1904

Normal College News, June 4, 1904

Eastern Michigan University

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PORTIA CLUB MAY WIN THE NEW DEBATING CUP

At the largest annual meeting that has been held in recent years, the Oratorical Association last Friday afternoon adopted a new Constitution, and admitted the Portia Club to membership.

For three years the Portia Club have been longing for equal representation with the literary societies and men's clubs, in the final oratory and debating contests. At a special meeting of the Association last fall, their request was denied on the grounds that the college teams should consist of men, and that debating itself was unsuitable for women. The girls gave a practical demonstration of their ability soon after, by getting into the finals through the difficult channel of the school-at-large contest, and then winning out over all other contestants. Under the new Constitution, the Portias have equal standing in the Association, and two of next year's officers are members of the club, thus insuring them three members on the Board of Control. If present indications continue, next year may see the coveted trophy adorned with the white and blue of the followers of the fair young lawyer of Belmont.

The main features of the new constitution are briefly as follows: The membership consists of the three literary societies and the three debating clubs. Four contests in each oratory and debate are to be held each year directly under the authority of the Board of Control, which consists of the officers of the association, one representative from each society or

THE VALUE OF FIELD AND HERBARIUM WORK

WM. E. KOLT

In introducing the discussion of this subject is it not well to ask ourselves what are the main purposes of a course in high school botany or biology?

It will then be possible to consider the best ways to accomplish these ends, and whether we, as teachers, are giving the proper proportion of time to those lines of work which are likely to insure the best results.

Since, on the average, not more than one to per two cent. of high school students go to college, it goes without saying that the sole purpose of a high school botany course is not merely to get the pupil over a certain amount of work that will fulfill the entrance requirements of botany at some college, and thus secure for him one credit.

Certainly the high school course in botany is not to prepare specialists; for probably not more than one student in 500 who takes elementary botany ever becomes a specialist in any branch of the science.

There are, however, each year a large number of pupils who come up to the first or second year of their high school courses knowing almost nothing of the great plant kingdom.

What subject can be made more fascinating to the pupil than botany, if presented to him in a way that he can properly comprehend it? If the majority of pupils in a school are not interested in botany it must be due to an emphasis being laid on the less important phases of the
subject, or to the manner in which the work is presented. I cannot conceive of botany being a "dry" subject to the intelligent pupil if properly taught.

How can the three essentials of botany, viz. the field work, the indoor laboratory work, the text-book and assigned reading be combined in the right proportions to give to the pupil not only the best training and the most desirable knowledge of plant life; but also to give him an interest and a love for such study that will go with him long after his school days are over?

With all due regard for the value of well-chosen indoor laboratory work, I maintain that nothing in elementary botany can replace in importance the value of learning to see and to think in the field. The laboratory of the chemist is almost wholly indoors; not so the laboratory of the botanist. No indoor laboratory work can replace wholly the study in nature's own laboratory—the great plant world out of doors.

Is it not true, as one successful teacher in botany has suggested, that in too many high schools an attempt is made to introduce botany from the standpoint of the college? The pupil is expected to plunge into indoor laboratory study of the structure of plants that he knows nothing about—in too many cases cares nothing about—or to attack advanced problems before he has been given an opportunity to learn even the most simple things about plants.

The future life of 99 per cent of our high school pupils who study botany or zoology is to be spent outside the laboratory. How can they best be trained to think about the forms of life with which they will almost daily come in contact in future years? I know of no better training for this than well-directed work in the field.

By well-directed work in the field I do not mean mere excursions to the woods, or elsewhere, where boys and girls can go with their teachers to get out-of-doors and merely have a good time, possibly seeing and learning a few things incidentally—or accidentally. A mere excursion means a good time and no arduous labor for either teacher or pupil; but it does not bring results.

To avoid generalities I shall suggest in the third person a few things that have come in my own experience and attempts to get definite, desirable results from field work.

To a teacher living in a town or village with woods, an abundance of wild flowers, and various kinds of plants societies and ecological conditions near at hand, the problem of finding and doing field work is easy of solution. Let us consider a much more difficult case.

A person teaching in a city high school has, for illustration, 150 pupils in botany whom he instructs in five or six sections. Could one ask for a more difficult problem in this line than getting so many active young people out for successful field work, especially in a city where it is sometimes stated that there are no suitable places for field work within a radius of miles?

Before stating this plan, let us first look at the preparations for such a field trip. For the first trip of the season let us go to the conservatory of one of the public parks, or to a locality where we can study a dozen or more of our common evergreens. There is much to be learned from either of these trips, and they naturally suggest themselves as among the first of the season, before the arrival of the spring wild flowers.

