



1-15-1909

## The Ursinus Weekly, January 15, 1909

Welcome Sherman Kerschner  
*Ursinus College*

George Leslie Omwake  
*Ursinus College*


Garry C. Myers  
*Ursinus College*

Eli F. Wismer  
*Ursinus College*

Helen Neff  
*Ursinus College*

*See next page for additional authors*

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**Authors**

Welcome Sherman Kerschner, George Leslie Omwake, Garry C. Myers, Eli F. Wismer, Helen Neff, and Margaret Yetter Fryling

# The Ursinus Weekly

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VOL. 7. NO. 15

COLLEGEVILLE, PA., FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1909.

PRICE, 3 CENTS

## CALENDAR

Friday, January 15, Literary Societies, 7.40 p. m.  
Basketball; Ursinus Academy vs. Reading H. S., at Reading.  
Sunday, January 17, Mission Study, 1.30 p. m.  
College Quartette sings at the Religious Service at the Garrick, Norristown, 3.45 p. m.  
Devotional services by Dr. Lee, 4.00 p. m.  
Monday, January 18, Handel Choral Society Rehearsal, 6.45 p. m.  
Tuesday, January 19, Y. W. C. A., 6.40 p. m.  
Wednesday, January 20, Y. M. C. A., 6.40 p. m.  
Thursday, January 21, Men's Glee Club, 5 p. m.  
SEMI-ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS begin.  
Friday, January 22, Literary Societies, 7.45 p. m.  
Saturday, January 23, Basketball, Ursinus Academy vs. Temple University, at Philadelphia, at 3 p. m.

## NOTICE

TO THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS WHO SO LOYALLY SUPPORTED US IN THE PRODUCTION OF THE CALENDAR WE WISH TO EXTEND OUR THANKS.

THERE ARE AS YET A FEW WHO HAVE NOT RESPONDED; BELIEVING THIS TO HAVE BEEN AN OVERSIGHT WE BEG TO REMIND YOU OF IT AND TRUST THAT YOU WILL KINDLY GIVE THE MATTER YOUR ATTENTION AND INSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE BUSINESS.

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## LECTURES

A Brief Summary of the 1st four lectures in Mission Study by Prof. Riddle:

The tenement resident has no home. For children, the street is a school giving a bad education, a playhouse of glass with rules of its own. These are preserved by the policemen who stand as the natural enemies of the child, which condition breeds an attitude of hostility towards authority and society. The street is the playground where vice runs riot, obscenity stalks abroad, and where the shop windows emphasize the child's desire for property and cultivates his discontent.

The public school, which impairs the child's health because of im-

proper nutrition, which alienates the child from his peasant parents and often develops his intellectual at the expense of his physical and moral well-being, is another factor in the environment as it effects the city worker.

Another factor is the manufactories with their system of tools, its combination of capital and labor, where the destruction of life by modern industry is appalling. Actual figures were given showing that the annual casualties of killed and injured in the industrial establishments of United States is greater than the annual casualties in killed and injured in the Civil War plus those of the Russo Japanese War. Think of carrying on such a war annually in this country!

Added to these factors are to be found the amusement resorts, usually a low dance hall or a saloon which is the poor man's club, his post-office, his bureau of information, his agency for labor.

Lastly, the church was given as a great factor in the environments effecting the city worker.

Statistics show that the Protestant population in the large cities of our country has grown faster than the Protestant church membership. The church shows three stages of development in the tenement district.

1. The abandoned church.
2. The depleted church.
3. The socialized or institutional church. While the church has gone through several changes so far to adjust itself to the environment of the age, it is approaching a period now when it must adjust itself once more to these demands.

Next Sunday Professor Riddle will deal with the failures in tenement mission fields. His final lecture to be given January 24 will devise a plan for the solution of the problem of City Missions.

We asked for fifty last Sunday and that number was exceeded. The English room could scarcely contain the crowd. There are some larger rooms. Why not raise the number next Sunday to seventy-five?

## BASKET BALL IN THE ACADEMY

The Academy basketball team, which was organized during the Fall, is about to begin to play scheduled games, and although the quintet has been hampered through lack of a good hall to practice, they are prepared to give a good

account of themselves. Among the members of the team are several men of experience in passing and caging the ball.

Messrs. Sheaffer and West, '12, are lending their assistance in coaching the men, and during a long secret practice yesterday afternoon improved the teamwork and developed the finer points of the game. Manager R. S. Faux has an attractive schedule of games arranged, and it is to be regretted that the want of a suitable floor will prevent the boys from making a local debut against another team. Opportunity may be afforded of seeing a game in a neighboring town.

The team left to-day for Reading, where they will play the High School team of that place in the P. and R. Y. M. C. A., Building. On Saturday, January 23 at 3 p. m., they play Temple University at Philadelphia. The team as it will line up to-night consists of Romeo and Bransome forwards, Capt. Gay and Poland guards, Bariscello, center, and Allison, sub. The "preps" deserve no small amount of credit for their assured success in representing the school in the basket ball world, and they have the good wishes and support of both academic and collegiate students.

## THE DEAN'S COLUMN

The Governing Committee of the Collegeville Summer Assembly met on Wednesday in Philadelphia. The following members of the Committee were present: Rev. A. E. Keigwin, D. D., chairman, Rev. Calvin D. Yost, Secretary, Rev. L. W. Hainer, Rev. J. F. Sheppard, Rev. B. B. Royer, Rev. J. M. S. Isenberg, Professor G. L. Oniwake, Professor J. W. Riddle, Jr., Rev. Geo. W. Henson, Rev. E. V. Loucks, and Rev. J. Beveridge Lee, D. D.

The Assembly will be held much earlier in the summer this year, beginning, July 23rd and ending August 1st, as it is much easier to secure able speakers at this season. Plans are laid to have at the coming Assembly some of the greatest religious leaders of this country and England. Among the speakers who were here last year and who have been engaged to return this summer are Dr. John Bancroft Shaw of Chicago and Dr. Ira J. Landrich of Nashville, Tenn. Dr. Keigwin will be one of the speakers and

will preside at the meetings. Professor George Handy Wailes will again have charge of the morning Bible lectures and Mr. J. Lincoln Hall will be back to conduct the music. The twilight meetings on the campus will be made a strong feature this summer.

