

The M. A. C. Record.

VOLUME I.

LANSING, MICHIGAN, TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1896.

NUMBER 17.

ARBOR DAY ON THE FARM.

ARBOR DAY ADDRESS BY PROF. L. R. TAFT.

In the last issue of the Youth's Companion there was a short article by the Father of Arbor Day, Secretary J. Sterling Morton, which was substantially as follows:

In January, 1872, J. Sterling Morton introduced a resolution at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture of Nebraska, setting apart and consecrating one day in the month of April for tree planting, and naming it "Arbor day." In 1874 Gov. Furnas of Nebraska, issued the first Arbor day proclamation, and, a few years later, the day was made a legal holiday in that State.

So far as I have been able to learn, Michigan was the second State to fall into line, as Gov. Bagley, Feb. 22, 1876, appointed April 15 as "Arbor day" for that year, while Wisconsin, under the auspices of the State Forestry Association, held its first Arbor day on the 18th of May of that year, and as a result 1,342,886 trees were planted in that State. The idea was soon taken up by other states, particularly at the west, until now forty-two of the forty-five states of the Union celebrate "Arbor day," as do Canada, Mexico, Great Britain, and India.

It is reported that upon the first Arbor day in Nebraska 12,000,000 trees were planted. The benefits of these earlier plantings became so marked that up to 1888 more than two and one-half billion trees were planted in that State upon homestead and tree claims, and in all up to the present time over twenty billion trees have been planted in Nebraska upon "Arbor days."

In his article in the Youth's Companion, Secretary Morton states that more than 25,000 acres of forests are consumed each twenty-four hours by railroads, manufactories, and forest fires, and he very pertinently asks, "How many acres are planted every twenty-four hours?" and, "How long, at the present rate of consumption, before the primeval forests of the United States shall have become completely denuded?"

In considering the division of the topic that has been assigned to me, the celebration of "Arbor day on the Farm," it very naturally divides itself into planting a forest, setting out fruit and nut trees, decorating the grounds about the house, and roadside planting.

From what has been said by previous speakers regarding the present condition of Michigan forests, which, however depleted, compare favorably with those of most other states, it can be seen that the farmer who has waste land adapted to the purpose, will find the planting of it to timber trees a profitable investment. Such a timber plantation will have at least a three fold value. In sections of the State where most of the land has been cleared, not the least to be considered is the beneficent effect of a forest as a windbreak. Even though one does not care to plant extensively for timber purposes, in sections where the wind has unrestricted sweep, a shelter belt of evergreens of but a few rods in width, will have a marked effect in tempering the blasts of winter. No one will dispute the value of the shelter belt, so far as the protection of the dwelling and stables is concerned, and its importance, and I might say its necessity, for the best success in gardening and fruit culture are beginning to be appreciated by all intelligent persons.

To secure any marked effect upon the general climate of a section will require concerted action and extensive planting over large areas, and it will require many years for the trees to grow to a size sufficient to have any great influence, but with the increasing interest in forest preservation and in reforestation, even this can be hoped for in the future.

Aside from their value as windbreaks, timber belts are of value on the farm for furnishing a supply of stove wood for family use or for sale. While most farmers have retained wood lots of ample size to supply their needs, we frequently find that although it would have been of more income had it been left in forest, all of the land upon a farm has been cleared.

In case any of the land is rough and uneven, or for any other reason is not adapted for profitable cropping, it may be planted to such trees as are suited to the soil and climate, and after the first five years the necessary thinning out of the plantation will supply stove wood for a family from each five acres. If a proper selection of varieties has been planted, it will be only a

few years before a large annual return can be obtained from the trees, as many of them can be used for fence and telephone posts, while others can be allowed to grow up into timber.

Instead of devoting Arbor day to the planting of forest trees, it may be used in planting orchards of fruit trees, either for home use or market. Every farm should have within a short distance of the house, a variety of the different kinds of fruits adapted to home use.

While in the case of an orchard designed strictly for commercial purposes, great care should be taken that it be located where it will have congenial surroundings, and where the arrangements are such that it can have proper care and attention, with the greatest economy of labor. It is often the case that there is a part of the farm where it is impossible to grow the ordinary farm crops to advantage, but which can be utilized for a few fruit trees. In this way not only can the waste land be utilized but an unsightly place can be concealed. This practice is not to be commended, except where the land is adapted to the kind of fruit to be planted, and where there is a supply of plant food and water for the trees. Upon most land there is an opportunity for such use of the land and the planting of such places would be an excellent work for Arbor day.