The teacher goes carefully in advance once or twice—better twice—over the ground to be covered by the class. He thus forms his definite plans of what he wants his classes to observe and to study, and how best to direct them to get desired results.

(Concluded next week.)
DEATH OF FORMER PRINCIPAL
MACVICAR

Dr. Malcolm MacVicar, who died a few days ago in New York, was Principal of the State Normal School (now college), for one year, being elected in December, 1880, and resigning the position in the fall of the next year.

Dr. MacVicar was born in Scotland, and came to Canada with his father and the family in 1835. He was educated at Knox College, in Toronto, and at Rochester University in New York, from which he was graduated in 1859. Soon after graduation he became Principal of the normal school in Brockport, and later was made Principal of the normal school in Potsdam. From Potsdam he came to Ypsilanti.

He resigned the Principalship of the normal school here to accept a professorship in a college at Toronto, which subsequently became the MacMaster University. Of this he was elected Chancellor, and devoted himself for two years to the organization and development of that institution. After leaving this position he became superintendent of the educational work of the Northern Baptists, among the colored people of the South, and during the last four years he was President of the Virginia Union University, at Richmond, Va.

His connection with our normal school was so brief that he did not become widely known among the schoolmen of the state, and only a few of the present faculty of the institution have any personal knowledge of him or of his work here. He made, with the concurrence of the Board of Education, some important changes in the organization of the school, and in the courses of study and instruction. He was by nature fond of the work of organization, and not averse to making changes where he deemed them necessary.

He was a man of high ideals, of exalted character, of marked executive ability, of great energy, and of positive and well-defined purpose in any work in which he engaged. He regarded the building of character as the crowning excellence of all true education.

MALIBRAN

Manuel Garcia, one of the greatest vocal instructors the world has ever known, was the father of the famous singer, Maria Malibran. He gave his daughter the best of training, beginning when she was only a few years old. Her voice was at first very unpromising and it was only by dint of exceedingly hard practice and by the tireless energy of her father, that she won the honor and glory afterward bestowed upon her.

Very unexpectedly she made a great success at her first appearance, which was in one of Rossini's operas. A year later, when only sixteen years old, she took London by storm, and from this time on, her success as an opera singer was assured. Her voice became one of extraordinary compass and splendid quality throughout, and she sang with wonderful dramatic fire and brilliancy. On her first American tour, she married a wealthy New York merchant, whose name, Malibran, she has since borne. The marriage seems to have been an unhappy one, however, and it was not long before they parted.

She then went back to the old world, and from this on her life is a wonderful tale. In spite of very poor health she never stopped to rest from the busy life she was leading. Her brightest laurels were won when suffering great pain.

The Manchester Festival of 1836 was her last performance, for on the day of the festival she was the subject of an accident, which caused her death. While riding a spirited horse she was thrown, and although very seriously injured, she played her part that evening. She passed away a few weeks afterward as a result of this unfortunate accident.

Bill—Where is the best place to hold the world's fair?
Tom—I dunno. Where?
Bill—Around the waist.
TWO CHARMING RECITALS

MR. WINTON, PIANIST

The fifth graduating recital of the Normal Conservatory was given Tuesday evening, May 31, by J. Clair Winton, pianist, assisted by Mrs. Annis D. Gray, contralto. The recital opened with the first movement of the Concerto in C Major, by Weber, which was very artistically rendered. After Mr. Winton’s third number which included the Impromptu op. 90, No. 4 by Schubert and the Scherzo op. 16, No. 2, by Mendelssohn, he received a great ovation, being recalled repeatedly. Mr. Winton plays with power and feeling, and is very talented. His recital was one of the most enjoyable of the season. Mrs. Annis Gray has a beautiful sympathetic contralto voice and sings with an ease which is perfectly delightful. The Cradle Song by Norris was especially enjoyed by the audience.

MISS MUNDWILER, SOPRANO

The graduating recital given Tuesday evening, May 24, by Miss Haidee Mundwiler, soprano, assisted by Miss Ruby Pratt, pianist, of Detroit, was one of the most enjoyable imaginable. Miss Mundwiler’s voice is not of extended range or of great power, but its quality is sympathetic and it is exquisitely sweet and very flexible. Her program was admirably suited to show its charm, Miss Mundwiler electing to sing all in English, so the audience were able to appreciate the songs which she sang with so much expression, and they recalled her repeatedly. Her stage presence is also in harmony with the charm of her song. The lovely “Vilmaelle,” the tenderness of “Dorothy May,” the archness of “They Say,” and the delicious quality of the Schubert numbers, will live long in the memory, and the two old songs, in which the refrain was sung by the Conservatory male quartet, were beautifully rendered by Miss Mundwiler, whose voice well expressed the pathos of the words and airs. Miss Pratt’s many friends were very glad to have the opportunity of hearing her again, and enjoyed thoroughly her delightful playing.

