

The Vidette - Reporter.

A Tri-weekly Newspaper Published by Students of the State University of Iowa.

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NO. 7

Dr. Bierring's Lecture.

Dr. Bierring, who was in the laboratory of the great Pasteur for a year or more, instead of the regular lecture, gave a biographical talk to the Medical students on "Louis Pasteur," which was very interesting, and is given below:

"The past year has made great gaps in the ranks of the scientific world. Professor Huxley, the biologist, is gone; the celebrated physiological chemist Professor Hoppe-Seyler died in the month of August, and now the cablegrams convey the sad tidings of the death of Louis Pasteur, the noted bacteriologist, on Saturday afternoon, in the city of Paris. The first two named investigators have each left a name that has no equal in their separate lines, but the work and name of Pasteur is so intimately connected with progressive modern medicine that his loss is felt most keenly throughout the entire medical world. It has been aptly stated that Pasteur was to modern medicine what Edison is to electricity. Pasteur, the discoverer of a new world; that of the infinitely small he opened up a path anew, the fruits of which are only just beginning to be realized.

Louis Pasteur was born in the small city of Dole, Department of Jura, France. When the son was but a few years of age, his father began to entertain dreams of his future. 'Ah,' said the father, 'if only you could become some day a professor in the college at Arbois. I should be the happiest man on earth.' What would he have said had it been announced to him that some fifty years later, on the facade of the little house in the Rue des Tanneurs, would be placed, in the presence of his living son,—laden with honors, laden with glory, passing in the midst of a triumphal procession along the paved town—a plate bearing these words in letters of gold: 'Ici est né, Louis Pasteur, le 27 Decembre, 1822.'

The life of his father had been a tough one. An old soldier, decorated on the field of battle, on returning to France, where he had no longer a home, he was obliged to work hard to earn his bread. He took up the trade of a tanner. Soon after he was married to a worthy young girl of the village. Together, they watched with tender care over the only son Louis, of whom with mingled pride and tenderness they used to say: 'We will make of him an educated man.'

When Louis was three years of age the Pasteur family left Dole and established themselves at Arbois, where the future savant spent his childhood. He entered the commercial college at Arbois; subsequently he attended the college at Besancon, where he received the degree 'bachelier es lettres,' was appointed a tutor at eighteen, and thus formed the first tie binding him to the university. In October, 1843, he made his entry into the Ecole Normale, Paris, in which he was destined to take so great a place. At first as demonstrator, then as assistant; here also he received his degree of Doctor of Science. A few years later he was appointed assistant professor of Chemistry at Strasburg.

During his stay at the latter place he met Mlle. Laurent, daughter of the rector of the college, who was to become his helpmate for life, and who now survives him. The story is told that it was necessary to remind him on the morning of his marriage of the event that was to take place during the day; so absorbed was he in his investigative research. This was no criterion, though, of his future conduct, for he was a devoted, model husband.

In 1894, at the age of thirty-two, he was appointed dean of the faculty, at Lille. Three years later he was called to Paris to become director of scientific studies at the Ecole Normale, then professor of Geology, Physics and Chemistry at the Beaux Arts; finally professor of Chemistry at the Sorbonne. The Academy of Science, Academy of Medicine and finally the French Academy opened their doors to him. In the course of his long career he has received from France and from the entire world the most flattering and enviable honors and distinctions.

The work done by Pasteur was immense. In his investigations he has touched upon the various branches of physical, natural and medical sciences. Of his work in Chemistry, that especially deserving mention were his studies on crystallography, rotary polarization and on the molecular constitution of paratartronic acid. By a mere incident Pasteur was compelled to quit this line of research, something which he always regretted: On mixing pure tartrate of ammonia with albuminous matter he noticed that the mixture fermented. In the turbid liquid he discovered a microscopic organism. In this he recognized a living ferment. Thus unexpectedly launched amid the phenomena of fermentation he soon proved that lactic acid fermentation was due to a specific organism, that the ferment of butyric acid was an organism of a different kind; further, he demonstrated that putrefaction was not due to purely chemical changes; that the return of animal matter back to the simpler elements was brought about by living substances. These researches brought him face to face with the question of spontaneous generation. His theories were subject to the severest criticism, and a long battle waged between Pasteur and Liebig, and the other advocates of spontaneous generation, ending in the triumph of Pasteur, the destruction of the theory of spontaneous generation, and the definite establishing of the presence and rôle of micro-organisms in fermentative and putrefactive processes.

