

HESPERIAN STUDENT

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, - G. E. HOWARD. ASSOCIATE, - FANNIE METCALF. LOCAL, - - - AMOS E. GANTT. W. H. NEEDHAM, Business Manager.

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A VISIT TO THE AGRICULTURAL FARM.

We had the pleasure of paying a visit to the "Agricultural Farm," a few days since. The farm, as you are aware, was only put in operation, practically, at the beginning of the present term. We were anxious to know what was being accomplished—whether real work was being performed by the students, and what were the probable benefits to result therefrom to the State. Prof. S. R. Thompson, the professor of Agriculture, very kindly showed us over the premises, and gave us a detailed account of the daily routine of labor on the farm and of the work in the class room. The following is a brief description of the farm itself, and a statement of the work of the Agricultural College proper.

THE FARM

consists of 320 acres, situated about three miles east of the University, and is one of the most beautiful tracts of land in Nebraska. We can not speak in terms of too high admiration of the delightful location and perfect adaptation of the farm to the purpose designed. It is entirely enclosed by an osage hedge, divided into two equal tracts by a cross fence of the same. The hedge is now large enough to turn stock. There is also a thrifty young apple orchard large enough to bear next year. In addition about twenty acres of young timber have been planted, and it is already large enough to afford protection to the orchard, also to stock, especially swine, for which purpose this tract has been set apart. The dwelling, built when purchased, though not a model, is a substantial stone structure. The out-buildings are fair, though they will be much improved when the necessary funds are obtained.

THE WORK ON THE FARM

It is the present policy of the authorities to make the Agricultural Farm a "model" rather than an "experimental" farm, employing far less expense and affording nearly equal advantages of instruction and experience to the students. With this purpose in view, all work of whatever character is conducted on scientific principles, and the best authorities are consulted and the most approved plans are

adopted by the Professor for every portion of the work, whether it be the construction and planning of a henery or piggery, digging post holes, building fence, plowing, sowing, caring for stock, constructing an out-building, or the general theory of farm management. We were particularly impressed with this feature of the policy of Prof. Thompson—his extreme care in reducing all practical work to science and method. The young men receive a stated sum per hour for all work performed, varying in amount according to their industry and capabilities for labor. No pretense or play at work is accepted; earnest, energetic toil is required. The stipend per hour is now from ten to fifteen cents. The young men have thus far earned more than the expenses of their board.

The work accomplished this fall has been considerable. Two small out-buildings have been constructed, the carpenter work being done by the students. These buildings are a coal and wood house, and a stable. Work, however, of this kind is deferred, as far as practicable, until winter, in order to furnish employment during all seasons of the year. About one mile of board fence has been built in a manner that may well be taken as a model by the farmers of the State. Over a hundred acres of plowing have been done, designed for wheat in the spring. A large well has been dug, furnishing an abundance of water for all uses of the farm, including water for stock in the pastures. A wind-mill and derrick have been placed over the well to raise the water, which is to be conducted by subterranean pipes to the pastures, some thirty rods distant. A fine pair of the "Howe" platform scales, has been set and leveled ready for use. The best implements and apparatus are being purchased. A threshing machine is to be procured next season, that the productiveness of different kinds of grain may be tested without the great extra expense which the delay and care required to accomplish this, in threshing small lots, would cause in hiring a machine. The farm team comprises four of the most beautiful farm horses we have ever seen. We doubt whether the State could produce their equal.

One of the young gentlemen is appointed to keep a strict record of the work performed by each student. For this purpose a blank is provided, on which is recorded the kind of labor of each student for each day and hour of the year.

THE COURSE OF STUDY.

The students in the Agricultural department have all the advantages of the University. The work in the class room for the present term has been of a special and practical character. The first branch of science studied is book-keeping, with a special reference to farm accounts. The second, the Anatomy and Physiology of the domestic animals. A finely mounted skeleton of a horse has been procured for aid in the pursuance of this useful study. Skeletons of the other principal domestic animals will soon be supplied. The Hygiene of domestic animals is made a special study. The importance of understanding the care of stock, and how to treat the various diseases incident to them, will be appreciated by every farmer and stock-breeder.

The third and one of the most important studies of the term, has been Farm Economy. Under this head is included the planning and laying out of grounds, gardens, etc., estimating the cost of buildings and the quantity of material necessary

ry; draughting so far as desirable in farm architecture.

In addition the Professor has given lectures day by day on the history of farm implements: as, for example, the history of the plow, the gradual improvement in the same, points of advantage, etc.; the windmill—how the air may be utilized for the service of man.

The instruction in the class room consists almost exclusively of lectures, partially owing to the fact that no text-books on these subjects have yet been published well adapted for the use of students. This of course, though of as much utility to the students, makes the work of the Professor very arduous.

