

# The Vidette - Reporter.

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

VOL. 32.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER, 23, 1899.

No. 31.

## BACONIAN.

DR. ROCKWOOD DISCUSSES THE FOOD OF PLANTS.

The subject was treated from the standpoint of an agricultural chemist, rather than as a botanist. The constituents of plant food are mostly derived from the soil, some from the air. The minerals or rocks of the earth are decomposed by glacial action, erosion, weathering and mixture with vegetable mold until they are finally reduced into a condition capable of plant assimilation.

The four necessary elements of plant food which are frequently deficient in soil are nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and calcium. Sodium, magnesium, iron, and sulphur are usually present in sufficient quantities, while hydrogen and oxygen are taken from the water. By experiments with soils from which certain elements have been removed, it has been found that small amounts of iron are necessary for production of chlorophyll, the coloring matter of leaves; magnesium is necessary to bring seeds to maturity. Carbon comes from carbonic acid in the air. As there is estimated to be thirty tons of carbon over each acre, no fertilizer is necessary.

Different plants impoverish the soil in different ways. Oxide of calcium is taken up mostly in the straw, its absence causes lack of hardness in plants. Potassium goes mainly into grains; the most important effect of its deficiency is the formation of acid reaction by decay of vegetable matter, which interferes with growth of plants. The deficiency is supplied by fertilizers, such as guano, phosphoric acid from bones, iron slag and wood ashes.

Nitrogen, which forms the protein, or albuminous element is the most expensive fertilizer. In sterile soils plants can absorb no nitrogen from the air, but if a small quantity of nitrate fertilizer is added the plant will absorb from the air one hundred times the nitrogen of the fertilizer, by the aid of bacterial processes. Too much organic matter in the soil must be neutralized with calcium carbonate. Soils have been inoculated with bacteria where crops are poor, with the result of increasing the crop.

Another valuable food of plants is humus—decomposing animal or vegetable matter. It aids in changing insoluble compounds into soluble. The great forest fires at Hinckley, Minn., reduced the humus in the soil to one-fourth of what it was before, meaning a loss of 2500 pounds of available nitrogen to the acre. Humus is destroyed slowly by deep plowing. Prairie soils cultivated thirty years without fertilization have lost 50 per cent of this humus. The amount destroyed is five or six times what is used by plants.

Professor Shimek made a voluntary report on the rotation of species of plants in a state of nature and Dr. Biering reported on photo-therapy; a new theory in therapeutics.

H. W. Rose, Secretary of College Departments of the Y. M. C. A. National Committee, will meet the young men of the University and address them at 6:45 Saturday evening; also at 4:00, Sunday afternoon. Mr. Rose by his exceptional good qualities made many friends while secretary of the Y. M. C. A. at this place.

## The Regulation of College Athletics.

No development of our educational life in the last two decades has brought it more good than athletic. There was need of just such a toning up as good sport has brought. The college putout had been rather lacking in virility. It had included also, too large a percentage of dyspepsia and mental acidity for the social demand. The standard type of the college graduate has changed very decidedly in twenty years, and society and human life at large are finding much more use for the new model than they did for the old. The old talk, for instance, about college graduates being unfitted for business is dying a natural death. Differentiation of courses of study, which has brought a greater number of life pursuits within the academic range, is undoubtedly in considerable part responsible but it is the spread of athletics has done quite as much to modify the average type of college character as any changes of curricula.

It is not physical culture that it has done this so much as though its contribution to the education of the will. It has tended to develop men who act, who can throw the whole force of concentrated personality strength, wit and will into the attainment of a goal through the overcoming of resistance and under the sharp stimulus of competition. In this aspect it is that athletic sport hold a definite place in the education of the Anglo-Saxon man. Essential of the Anglo-Saxon spirit which essays to lead the forces of the present world are the elements of directness, forceful activity fair play.

We may yet find it necessary to get a check on development of athletic sport in college life, but of present I cannot believe that any general danger of excess exists. Here and there on the elaboration of training methods and in the multiplying of competitions, especially in connection with the football campaign of the autumn months, it is evident that the danger-line is approached, if not crossed. If at any time a man becomes a football player rather than a college student, the proper balance of things has been disturbed and we must call a retreat, for professionalism is in substance not created by payments of money, but by diversion from the status of man and student to the status of athlete.