WEATHER BAD FOR BASEBALL

The annual meeting of the Athletic Association for the election of officers will be held in room 50, at five o’clock next Tuesday afternoon, June 7. All students are members of the association and should be present. Athletics next year will be on a firm footing, and now is the time to begin acting. The meeting is going to be a rousing one and no one can afford to miss it.

College papers from all over the country tell the same story of a hard luck season in baseball. The treacherous weather has proved disastrous to a great many teams. The Olivet team has become discouraged and has disbanded; Adrian reports a deficit thus far of over a hundred dollars; and even M. A. C. claims to be hard up financially, as a result of too much rain.

The Normal team has been getting its full share of disappointments from the same cause.

A study of the manager’s face these days would serve for a course in meteorology, recording as it does with barometer-like exactness every change of weather, by the fixing of a date or the sudden announcement of its postponement. One morning last week came the announcement of a game for the afternoon with the U. of M. junior 7’s. At three o’clock it was postponed indefinitely because of rain. On Monday morning the team prepared to go to M. A. C. At nine o’clock a telegram said rain, and the game was cancelled. Thursday the team was to play at Clark Park, Detroit. The grounds were unfit, and a postponement until next Thursday was the result. The Adrian return game has been cancelled for reasons already stated. Perhaps there will be a game here with Orchard Lake next week. On Saturday, the team with four substitutes defeated the Eastside Athletic Club in a five inning practice game by a score of 21 to 5.

Athletic Meeting, Tuesday, 5 P. M.
ALUMNI

Superintendent L. H. Metras of Hartford, class of '01, adds another teacher to his high school corps next year.

L. G. Avery, class of '02, has just completed a successful year as superintendent of the schools of Madison, S. D. His corps of 18 teachers is to be increased next year.

W. E. Conkling, class of '88, in writing concerning high school teachers, prefers those of athletic training, a very common demand in these days.

Supt. H. G. Warne '90, declines re-election at Rockland and accepts a like position at Newberry where a handsome advance in salary is offered him.

Miss Jessie Clark of Bessemer writes that she, Miss Gow and Miss Patterson enjoy the Normal News very much as it keeps them in touch with old Ypsi. and the alumni.

Miss Viola Marshall '97, declines re-election at Mason where she has been principal for the past three years and will remain at her home in Litchfield the coming year.

Miss Elva Neilson '03, who has been in charge of the primary department at Cannonsburg during the past year, accepts a position in the Holland schools for next year.

L. E. Righter '02, who has been for the past two years teacher of Physics and Chemistry in the Benton Harbor High school, goes to the same work at Sault Ste. Marie, at an increase of salary.

Superintendent McKay of Missoula, Montana, writes of the highly successful work of Miss Cora Paine, '03, last year's editor-in-chief of the News, who is this year teaching in the public schools of that city. Miss Paine has been elected head of the English in the Missoula high school for the coming year and will receive for her work a splendid salary.

H. E. Bell '96, is located at Boyne City where he has a new school building, and we are also informed that he built a fine new residence 'for his family' this past summer.

Miss Susie E. Glass, principal of the high school at Plainfield, N. J., and teacher of Latin and German, will spend next year studying German in Berlin. Before returning Miss Glass will take a trip through Switzerland and spend some time at Rome.

Mr. H. Z. Wilber '02, who has charge of the preparatory classes which are in connection with the training department of the Kansas State Normal School, Emporia writes that he has been elected for his third year with a fine increase in salary. The normal numbers over 2000 students, the senior class having 300 members.

The following alumni members are teaching at Bessemer—Wilhelmina Fritz, Helen MacLunis, Jessie Auls, Sylvia Reil.

Leslie asks Supt. Vliet to engage for two years at $1,000. All the grade teachers are raised to $400 and asked to remain.

Mr. A. P. Benson, formerly a Grand Rapids principal, holds a like position in one of the large buildings at Minneapolis, Minn. The following are also doing grade work there: Nell and Mabel Treadgold of Albion, Eva Luxford of Manistee, Lilian Fisher of Caseville, Alice Thom of Ypsilanti, Agnes Winn of Kalamazoo, Sara MacInnis and Callie M. Cecil.

