

The Vidette - Reporter.

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

VOL. 31.

IOWA CITY IOWA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1899.

NO. 40.

A VALUABLE ADDITION.

FOSSIL SEA-SERPENT WILL BE ADDED TO THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM.

The Davenport alumni are nothing if not enterprising. They have just organized an Alumni Association, and at the same meeting raised a considerable amount of money to purchase for their Alma Mater one of the most promising additions to her museum.

Sea serpents have been heralded in song and yarn for centuries. But now there has come to light a fossil bearing all the similitude of those terrible monsters. Thirty feet does it measure in length. Its opened jaws still strike terror to the beholder.

The finder of this relic, who lives out on the plains of western Kansas, is said to know a hawk from a hand-saw when it comes to fossils. The serpent is finely preserved in its bed of chalk, scarcely a rib being broken. The finder offered to sell this remarkable specimen to the University for \$400.

The scene now shifts to the city of Davenport, where lives an alumnus who heard of the opportunity to obtain the fossil for the University. At a meeting held on New Year's evening at the rooms of the Business Men's Association, twenty five alumni were present. Numerous hearty speeches were made by Joe R. Lane, ex-Mayor Vollmer, Dr. Preston, John Hornby, S. W. Searle, and attorneys Henley, Helmick, Chamberlain, and others.

Professor Macbride, the guest of the evening, had been invited to speak to the Association on the work of the University. So happy was his head that old enthusiastic feelings rekindled at the new hearth of S. U. I's noble sons at Davenport, and he fairly bubbled over with mirth and loyalty. He predicted an attendance of over three thousand at the University ere another decade had passed.

A practical turn was given to the meeting when the news was made public of a fossil-find, the coveted of museums over the land, upon which the University had been so fortunate as to obtain an option. When the alumni members had considered the offer in all its phases, it was resolved that the Association purchase the fossil for the University Museum. Funds for this purpose were secured, and the acceptance of the option immediately telegraphed to the owner of the remains.

When the full particulars of this remarkable acquisition to the Museum are known over the country a sensation is expected.

Iowa Engineering Society.

The Iowa Engineering Society will hold its annual convention in Iowa City, Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 18th and 19th. The two days will be very profitably filled with the reading of useful papers and discussions. During the convention the members will visit the engineering and other departments of the University.

On the program are several instructors and students, some of whose subjects we note:

"The Limestones of Iowa," Professor Calvin.

"Methods of Relief Map Construction," F. G. White, C. '99.

"The Fungi of Building Timbers," Professor Macbride.

"Zoological Engineers," C. C. Nutting.

"Methods of Sterilizing and Purifying Water," Professor Sims.

"The Chemistry of Water," Professor Andrews.

"The Bacteriology of Water," Dr. Bierring.

Zetagathian.

The program in South Hall last Friday evening was opened with a piano solo by Mr. Umberger, after which Mr. J. F. Ogden, the new president, was called to the chair and duly installed.

Mr. Lancaster gave a recitation on "Natural Perversities," and Mr. Cook a speech on "Street Railways."

The regular debate, on the question "Resolved, that Postal Savings Banks should be established in the United States," then followed, being ably affirmed by Messrs. Rich and McCaffree. Messrs. McCabe and Frank were strong in rebuttal, although some of their points were too far fetched to have much weight. The debate was decided two in favor of the affirmative.

Mr. Gow, in an extemporaneous address on "Realism vs. Idealism," made a very instructive and entertaining talk.

Mr. Harold Downing gave a declamation on the well worn subject, "Spartacus to the Gladiators."

The program was closed with a violin solo by Miss Reizenstein, a hearty encore showing the appreciation accorded.

Irving.

North Hall was greeted with her share of auditors on last Friday evening, and although the program had been prepared in a very short time, it was a fairly good one.

Miss Reizenstein opened the program with a violin solo, and responded to a hearty encore.

The declamation by Mr. Boddy, "Saint Peter at the Golden Gate" was well rendered.

The next number, a speech on "The Carrier Pigeon," was full of interest and presented in a very pleasing manner. Mr. Horack has a very pleasing manner on the platform.