In addition to the planting of fruit trees in such locations, the matter of using the various nut trees should have consideration. In many sections of southern Michigan, the chestnut can be grown to advantage. While the common sweet chestnut is capable of being grown with profit, the Paragon and the various European and Japanese varieties, although inferior in quality, are even more promising, as the fruit is much larger, and the trees are early and abundant bearers. This fruit will adapt itself to locations and conditions in which very few of the fruits would succeed. While they would be benefited by an occasional cultivation for the first few years, fair success can be obtained without it if the soil is suitable. The chestnut is a very common forest tree in parts of New England and thrives best in a sandy loam soil. A limestone soil is thought to be uncongenial to them.

Although not likely to be commonly successful, some of the Pecans, and of the hardier, late blooming varieties of the English, or more properly the Persian walnut may be found to do well in some of the sheltered places along the shore of Lake Michigan. The filbert is another fruit whose value is worthy of investigation.

The various nut trees can all be grown from seed, but if the best fruit is desired, grafted trees of improved varieties can be obtained from nurserymen. The importance of nut culture as an industry can be seen when it is stated that from \$150,000 to \$200,000 worth of nuts are brought into Michigan annually, an amount larger than would be produced by 10,000 acres of good land in wheat. Since soils that are but poorly adapted to wheat and other farm crops can be used for the growing of nut trees, here again would seem to be an admirable way of spending Arbor day.

In addition to their value from a standpoint of dollars and cents, a grove of nut trees would add much to the attractiveness of a farm, and besides would make an excellent windbreak. Surmounting an eminence as it often would, its value in enhancing the worth of the farm, and the pleasure afforded the aesthetic taste of its occupants, would repay its entire cost.

Roadside planting should also receive attention, making use so far as possible of native trees and shrubs. In some sections, fruit and nut trees can be used for this purpose, and would be well adapted almost everywhere were it not for the fact that the ruthless poacher is not content with stealing the fruit, but strips the branches, knocks off the bark and ruins the trees, both as objects of beauty, and so far as the production of future crops is concerned.

In some sections of Europe the cherry is used as a street tree, and particularly while in flower and fruit presents an appearance equalled by none of our ornamental trees, so called.

While Arbor day in its original significance dealt largely with forest planting, it is today viewed rather more from the aesthetic and ornamental, rather than from the commercial side, and the planting that is done in Michigan is largely about the dwelling and along the roadside. Our people seem to be too much engaged in the destruction of forests to give much attention to reforestation, although there has been a marked change in its favor during the last ten years. But the value of trees about the dwelling is appreciated by all. A proper

selection of trees, nicely arranged about the house, will not only afford shade, and when necessary a wind break, but they relieve the bareness that is so noticeable when trees are not used, and aside from the beauty of the individual trees in form, habit, foliage and flower, they all blend together into a beautiful picture. The results of many of the attempts at landscape decoration, are not altogether satisfactory, and we may attribute the failures to a variety of causes. Among them we may note: the selection of varieties that are not adapted to the soil or location; mutilation of the roots in digging or want of proper care in planting; injury from borers or other insects, and lack of moisture and plant food, due to the dry season or because they have been allowed to grow in grass without proper care and cultivation.

Even though the trees may live and flourish so far as growth is concerned, the effect is not always what could be desired. For this various reasons may be given. Much of it is due to the common desire on the part of the planter to scatter the trees about wherever there is an available spot, "on the dot a tree everywhere" plan. On the other hand we should endeavor to leave considerable patches of lawn unbroken and arrange the trees more or less in groups along the sides and in front of the lot, with just enough trees about the house to give some shade to the ground around, without shading the house at most more than one-third of the time.

It is difficult at the time of planting to imagine that the little sapling will grow into the mighty elm, oak or maple, and this often leads to the planting of the trees so thickly that the view to and from the house is cut off. In locating the groups we should always endeavor to avoid this.

We can wisely make increased use of shrubbery and vines about the house, and all can be brightened with bedding plants, but as with the trees, care should be taken not to unduly break up the lawn.