It was resolved to raise the money necessary to maintain the conferences this year by subscription in advance, each member of the Governing Committee agreeing to take part in the work of soliciting funds. The budget of expenses will be much higher than that of last year. As the attendance will doubtless be very much larger, arrangements will be made for a tent city on the College grounds.

G. L. O.

## WEEK OF PRAYER

The Week of Prayer, the observance of which was deferred from last November, is at present being conducted by the Y. M. C. A. The services commenced on Tuesday evening. The Association was very fortunate in securing the Rev. J. Beveridge Lee, D. D., to talk at all of the meetings, while members of the Y. M. C. A. presided. Students and townspeople have been attending in goodly numbers, although many have been kept away through the multiplicity of appointments and meetings.

On Tuesday evening Dr. Lee spoke as follows upon the subject "What is Christianity?"—We too often substitute for religion that which is not religion. The trouble is, many persons do not know what Christianity is. Too often it is defined in terms of civilization. But Christianity is not civilization, although it is a result of civilization. So also, forms of prayer and worship, going to church, etc., do not constitute religion, but are products of it.

Christianity has been defined as a "new spirit coming into man," the spirit of love, joy, peace, gentleness, long-suffering, self-control. If you have these characteristics you are a Christian. Christianity is an inner spirit whose essence is love, for God and man. Love is the essential thing in religion. The things of Christianity are confused with Christianity itself.

We make a great mistake when we think ourselves good because we have kept the commandments which are all don'ts. But it is not a question of how much evil we

Continued on fourth page.

# THE URSINUS WEEKLY

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FRIDAY, JAN. 15, 1909.

## EDITORIAL

The time is drawing nigh for the mid-yearly examinations. We find ourselves on the eve of another Waterloo, and we are viewing it either as Napoleons or Wellingtons. The closing days will witness a marshalling of forces for the supreme effort, a temporary Renaissance, as it were, and a last grand review. Everyone on the Freshmen with their horn-book learning to the maturer philosophical Seniors will furnish recruits to cope with the army of awe-inspiring questions advanced by the more-experienced.

The time-worn adage still obtains that examinations are formidable to the best prepared, etc. This fear has been inspired in us through former experience, and becomes more intense with each recurring experience. We learn that fear was a potent agent in man's development during the barbaric stage, and many would claim that the modern system of examinations is a relic of barbarism, so that our fearfulness is only a normal mental condition. It is rarely seen that anyone worries himself into a state of leanness or that any post-mortems are necessary before or after the crucial test, either from brain-storms superinduced by over-study or from dread of the final outcome.

It is policy not to worry, but to meet the issue not only squarely, but also fairly. Meet it fairly, and then if it comes to pass that you flunk, the consolation is yours that you have flunked fairly and

squarely, and that credit is by no means absent from you.

## SOCIETIES

### ZWINGLIAN

The first meeting of the year was featured by a novel program. It was a Japanese program. The stage was decorated with Japanese lights and small trees, producing a strikingly Oriental effect. The numbers, which proved very interesting, were as follows:

Piano Solo, "Les Musicades, R. S. Thomas, '10; Recitation, "The Geography Demon," Kerschmer, '09; Essay, Customs of Japan, Myers, '09; Vocal Solo, "Thy Sentinal Am I," Quay, '11. Tableaux Representing Japanese Life, Miss Sponser, '10, leader. Reading, Kruger, A. Talk, Recent Development of Japan, Lau, '09; Cello Solo, "Two Grenadiers," Wagner, '10, Recitation, "Japanese Love Song," Miss Rapp, '12; Chorus, "The Indian Maid," Custer, '09, leader. Oration, Money and Hypocrisy, Long, '09; R. S. Thomas, '10, read an interesting Review at the conclusion of the program. Mr. Lorenz, '11, of Spring Mount, was elected an active member of the Society, and Mr. Morvin Godshall, '11, was reinstated.

### SCHAFF

The program for Friday evening was a musical one, and all the numbers were well rendered. It was as follows:

Piano Trio, "Spatz am Dach," Misses Booser, '10, Saylor, '12, and Freyer, '10; Vocal Solo, "Winding of the Yarn," Stamm, '12; Essay, "Short Sketch of Life and Composition of McDowell," Wismer, '09; Vocal Solo, "My Birthday," Miss Spangler, '09; Male Quartet, "There's Music in the Air," Messrs. Stamm, '12, Wismer, A. Brown, A. and Umstead, '09; Violin and Cornet Duet, "Flower Song," Messrs Thomasson, '10, and Saylor, '10. Recitation, "The Brook," with musical accompaniment, Miss Neff, '09; Girls' Trio, "My Flaxen Haired Lassie" Violin Solo, Thomasson, '10. Anecdotes from four composers, Miss Freyer, '10; Musical Enigmas, Tyson, '10; Vocal Solo, "Roses," Fogleman, '10; Gazette, Editor No. 2, Spears, '10.

At the second roll call, musical quotations were given by the members of the society.

Under voluntary exercises Mrs. Beach favored the society with a vocal and piano solo.

### PERSONALS

Miss Snyder of Reading visited friends at the College on Sunday. H. K. Thomas, '10, and Lauer, '10, spent Saturday in Philadelphia.

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Mr. Heinrich Petersen, formerly an instructor at Ursinus, now a member of the teaching staff of the Wilkes-Barre High School, recently visited friends at the College.

Rev. Frank DeWitt Talmage, D. D., who recently accepted the pastorate of the Chambers-Wylie Presbyterian church, Philadelphia, was the guest of Professor and Mrs. Omwake last Monday evening.

The Ursinus College Crafts have orders sufficient to keep the shop busy for several months. A system of electric lights has been installed so that the late hours of the afternoons may be used for work. About a dozen students are now employed in this department.

While home during the Christmas recess, Mitchell, '12, narrowly escaped drowning.

J. H. Wagner, of Mahanoy City, spent several days in town, dividing his time between his brother-in-law, Rev. C. D. Yost and Kerschner, '09.

E. A. Thomasson, '10, made a business trip to Philadelphia on Saturday.

Spears, '10, and Davis, '10, were visiting at Norristown last Saturday evening.

Isenberg, '12, Come, '12, Bariscello, A., and Brown, A, were Norristown visitors on Saturday night.

