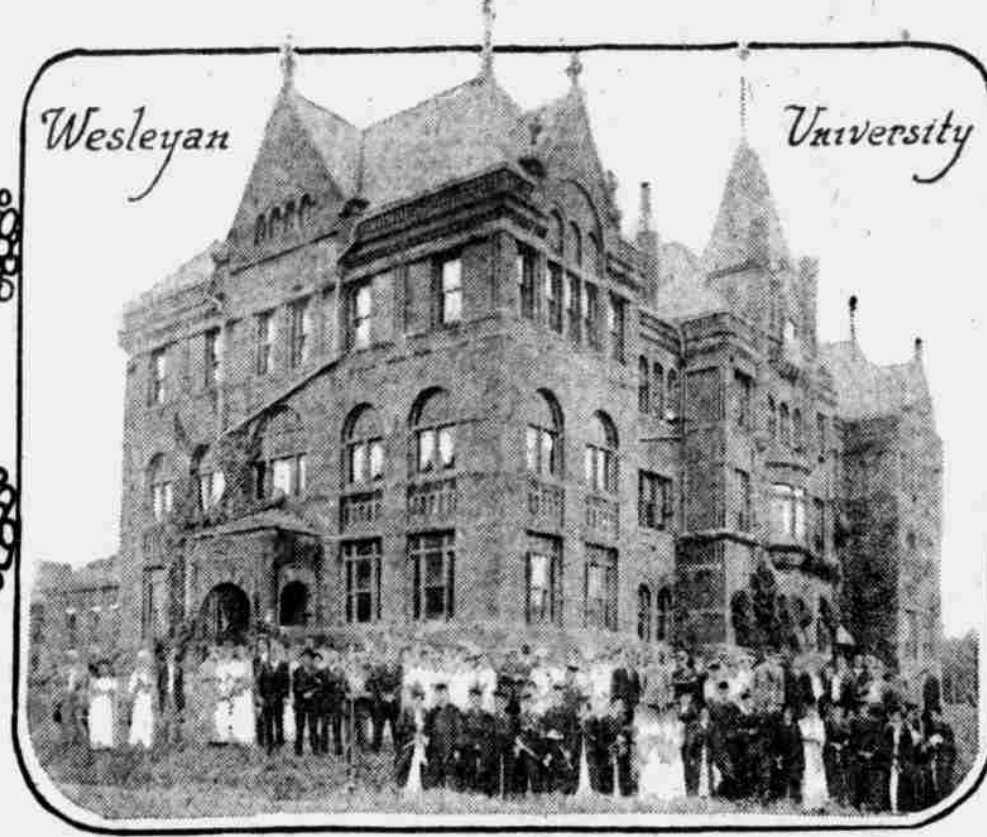


Lincoln's Colleges and Schools Are Famous : : : : :



Union College



Wesleyan

University



Cotner University

"Lincoln as a Center of Education"

By Miss Sarah P. Muir of the Lincoln Public Schools

All Nebraska knows Lincoln as an educational center because here is located the State university, and in or near Lincoln numerous other colleges. Nebraska probably does not know at first hand much about the secondary school system in Lincoln. Indeed the city of Lincoln itself is only beginning to be aware that the schools of Lincoln are rapidly taking rank among the finest in the United States. Superintendent Fred M. Hunter and the men and women working with him have made so wide and critical a study of school problems that the best ideas of the country have been brought to bear upon the school system of Lincoln.

Many of the buildings which house the pupils are still inadequate, but the Board of Education stands pledged to a building policy which will steadily replace old structures. Two splendid buildings, however, stand as models of school architecture—the Bancroft junior high and prevocational school and the new high school building. The Bancroft building contains an auditorium and gymnasium; boys' shop where instruction is given in woodwork, printing, electric wiring and concrete work; a housekeeping suite, sewing and fitting rooms, domestic science kitchen, beside the more usual

features of ordinary high school building.

Modern Building.

The new high school building located at Twenty-second and J streets offers every facility needed to a thoroughly cosmopolitan high school. The wide campus, of fifteen acres, already begins to show how landscape gardening and practical utility can be combined. Hockey fields and tennis courts figure at the south, a foot ball practice field at the north, and the future athletic field with grandstand at the west. This year, however, in accordance with the spirit of service which the war situation demands, all of the west field and most of the north have been planted to corn, beans, potatoes and a variety of other vegetables, under direction of Mr. Slothower of the Department of Agriculture. The building itself, surrounded by a slight terrace, is a splendid three-story structure, covering more than an acre. It is built of brick, in the simple, dignified lines which characterize the finest school buildings of the country. Some of the most interesting features within are the wide corridors unmarred by lockers, the well arranged auditorium seating 1,400, the pool and showers adjoining the gymnasium, the cafeteria which daily caters to 800 stu-

dents, the manual training, domestic science and art rooms, adequate locker rooms, staff rooms for the annual and for the weekly school paper.

One of the great problems confronting the schools all over the country today is how to keep the boys and the girls in school. Two chief means have been used in the Lincoln schools to effect this; one, the bridging of the gap between eighth grade and high school by means of the junior high schools; the other, by the introduction from kindergarten through the twelfth grade of attractive and practical courses which will induce boys and girls to continue their studies and to graduate. Vocational work and vocational guidance have done much to awaken the young citizens of Lincoln to their opportunities and possibilities.

Changes at School.

The past year has seen radical changes in Lincoln high school. Jesse H. Newlon, the principal, has brought to bear upon high school affairs keen insight, practical common sense, and wide study of high school problems. Early in the year he appointed committees of faculty members to study the most urgent need of the high school. Committees on curriculums and constants after much investigation presented reports which have resulted in the making over and modernizing of the curriculums. The following are now open to students: A university preparatory curriculum, a general curriculum, and five vocational curriculums; namely, the commercial, the fine arts, the household arts, the mechanic arts, and the music. All of these curriculums are so arranged that every student will have some taste of those essentials without

which a boy or girl is cheated of his educational rights. Some extremely attractive courses have been introduced into all curriculums.

In most departments heads have been created. Under their guidance much has been done in revising and articulating the courses. In the English department a thorough study of curriculums from the most progressive schools in the country has been made, and has resulted in numerous changes. Some courses offered for the first time next year are news-writing, reading and speaking, modern plays and play writing, extensive study of Shakespeare's plays, and American literature. In all courses

greater stress is to be placed upon oral English, reading aloud, letter writing. A "better English week" will be a new feature introduced to point out to the student the value of good English—whatever may be their future career, and some means of attaining it.

Committees Help Out.

Other committees which have made valuable contributions this year are the committee on organization, the committee on student affairs, and committee on assemblies. Probably no movement in Lincoln high school has been more significant

(Continued on Page Eleven.)

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NEBRASKA STATE FAIR

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