The debate was on the question: "Resolved, that the property of church corporations should be taxed."

The affirmative was presented by Messrs. J. E. Pinkham and A. Remley, while Messrs. C. H. Laartz and L. Switzer supported the negative of the question.

The debate was interesting, and although the decision of the judges was unanimously in favor of the affirmative, the negative was very well presented.

Mr. Calkins followed with an oration on "Bonaparte and Washington."

The declamation "Just Fore Christmas," by Mr. Egan, was fairly well delivered, but lack of preparation was evident in his delivery.

Mr. Umberger closed the program with a piano solo.

BACONIAN.

PROFESSOR NUTTING GAVE THE PAPER OF THE EVENING.

"The Phosphorescent Light of Marine Animals and its Uses," was the subject of the paper of the evening by Professor Nutting.

The Professor first described the appearance of the phosphorescence on the surface of the sea at night. At times it becomes so brilliant that print could be read by its light on the deck of a passing vessel. It appears in sparks, coils of fire, cylinders, globes, and bands, according to the kind of animals making the phosphorescence. These are termed pelagic forms, from their appearance on the surface of the sea.

In shallow water we find fixed forms of phosphorescence, such as flexible corals, sea feathers and hydroids. Then followed a discussion of the uses of the forms that had been mentioned.

In general, the uses were the same and could be classified in the same way as those of the colors of animals. They may be protective, in warning off enemies, or aggressive, in enabling an animal to secure its prey, as in the case of certain fishes that hunt with a bull's eye lantern. In certain cases they enable individuals of certain species to keep together, and in others the phosphorescence enables individuals to find their mates.

The lecturer then took up the phosphorescence of deep-sea forms. It is found, in general, that this light-giving power is possessed by representatives of all classes of animals that inhabit the ocean depths. Certain speculative considerations indicate that the actual amount of phosphorescence in the sea bottom is very great. These considerations are, first, the brilliant colors of many deep-sea animals. Second, the fact that a majority of these possess functional eyes. Both of these considerations serve to convince the naturalist that light of some kind is present even at the greatest depths. It is unreasonable to suppose that sunlight is present in any appreciable quantity in the abysses of the ocean, and the speaker claimed that the light of the sub-sea is a phosphorescent light.

If this is true, we can explain the utility of phosphorescence in deep water on exactly the same grounds as in shallow water, or on the surface.

The speaker explained the phenomenon of phosphorescence in eyeless forms by the theory that in served to attract the prey which in most cases possesses organs of vision.

The bottom of the sea then may be regarded as possessing considerable areas illuminated by phosphorescent light and inhabited by animals with eyes, for the most part. The remainder of the sea bottom is inhabited by animals in which the organs of vision are rudiments wanting.

Communication.

EDITOR VIDETTE-REPORTER:

A great many are wondering at the strictness of the present library regulations. It would be a great advantage to many of the students if they had recourse to the library during the

noon hour, a time which some could more profitably employ than any other, especially those who do not consider it necessary to use the whole of the time between 12 and 1:30 for dinner purposes. But by far the greater number are inconvenienced by the closing of the library Saturday afternoons, as it is then that many of the students, who do not have the time during the week for library study, are anxious to make use of its advantages. With the present library force, is it not possible to give the students these changes? It is done in other large schools. Why not here?
B.

Mrs. North Dead.

Mrs. Ada E. North, for many years librarian of the State University, passed away at her home in Des Moines, Sunday morning. Mrs. North was known as one of the most intellectual women of Iowa. During her long connection with the library she was justly known in other schools for her wide learning.

Mrs. North has been in ill health for several years. Due to this was her removal from Iowa City to Des Moines. Her death, while not wholly unexpected, is lamented by her many friends in the University, in Iowa City, and throughout the State.

Academy of Science.

The annual meeting of the Academy of Science was held in Des Moines during the winter vacation. The papers read were excellent and interesting. Professor Macbride gave the President's address. Papers were read by a number of University professors and students, among them Professors Nutting and Shimek, and Messrs. Myers, Savage and Gow.

The attendance, though not large, was enthusiastic, and the prospects for the next year are fine.

Engineering Society.