The College Quartette will sing at the meeting of the Norristown Y. M. C. A. held in the Garrick Theater this Sunday afternoon at 3:45. An interesting address will be delivered by Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts, of Washington, D. C., Supt. of the National Reform Bureau. He will speak on his interview with "Count Okuma on Morality." Admission is free.

Kerschner, '09, officiated at the organ in the Lower Providence Presbyterian Church on Tuesday night, the occasion being a repetition of their Christmas Cantata.

Rev. Blessing filled the pulpit of the Reformed church at Norristown last Sunday.

Prof. Riddle lectured on Wednesday afternoon at the Teachers' Institute of Harleysville on the subject "Practical Emotional Teaching of Civics." In the evening he delivered at the same place a popular lecture on "The Man with the Grouch."

**SEMINARY NOTES**

The opening of the second Semester of the Seminary took place on Wednesday, January 6. Dr. T. C. Hill of Springfield delivered an able lecture on "The Reading of the Scripture in Public." Dr. Hill has charge of the department of Oratory in the Seminary the second semester.

Dr. Herbeck and Vollmer officiated at the installation of Rev. E. F. Eymeyer, pastor of Fourth Reformed Church, Dayton. Dr. Vollmer preached the sermon.

The Boarding Club of the Seminary is very grateful to Mr. Henry Burkhard of Huffman Hill for his generous gift of cured meats which form a prominent part in the bill of fare.

All the students were busy during vacation, filling appointments in various Reformed churches. This is quite a feature, and an advantage for the students, affording as much practical work and preaching as they are able to do.

Kriete, '10, was chosen to represent Central Seminary for the "Christian World," published in Cleveland.

**ALUMNI NOTES**

Rev. J. W. Meminger, '84, pastor of St. Paul's Church, Lancaster, Pa., will preach a special sermon on Abraham Lincoln to the local members of the G. A. R., Sunday evening, February 7.

Rev. W. H. Erb, '93, of Bethlehem, Pa., on Sunday January 3d, celebrated the tenth anniversary of his pastorate of St. Paul's Church of that place.

Rev. D. Van Horne, '98, of Tiffin, Ohio, was on December 21st elected President of the Reformed Ministerial Association of Dayton, which was formally organized at that time.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The second meeting of the Advisory Council was held last Tuesday afternoon, President Keigwin presiding. The entire time of the meeting was taken up with the consideration of the laws of the College governing the various administrative offices. A number of important recommendations were made to the Committee of the Board on the revision of the laws.

The work will be resumed at a meeting of the Council on next Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 19, at 4.00 o'clock.

**NOTES**

The College has received an order for 1200 copies of the new "America" by Professor Theodore Hencels, from the West End Presbyterian church, New York City, for use in the celebration of the Lincoln Centennial.

Notices have been issued for the winter meeting of the Board of Directors at the College on February 11 at 10.00 o'clock in the morning.

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WEEK OF PRAYER

Continued from first page

hav'nt done as it is how much good we have done. God says, "How much do you love me?" The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

On Wednesday evening his theme was "Temptation." He said: Every one has capacities. In order that we may have the fullest development, pressure is brought to bear upon us. In school life the Professor adjusts the pressure, and education is not the avoiding of this pressure. In the moral world pressure comes to us as temptation.

1. Temptation opens up to us a dual opportunity. If we master it and come off victors it leads us upward. If we are conquered, it leads us down to the just rewards of the sinful. If we stand face to face before temptation and refuse the downward solicitation we shall go upward. It is put upon us to do good as well as evil. Christ came to the fullest development only through pressure—suffering.

2. Temptation proves how strong God really is.

3. Temptation, when it masters us, destroys our lives.

4. When we master temptation we have the ordination of our lives.

5. A penitent, with the scar of temptation, is still useful. One guilty of having done an evil, but now master of the temptation, is not to be considered as useless because of the scar. Life is an opportunity to battle against evil.

Dr. Lee will speak again tomorrow evening. On Sunday morning he will occupy the pulpit of Trinity Reformed Church, and in the afternoon at 4 o'clock he will conduct a devotional hour in the Chapel. Dr. Lee is acting as spiritual Counselor for whoever wish to consult him, and he welcomes anyone to meet him privately when his time is not otherwise engaged.

GROUP MEETINGS

The union meeting of the Latin-Mathematical and Mathematical-Physical groups was held Tuesday evening in the Mathematics room, Bomberger Hall. After the regular business transactions the following program was rendered; Mr. Mitchell, '12, gave a black-board demonstration of some very interesting geometrical fallacies. Miss Stout, '10, read a paper on "Primitive Notation." Mr. Langner, '11, gave a report on "Esperanto, its Nature and Progress." Mr. Custer, '09, reported the latest developments in the scientific world. After refreshments were served, a social hour was spent, after which the groups adjourned until Feb. 15, the time of the next monthly meeting.

On Tuesday evening the Chemical-Biological Group held its regular monthly meeting. The report for the evening was by Spears, '10, on the subject, "The Artificial Development of New Species Racial Characteristics in the Potato Beetle." After a lively discussion of the report, those present partook of refreshments very kindly furnished by Miss Marjorie Vost.

1909 COLLEGE MEN

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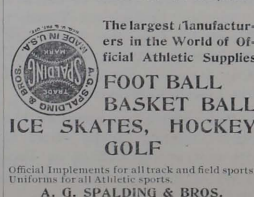
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# The Literary Supplement.

TO THE URSINUS WEEKLY

Volume 7

January.

## AN UNDEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION

HEMINGER MEDAL OR SECOND PRIZE  
JUNIOR ORATORICAL CONTEST

Man thinks in terms of his own experience. So do nations grow and act. The United States is the grandest republic of the present century but her constitution is based on the thought of two hundred years ago. Noble patriotic spirit of '76, such as bound shoulder to shoulder and heart to heart the heroes of the American Revolution, a spirit under whose prowess the brave sons of Liberty left the crimson foot prints upon the hills of Valley Forge, a spirit that fought with sacred lives, the blood stained banner of our republic. But this silver cord that bound these American hearts in war soon lost its strength in time of peace and the once called united colonies soon became with their different needs and different interests thirteen hostile provinces ready to wage war upon one another. The seven years of awful struggle had left the country desolate and in the throes of a crushing financial panic. The Articles of Confederation expressing the sentiment of the Declaration of Independence had never won the affections of the people. Nothing was there in this document to insure any executive nor any centralized power. "All the result of too much democracy," said John Adams in referring to the condition of the times. Such and even stronger were the opinions of men like Madison, Franklin and Hamilton the very fathers of the Constitution. Is it probable that these men would draw up a document purely democratic?

