

In the Gym.

The proposed indoor base ball game with Omaha has been dropped. This action was taken in view of the fact that the management was unwilling to take the financial risk, as no money was made on previous indoor base ball games, and especially because Omaha had wished to play the first game here. Another reason for dropping the matter was that the proposed game would come so late in the season, while the season, properly speaking, has passed.

Hereafter the elementary work on the heavy apparatus will come three times a week at 4 o'clock for men in the afternoon class who are not training for the pentathlon.

The morning gym classes continue to increase in members and interest. Next week preparations will be commenced for the annual boys' gym exhibition.

Prof. Hastings has introduced in the gymnasium classes the new game of minton. The season for this game has just begun and it is proving very interesting to the gym classes.

SENIOR CLASS MEETING.

The senior class indulged in one of their characteristic "scrappy" elections last Friday at a called meeting. The cause of the difficulty was the election of chairman and committee for the senior prom. The result being that Charles Hendy was elected chairman by a good majority.

Quite a little wire-pulling was indulged in for two or three days previous to the election by the two factions contending for the position, so the class had become thoroughly awakened to the fact that there was to be an election and turned out accordingly.

The meeting was called to order by President Martin. Reports of committees being called for, C. L. Spencer, chairman of the committee on programs and invitations, made a short report and asked for further instructions. On motion the selection of programs and invitations was left entirely with the committee.

George Burgert reported that excellent progress was being made with the class book, but requested that seniors be more prompt in having their pictures taken, in order that work on the book could be pushed more rapidly.

The committee appointed to look into the matter of the recognition to be given the "senior laws," reported that they wished representation in the class book. The class, however, did not favor this, and, on motion of Mr. Cooley, refused to give the senior law class any recognition whatever.

The committee on class assemblies reported that two had been planned for, one in the near future and one somewhat later in the spring. Their report was accepted and the committee continued.

The class base ball interests being next brought up, E. L. Meliza was unanimously elected manager of the team. On motion, George Porter was elected to write a class song. Some of the more reckless members proposed that Mr. Porter should sing it before the class, but these radicals were promptly shouted down by the peace-loving element.

No other business coming up, a motion was made, seconded and carried that the "senior class do have a senior promenade." Nominations next being in order, the names of Charles Hendy and A. A. Bischoff were presented to the class.

Before the nominations could be closed, Maurice Hyde, thinking that a dark horse would stand the best show for election, proposed the name of Mr. Tyler to the unsuspecting class. His hopes came to grief, however, when Mr. Tyler, in a spirited and convincing speech, which called forth loud and long-continued applause, stated that it gave him great pleasure to announce to the class that upon no consideration would he permit his name to be connected with anything which pertained to dancing. It was with evident regret that Mr. Tyler was allowed to withdraw his name, for it could plainly be seen that he was decidedly the favorite for the place. The vote stood 54 for Mr. Hendy against 37 for Mr. Bischoff.

On motion the number of the committee was limited to twelve, including the chairman and their selection was left to President Martin and Chairman Hendy.

LETTER FROM STANLEY OSBORNE.

The following letter from Stanley Osborne discussing the peculiar manners and customs of the inhabitants of the Samoan islands was written to his home paper in Blair, Neb. The letter bears especial interest to University students as Mr. Osborne was a student at this University two years

ago. His description of the amusing features of the islands and their people is told in an interesting and humorous way:

Apia, Samoa, Jan. 14, 1897. Mr. Editor: There are a few little items of local custom and manner which have interested me in this amateur heaven of the South Pacific.

A person just arrived in Apia is "new to here." A drug store is called a chemist's; crackers, cookies, etc., are biscuits; checkers are draughts; lemonade is squash and lemon drops, lollies. Biscuits, pretzels and Roman striped neckties have not yet been introduced.

The Samoan spiders are enormous but although they are harmless and easily shot, this is not often done as it is too much trouble to have the bodies carted off, which is, of course necessary in this warm climate.

When a man in Blair strikes a match—especially a safety one—on its box, he draws the match towards him, does he not? Here it is the reverse; the point is always pushed away from the lighter. A Samoan never strikes a match on his trousers.

Shirts are worn here like G. A. R. badges are worn at home; at reunions and such holidays. The last reunion was in June.

There are no toads in this country because the lizards "take their place and do the best they can." But they have not the smiling mouth of the toad so that some of the insects are too large for them. Notably the cockroaches, which are as large as canary birds; they sit up at the table and do other tricks.

The tuli fallie, the man who talks for the village, leans on a slender staff when he speaks and holds a flybrush, which is a bunch of horse hair with a handle, over one shoulder. A merry-go-round came in Apia once, but the first night all the horses lost their tails.

The native mythology and folklore is very interesting but is being lost as the young men do not know the stories. One must talk to the old men and speak the language to make a study of them. The word Samoa means sacred fowl that an ancient chief worshipped a strange bird. Another legend is that when the canoes of the native discoverers approached the land they found the country to be already inhabited, as they "saw a big swell on the beach and a little cove running inland."

The cocoanut is the finest tree in the vegetable kingdom. It is very ornamental and it also supplies most of the needs of the Samoan family. Old nuts, such as you get in America, are not fit to eat. They are cut up, dried and called corpa. This is shipped to the United States and made into oil. A native can make three or four hundred dollars a year from ten acres and grow everything he wants underneath the trees. The water in the young nuts is the principal drink of the Samoan; it is not at all like the "cocoanut milk," but is slightly acid. At the same age the jelly-like meat of the nut is excellent and wholesome, in fact it is a baby food. The leaves are used in making their houses, mats, baskets and other things.

"The kingdom of Samoa is not like unto the kingdom of heaven in that moth and rust do corrupt." Everything molds all the time. There are numerous moths, but, naturally, very little fur or woolen goods, so the poor moths have to learn to eat cotton cloth.

There is no pier in Apia harbor, so when a steamer arrives she is welcomed by a swarm of small boats and by the flags of the four nations. It is an interesting scene and full of life and local color. The natives sell their woven work and trinkets to the passengers, "food passengers," they say, because they pay so much. Everything is much cheaper just before the ship departs.

After exhibiting for two years in Germany and Russia, a party of twenty-five dancing girls returned home on last month's steamer. There was quite a demonstration, especially in our village, where four of them live. Each girl is having a feast given in her honor. I have attended several. These are placed a la picnic under send their share of pigs, taro, breadfruit, cocoanuts and other good things. These are placed in a la picnic under a canopy of table cloth, with the pigs in a row down the center. Then comes the guests wearing clothes and smiles of anticipation. Then the eating—too mucha ki ki! After the feasters leave the table the remaining food is divided and eaten later, no matter how the girls who dance and is carried away by their little brothers to be divided and eaten later, no matter how much is brought, nothing remains. At these small feasts there are usually about forty or fifty pigs served (on

the table, I mean); but at one given at the dedication of a church there were four hundred.

The Samoans like their pigs very rare—hardly warmed through, in fact. When you see one carved you half expect to see it rise and remonstrate with the carver. For instance, one day two men were coming to a feast and lending their pig. They were very late in starting, so they walked rapidly and even ran part of the way.

By these exertions they arrived in time, but when their pig came to be eaten it was found that he had so overheated himself on the way that the people could not eat him. He was too done. Also, it was not a very warm day. Yours truly,

STANLEY R. OSBORNE.

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