Another excellent use of Arbor Day is the cleaning up and picking up of the grounds about the house and other buildings. This not only adds to the looks but it gives an appearance of thrift and has often been found to pay in various ways from a financial standpoint. When the yard is strewn with bits of board, papers and discarded tools, or worse yet, new plows, wagons and binders, the effect upon children cannot be good, while a neatly kept yard will aid in instilling habits and ideas of neatness.

A writer has said, "The nakedness of farm homes, and the utter absence of the ornamental, tells of a sad defect in the early education." He advises that the work of ornamentation be commenced with the school grounds. "Make them beautiful and you will not only create an attachment for the school, but the children will soon demand that their homes shall be beautiful as well as the school grounds."

Here then is another use for Arbor Day, as much of the work of ornamenting the grounds will be too heavy for the children. If the patrons of the school will aid in preparing the lawn, and in building walks and fences, and perhaps in obtaining trees and shrubs, the work of planting and caring for them can be done by the children under the direction of the teacher.

Lowell has said, "No man does anything more visibly useful to posterity than he who plants a tree," and while this may seem but a slight inducement to the selfish man, it is difficult to see how any one can forego doing what cannot fail to give immediate and lasting pleasure to one's self and family. To all then I would urge what Secretary Morton calls his decalogue: "Plant trees," as

"Who sows a field or trains a flower
Or plants a tree is more than all,
For he who blesses most is blest."

A GAME OF BALL.

A week ago yesterday our ball team won our favor by pounding out 21 base hits and playing a nearly perfect fielding game, thus winning from their friendly rivals, the Olivet boys. The visitors could only get three base hits and two earned runs, the other runs resulting from a balk and bases on balls. Osborn, our left-handed pitcher, had the visitors at his mercy, and won the crowd completely when he put the ball into the evergreens for a home run. He has only been in college one term and during that time has kept so steadily at his work that nobody knew that he could play ball.

SCORE.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	B	A	E
Olivet	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	1	8	3	8	6
M. A. C.	2	0	4	0	0	5	0	3	1	15	21	11	2

Earned runs, Olivet 2, M. A. C. 10; 2 base hits, Clark, M. A. C.; 3 base hits, McLouth, M. A. C.; home runs, Osborn, M. A. C.; stolen bases, M. A. C. 8; bases on balls, off Hinkley, 3, off Osborn 6, Patriarche 7; struck out, by Hinkley 8, by Osborn 4.

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Mr. E. A. Edgerton, engineer of the M. A. C. heating, water, and lighting plant has resigned from his position, having been elected superintendent of the city water and electric plant at Lansing. The citizens of Lansing are to be congratulated on securing the services of such a capable and energetic man. Mr. Edgerton made a commendable record at M. A. C. not only as an engineer, but also in construction work, and gave valuable assistance in the designing of new constructions. We take pleasure in publicly acknowledging our appreciation of the work done by Mr. Edgerton at M. A. C. and extend to him our best wishes for success in the future.

HISTORY OF THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

By the hand of Dr. Kedzie the College library has just received a volume bearing the above title from Prof. A. N. Prentiss of Cornell University. At the reorganization of the College in 1862 Prof. Prentiss was placed in charge of the department of Botany and Horticulture and was the professor who gave shape and scope to that flourishing department till he resigned to accept the chair of Botany in Cornell University.

The volume is a substantial octavo, bound in half Morocco, and contains a mass of information of great value, bearing on the early history of the College. The photographs (five in number), showing College Hall, and the Boarding Hall ("Saints' Rest"), and the wild-wood tangle of their surroundings—rail fence, brush, stumps and the general raggedness of mutilated nature—in contrast with the beautiful lawns which have replaced them, are most suggestive.

Look on this picture and then on that.

The book is highly prized and thankfully received by the College authorities, and will be placed in the Library as a tribute from an old-time and steadfast friend and Alumnus of M. A. C.

THE LUBIN PRIZE WON BY CHAS. F. EMERICK.

About a year ago D. Lubin of Sacramento, Cal., placed in the hands of Prof. Richard T. Ely of Wisconsin University \$250 to be awarded in prizes for competitive essays on "The Agricultural Depression and its Remedies." Prof. Ely decided to throw the competition open to students of the Universities of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. One judge was chosen from the faculty of each university. Last Tuesday Dr. C. H. Cooley of Ann Arbor announced that the prizes had been awarded as follows:

First prize of \$125 to Charles F. Emerick, of Michigan; second of \$75 to W. A. Coutts of Michigan; third of \$50 to D. W. Maloney of Wisconsin.