Hundreds of people now began to oppose the very principles for which they offered their lives a few years before. Thus the appalling condition of the times urged by the Tory element effected a general transition, a transition that was to manifest itself in the framing and the adoption of an undemocratic Constitution.

Democracy government by the people and directly responsible to them was not the object of the framers of the Constitution but the very spirit upon which they wished to put a check. The Senate has fulfilled in a larger measure than any other branch of the government, the expectation of the founders. Responsible to the will of the people it is not nor does it give equal representation. Is it right that Nevada with her 60,000 yields as great a controlling power in the Senate as New York with her 8,000,000? What the will of the people definitely demands, the Senate may with its extraordinary power repeal.

The House of Representatives is looked upon as the strongest medium of popular will. Even upon the liberties of the House the Constitution has placed a decided check. Who does not know that thirteen months expire before the newly elected members of the House meet in regular session and that the second regular session does not begin till after the succeeding congress has been elected? It is absurd to have a man legislate for a people who have made possible his defeat. Immediate expression of the people is the one great essential of a de-

mocracy. In all the world no other government has its legislative body convene so long after the expression of the will of the people; and yet our constitution we have an embodiment of the ideal of democracy.

Of all checks upon democracy, the Constitution has provided none equal to the Supreme Court. Congress passes laws but the Supreme Court decides whether or not they shall be recognized as laws. What Congress places upon the statute books today the Supreme Court may blot out forever to-morrow. In practice the Constitution has grown from a mere pamphlet to thousands of cases and decisions, decisions based not upon law but upon the arbitrary judgement of a few men. The Constitution as we read it in our school books can mean little unless we study the proceedings of the Supreme Court. It is not, therefore in the people that the Constitution has placed the ultimate power but in an aristocracy of nine judges.

Flexibility characterizes all democratic constitutions. This the Constitution of the United States does not have. One hundred and twenty years have passed since its birth and out of the thousands of attempts only fifteen amendments have been made, ten of these were promised before the Constitution could be adopted. The interference of the Supreme Court with the jurisdiction of the state forced the 11th and the 12th, to which cause was due the failure of the electoral system of 1800. The last three were bought by the martyred lives of "Boys in Blue." Two thirds of Congress or of the state legislatures are necessary even to propose amendments. What is more to be lamented. Three-fourths of the State legislatures or of the State Conventions must concur in the amendments when proposed. One-fortieth of the population, distributed so as to constitute a majority in the twelve smaller states, can defeat any proposed amendment.

Men generally hail the Constitution as the great monument to the rights and liberties of the American people. Grand work of humanity stamped with the seal of God himself. It was drawn up by men imbued with the spirit of political equality and ever shall stand as an embodiment of democratic philosophy. Such is the popular conception of the Constitution of the United States. Providing as it does for an undemocratic senate an irresponsible House of Representatives, a Supreme Court that can render null and void the will of the people and a check that makes amendments practically impossible, can such a document be called a democratic constitution?

But the spirit of the government is towards democracy in spite of the Constitution. Washington's address to Congress was couched in the style of a speech from the throne. His tone was personal, such as a king might use. Real king he might have been but for the mere acceptance. The high-born alone could shake his hand and to the very few was extended the right of suffrage. Keep the government in the hands of the minority was the watchword of the administration.

With Jefferson there came instead of the personal speech the written message to Congress. Though democratic he was, he would keep aloof from the "mob" as he called the working class. "The people," to him, meant the landed gentry and the scholars. The bounds of suffrage widened with the birth of the Jacksonian democracy. Today every man, black or white, rich or poor, may be an active part of "the people."

"We have not yet reached but we are traveling toward democracy. It is the sweeping current of all American life, social, intellectual and political, the one great ideal of the age, that "More and more man is coming to look upon the government as purely a democratic agency which he may freely modify and adopt to his purpose and as a power that must not

disregard the will of the people. The tide of democracy moves on, but the Constitution stands still.

Shall the spirit of the 20th Century with new thought and new conditions be dominated forever by the product of the 18th Century thought? Rather shall we not continue in the slow rise of democracy and compel reforms to such a degree that the United States shall have a constitution by the people and for the people.  
G. C. MYERS, '09.

## THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF POLITICAL POWER IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE

HONORABLE MENTION, JUNIOR ORATORICAL  
CONTEST

Political power pollutes. Political power purifies. In this era of intellectual enlightenment, the greatest heritage to succeeding generations is the inalienable right to the use of the ballot with its ever-increasing responsibilities. So natural is its transmission to the man in the country, that he fails to appreciate the full significance of its importance. But by careful study of conditions in our country during the past, with a close observation of the conditions of to-day, he cannot help but note the tremendously increasing responsibility, resting upon the shoulders of every loyal American citizen, in the discharge of his primary duty, his use of the ballot.

The political ideas of our forefathers are being explored. The relationship of the individual voter to the great political controversies was, then rather distantly removed. His only connection with the question was in and through his representatives. So long as these representatives remained true to their constituents, so long was this an ideal system of government. But, with the progress of time, one by one of these representatives proved himself to be false to his supporters. Before his election, he openly stated and solemnly vowed to support certain principles of government, but upon his assuming the duties of his office, he secretly betrayed the trust of his people. He was a traitor, a traitor to himself, to his constituents, and to his country. Such betrayal of trust of the representatives has driven the people to demand a direct expression of their opinions upon public questions. To such actions may be attributed the recent agitation in favor of the initiative and referendum.

