th of January, by Senor Philippi Saroni, a young Cuban of much promise. For over an hour he played, with scarcely a moment's respite, selections from Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Liszt, Saint Saens and Schuman. The audience gave evidence of their appreciation by the perfect stillness which was maintained throughout the playing, and by the applause that came spontaneously at the close of each selection. His performance showed much careful study and training. If his technique was not in all cases faultless, it was no more than was to be expected under the circumstances, and there were many good points to counter balance it. With a touch at once firm and elastic he interpreted for us some of the thoughts of the great masters with originality and power. He was at his best when not confined to his notes, and perhaps the selection most pleasing, because of its smooth and even rendering, was the Concert Etude, by Schuman, although the two movements given of the Concerto No. 3, by Saint Saens, was also very enjoyable. The audience responded generously to the request for a more substantial token of their appreciation and a good sum of money was presented to him.

Departments.

Zoology.

Thirty new German charts have just been received for the Zoology Department. These charts illustrate pictorially and by diagram the animal kingdom from the protozoan to the mammal. They are richly colored and all the parts are drawn to a scale. The whole animal is represented in some charac-
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acteristic attitude, the main parts are given in various views to show the details of structure and the essential internal parts are figured. Each chart is accompanied by an explanatory sheet in English. The whole set will be very helpful in the reviews following laboratory exercises of observation.

LIBRARY.

There have been a number of recent additions to three of the libraries—a complete set of Hawthorne’s works and of Lowell’s works to the literature section, 10 volumes of Library of Historical characters, 6 volumes of Diplomatic Correspondence of American Revolution, and 2 volumes of Messages and Papers of the Presidents to the historical section. To the pedagogical library have been added the latest volumes of the International Education series, and 130 books received as a gift from Mrs. Martha K. Crosby (class 32.) from the pedagogical library of Prof. Crosby. Many books, pamphlets and charts have been added to the different sections of the scientific library.

HISTORY OF EDUCATION.

The course in this subject has been much enlarged and separated from the general history course. Beginning with the Greek and Roman education it traces the movement through the middle ages, thence along the time of great reformers and philosophers to the present time. This is followed by a resume of the different systems of education in other countries, and in the United States, closing with the growth of education in Massachusetts.

Personals.

Miss Merritt, assistant in drawing, has been forced to take a rest. She is at her home in Amherst.

Miss Grace Browhall, who has been teaching in Maynard, has accepted a position in New Bedford.

A ’96 Mr. Claude L. West, has left Warren to become Superintendent of Grammar Schools, in Paterson, N. J.

The Christmas vacations in the schools throughout the State gave many of the Alumni a chance to revisit Normal. There was noticed Miss Belle Miller who is teaching in Chicopee, Mr. F. M. Shaw, of Paterson, N. J., Miss Maud Bray, of Taunton, and Miss Minnie Westgate, teaching in Fall River.

Miss Mabel Robinson from the Watham force of teachers, has been visiting Miss Connor.

Mr. Lyman Allen of Harvard and Mr. Morrill of the same institution, called on us this month.

’96 Mr. Norman McKendrick is teaching in Osterville.

’96 Miss Marjorie Souther teaches drawing and nature study in the four upper Grammar grades in the Washington School, Quincy.

’93 Miss L. M. Worth is teaching in North Hampton, N. H.

Ollapodria.

Think twice or you will write it 1896.

Now we have got to begin all over again.

It did not take the school boy long to find out that Memorial Day and Fourth of July comes on Sunday.

It was given on good authority that one of the young ladies had a severe attack of grip last fall.

FREE SILVER.

Free silver to help us make poverty whole,

Political quacks can make no mistake greater;
Like putting pitch-plasters upon the north pole,
And drawing the heat up there from the equator.

Skating is on, to all appearances, no accidents as yet.

A teacher in one of the Springfield schools the other day was trying to straighten out in the infant mind the relative positions of Prince and King. She said, "Who comes after the King?"

"The Queen," answered a little girl.
"Well, who comes after the Queen?"
A little boy raised his hand. "I know," he announced.
"You may tell, Tommy," replied the teacher.
"First comes the King," replied Tommy, "then the Queen and then the Jack."

Said A to B—"I C U R
Disposed to B A J."

Said B—"Your wit, my long-eared friend Shows signs of sad D K."

We have the best of the kodak fiends around us. We can talk against them just as much as we choose, but it costs them something to express their views.

Photograph parties at King’s, are in order now. Walk up now you “groups of 15.”

"Don’t stand there, come in and take a chair."

Mr. French has taken the contract to supply the Psychology class with cough drops.