From the above statement it will readily be seen that the Agricultural Department is at length firmly established, and is doing a good work. We believe the advantages resulting to the agricultural interests of the State will be very great. We need educated farmers, and our Agricultural College furnishes an efficient means of producing them. Here we have an opportunity offered to young men to secure a practical, and even a classical, education on conditions which none ought to refuse. To have the advantages of practical instruction, and at the same time receive a pecuniary reward for accepting it, is certainly an easy condition. Let none refuse to enter the University on the plea of poverty. This excuse is now cut off from every young man who desires an education at the expense of a little toil.

Is there any toil so great, any privation so severe, any self-denial so painful which an earnest, true man or woman will not joyfully endure to secure a broader culture, and attain a nobler manhood or womanhood?

THE LITERARY SOCIETIES

The Adelpian society has just closed, in many respects, the most interesting term's work since its history began. The members deserve special credit for the earnestness and promptness with which every one has performed his allotted duty, notwithstanding the fact that the exercises of the term have been, perhaps, more arduous than heretofore. The society has adopted, and thus far successfully carried out, the plan of giving open entertainments in the Chapel every three weeks, the programme for each consisting of selections from the exercises of the two preceding regular meetings, chosen by a committee appointed for this purpose. Ostensibly these entertainments require no special preparation, but in reality the stimulus to attain a greater degree of excellence in every literary production has been plainly noticeable. Several of the former members have neglected to take part in the exercises of the term. Some few alleged lack of time, others believed the attractions insufficient. The first is a very weak fallacy, unless theory is sufficient without practice, which no one believes. The second might be remedied by a little earnest endeavor on the part of the complainers themselves. Those who severely criticize surely ought to feel themselves competent to fill one or two aching voids themselves. It is barely possible that the question of duty ought to be considered—duty to self at all events.

The Palladian society have also passed an unusually prosperous term. They have also given frequent open entertainments in their commodious hall. The Palladian society is strong in numbers and able to make a good display on any occasion.

There has been considerable emulation between the societies, to excel in literary performances, and to gain a creditable reputation before the public. It is to be supposed, of course, that nothing has been resorted to by any member of either society that was not perfectly manly and honorable. At least we haven't a shadow of a doubt that this is the case. If, merely

possible, anyone has put his knees in the dirt, been a little boyish, or sold what little principle he had to gain power or notoriety, we say Heaven bless his noble self-sacrifice, and may he be abundantly satisfied with his mess of pottage.

OUR EXCHANGES.

These columns are always open for "original, sublime sentences". The Seminary Rhetorical class will please take notice.—Ex.

Will our Juniors gently take the hint?

The Trinity Tablet opens with a poem considerably above the average of College poetry, and discusses Minor Matters at some length, and in a pleasant way. The Art of Spinning is almost unknown at N. S. U. we are glad to say.

Will some of our exchanges be kind enough to whisper to the Wittenberger that the HESPERIAN would like to "ex."? We have a wandering idea that it is a pretty sensible paper, but can't get track of it. Who will help a new Diogenes in the search for an honest—paper?

We should like to know what that choir was organized for. The singing was certainly bad enough before.—Ex.

We heard something whispered about a choir for our chapel exercises. Where, oh! where is it? Our singing is so bad that there isn't any of it.

We have received two numbers of the McKendree Repository and like its appearance very much. We quote a paragraph from it which hits the truth exactly.

Character is the thing that is to reform and save the world; and our times demand strong, educated, pure men and women who shall go forth to elevate the mass of human kind who are so intent and absorbed in the low and base things of this world.

We are all interested in the definition of the term "Condition,—that without which anything cannot occur." It brings to our recollection the chronological order of past events, and those phantasmagorical imaginings of failures, rewards and diplomas.—Ex.

Wonder if any student here knows anything of the verb "condition"—passive voice, indicative mood, past tense, third person, singular number to agree with a particular Professor.

The L'Aurore, Montreal Canada, a journal printed in the French language. By request we publish the following notice:

L'AURORE (The Morning Light).—This is the name of a French Protestant weekly newspaper founded in 1866, and published in Montreal, Canada, at \$1.50 (United States, \$2.) per annum. It contains articles on the important questions of the day; a special correspondence from France on European political and religious matters, as well as general family reading and news, etc., etc.

We like the University Review published at Worcester, O. Indeed we notice that our Ohio comrades manage somehow to send out readable and spicy papers. The "local" on the Review certainly has a genius for the place. Among the editorials is an article on Reading Clubs which we wish some of the more enterprising students of the N. S. U. would read and "ponder in their hearts" until they evolve from their inner consciousness,—or some where else—an institution of the same kind here. There is also an extensive Course of Reading marked out in both English and American Literature which if followed by every student would give that extensive literary culture so much needed by us all and so seldom procured.