The most startling fact in our present political situation is that the representative is ceasing to be an agent of the people. A system is rapidly developing itself in Pennsylvania which usurps the political initiative, the vital point of popular government, and which rules in the name of the party, as the meanest king was said to rule by the grace of God. This system is known as the machine. The machine is an oligarchy, a ring or clique of professional politicians who live by the emoluments of official place, and who give their lives to politics. They are not formally organized, but there is a common and instinctive understanding among them. Their object is the maintenance of their own power for their own advantage by means of the organization and of the spirit which keeps party men faithful to the regular party action. The machine has no public purpose, no faith in private honor, no respect for integrity or patriotism. Its cry is that all is fair in politics, and its whole spirit is revealed in what one of its members once said, "This is a nasty state and it takes a great deal of nasty work to carry it, and I trust we have nasty agents enough to do it." His confidence was well founded, for have not we all been witnesses of the disgusting filth in some of the work as carried on by the machine in our own state of Pennsylvania? To this vicious and iniquitous system, may be at-

tributed the downfall of many of our grandest and noblest statesmen, to its dictation may be ascribed the bestowal of official honors to hosts of incompetent office-seekers; to its dishonesty and knavery, the squandering of millions of dollars; to its foul means employed in election contests, the control of thousands of individual votes. Whatever is foul or mean in politics may either directly or indirectly find its origin in the machine. Not that the machine in our stage of development in politics is of no value, on the contrary, that it is a necessity. But, instead of the machine controlling the ballot, the individual voters must control the machine.

The gigantic strength of the machine lies in its one fundamental doctrine, party loyalty, the support of the party through thick and thin, whether right or wrong. A party is necessarily judged by its candidates and if its members support unworthy candidates to-day, for the sake of the party, they make it all the easier to support more unworthy candidates to-morrow. Fidelity to the party demands the rejection of such a candidate, because he discredits the party and thereby imperils its success.

This is not to deny that great public objects can be secured only by associated, energetic, and organized action, that is, through parties. The progress of liberty is the history of party. The vital point in every political party, however, is its independent element, and from that, and from that alone, springs political progress. If independence within a party is difficult, it is none the less indispensable. Those that sneer at it as incompatible with the conditions of party forget that it is only independence within the party which secures political progress by means of party. The man who is proud never to have voted anything but the whole regular party ticket shows the servility of soul that makes despotism possible.

Another source of political power by which the ballot will be heaped with greater responsibility is the initiative and referendum movement. The principles of this movement are manifesting themselves in various ways, but the one with which we as Pennsylvanians are most familiar is the local option movement. All will agree that great evils flow from the dram shops, but will disagree as to the remedy. There should be however, no division of opinion over the demand of the people to vote upon the question. That is their fundamental right. To deny this or the decision of the majority with respect to a social evil, is to repudiate the one great principle upon which rests republican government. Even though there may be some dispute now, as to where political authority ultimately rests, the tendency of the times points unmistakably to the ballot.

A thorough study of machine rule has revealed the source of its tyrannical power. It is in the ballot. The control of that source is within your grasp. Seize it. Upon your attitude depends its continuance or its decay. Surely, if we realized that upon our inactivity and neglect, vicious legislation and incompetent office-holders were made possible, how quickly we would be ready to remedy the evils! Present evils in our political system are possible only by our ignorant use of the ballot. We would not have this right of franchise taken from us, and yet it were better by far not to possess this right, if we, possessing it, fail to perform its duties properly.

Pennsylvanians, behold our miserable condition! The whole country points its finger of scorn at us. We are the taunting jests in all political circles. No other state in our entire union tolerates such political corruption. How much longer shall we foster it! How long shall we let millions of dollars be squandered in state capitols while we sit wistfully by and mutter "all is well!" Would you rather be-

lieve the lies of artful politicians than their testimonial monuments of avarice and of greed? Would you rather retain confirmed criminals in positions of honor and trust than to give untried men a chance to prove the calibre of their manhood?

Loyal citizens of Pennsylvania, let us awaken from our lethargy to a conscious realization of our increased responsibilities, and may we ever keep in mind, that, while political power in the hands of the despot pollutes, political power in the hands of the people purifies.

E. F. WISMER, '09.

## TWO LEADING NOVELISTS OF AMERICAN FICTION

To-day, at a time when the novel holds such a popular place in literature and when numerous writers have appeared to satisfy a demand for the novel, it is certainly a most difficult, as well as a daring attempt to pick out two, who are entitled to stand above all other American novelists. As it happens, however, the task is lightened by the fact that many of our great novelists are at the present time, so advanced in years that they are not likely to produce works of much value. As in the case of Henry James, W. D. Howells, George W. Cable, Marion Crawford, Mrs. Margaret Deland James, Lane Allen and Wier Mitchell, we have novelists who were in the height of their power a decade ago, but who have now, on account of age, transferred all attainments to present and future generations. These writers, then, cannot be considered as vital forces in American fiction to-day.

Some American novelists, on the other hand are noted merely as short story writers but have never succeeded in producing a long, sustained novel, such as will entitle them to the name of great writers. In this class, belongs Mary Wilkins, a writer of great genius. Other writers of fiction, such as Winston Churchill, have cramped their genius with political or social theories discussing or portraying some question at issue; but such are not the novels which will last for any length of time, for with a disappearance of the question comes a decline of interest in the book. Still others, such as Booth Tarkington, are more or less frivolous in their themes and plots and do not come up to the standard of the more serious novelists.

Among the remaining writers, two stand pre-eminent, two women who are now at the height of their power and are receiving due recognition from everybody. Each has presented, within a year a novel of great power and human interest, so that now, they practically stand above all their rivals in point of merit, for serious artistic work in fiction. These two are Miss Gertrude Franklin Atherton and Mrs. Edith Wharton.

As my treatment of these two women is to be in point of contrast, it can be shown very markedly in their lives. Mrs. Atherton is a Westerner, full of the daring spirit of a Californian. Having been born in San Francisco, California, in the year 1857, she is now at the prime of mental maturity. She was the only daughter of Thomas L. Horn and Gertrude Franklin, having in her blood the opposing streams from Louisiana and New England. With a famous ancestry, she claims to be a great grand niece of the great Benjamin Franklin, and her grandfather, Stephen Franklin, was one of the pioneers of her native state, California.

She was brought up under examples of educational and literary standards, and with her education received in California and Lexington, Ky., she was fitted to start her work, in which she presented her real views in the written form of a novel. She married George Atherton, a member of one of the most distinguished

families of the state, but their married life was short and she soon became a widow. As Bohemian life is characteristic of a Californian, her life of travel now began and after returning in 1890 to America, she studied the life and early period of the Spanish (American) settlers in the Western states and introduced the Spanish American element into her writing of fiction. Since 1894 she has lived abroad, having her abode first at London, but now her present address is found to be in Munich, Germany. A brief visit to San Francisco, just after the earthquake, gave her material for her last novel "Ancestors." However, her roving nature has not left her, and she is characterized as being cosmopolitan, both in her nature and writings. A few weeks ago she reached New York and announced that she would spend the winter in the Adirondacks, completing a novel.