At the last meeting of the Engineering Society the following officers were elected for this term: Pres., E. E. Bowman; Vice-Pres., A. A. Robish; Sec., R. E. Seales; Treas., R. D. Marsh; Librarian, C. H. Beach.

The petitions to name the new Collegiate building "Schaeffer Hall," with the signatures of most of the students of the Collegiate department, were handed in, and have been sent to the Board of Regents. They will probably be acted on about the first of February.

Notice.

The second annual two-step party given under the auspices of the Athletic Union, will occur on Thursday evening, Jan. 26th, at Smith's Armory. This party is given in the especial interest of the track team. All students are invited to assist in making this party a success, both socially and financially. Our friends in the city who have so kindly aided our athletic teams are most cordially invited to be with us. GEO. W. EGAN, President Athletic Union.

Notice.

There will be a meeting of the Whist League at the Beta Theta Pi house, Thursday, at 4 p. m. Those interested or desiring to become members, will send representatives.

The Vidette - Reporter

Issued from the Republican office on
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The paper will be sent to old subscribers
until ordered stopped and arrearages paid.

Copies for sale and subscriptions taken at
Hohenschuh & Wieneke's.

Address all communications to
THE VIDETTE REPORTER,
Iowa City, Iowa.

Entered at the Iowa City Post Office
as second class matter.

Advisory Board.

We published in our last issue an amendment proposed to the Constitution of the Athletic Union. It deals with the membership of the Athletic Advisory Board. At present the Advisory Board consists of three members, chosen from the Collegiate Faculty, the managers of the foot ball, base ball, and track teams, and the president of the Union. The proposed amendment substitutes for the three Collegiate professors, four University professors, one elected by the Collegiate Faculty, one by the Law Faculty, one by the Dental Faculty, and one by the Medical, Homeopathic Medical, and Pharmacy Faculties jointly.

The proposed amendment has much to commend it to the favorable consideration of the members of the Union, and to the University Faculty and students generally. The membership accorded to the different departments might perhaps be bettered from an arithmetical point of view by the addition of another member from the Collegiate Faculty, or possibly by the joining of the Dental and Pharmacy departments, and of the two Medical schools, in the choice of representatives. But the proposed plan is certainly an improvement over the present numerical showing made in a University enterprise by the Collegiate representation of three, and no representation at all from the other five departments, save as the executive officers of the Union may be distributed among them.

We are aware that it has been contended that in some departments no professor could be found interested in athletics, while in others there would be fierce competition for the place by many enthusiasts. In the one case certainly one good representative

could be found among those who are interested in athletic matters, while in the other case it is a lamentable fact that the Faculty members of five departments have never had a chance to show whether they are interested or not. We have faith to believe that such a one can be found if the opportunity offers.

It is also upheld in certain quarters that such is the division between departments, Faculty representatives would urge the interests of his particular department, to the detriment of those of the University.

In the first place, we would suggest that the division between certain departments exists chiefly in the minds of a few individuals. We believe that, in athletics, the students, as a whole, are interested in the success of Old Gold, rather than in whether a winning athlete is to wear black or pink, or any other color subsidiary to that grand 'Varsity emblem.

The idea that Myers was a Law student, or that Morton was a Dental adept, never entered the mind of the rooters when they made their famous scores. We have never yet been in the habit of dividing up a 'Varsity score and saying of it, this much is Collegiate, and this fraction Medical.

The Faculties of the departments have, whenever opportunity offered, given proof that they hold professional chairs in the University, not in the department alone. No Faculty action by any department can be shown to have promoted division between the various departments. When any such occur, then it will be time to talk of division.

The present Advisory Council consists of seven members. The proposed amendment increases this by one. The Board will not be any more unwieldy than at present. In so much as it will silence cries of departmental division and broaden our University athletics and life, the amendment deserves approval. It has few reasons why it should not be adopted; many reasons that should secure favorable action upon it at the next meeting of the Athletic Union of the State University of Iowa.

Notice.

On Wednesday evening, January 17th, the regular meeting of the Athletic Union will be held at Close Hall, for the purpose of electing a manager of the '99 foot ball team, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before said meeting.
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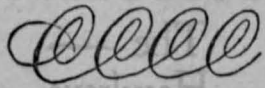
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FACT AND RUMOR.