To be Continued.

Baconian.

In pursuance of the custom of the Club, the President, Professor Patrick, on the first meeting of the year, delivered the paper on Child Study, particularly some methods and results. The talk was quite long and very interesting throughout.

At the present day the mind is studied in its evolution from the beginning; the adult male mind is no longer considered only, but also that of women and children. Four of the

most common methods of study of the child mind in use are as follows:

I. Preyers, which consists in studying a child's mind from day to day and week to week. This is a very difficult method, requiring much time and patience, but the best if carried out well.

II. Method of Russell used in Worcester Normal School. The instructors are supplied with blanks on which to record daily interesting facts noticed about the children. It has not proved of any great psychological, but pedagogical, value.

III. Method of Stanley Hall, of Clark University, and Barnes, of Leland Stanford. The child's lies, fears, drawings, etc., are noted. Blanks are also sent to parents for information. This is found a very useful method. Barnes also investigated the theological ideas of the California child.

IV. Method of Bowditch. Consists mostly of measurements in respect to height, weight, reaction times, motor-ability, etc.

As to results: Bowditch measured in 1874, 25,500 children, and concluded that from the ages of six to eleven boys are taller than girls; at eleven the girls are taller than the boys, when the latter again overtake the former. The relative weights run in about the same manner. He also concluded that the height and weight of the American child is greater than the child of foreign parents.

Porter made a more extensive series of experiments on 33,500 children, in which he found the girls at eleven surpassing the boys in all measurements except expansion of chest, and the greatest increase of weight at thirteen and fifteen in girls and boys respectively. He concluded also that physical superiority usually accompanied mental superiority. Dr. Gilbert's measurements on New Haven school children, made on a safer and better method, do not confirm this conclusion; he found no relation whatever between physical and mental superiority. In regard to height and weight Porter and Gilbert agree. In lung capacity Dr. Gilbert finds the girls inferior at all times.

The interesting point to be noted in connection with these tests is that the so-called shooting-up period of girls and boys begins at the age of puberty. At this time the brain ceases to develop; and it is called the dangerous period; still the condition of things is such that just at this time the strains on the child are greatest. The girls are obliged to work as hard as the boys, at thirteen, and the boys as hard as the girls, at sixteen.

Experiments, quite extensive, and very interesting, made by Baldwin, with reference to the origin of right handedness in human beings, led him to the conclusion that the development is spontaneous at about the age of seven or eight months, and not the result of individual experience; also that any difference in the development of the two arms in upright animals is advantageous.

Stanley and Barnes' method was employed in experiments made by a young woman of Leland Stanford University, upon about 3,000 children,

regarding the rights of children as viewed by themselves. A story concerning the naughtiness of a little girl was read them, and they were asked to write, being in the mother's place, what they would have done with her. The conclusion reached was that the child's idea of justice develops just as that of the race, i. e., the older, the more the elements of cruelty and revenge fall into the background and the theory of the ignorance and the need of reform of the offender obtains.

Some studies have been made in respect to motorability by Brian and by Hancock as to the number of taps which can be made by various parts of the human body, and the relative swiftness of the body of an adult and a child while attempting to stand absolutely still. Both arrived at the same conclusion, viz., that the larger muscles of the child develop first. This fact is of pedagogical interest in that it demonstrates that children should not be required to use too much the finer muscles, resulting in the increase of nervous diseases. Their exercises should be more on the large and free order.

Law Department.

P. L. Monahan, '96, of Des Moines, returned yesterday.

J. L. Plum and Geo. M. Briggs are the latest newcomers in the Law Department.

The total enrollment in the Law Department is 173, 103 Seniors and 70 Juniors. While the present Junior class is not as large as that of last year, it is fully up to the average, last year's Junior class being exceptionally large.