Break, break, break,
\(\cdot\) On thy cold gray stone, \(\cdot\) sea,
For I'd like you to know
How it seems to be so
Broke, dead broke as me.—Ex.

"My dear," said Growells, "you are simply talking nonsense."

"I know it," replied his beloved,
"but it's because I want you to understand what I say."—Ex.
The Normal College News

The Normal College News
Published Weekly By
THE STATE NORMAL COLLEGE COUNCIL, YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN.

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PRESIDENTS OF THE STATE, LANG AND KEE.

Entered at the Ypsilanti Post Office as second-class matter.

Yes, the Senior Party promises to be the great event of the college year. June 17th is the date named.

We gladly acknowledge the kindness of Mr. Wm. P. Holt of the Central High School, Toledo, who has made it possible for us to give our readers his interesting and practical paper on "The Value of Field and Herbarium Work," which he read before the schoolmasters' club, held here in March last. We deeply regret that owing to lack of space we have been obliged to leave out some very valuable parts of the article.

It is a pleasure to be able to announce that at a recent meeting of the College Council, the following appointments relative to the News for the coming year were made: Mr. Robert Reinhold, '04, of Reed City, will remain on the News staff, being made General Manager; Miss Z. Estella Augell, '05, of Farmington, will be Editor, and Mr. E. A. Burke, '03, of New Boston, will be Business Manager. The College is extremely fortunate in securing the services of these energetic and capable young people, and the success of the News for 1905 is well assured.

Last Wednesday chapel hour, May 25th, was a notable occasion in Normal Hall, being the time set apart for the observance of Memorial Day by the students. The eloquent and inspiring address on patriotism by Professor S. B. Laird, an abstract of which appeared in last week's issue of the News, was received with unbounded enthusiasm and appreciation.

Professor Pease played, as only Mr. Pease can play, a selection of National airs as an organ solo, closing with "The Star Spangled Banner," which was sung by one of the conservatory choruses, the solos being taken by Miss Benedict and Messrs. Cook and Denton.

Many of the addresses on patriotic subjects recently listened to, have made one have two feelings in regard to the Eastern question which seemed always to be touched upon. The sympathies of Americans are about divided between the two nations participating. When we think of the brave little Japs taking a stand against their big Russian opponents and maintaining it with armed force, our hearts go out to them and we wish them success, for they are fighting for what our ancestors, for what our fathers and our brothers fought. The Japs seem to deserve rightly the name "Yankees of the East."

On the other hand there are the Russians who in a time of great need stood by us. It was at the beginning of the Civil War, when England with too much haste recognized the South as a belligerent power, while at the same time France was trying to league all the other powers of Europe against the Northern states, that Russia alone stood the friend of the Union and offered us aid and sympathy. So we feel indebted to Russia, and in her war with Japan we sympathize with her.

Mr. Long's defense of the woodcock episode in his "Little Brother to the Bear," found in Science, May 13, p. 760, is rather lively reading. Try it.
LOCALS AND PERSONALS

Miss Ida LeClerc spent Decoration Day in Detroit.

Miss Mary Ulrich spent several days last week at Marshall.

Miss Mary White is entertaining her mother, of Fremont.

Miss Nettie Roosa entertained Miss Susie Townsend over Sunday.

Mr. Charles Gibbs visited friends at Leslie over Sunday.

Miss Jessie Lee and Miss Grace Templeton spent Sunday in Detroit.

Miss Ethel Lyle, '03, of Decatur, spent the first of the week with Miss Gertrude Loomis.

Miss Edna Skinner of Cooper, visited friends in the College, the first of the week.

Misses Margaret Henley of Jackson, visited her sister Miss Ellou Henley over Sunday.

Miss Marian Pratt, '03, of Wapakoneta, Ohio, was the guest of college friends Wednesday last.

Misses Mary and Lois White were entertained at the Kappa Alpha Theta house in Ann Arbor, Sunday.

Miss Ellen Gray Macduff, of Jackson, visited Miss Mary Carpenter Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Grace Crawford, of Flint, was the guest of Miss Florence Cotharin, from Friday until Tuesday.

Miss Lena Bostwick entertained Miss Della Winoeer from Lowell, over Sunday at the Sigma Nu Phi House.

Miss Ida Hall, '03, who is teaching in Wolverine, spent a few days this week with Miss Kate Ruth.

Miss Adella Rowe Jackson, of the training school, has received an urgent invitation to join the faculty of the State Normal at Columbus, Miss., for the summer term. The students of our college are fortunate in receiving instruction from one of such excellent ability and wide reputation.
Miss Mable Miller will teach in Schoolcraft the coming year.

