

PENNSYLVANIAN LETTER.
Editors of Nebraskan-Hesperian:

Western students who wish, after completing their college course, to pursue professional or special studies in the East, are often at a loss to know which of the many Eastern institutions to choose for further work. In view of this it appears to me not inappropriate that we who have come to the East for study should say what we can that may prove of advantage to those who are to follow. In speaking of the University of Pennsylvania I have no desire to compare it one way or the other with universities elsewhere, even had I the information which would enable me to do so. I merely wish to describe in a general way what it offers, and to some extent the conditions of life as I have found them here.

First as to the various departments and their advantages:

The university includes besides the college and department of philosophy (graduate school), departments of law, medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine. In each of these departments the general equipment is the exceptionable. As special advantages the Wistar Institute of anatomy, with its extensive collections, and the museum of archaeology and paleontology are worthy of mention. Of course the libraries and museums of the city are also open to students.

Of the rank of the departments—the dental school is acknowledged the best in the world, and it draws students from the world over. The medical school is certainly excelled by no other in this country. Its principal rival is Harvard, I should say. The law school is second only to Harvard's. Both the dental school and the law school are located in fine new buildings; and all departments have the advantage of being located in one body of buildings, well in the heart of the city.

The graduate school, or department of philosophy, is especially strong. I should say, in the following branches: semitic languages, English literature, philosophy, economics and sociology, and American history. Of course the many other departments are well represented, but those named appear to be the leaders in point of attraction and reputation. It would be well to mention also the nique work in archaeology—especially semitic and North American Indian—in which branches

Pennsylvania takes leading rank.

So much for the work. A word as to the conditions of living. The brute necessities of life are cheaper in Philadelphia than in any other of the large Eastern cities. Board may be obtained for \$3.50 per week, and room at anywhere from \$75 to \$125, or higher, for the school year. A minimum expense with comfortable living would be \$300, I should say, though no doubt there are students who do not spend so much. Of course this does not include tuition which ranges from \$100 to \$200 in various departments.

There is not much tendency toward student extravagance here, the social atmosphere of the university is on the whole one of good fellowship and ease. Houston club and the dormitories offer exceptional advantages for pleasant associations. Personally I have found the Philadelphians with whom I have had the good fortune to become acquainted gifted with a cordiality and friendliness which in no wise belies their city name. And in the graduate school, as doubtless in the professional schools also, will be found such an admixture of Westerners as will prevent any feeling of lorn and lost.

For women Pennsylvania is probably better than any eastern university excepting Cornell. Women are admitted to the graduate school upon the same terms as men. They have a living house, club house, and gymnasium of their own; and although in the college and professional schools (in the latter women are not admitted, and only in certain department of the college) there is an antipathy to "co-eds." this hardly affects the department of philosophy, in which is a strong leaven of students trained in co-educational colleges.

From Pennsylvania I shall take only pleasant memories and a consciousness of work well worth while, and I shall leave it with the heartiest wishes for its prosperous future; hoping, too, that other U. of N. men may follow that Nebraska be not unrepresented here. **H. B. ALEXANDER.**
Philadelphia, May 19, 1900.

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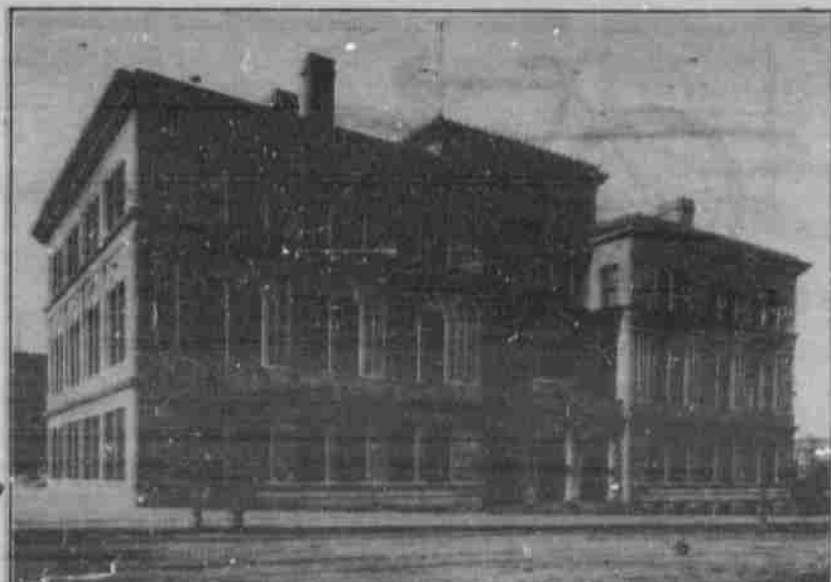
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