The first division of the Senior Law class began their course in Insurance under Chancellor McClain this week. On account of its size the class has been formed into two divisions; the first division taking Insurance at the 9 o'clock hour in room 17, Dental building, and the second division receiving instruction in the law of carriers at the 11 o'clock hour in the general lecture room.

Foot Ball.

Unfavorable as have been the general conditions under which the season was begun, we are pleased to note that those students who have had the hardihood to undertake to organize a team are receiving fairly good returns for their efforts even at this early stage of developments. It is fairly certain that no team has undertaken to do so much with so much against it, and it will be only the just dues of honest endeavor if we have the best team this year we have had for years. More than twice the number of men required for a team are playing, and from their number an excellent team will in due time be chosen. With the progress now reported we shall be in the course of a week or two ready for business. Owing to some difficulty in arrangements the game announced to be played with Cornell will not occur. Others will be arranged for, however, and will receive announcement in due time.

The Vidette-Reporter.

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THE VIDETTE REPORTER,
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There is a marked decrease in the number of students entering the various seminaries this year. This is not a good indication. The strength of a University may be largely measured by the quality of work produced in its seminaries. For several years the University has been justly proud of the excellence displayed in these departments (this was especially true last year) and any weakness along this line of specialized and individual work is to be regretted as a step backward. In the seminary, under the vigorous directorship of our professors in Finance and History, and the various Languages, study of an advanced and investigative kind can be carried on with prolific results, if pursued with the earnestness which must always characterize original work; and to any one intending to go deeply into these subjects such a course cannot but be invaluable. It is probable, however, that this year's lack of interest in seminary work is largely due to the increased opportunities for class-work study, especially in the line of Philosophy and English; and as our University students can hardly be deteriorating it is highly probable that next year will see the tendency toward individual work again on the increase.

No doubt the bills announcing the beginning of the lecture course will attract a good deal of attention by reason of the exceptionally strong list of names they bear. It is well known, not only here but in most parts of the state, that the lecture course at the University is by far the best of its kind in this part of the country. The bureau has this year been even more than usually successful in securing entertainments, every one of which it would be folly for any student to miss. Certainly it is true that he who neglects to take advantage of such a course, especially when given at so

low a rate, fails to appreciate what his interests are. We know that very many students, and among them the best in the University, are conducting their education necessarily at as small expense as possible, and no doubt will feel anything in addition to those which are actually necessary as something they ought to avoid. Nevertheless this matter is so closely connected with University work that it ought to receive just as much attention. But there are few who should consider the small sum beyond their means. Nothing should prevent each student from securing a season ticket now, so as not to miss one of this excellent entertainments. Gen. Gordon will lecture on October 8th. His reputation as an orator is too well known to need comment. It is a duty which every student owes not to any one else but to himself to hear this great man and all who follow him during the coming winter.

Freshman Election.

The Freshman class met Tuesday afternoon, pursuant to adjournment, to elect officers for the coming year. The committee on constitution reported and a constitution was adopted, after which balloting was begun for president, which finally resulted in the election of Mr. Lancaster. This business require so much time that an adjournment was necessary without electing other officers.

The election was accompanied by the usual demonstrations on the part of certain students of the last year's Freshman class. No serious interference occurred, however, save some annoyance of certain Sophomores of what is generally known as the "Smart Aleck" type. It is, no doubt, a very valuable piece of knowledge to the average mortal to know of just what his own proper business consists, but certainly it would produce even more joy to humanity if every one could learn just where his own business stopped and where some other person's begins. It does not appear very clear that any other persons than Freshmen could be legitimately connected with a Freshman election. Nevertheless students of the class referred to almost invariably discover points of interest in the slightest move of the Freshmen class, and are usually on hand to assist whether opportunity offers or not.

Eloise Willis has entered the Senior class.

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Fact and Rumor.

Le Roy Young, '98, who has spent the last four months in Salt Lake City, has returned to school.

Dr. F. J. Becker, of Postville, lectured in the Homeopathic department, the part of the week.

Last evening the young peoples' societies of the various churches of the city gave receptions for their student friends.