Marvin Dey, now located at Chicago,
has been visiting with his parents.

Dorothy Schultz, '00, is again in
the University, after a term of teach-
ing.

Ex-Law Librarian Rinard, of Ma-
son City, is the guest of Walter M.
Davis.

Mrs. Kelly's lecture at the Unitarian
church this evening will begin promp-
tly at 7:30.

C. A. Tracy, L. '92, is court reporter
and sporting editor for the Des Moines
Daily Capitol.

Mr. Shaver, of New Hampton, Ia.,
was a visitor in the Senior Law class,
Thursday and Friday.

C. L. Everet, L. '95, now practicing
at Independence, visited in the city
for a few days last week.

C. S. Grant, M. '97, lately surgeon of
the 50th Iowa, has located in Iowa
City for the practice of medicine.

The local Alumni Association give
the first of their two annual recep-
tions this evening in the Society halls.

The Athletic Union will give a two-
step party at the armory, Thursday,
January 26th, for the benefit of the
track team.

W. A. Burden, a Sophomore, has
been elected captain of the Harvard
football team to succeed Captain
Dibble. Mr. Burden played right
guard on this year's team.

The morphology laboratory has re-
ceived a valuable acquisition in set of
books on the study of the nervous
system, published by Professor Ret-
zens, of Stockholm, Sweden.

LATEST STYLE HATS AND FURNISHING GOODS AT BLOOM & MAYERS.

Dean Currier and Dr. Calvin are home from Des Moines, where they attended the meeting of the State Geological Board.

Ledyard Freeman, ex-'97, lately sergeant of Co. E, 49th Iowa, has secured his discharge papers, and returned to his home at Independence.

Wm. M. Garton, Hom. Med. '94, who has been serving in the hospitals in the U. S. navy at Brooklyn, has been recommended to the Senate for confirmation as surgeon in the navy with the rank of 1st lieutenant.

Judge G. Robinson, of the Supreme Court, gave his first lecture of the year to the Law students, Monday morning, on "Appellate Proceedings." The course on that theme will be continued throughout the week.

Dr. N. D. Hillis, of Central Church, Chicago, has been called to Beecher's famous Plymouth Church pulpit. Dr. Hillis was prevented from filling his lecture engagement here last term by the death of a near friend. It is hoped the lecture bureau will secure him yet.

W. W. Loomis returned from his trip to Madison, last night. While there, satisfactory arrangements were made for two debates, one to be held in Wisconsin this year, and a return contest at Iowa City next year. Full details of the agreement will be published in our next issue.

John Gardner passed an examination for the practice of medicine before the State Board of Medical Examiners, with high honors, and has received the state diploma. Although his classmates of the present Medical class are sorry to lose him, Mr. Gardner is receiving the congratulations of his many friends upon his early entry into the professional ranks.

Chas. O. Giese, ex-C. '99, who was last year a Managing Editor of the VIDETTE-REPORTER, is now teaching in Howe's Academy, the preparatory department of Iowa Wesleyan University, at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. A recent number of the Iowa Wesleyan contains a cut of Mr. Giese, and also an appreciative account of his work, from which we clip a few extracts: "Mr. Giese is one of the young professors connected with the University who have been students under modern conditions and are progressive in their methods. While at the State University he was especially active in literary work, being on the staff of the VIDETTE-REPORTER, and one of this University representatives on the Iowa-Minnesota debating team. His efforts here have been characterized by the same carefulness and determination that marked his work as a student. From his class room come reports of the most complimentary nature in regard to this work."

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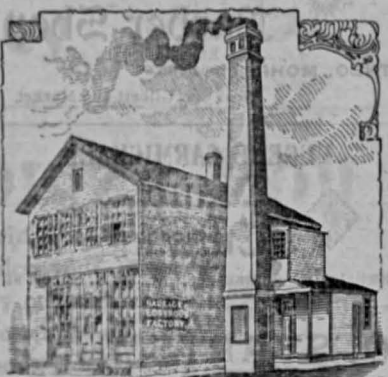
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