In direct contrast to this woman, we will take a New Yorker, one who represents the disposition and character of an Easterner. Mrs. Edith Wharton is five years younger than Mrs. Atherton. She was born in New York, having as her grandfather, Gen. Ebenezer Stevens of Revolutionary fame, and distinguished New Yorkers as her parents. Being a great lover of travel, she has spent much of her time in Italy where she has acquired a familiarity with painting and sculpture. By means of her private tutors, and her travels abroad, she has a fluent use of French, German and Italian, and to the great masters of European fame, such as Goethe, she is greatly indebted. She is a diligent reader of George Eliot, the ethical teacher, she reads with delight Faubert, (the craftsman's master,) and she regards Balzac, Dickens, Thackeray, and Meredith, masters of their work, and with such books of noted writers in her library she pays little heed to current fiction.

In 1885, she married Edward Wharton, a Bostonian. Even at this time, she had begun her career as a writer. She contributed short stories to Scribner's magazine and it is said of her that "she learned to write before she wrote." She was not handicapped by the popular notion that literature is made out of the alphabet, a ten cent bottle of ink and a ream of foolscap. With Henry James and DeMaupassant as her models for the motifs of the stories and the interpretation of her characters, she has advanced toward a large scope of vigor, treating in her writings whatever touches upon human nature and the history of human thought, always having connected with it a touch of the ideal.

Having narrated the points of the lives of each, it now remains to give a list of their works, showing their characteristics, thus proving that they are at the head of novelists. By making a chronological summary of Mrs. Atherton's works, we find that she wrote at least one and sometimes two books each year Her public career began in 1892 when her writings appeared in short story form. Much attention was paid to "American Wives and English Husbands," also to "The Californians;" but it was in 1900, when "Senator North" appeared, that her real genius was apprehended. It was at once widely read, owing to the fact that it portrayed real life in America as found among high society in Washington. This book gives us a glimpse of political conditions, shortly after the Spanish-American War. The novel condemns the war and at first her readers resented this. People have by this time, however, learned that she is not afraid to say what she means and have learned to forgive her for that condemnation. It is the story of a rich girl in Washington society life, who falls in love with Senator North, a man of 60 years old. The Senator lives on courageously with his invalid wife, awaiting the time when he can be free to marry Betty, the heroine. Constantly, throughout the story, one particularly notices the struggles that both Betty and Senator North are



participating in, the former must fight herself for fear she may do something un ladylike or inconsiderate in her relations with North, the latter fighting a heathenish desire to cast his wife aside and marry the attractive young girl. Especially does the Senator win the admiration of his readers, on account of his irreproachable conduct towards his invalid wife, Betty, is a commonplace sort of a girl, who dabbles in politics as other girls would take up embroidery. She is a girl who would be of no use in romance, unless she had money. Her teas, dinners and parties were the means to her popularity, not so much her own charm of manner. Senator North, though so elderly, makes an ideal hero. His strength of character and national fame win out against youth. Herein lies the originality of the plot. Parts of the story have been criticised as immoral, but these parts are necessary to give a complete picture of Washington society. This story is characteristic of Mrs. Atherton, because it contains her exposition of American life in all its reality.

In 1902, "The Conqueror" became very popular among the admirers of Alexander Hamilton, a history of whose life is given in detail and whose cause is defended. It has been seriously condemned as unjust to Thomas Jefferson because of the extreme point to which the idealization of Hamilton is carried. In the book she has failed in making it accurate history. So that this novel can by no means be considered characteristic of her best work.

"The Aristocrats," "The Splendid Idle Forties" and "The Rulers of Kings" came later, each receiving their due share of praise. Her latest published work is "Ancestors," and this, too, is marked by the cosmopolitan attitude of its author. The hero is an Englishman, who has become famous in England, belonging to the higher class and obtaining a seat in Parliament. Being obliged by some misfortune to leave England, he decided to try his fortune in America. Here the American life is again brought in, that life of a Californian, free from all conventionality and restraint. The heroine is a Californian, not exactly poor, but with her property tied up in law suits; she resolves to rely upon herself for support and manages a ranch and chicken farm, carrying her produce to near-by cities in a steam launch. Her trade soon increases, she no longer confines herself to small affairs, but builds up a large industry. Her wealth increases, but money is not all she is striving for. Woman is as well qualified for business as man, then why not have business and wealth, her whole aim and ambition? Thus it is that she acquires a snug fortune. But to bring in the Englishman, it is necessary to place him in contrast with Californian political life. He, by some chance, reaches California where some of his relatives are living, who are influential in American politics, and he finally obtains a place in the United States Congress. He becomes deeply interested in the girl, and falls in love with her. The story ends with their marriage. By means of this novel, Gertrude Atherton has pictured the English in connection with the Spanish American type. Also the novel contains a remarkable description of the earthquake and its consequences on the city.

This book finishes the list of Mrs. Atherton's novels but she is working hard on a novel of German life, with the scene laid in Munich, and from her pen we can expect more novels which bear in them such evident marks of the real, which is portrayed with such courage and vividness as to disarm adverse criticism.

We will now pass on to Mrs. Wharton, whose works have the popular approval of being clever, because they at once fill the reader with admiration for the woman herself and for her style of writing. She is mistress of the art of the episode with which, in connection with the plot, she has characterized

herself. It includes a due sense of proportions, allotting the proper space for the introduction, so much for preliminary happenings, so much for the climax and finally the proper length for the recessional. It includes a subordination of one character to another, an arrangement of details to produce the effects. So well had she learned her lessons in art from the French novelists.

Mrs. Wharton is just now in the midst of her greatest achievement. She has produced less novels than Mrs. Atherton, but this by no means detracts from her as all her works are indeed worthy of the name, novel. With her first novel "Valley of Decision" came a study of 18th century life in Italy, with which Mrs. Wharton was familiar. It is a philosophical romance showing a scholarly side in portraying the reconstructed political and artistic situation in Italy. The caste conception of the time is under an influence of dramatic spirit and it serves a distinct purpose and definite model. The story is subordinated to the setting with its attractive scenery, making it an interesting and entertaining book.