I sit in my seat in the class-room
And think of my Mind till I wonder,
If Thinking and Feeling and Willing
Won’t break my poor mind quite as asunder.

The flood of Ideas overwhelm me,
Till Emotions I have not a one,
Definition, Division and Order,
Like a gale through my Intellect run.

Attention and Judgment and Reason,
They all hold a relation I’m told.
But what they are, and whence they came,
To tell surely I’m not so bold.

On the evening of Jan. 1, the members of Section F held a meeting in the reception room, to which Section B was invited. The topic under discussion was “Bridgewater.” An interesting paper on “Some Facts about Bridgewater,” was read by Miss Hunter, after which an enjoyable musical program was rendered. Then in short, bright speeches each one told of his impressions of Bridgewater. After a pleasant evening the meeting broke up, every one feeling an increased interest, in and love for his school home. Section F, by the way, sets us all a good example of class fellowship and class cooperation.

Student (translating Aeneid)—And I threw my arms about her thrice! That’s as far as I got, Professor.

Professor—That’s far enough; sit down.

Hamlet evidently rode a bicycle. He says: "Watch over my safety while I sleep."

One of our young gentlemen has been the recipient of a—well a—curler—a mustache curler. It is evidently designed for a hair curler, but as the young gentleman has plenty of that quality of hair, he has decided to preserve it until such a time as it may be used as its original designer intended—for mustaches.

Coasting is out of sight.

The measles are around. They generally break out in spots. Look out you are not one of the spots.

It is proper to take your camera along skating with you.

One of the young ladies, a sub senior, when asked if the new minister was young, remarked “Yes! he’s married.”
Several went into the theatre to witness the last matinee performance of El Capitan.

Who said pie?

"Don't stand there with your hands in your pockets."

One of the young ladies was heard sweetly singing a few mornings ago, this gladsome refrain: "There's a cloth in the window wavin' for me."

The mystery of the disappearance of the duck pants has been supplanted by the mysterious disappearance of the pies. Detectives have been employed to ferret out the case.

Teacher—"How many weeks belong to the year?"

Student—"Forty-six."

Teacher—"How do you make that out?"

Student—"The other six are lent."

"When was electricity first made?"

"In the time of Noah."

"Why, how was that?"

"He made the arc light on Mt. Ararat."

You can ride your horse to water,

But you cannot make him drink.

You can "ride" your little "pony,"

But you cannot make him think.

A Junior's reason for studying on Sunday:

"If a man is justified in helping the ass out of the pit on the Sabbath day, how much more justified would the ass be in helping himself out."

Instructor—"What aids chemical action?"

Pupil—"Chemical action is aided by contact, heat and affection." (Affinity).

A pupil in one of the lower grades in a school not far from here, after reading about a European queen, stated the following remarkable fact: "She is an Amazon in physics (physique) and a modern diameter." (Diana).

One of the girls always opens the windows of her room whenever she has callers, regardless of the temperature of the air outside, or the feelings of her girl friends inside. No plausible reason could be found by her chums for this performance until one of her friends suggested that she must have some friends who are undertakers, and as business is poor this winter, is endeavoring to increase their trade.

Brutus—"Say, Caesar, how many oysters did you eat for dinner?"

Caesar—"Et tu Brute."

"What's the leading branch in your school?" asked an old lady of the smart boy.

"The birch, ma'am," responded he weekly.

The Spread.

Twenty-nine young men sat down last Friday night to the spread prepared by their committee. This is the third which has been held in one year and a half. Tables were set in the Dining Room, so that there should be plenty of room for serving, as the Banquet Hall used on previous occasions was found to be too small. The menu is as follows:

**SOUPS.**

Tomato, Mock turtle.

**MEATS.**

Sliced ham, Salmon steaks,
Rolls, Olives.

**PASTRY.**

Apple pie, Mince pie.

**DESSERT.**

Iced wafers, Chocolate wafers,
Ice cream, Vanilla and Chocolate,
Sponge, Chocolate, Fruit Cake.
Bananas, Oranges.
Coffee, Cocoa.
After the tables had been cleared, attention was directed for the remainder of the evening to the remarks tendered by different members. Mr. Carl French officiated as toast master, which he handled in admirable style.

Mr. Putnam set the speech-making ball a rolling by a rousing opening word. Mr. Hamilton followed with a few of “Our Social Solutions.” His remarks were interspersed with many stories. Mr. Nickerson gave us “A Few Hints,” followed by Mr. Daniels on “Spreads.” It was best to have now a general “Recapitulation,” Mr. Reynolds essayed the task of making this. We were all sorry in not having Dr. Hunt with us. He was represented by a fellow student and investigator, Mr. Hawes.