Miss Ida and Carrie Lonsby visited at home at Mt. Clemens over Sunday.

Mr. Richard Keeler spent Sunday in Concord, visiting friends.

Miss Thora Paulson will be a member of the Holland corps of teachers next year.

Miss Helen Sweet and Margaret Jones spent the vacation at Lake Orion.

Miss Evalina Monteith of Oxford, spent Sunday with Miss Hazel Harding.

Miss Agnes Brown spent the short recess at her home in Grand Rapids.

Miss Maud Armstrong goes to Eaton Rapids next year as teacher of Latin and German.

Miss Ida Lonsby has been elected preceptress of the Lawton high school. She spent Tuesday there.

If you want to secure a position to teach, write James P. McCullough, 639 Fine Arts Building, Chicago.

Cut flowers may be ordered at the Woman's Exchange across from the gymnasium, 511 Hilts St.

Miss Amy Calkins entertained Misses Adelaide Stearns, Alice Hawks, and Anna Besley at her home in Detroit over Sunday.

Miss Rebecca Metcalfe spent Sunday with her mother in Jackson. She entertained her aunt, Mrs. Pierce, of Bad Axe, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Miss Grace Grout, '03, of Union City, spent Sunday with friends in the College.

Miss Helen Stevenson spent Sunday and Monday at Port Huron with her parents.

Miss Emma Hathaway, a charter member of the Zeta Phi sorority, visited Miss Cora Ballou, Sunday and Monday. Miss Mayme Horner, '03, visited friends at the same time.

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Miss Kate McKenzie has been elected teacher of mathematics in the Cadillac high school for the coming year.

Last Tuesday evening a reception was tendered Rev. and Mrs. Wharton in the Presbyterian church parlor. Rev. Wharton has resigned his pastorate and will leave the city for Colorado in about two weeks.

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FRATERNITIES

The Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority entertained Friday evening at Maccabee Hall. Dancing was the main feature of the evening’s entertainment. A happy time was spent by the sorority and their friends. Among the out of town guests were Misses Margaret Henley and Violet Brown of Jackson, Miss Bird Silt of Hillsdale, and Miss Marie Dill of Ann Arbor.

The annual party of the sorority of Harmonious Mystics was given at the Gymnasium Saturday evening, May 28th, and was pronounced by all present, a most delightful event. The decorations were novel, especially those in the office which had been transformed into a Japanese room. The musical corner which was filled with everything pertaining to music, and sorority corner which was trimmed with the colors in brunette and flowers, were other interesting features of decoration. The guests were received by the president, Miss Mills, and patronesses, Mrs. Pease and Mrs. D’Ooge. Some of the guests from out of town were Misses Crawford and McDuff of Flint, Miss Evelyn Montieth of Utica, and Misses Lucy Cooley, Bessie Cass and Ethel Slaten of Ann Arbor.

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MICHIGAN CENTRAL
“The Niagara Falls Route.”

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OBITUARY

The news of the death of Miss E. Grace O’Toole, ’03, in Los Angeles, Calif., May 27, last, has brought sorrow to many hearts. She was compelled to resign her position as teacher in Lexington, last February, and went West in March, hoping to regain her health. Every letter was full of hope and cheer, and her sudden death was a severe shock to her many friends in college, who extend their heartfelt sympathy to her family in their sad bereavement.
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PORTIA CLUB MAY WIN NEW DEBATING CUP

(Concluded from page 349)

club, and the Head of Department of Oratory. The first three contests are preliminary to the final contest. In the first preliminary contest each debating club is entitled to two contestants. The second contest is open to all students of the college. In the third preliminary each literary society is entitled to two contestants. The two winners in each are eligible for the final contest. Thus there will be but six contestants in the final contests hereafter, and each will have won his right to compete, by defeating at least four others. This should insure spirited and hard-fought contests.

The filling of vacancies is provided for by taking the highest ranked contestant from the preliminary contests regardless of the club or society to which he may belong.

Each literary society is to pay ten dollars annually and each debating club four dollars, in return for which their members will receive free admission to all contests.

The association voted to have five hundred copies of the constitution in full printed and indexed for use by the members of the association.

The treasurer's report showed the organization to be in splendid financial condition. One hundred dollars have been set aside as a loan fund in charge of President Jones.

The officers for next year as elected under the new constitution are:—Mace Andress, president; Grace Erb, vice-president; Guy Mowry, treasurer; Guy C. Smith, member of the intercollegiate executive committee.

The coming year promises to be the most successful in the history of the association. In addition to this year's successes the Normal College enjoys the distinction of holding the presidency of the Interstate Association of ninety-six