Still greater praise met the "House of Mirth," which took the country by storm. The heroine is Lily Bart, who is set forth as being an insignificant person, suggestive of a large class of insignificant persons. She was a victim of circumstance, brought up in the utmost luxury, expecting to inherit her aunt's fortune. In this she is disappointed and sinks down from the highest society in New York to the rank of a shop girl. Here she can no more exist than a hot house flower transplanted to the fields. In the midst of failure and despair, she finally ends her life by poison. She has failed, not because she is bad, but because she has ignored the various rules of life. She prepared the ground for success but sowed it with pains and trouble when circumstances arose. When she came to harvest all she had sowed, she merely looked at it lightly, was apt to forget and go on a picnic.

A certain critic has interpreted the title of the book as referring to the words of the preacher in Ecclesiastes, who turned a gloomy eye on Mirth and described her house as the house of fools. This interpretation is undoubtedly correct and Mrs. Wharton has ranged herself on the side of the Preacher. She supports his dictum, applying it to a tale of American society, assuring us that the Preacher was a prophet. According to this, then, High Society with its smiles, dances and frivolities though called the House of Mirth is really a house of fools. Here Lily Bart, the heroine, outstays her welcome and seeks relief in suicide.

With a similar view of life has she written her latest novel, the "Fruit of the Tree." The individual situation forms a minor part in the plot, being subordinated to the questions of character. It opens with a scene in a hospital, where a wounded laborer is treated for injuries which he has received in a factory. The overseer comes to visit him and becomes infatuated with the nurse. He expresses to her his belief that in serious injuries to laborers, physicians should be allowed to dispense death in order to save from a life of crippled misery. The nurse disputes this point. After the interview the overseer demands that improved safety devices be placed in the factory. Shortly afterwards he meets the widow of the owner of the factory and persuades her to marry him. Before long disagreements arise. The wife realizes that she owns all the money and they become estranged by losing interest in each other. The young man leaves the place and accepts a similar position, as overseer of a large establishment in the South. Before he has left her, he warns her not to ride a certain horse but, out of mere curiosity and stubbornness, she uses the horse and meets with a serious accident. For weeks her life is despaired of, but she is

kept alive by the highest surgical skill and the devotion of her nurse. The woman's sufferings are intense, there is only one chance in a thousand of recovery, and in order to bring her trials and pains to an end, the nurse gives her an over dose of opium, which is intentional, for she has now come to the conclusion that one skilled in medicine has the right to take a person's life, rather than to permit long drawn out suffering. The woman died, and the nurse some years later became the wife of the overseer. When people found out that this woman's death was intentional on the part of the nurse, the nurse was severely condemned and had to suffer for it by being abandoned by her husband and censured by all with whom she came into contact. However in the end she is reunited with her husband, but all sympathy and confidence is at an end. In this remarkable and original book Mrs. Wharton has given to her heroine, the due punishment for tampering with the fruit of the tree of life. This according to Biblical instructions, is forbidden, and in the novel it is shown that even physicians must recognize the fact that God is the only arbiter of life and death.

Thus a marked contrast is shown between these two women in point of personality, style and writings. They are seen to be so very different that it seems strange that both of them should be called clever and representative American novelists. As I have said, Mrs. Atherton is cosmopolitan in personality and this, too, shows itself in her works. She is not content to settle down at one place but travel is her chief delight. In this way, she learns to know various types of humanity which appear in her works. Not content to narrow herself to American or California life, she writes of the English, French and Austrians as well. Her works are not strictly characterized by any nationality and are therefore cosmopolitan. On the other hand, however, Mrs. Wharton restricts herself to that type of life which is strictly American, which displays American ownership and excludes French or English cultivation. This may be due to the fact that Mrs. Wharton, except for short travels abroad, has made her home in America, has studied American life, sympathizes with it and deems it necessary to introduce any of the cis-Atlantic element. Thus the difference of attitude, taken in the writings of the two novelists, is due to the variance of personal character.

Both represent complex types, their characters are usually refined, cultivated Americans, but Mrs. Atherton dares to treat the evil and vices of society with far more freedom than does Mrs. Wharton. She presents in her novels the real scenes which actually take place in life, states her own views concerning it, not caring as to whether it will meet public approval or not. On the other hand, Mrs. Wharton has usually idealized her characters. She is too ladylike to tell the exact truths in certain cases for fear they may shock or offend some people. It is then to Mrs. Atherton that we assign reality in her characters while Mrs. Wharton veils reality, as has been the custom of most all of the great English novelists.

In close connection with this difference can be contrasted the attitudes of the two, as regards conventionalities. Mrs. Atherton knows no such thing as restraint in life, but simply does what she pleases. This carries with it, however, no sense of vulgarity, but merely freedom in all acts, which characterizes a Californian. In Mrs. Wharton, we have a specimen of a lady, refined, cultivated and whom the sense of propriety does not allow to do many things.

In one point, Mrs. Atherton certainly has the superiority. Her love of nature amounts to a passion and seldom has the beauty of mountains and forest been more vividly depicted than in her novel "The Aristocrats" where the scene is laid in the Adirondacks.

As regards to style, Mrs. Wharton is superior. Many of her sentences are epigrammatic and sparkle with wit. This again may be due to the influence of the French novelists.

In conclusion, we may sum up the contrasting elements by calling Mrs. Wharton, the Conservative and Mrs. Atherton, the Radical. The world needs both, the Radical to show the faults in present society and to push with enthusiasm toward innovation and reform; the Conservative, to show what is right and just in present conditions, and to hold fast to authority and conventions.

HELEN NEFF, '09.

### THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR

Another year! Another year!

The unceasing rush of time sweeps on;  
Whelmed in its surges, disappear  
Man's hopes and fears, forever gone!

Oh, no! forbear that idle tale!

The hour demands another strain,  
Demands high thoughts that cannot quail,  
And strength to conquer and retain.

'Tis midnight—from the dark-blue sky,

The stars which now look down on earth,  
Have seen ten thousand centuries fly,  
And given to countless changes birth.

And when the pyramids shall fall,

The hour, mouldering, mix as dust in air,  
And dwellers on this altered ball  
May still behold them glorious there.

Shine on! Shine on! With you I tread

The march of ages, orbs of light!  
A last eclipse o'er you may spread,  
To me, to me, there comes no night.

