

### Fungi Have More Important Part in Daily Happenings Than We Suppose

"Of all the known fungi, our giant puffball that grows so commonly on our Nebraska prairies, probably produces the greatest number of spores—7,500 billion," stated Dr. Leva B. Walker, associate professor of Botany in the university, in a radio talk broadcast over the radio yesterday.

"That fungi do abound is a very obvious fact. Probably everyone has had the experience of putting something away in the damp and a little later finding it mildewed," said Miss Walker, "or of opening a jar of jam and finding it covered with mold. So common are such experiences that we take it for granted that things kept damp will mold. Many are parasites, take their food from living plants while others live on non-living substances such as clothing and so on.

"The foods for the various fungi are about the same as for an animal. The fungus must have carbohydrates, proteins, and even vitamins for its development, but many forms require only minute quantities for growth. Some few fungi are highly specialized and can only get food from certain plants or substances. Some few fungi have power of making food from the nitrogen in the air and so require little but water; such may be found growing on strong acid or poisonous solutions. They are seemingly able to protect themselves from injurious substances in the solution and yet make use of the water.

#### Fungi Highly Developed

"Fungi have developed highly specialized structures for producing spores and getting them into the air. One of our common smut fungi on wheat forms about twelve million spores where each kernel of wheat should have developed. It would take about one hundred spores placed end to end to reach across the head of a pin but the spores from a single fruit body were placed from end to end would extend forty-one miles.

"When one considers the enormous numbers of spores produced, one can hardly help feeling that it is strange fungi, molds and so on are not more abundant than they are. It is only the keen competition between various forms for the available food that prevents their multiplication. The multitudinous spores may so thoroughly cover the earth that where one has a chance for growth the spore may be present to grow, and so perpetuate itself."

An architectural drawing believed to be the oldest in the world was found at Mesopotamia. This blue print, 4,000 years old, was in a fragmentary condition, but the three pieces which fit accurately together reveal the ground plan of an unusually large house. Accurately drawn lines indicate walls and doorways for seventeen rooms.

Missouri ranks first in the production of sunflowers, the state raising more than 70 per cent of the commercial sunflower seed used in the United States. New Madrid County leads the rest in production.

Beniamino Gige, world famous tenor, sang his first concert of the season before hundreds of University of Michigan students at Ann Arbor Friday night. He received a tremendous ovation.

### "Fellow," Dog Almost Gains Admittance to Columbia University

NEW YORK—The fact that he walks on four legs instead of on two is about all that kept "Fellow" a dog, from matriculating at Columbia university here recently.

Fellow, who belongs to Jacob Herbert, of Detroit, was brought before Columbia psychologists, where he was put through an intelligence test which astonished the learned professors.

The dog is a German shepherd, five years of age, and his master insists that he displays the intelligence of the average eight year old boy. Herbert claims that Fellow knows between 300 and 400 spoken words. He obeys a number of intricate commands, given in the ordinary conversational tone with very few inflections, and he has a good memory for names of people. Introduced to several in the room, he later picked them out when their names were called.

When his master asked him to see if the car was still parked outside, the dog amazed the professors by going to the window and looking out with his front feet on the sill.

Herbert says he taught the dog by talking with him in a conversational tone as he would to a child, and the dog has now come to have an almost human expression.

### Former Champion In Stanford Class Fight

Palo Alto, Calif.—(IP)—The Stanford university freshmen, led by the ex-champion flyweight boxer Fidel La Barba, were defeated last week in the annual "mud battle" with the sophomores on the campus. The sophs were led by Eric Frenz, who holds a record in throwing the discus. Krenz once in the fight threw La Barba in the mud pond when the two met personally.

Concord, N. H.—(IP)—The first lap in her race for the mayoralty of Concord was won by H. Gwendolyn Jones, 24, pretty university coed, when she overwhelmingly defeated Representative Edward D. Haskell and ex-Mayor Willard H. Flint at the Primaries this week.

Miss Jones now will face Mayor Fred M. Marden in the final election.

A course in present day fashions will be given at New York University this year.