Mr. Coggins gave us a few words of advice as to “Our Profession.” For fear that there was, somewhat, a lack of attention and to therefore change the current of thought and give the mind a rest, the subject of “Athletics,” responded to by Mr. Brown, was here introduced. He was followed by Mr. C. H. French, on “Normal Recreations.” Mr. Osuna responded for “The School.” Mr. Churchill compared “University and Normal.” Mr. Buck was so brimming over with “The Right Spirit” that he was compelled to give us some. Mr. Winter felt out of the goodness of his heart to speak a few words to “The Graduates.”

During the evening there was singing by the Quartette, also a solo by Mr. Rowse, accompanied on the banjo by Mr. Reynolds.

After being photographed by Mr. King, the company adjourned by singing “Good Bye, Good Bye.”

**Congress.**

The last meeting of the Congress, for this term, was a very interesting one. The Executive Committee presented, as their part of the programme, a farce. This farce depicted the troubles of a housewife in hiring help, especially when company was expected, and no one in the kitchen. All the parts were well taken and everything passed off smoothly.

After the entertainment the principal business of the evening, the election of officers for the next term, was taken up. While the tellers were counting the votes Speaker Winter took the opportunity to speak a few words to the Congress. If one-half of the good advice is heeded the Congress of next term will be a grand success and great help to everyone. If you only heed one thing, make that one the matter of leaving the hall as soon as the entertainment is over. As he said, this Congress is not to provide a musical and literary entertainment on alternate Friday evenings. It is to give us knowledge of Parliamentary laws and methods of applying the same in any assembly. The bills presented are selected from public questions, political and social. We should endeavor, as far as possible, to familiarize ourselves with the meaning and object of these bills. I think all of you will derive some benefit therefrom, if you should.

Editor Brown spoke for the interests of the Offering. It seems as if his plea for more manuscript should be heeded. Manuscript that will be a credit to the writer and to the school. Lend your financial aid also.

The election resulted in the selection of the following as officers: Editor, Mr. Holmes; assistants, Misses Fisher, Bassett and Farnum, and Mr. Hamilton; Business Manager, Mr. Back. Assistant Business
Manager, C. H. French. Mr. Coggins audits all reports of a financial nature in his capacity as Auditor.

There was an animated discussion on the bill to extend the term of service of the President of the United States. It was passed to its third reading by a close vote. Congress adjourned soon after by all present joining in singing Auld Lang Syne.

Basket Ball.

In the issue of the Offering for December there was an interesting article on Basket Ball, and relying on the interest in the game, and the wish of all to see it a success, the writer of this article ventures to say a few words from a different standpoint than that taken in the article before referred to.

The game is, as all will readily admit who know the game to any degree as played here, being abused. It was intended to be played in the manner in which most of the games in the gymnasium are played. We all know the manner referred to, that in which rough and boisterous play is encouraged and rules are broken faster than the umpire can call attention to the fact, and so gives up trying to call the fouls and becomes simply an ornament or some sort of a pedestal. If the umpire does call fouls, after the game he is surrounded by players who abuse and find fault with him as much as possible and some persons have actually gone so far as to call an umpire names for simply doing his duty. And this in a Normal School and among persons who call themselves young ladies.

What person is there among all the teams who can say they have played as well as they could and have followed out the rules to the best of their abilities? What one will say that they have not been guilty of rough play? If any, they are few indeed.

As the interest in the game has increased, this spirit of roughness has increased, calling forth much comment from those who have watched games and from those also who have played it. But one thing is very noticeable in the comments of the players, and that is, that with few exceptions, each one accuses his neighbor of roughness, and never looks into his own actions. Then too, when a whole team is interviewed on the subject their excuses for rough playing takes a form something like this: "Well if the other team plays roughly and don't keep their places, we've got to do the same or get beaten."

As long as this spirit of sliding the blame on someone else's shoulders remains, just so long will Basket Ball be abused, and if this feeling gains ground as it has done, it will soon drive the game from our gymnasium. For indeed this rough play is going so far that hardly a game passes in which someone is not unnecessarily hurt, and this of course causes hard feelings, and what is worse, hard talking. By this is meant the scolding and fault finding and at times slight exhibitions of tempers, which are so often seen and heard after our games.

Now, are these the results for which Basket Ball was originally intended to produce? If they are, let us do away with the game, but if they are not, let us find out the good results and set to work to obtain them. No one wants to see the game banished, for all are, I believe, very much interested in it, and wish to see it played more scientifically than it is now. We cannot play scientifically until obedience is given to the rules and rough play is effectually stopped.

What we want to develop is the power to plan quickly, throw accurately and promptly, and, above and before all, obey the rules which govern the game.
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