How now to keep within the danger-line? Arbitrary rules are a poor safeguard. Special provisions regarding the standard of scholarship to be required of athletes only serve to separate them off into a class by themselves, and give rise to arbitrary discriminations and endless misunderstandings and annoyances. Far better is it in my judgement, to give the repression automatic action by leaving all students on a common footing. Give the athletes no sort of consideration before the bar of recorder. Do not offer them any form of special exemptions or special resitations. Exact of them precisely what you exact of all other students, no more no less. If they fail, drop them. Students will then in self defense work out repression for themselves, and the sport will accommodate themselves automatically to the plain demands of academic life. It is absolutely essential for the heartfulness of college athletics that this simple principle be followed firmly and straight. Every slightest evasion of

it is fraught with danger. Trust the good sense of the American student; give his own unmatched instinct of self-preservation full, free course; deal fairly with him, and he will deal fairer than any one with the purposes and opportunities of college life—Benjamin Ide Wheeler, in The Saturday Evening Post.

## Winfred N. Stephenson.

An account of the funeral of Winfred N. Stephenson at Des Moines has kindly been furnished the VIDETTE-REPORTER by G. L. Schoonover '00, who, with W. L. Hoffman, '00, and Clark, L. '00, was present at the funeral.

The funeral occurred at the Forest Avenue Baptist church of Des Moines. The church was decorated by the class of '97, Des Moines College of which Stephenson was a member. Short addresses were given by Dr. Stetson, President of Des Moines College and by President MacLean of the University of Iowa. Dr. Stetson in his address mentioned the extraordinary characteristics of the deceased which had been noticed by him during the years of their association.

President MacLean spoke of the intense feeling which had been expressed at the University of Iowa and mentioned especially the Senior class with which Winfred had expected to graduate in June. At the close of his address he mentioned the spirit of scientific inquiry which was so marked in Mr. Stephenson, and said that although he was never able to obtain that knowledge of reality for which he was striving, here in the University of Iowa, he is now attending a Higher University, and has attained that which he sought.

The pall bearers were W. H. A. Ferrill, M. C. Ogg, C. H. Eldredge, and F. L. Groesbeck, of Des Moines College, and W. L. Hoffman and Geo. L. Schoonover, of the class of '00, U. of I.

## Homoeopathic Department.

Klinefelter, ex-'02, has returned to school after a year's absence.

Lauder '01, was out of town last week writing insurance.

Sophomores and Juniors are beginning the study of fractures.

Dr. Waterbury of Hudson was a visitor at surgical clinic last week.

An interesting paper was read at the Homoeopathic meeting this week by Dr. Clara Hazard.

Cogswell and Cooper helped defeat Coe College at Cedar Rapids, Saturday.

Every Junior should have his picture ready for the annual as soon as possible.

## Whitney Society.

At the meeting Monday evening Miss Call read a paper on the religious elements in Greek Literature. Voluntary reports were given as follows, Professor Currier, recent references in inaugural addresses to classical studies in colleges and universities; Professor Reeves, some Anglo-Saxon Etymologies; Dr. Eastman, as dabit in Old High German; Professor Wilson, some instances of German centonism; Professor Van Steenderen, review of Brownell's French Traits.

Subscriptions for the Vidette-Reporter are taken at the Arcade Book Store, second door south of the postoffice.

## Alumni Notes.

Frank Nelson, '92, now Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Kansas, delivered an address on Our National Development at the Soldiers' Reunion at Seneca, Kansas, on August 24th, 1899. The address has since been printed in pamphlet form and is noticeable for its strong advocacy of expansion. "Our Nation," runs an interesting sentence, "is moving onward into a larger destiny, and it should be a matter of pride to all of us to know that the patriotism of our State (Kansas) has been largely instrumental in making possible this newer and broader field for the statesmanship and genius of our common country."

W. H. Bender, has since 1897 had charge of the training department of the State Normal School, of which he is a graduate of the class of 1886. The Normal-Eyte says of his work, "This department has made marked improvement and rapid growth under his administration and he now has two able assistants."

C. B. Fountain, M. '91, has been successfully practicing his profession at Spirit Lake, Iowa, since graduation.

Frances L. Mills, '95, has been instructor in the Ottumwa high school since graduation.

Julian Richards, '72, of Waterloo, Ia., has been appointed private secretary to Henderson. Mr. Richards is in receipt of many compliments upon his fine position.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred P. Hageman, Waverly, Iowa, are in the city the guests of friends. Mr. Hageman is county superintendent of Bremer county and is one of our University graduates who have done honor to themselves and their alma mater since leaving school. Mr. Hageman graduated from the collegiate department and completed the law course in '96. His many old time University friends are much pleased to learn of his success in the schools of Bremer county.