Oh! what concerns it him, whose way

Lies upward to the immortal dead,  
That a few hairs are turning gray,  
Or one more year of life has fled?

Swift years! but teach me how to bear,

To feel and act with strength and skill,  
To reason wisely, nobly dare,  
And speed your courses as ye will.

When life's meridian toils are done,

How calm, how rich the twilight glow!  
The morning twilight of a sun  
Which shines not here on things below.

But sorrow, sickness, death and pain

To leave, or lose wife, children, friends!  
When then—shall we not meet again  
Where parting comes not, sorrow ends?

The fondness of a parent's care,

The changeless trust which woman gives,  
The smile of childhood,—it is there  
That all we love in them still lives.

Press onward through each varying hour;

Let no weak fears thy course delay;  
Immortal being! feel thy power,  
Pursue thy bright and endless way.

### THE CRY OF THE CHILDREN

If in our mad scramble for wealth, honor and power we would pause for an instant, then perchance we would heed the cry of the children, who being robbed of the bright days of childhood—their rightful heritage—are thrust into the world amid the toil stained throngs of in-

dustry. Pause for a moment and note the pale, pinched faces; the dull hopeless expression of the eyes; the drooping shoulders; the stunted growth; the slow unsteady gait and in many instances deformed figures. Then examine our cotton fabrics and countless other articles wrought by childish fingers and answer me,—is it worth the cost?

"Man's inhumanity to man,

Makes countless thousands mourn."

So in our inhumanity to the children by allowing them to be taken from the bright sunshine and the pure air to spend the day in sultry, dusty, unclean mills, with the roar and din of machinery constantly ringing in their ears, we shall stand some day in the not far distant future, with the finger of scorn pointed at us, condemned by the world for failing in this one supreme test of civilization, inhumanity, and inhumanity to children, and shall we not heed their cry as in piteous accents

"—they say, — how long, O, cruel nation,  
Will you stand to move the world on a child's  
heart,

Stifle down with a muffled heel its palpitation,  
And tread onward to your throne amid the  
mart?

Our blood splashes upward, O gold heaper,  
And your purple shows your path,  
But the child's sob in the silence curses deeper  
Than the strong man in his wrath."

All civilized countries recognize the fact that child labor is a menace to the physical, mental and moral development of the child, and in consequence have taken strong legislative measures to prevent it. England has successfully solved her industrial problems fifty years before these same problems have reached a crisis in our country, and especially this question so beset with dangers for us, is to them of no great significance. Why should we, who consider ourselves the most progressive and energetic of all nations be so backward in responding to the test in which other nations have not failed? The trouble lies in the fact that here in America the people who have the power to influence legislation, are themselves amassing great fortunes through the toil of children, while in England those who work out the social schemes have no financial interests in social relations.

We admit that some states have attempted to enact laws regulating child labor. These have proved utterly inadequate because of certain exemptions. Thus night labor is permitted, night schools are encouraged and are filled with children utterly exhausted from twelve hours of toil.

The laws are disregarded through the perjury of the parent regarding the child's age, and the greed of the notary public who will record a falsehood for the paltry fee of twenty-five cents. Thus these various forces combine to work out the ruin of our children.

In the South, child labor is claimed to be the effect of the freeing of the slaves. It is here we find the American children of American parents enslaved in the cotton mills. Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and the Carolinas have practically no laws restricting the prevalent evil with the result of six times more illiterate children in these states than all the remaining states of the Union. The South is now face to face with a serious problem of their white children in the mills and their black children in the schools.

The home life, the guarantee of prosperity and progress, is threatened by the raid of the factories upon the homes of the middle classes, forcing not only the children, but even the mothers, into the great struggle for subsistence. How can the home life of those who contribute the muscle and brawn to our economic activities be otherwise than blighted when even the

presence of the mother is removed? What strength of character, what capabilities of performing the duties of parent and citizen, can we demand or even expect from these children reared without the ennobling influences of the true American home? We are not only pleading for the life of the child, but also for the perpetuity of true American womanhood enthroned in the home as a fit setting for the performance of her sacred duties to her children.

The integrity of a nation must be preserved as the only safeguard of national greatness. How can we encourage and develop this stability of character when we place a child with an imperfect understanding of morality in a factory to be a co-worker with men who have become a part of the roaring machinery, a mere automaton, which has ceased to feel or suffer.

In the different industries, accidents to children under sixteen are two to three hundred per cent more frequent than to adults. Can we then boast of our protection to the weak and defenseless when we subject our children to dangers instead of providing special safeguards for their protection—a humane principle recognized by even savage tribes?

Is it not singular that we, an independent nation, who have so persistently advocated the principles of liberty, should prove so inconsistent? For is it not inconsistent with the ideals of liberty, that we who have freed the blacks from slavery should so shackle one-seventh of our children with the bonds of iron machinery—a second slavery?

Still we should not be disheartened, for the tide of reform sweeping the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific has turned in this direction, producing a gradual awakening to our responsibilities as the keeper of the child or the preserver of the nation. At the present time our hopes are centered in an admirable bill passed recently, prohibiting child labor in the District of Columbia, which is to serve as an object lesson for the other states.

Assuming a most serious aspect with the present alarming conditions, this question cannot be settled by mere acts of legislation, but only by our united efforts as a nation to rigidly enforce the laws.

Thus as true patriots, protecting our children and our homes, there may appear to our sight the goal to which we have long aspired. And when we have reached the height of our ambitions and fond hopes of being the most democratic of all democracies, the still greater tribute that can be paid to our national greatness will be in the universal acknowledgment of our democracy as the most humane of all civilizations recorded in history.

MARGARET YETTER FRYLING, '09.

In the Intercollegiate Basket-Ball League this week, Penn and Cornell played an exciting game at Ithaca on Wednesday night, the former winning out by a score of 17-16. On the same evening Princeton swapped Yale at New Haven by the score of 32-12. Penn still leads in the League standing.

The University of Minnesota recently suffered its first fire loss in three years, when flames gutted the Anatomy Building. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it was undoubtedly due to spontaneous combustion of chemicals in the Anatomical Laboratory. The loss to the state on the building was about \$10,000, fully covered by insurance.

Esperanto has been added to the curriculum of Boston Technical School.

Director Stag of the University of Chicago says that a course in practical physiology should be included in the curriculum of every college.