Miss Ida Brusie was elected Recording Secretary of the Y. W. C. A. to fill the vacancy caused by the absence of Myrtle Rose.

The Junior Dents had their regular first regular meeting yesterday morning. B. E. Tomy was elected President, and Morrison, Secretary, for the coming year.

The Senior Laws met Tuesday afternoon for organization, but after a stormy session of one hour, in which nothing was accomplished, the meeting was adjourned by Chancellor McClain.

W. A. Lomas, C. '93, is visiting University friends on his way to Chicago, where he intends to enter Rush Medical College. Mr. Lomas attended the University of Pennsylvania Medical school last year.

We have been fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. Herman Williams as coach for the foot ball team. He played on the State University team last year, and all those who read of the games played by this team know of him. Mr. Williams has the reputation of being one of the best tackles in the west and well deserves it.—Delphic.

CALL ON BLOOM & MAYER FOR CLOTHING AND HATS.

Miss Sophia Moore, '93, is visiting University friends.

Gertrude Fairchild has entered the University of Wisconsin.

B. A. Miller, D. '96, and L. S. Brewer, M. '96, returned Tuesday.

Miss Geneva Horne will enter the University for special work this year.

P. F. Jones, D. '95, is located at Clear Lake, and has a flourishing business.

Ivy Lane has elected E. E. Hobby president, and Miss Kriechbaum secretary.

The Erodophians give their first program at the society halls Saturday evening.

It will save one dollar to invest in a season ticket for the lecture course this year.

Miss Colquehoun, of Ithica, N. Y., is spending the fall and winter with Miss Mamie Sherman.

Dr. Gilchrist will read the next paper at the Baconian Club, Friday evening, Oct. 4th, on "Gunshot Injuries."

We notice the names of Dr. L. W. Andrews and Professor Boerner as Vice-President and Secretary of the Humane Society recently organized.

The members of the English Seminary will have individual reports at each meeting for the first part of the year. Later papers will be prepared and read.

Dr. Bert Barrett arrived Monday from Independence, for a few days' visit with home and University friends. He has received promotion in the Insane Hospital, and is now third physician in the female ward.

The class in American Literature, under Mr. Cook, will each take an American author, in addition to the regular work, for special study. During the course of the year essays will be written and read in the class on this author.

John V. Crum, C. '94, L. '95, arrived in the city yesterday morning, and will remain the rest of the week visiting friends. He went down to the track yesterday afternoon and gave Prall and McCleary some valuable suggestions about sprinting.

One of the Senior girls had a birthday last Tuesday, and when a number of her friends found her in the library the result was a good deal of pounding and giggling, and it was only by the repeated rap of the pencil and the librarian's sternest looks that quiet once more reigned.

Wednesday by far the largest Freshman Dental class that ever assembled at S. U. I. met and organized. The following class officers were elected: H. D. Keeler, President; C. L. Leigh, Vice-President; Miss May Reynard, Secretary. A committee was appointed to select a class yell.

Notice.

The Athletic Association will meet at Close Hall this evening at 7. Important business. Every member should be present.

ROY L. EMBRY, Pres.

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Boston. New York. Detroit. Denver.
PACIFIC COAST:
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Henry McCluskey, L. '93, our ante-Crum sprinter, was in the city over Sunday visiting friends. Speaking of Crum he said: 'I always knew Crum would make a runner, and was sorry to see him defeated by Wefers last week, as I wished to have the honor of beating Crum exclusively to myself.' He thought that had Crum been in condition the result would have been different.

The new track is nearing completion, in fact it is in such condition that many men are already training on it. President Larrabee and Treasurer Dutcher, of the athletic park association, have spent the greater part of their time for the past week or more superintending the work. The row of trees where the old fence used to stand, will be cut down, the ground leveled off, and our foot ball ground will lie north and south within the track. There are about thirty-five men playing foot ball daily, and the prospect for a good team is assured. Will Larrabee is coaching the men at present, and there is no doubt in the minds of those who have seen his brilliant work on the field that he is equal if not superior to the average professional coach. Messrs. Larrabee and Allison will be on the grounds every afternoon, and will be glad to meet and assist any one who wants to play foot ball or do track work.

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