## The Junior Annual.

Mr. Daniel Fry Miller, the editor-in-chief of the Junior Annual was interviewed by our reporter today upon the progress and prospects of the Hawkeye, '01. "The Hawkeye is progressing very rapidly now," said Mr. Miller in response to a question. "We are devoting ourselves now to getting the pictures for the cuts ready for the engravers. Most of the societies and fraternities have arranged to sit for their pictures this week and those who have not will sit the first of next week at the latest. The Junior pictures are almost all in but the views are being held for those who are yet back. Those Juniors who have not so far handed their pictures to the photographers or sit for them will do so this week and as soon as possible, too; as they realize that the book, their book is being held back for them."

## Notice to Students.

In order that all who go from the University and city may have an opportunity to get seats at the Rock Island game the management has arranged that 400 reserved seats will be placed on sale here, these seats will be sold the early part of week. The place and exact time will be announced later.

The Vidette-Reporter.

Issued from The Iowa State Press Office  
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TUESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY

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THE VIDETTE-REPORTER,  
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as second class matter.

At the meeting of the VIDETTE-REPORTER board Tuesday afternoon, Fred C. McCutchen presented his resignation as editor-in-chief of the VIDETTE-REPORTER on account of the large amount of work pressing upon him. The board regretted very much the necessity of accepting Mr. McCutchen's resignation but recognized that the demands of other matters upon his time and attention compelled it. McCutchen's work as editor-in-chief has been most satisfactory to the board and successful to the paper.

Chas. S. MacDonald, our capable Athletic Editor, has resigned this position on account of leaving school. We are glad to retain Mr. McCutchen's valuable services to the paper as Athletic Editor.

Roy A. Cook was promoted from the Managing Board to fill the position of Editor-in-Chief.

The Triumph of Pure Athletics.

A late issue of the Des Moines Capitol contains an interesting account of the downfall of the Drake University's football schedule and her contest against the other schools of the state who have insisted that Drake's athletics must be unprofessional if she is to be recognized as a competitor in inter-collegiate athletics. The article bears the Drake stamp, and taken along with the Capitol's continued policy of sympathy with Chancellor Craig's "amateurs," must, in some degree at least, be regarded as expression of Drake's attitude at present.

"Following in close succession," runs the beginning of the howl on luck, "after the blow received by Drake at the cancellation of the Denver game comes the news that Northwestern will not play Drake on Thanksgiving day.

"The decision on the part of Northwestern takes away the last game from Drake university and gives another chance for rejoicing in the camp of the triple alliance. No sugar trust was ever organized with more care and attention to details than was the combination against

Drake university by the other schools of the state, and no political campaign was ever manipulated by unseen hands more cleverly than has been the campaign of pure athletics this fall. On top of the boycott by Iowa teams comes a crippled and enthusiasm-lacking team, and finally the cancellation of the two best games of the season on account of conditions wholly unanticipated. Surely the hand of Providence has fallen heavily upon the blue and white this season, and the end is not yet. Flushed with the first fruits of victory the next step of the alliance will be to break of all negotiations with Drake in the coming field meet unless the matter has been amicably settled before that time. To use a slang expression the triple alliance has Drake on the hog train.

This makes interesting reading certainly. The article goes on to tell the same old story of Homer Holland's amateurism and incidently gives vent to a delightful piece of humorous wailing:

"Drake university has expressed herself as opposed to professionalism in every way and has questioned all members of the present football team closely as to their amateur standing before they were allowed to participate in practice."

The moral that is drawn is that Drake University had better make peace, for "Ames, Iowa City and Grinnell contested in athletic events long before the star of Drake university had risen above the horizon, and there is little probability but that they will be able to do so after that meteoric body has burned out. The student body almost to a man at Drake admits that a mistake was made in cancelling the Iowa City game, and it is very likely that the matter will be fixed up this winter. Just how much sack cloth and ashes the triple alliance will require on the part of Drake is a matter of conjecture, but the edict of the combination goes, W. H. Bremner still lives, and pure athletics in Iowa will have triumphed."

For Violin, Mandolin, Guitar Lessons see W. Berryhill, 223 North Capitol street.

The Rock Island will run a special train to the football game at Rock Island Thanksgiving Day train to leave Iowa City at 9 A. M. returning leaves Rock Island at 7:30 P. M. one fare for round trip.

James B. Mackie and big company presenting "Grimes' Cellar Door" will be the attraction at Opera House, Saturday Nov. 25. This is Mackie's eighth year in the above play, but this season offers a much stronger organization than he has ever offered. It is many years since "Grimes' Cellar Door" has been seen in the west, and Hoyt's famous comedian will no doubt receive a hearty welcome upon his appearance here. The comedy contains all the elements of popularity designed to please all classes of theatre goers. One feature of the attraction lies in the fact that Mr. Mackie has really secured very pretty girls, a matter so essential now a days in farce comedy offerings,

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**FACT AND RUMOR.**

Cogswell, H. M. '02 received a visit from his father yesterday.