### Professor Hertzler Says College Suicides Caused by Imitativeness

"Suicide as I understand it is simply an illustration of a significant fact in sociological principles of suggestion and imitation. The thing imitated is either something unique or popular or something a superior has done," asserted Professor J. O. Hertzler, Professor of Sociology in the University, in talking on student suicides.

He pointed out that the first two students to commit suicide were college students who were studying abnormal psychology, stating that their acts were possibly due to a peculiarly morbid state of mind resulting from this study. These boys were university students, and because of this, were given a large amount of newspaper publicity which would not have been given to other persons under the same circumstances.

"This was a unique occurrence and was followed by quite a wave of suicide by partly unbalanced young folks pushed to the point of desperation or otherwise unbalanced," said Professor Hertzler adding that, "If you have an unusual form of suicide with much publicity, it will be imitated."

He made the statement that suicide among students is really nothing unusual. The students, because of their position which puts them more or less before the public, receive publicity which others do not. Investigations show that there is as large a percentage of young persons not students committing suicide as there is of students.

"The newspapers are responsible for a large amount of the suicides among students," he declared. "A unique form of suicide at a time when that type is getting publicity will enable relatively unknown people or people with what psychologists know as an inferiority complex a chance to gain a certain amount of publicity, however dubious it might be."

This latter form of suicide takes place more often among high school students who, because of their home life or other non-harmonious environment, do not have the opportunity of expressing themselves. Because of this they develop a morbid or unbalanced state of mind, to which this opportunity presents itself in an appealing way.

Much of the suicide among young folks, according to Professor Hertzler,

is due to a combination of imitation and a disturbed mental state. This is a mental condition which is common in the adolescent period. In this period, the young person is easily susceptible to influence and example. He is much more likely to act on an impulse stimulated by another's example than is an older person.

"Many suicides among high students," he asserted, "may be caused by the physiological and psychological state which is often characterized by a morbid and unbalanced mental condition."

Professor Hertzler has made a study of suicide and its causes from the sociological side of the question. His opinions are based on scientific study and research.

### Ph.D. Degree Does Not Produce Men Who Are True Scholars, Is Found

New York—(IP)—Declaring that less than twenty-five per cent of the holders of the Ph. D. degree are productive scholars, the American Historical Association laid the blame on college and university presidents who seek degrees for their professors for advertising purposes.

The social sciences and particularly the departments of history show an amazing lack of scholarship, according to the report which was the result of a nation-wide survey for the purpose of finding the best way to expend income from the million dollar endowment of the association.

Middletown, Conn.—(IP)—Fraternalities are to be put on their honor to report to proper officials any cases of intoxication at fraternity dances at Connecticut Wesleyan university, according to a new ruling passed by the faculty this week.

### Nebraska Alumnus Is Acting Dean of Botany

Ernst A. Bessey, graduate of '98, is now acting Dean of Botany at the Michigan State Agriculture College. He is the son of former professor Bessey of the Nebraska department of Botany.

Amherst, Mass.—(IP)—Two forms of freshman hazing at Amherst college were abolished by the students here this week—that of capturing freshmen for performance at senior meetings and that of attempting to disrupt the annual frosh banquet. A proposal to abolish the annual class scrap between the sophomores and freshmen was defeated.

The Silver Medal Bull, Sulton Telivo is the sire of the new champion and her dam is Varsity Ultimo Norma.

The Harvard law school is the largest of its kind with an enrollment of 1508.

The annual convention of the Rocky Mountain Interscholastic Press will meet on the University of Colorado campus in November. Silver loving cups and ribbons will be given to publications who stand first in their respective divisions.

A new women's dining hall has been opened at Ohio State which will seat 600.

### Three O'clock Closing Time for Boston Prom

Boston, Mass.—(IP)—Three o'clock in the morning is the time for the closing of the junior prom at Boston university next spring, according to a new ruling just made. By the same ruling interdepartmental functions must close at 2 a. m. and fraternity parties must cease at the early hour of one past mid-night.

Careless smokers are blamed for \$50,000,000 worth of the large annual fire losses of the United States.

Half of the students enrolled in the University of Wisconsin summer school were teachers.

Since the war, divorce is becoming more common in England. Latest figures show that one marriage out of every hundred ends in the divorce court.

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