The Zetagathians will give a sociable in South Hall this evening.

The Erodolphians had their pictures taken yesterday for the Junior annual.

Ivy Lane initiated Miss Gladys Whitly '03 last evening at the home of Miss Blanche Dow.

Lorin Roach and Ralph Mason of the 51st Iowa will enter the University in the Winter term.

Miss Eleanor Hossfeld, C. '03, is enjoying a visit from her Aunt, Mrs. Bricknell of Des Moines.

Reserved seats for the Iowa-Illinois football game are advertised for sale at Iowa City next Saturday.

W. Proudfoot of the firm of Proudfoot & Bird, architects of the new building was in the city yesterday.

Ralph Williamson, '02, has been appointed a sergeant of Co. I., of the local company of the National Guard.

Arthur Rule, L. '00, Inspector of the National Guard of the state has made his report upon the companies of the 50th Regiment, which he inspected last summer. Co. I., of Iowa City received the highest mark.

Professor Shambaugh and Dr. Patterson go to Cornell Friday to judge the inter-society debate. The societies have been working most heartily on the question and have attained a high standard of excellence in debate.

**Law Department.**

J. R. Howard '00, was initiated into the Phi Delta Theta fraternity Nov. 17.

R. P. Clark '00 attended the funeral of W. N. Stephenson. Mr. Clark and Mr. Stephenson were schoolmates in Des Moines College.

Every Junior should have his picture ready for the Annual as soon as possible.

P. T. Vaughn '01 appeared on the program of the St Brendan's Literary society last Sunday evening.

**Saturday's Accident.**

There is absolutely nothing in the accident reflecting on the supervision of University athletics by the authorities of the institution. Dr. Knipe, the University's athletic trainer, had prohibited the young man from indulging in so violent exercise as football because of his unfit physical condition.

Accidents are bound to happen, however strenuously they may be guarded against. Even so innocuous a game as golf has its list of fatalities.

While there have been a number of fatalities on the gridiron this season they have almost invariably been in contests among untrained students of institutions having no trainer, or in cases like that of Saturday where the inhibitions of the trainer have been disregarded.

Coming at the close of a glorious season for University athletics, however, the accident is particularly deplorable.—The Iowa City Republican.

**Iowa Teachers' Association.**

The Iowa State Teachers' Association will convene in Des Moines, Iowa for its forty-fifth annual session, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 27th, 28th, and 29th, 1899. Professor J. J. McConnel is a member of the standing committee on Legislations. On the program appear various professors and graduates of the University of Iowa.

President MacLean speaks on, "How Shall we arouse the People to a Greater and More Enlightened Interest in Our Public Schools". Judge H. E. Deemer of Red Oak speaks on the Teacher as the Layman sees him. Geo. C. Fracker, '85, reviews a years progress in Child Study. Professor Patrick speaks upon The results of Child Study as Suggesting Changes in the Elementary School Curriculum. C. C. Stover, of Esterville, discusses the Proper Age for Beginning School Life. Frances Mills speaks on The Literature Course in the High School.—Intensive or Expansive. The Value of Modern Story Literature in the Development of the Child and the Youth is to be discussed by Florence Zenokh, '97, Zulema Kostomlatsky, '94. C. H. Maxon, will talk on Mother's Club.

Professor A. G. Smith has a paper on The Methods of Determining Pi. Julia E. Rogers, '93 discusses The High School Outside of Recitation. Miss Leona Call is secretary of the Greek Teachers' Round Table and Professor Loos leads the Political Science Round Table Professor Wilcox speaks on the Definition of History and its Relation to Political Science. J. B. Shoutts, '97, discusses County Professional Associations.

Professor Loos has a paper on the General Associations Power and Efficiency. Professor McConnell talks on the Improvement of the Association to the Individual Teacher, D. T. Sallenbarger and F. P. Hageman, '96, discuss School Legislation. Sam Whiting, '96, discusses District Consolidation. Mrs. Jessie L. Gaynor, non-grad., lectures on Children's Songs. Assistant Professor Potter will discuss a paper in the Latin Round Table.

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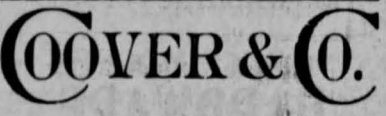


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