Mr. Emerick, after graduating from Wittenburg College, Ohio, '89, came to M. A. C. in '90, where he received the degree M. S. in '91, then went to Ann Arbor and took a Master's degree. He is now president of the Graduate Club in Ann Arbor and is working for a doctor's degree in economics.

SPECIAL PRIZES FOR BATTING AND FIELDING AVERAGES.

To the player, on M. A. C.'s first nine, having the best batting average at the close of the base ball season of 1896, Elgin Mifflin will give a five dollar hat; the season over which this contest extends, to begin with the game at Kalamazoo, May 2, and end with the field day series at Albion. Only games already scheduled and those played at field day will be counted in this contest; and no player will be considered a contestant who does not play in at least four games or parts of games. The batting averages shall be determined by dividing the number of base hits made by each player by the number of times he is at bat; but the time or times he is sent to base by being hit by a pitched ball, by the pitcher's illegal delivery, or by a base on balls, shall not be counted as times at bat.

For the best fielding average in the same series of games, Jessop & Son will give a pair of five dollar shoes.

All cases of doubtful or disputed base hits, errors, chances, etc., shall be referred to Manager Herrmann, Umpire Hoyt, and Scorer Berry.

AT THE COLLEGE.

Prof. and Mrs. Babcock have new Victor bicycles.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Hume, '87, a girl, April 13, 1896.

Prof. W. B. Barrows took his class in geology to Grand Ledge for a field day last Saturday.

Miss Kate Tracy, of Olivet College, and W. W. Tracy, '67, of Detroit, visited our Seniors, S. W. and J. W. Tracy, the first of last week.

Married, April 29, 1896, at Crosswell, Mich., Dr. J. E. Hinkson, '92, to Miss Bertha M. Macklem. At home after May 18, at Wacousta, Mich.

One day last week a T in the main steam pipe in the Mechanical Laboratory exploded. Luckily the T was under the floor so that no damage was done.

Mrs. Landon, Miss Lillian Wheeler and Miss Norma Vedder rejoice over nice boxes of trailing arbutus sent them by R. C. Bradley, steward of the Newberry Asylum.

Recent donations to our alumni library: From A. A. Crozier, '79, Modification of Plants by Climate, Mutual Influence of the Stock and Graft, A Dictionary of Botanical Terms: from C. F. Wheeler, '91, Michigan Flora.

Our ball team went to Kalamazoo to play last Saturday but the game was called in the second inning on account of rain. Neither side had scored. Two games will be played here next Saturday with the Kalamazoo College team.

The last meeting of the M. A. C. Grange for this term will be held next Friday evening, at which time the lady members will furnish a most interesting part of the program. On Saturday evening the M. A. C. Grange will furnish the program for the Capitol Grange in Lansing.

Among the visitors at College last week were Mrs. C. C. Miller, Cadillac, Mich., mother of our student, Geo. D. Miller, '99; Mr. H. D. Wiard, Chicago, Western Field Secretary of the Presbyterian Society; Dr. M. C. Pardee, South Norwalk, Conn., and Mr. Richard Bygraves, Mason, Mich.

Prof. P. B. Woodworth left Saturday for New York City to attend the national electric light convention. Messrs. Edison, Bell, Tesla, and others prominent in electrical science appear on the program, besides which there is to be an exhibition of the present state of the electrical industries which it is claimed will far excel the electrical exhibit at the World's Fair.

Prof. Wheeler has some kernels of chess which germinated on ice in a refrigerator. April 20 they were put on ice and when taken off, April 29, had sprouts on about one-eighth of an inch long. He considers this good evidence that chess is so much more hardy than wheat that when wheat is killed by frost chess remains uninjured, comes up, matures, and thus makes the farmer believe that his wheat has turned to chess.

Axel Rosengren, correspondent for the Stockholm, Sweden, *Aftenbladet* (*Evening Blade*), visited the College last Thursday. He wishes that his countrymen could see our College. Sweden has three Agricultural Colleges but they are small and devoted entirely to agriculture, which, in the opinion of Mr. Rosengren, much narrows their usefulness. Mr. Rosengren is making extensive purchases of American farm machinery for a firm in Sweden, and placed a large order with Lansing manufacturers. He has also purchased 27 carloads of Plano binders.

FARM NOTES.

The alfalfa sown a year ago is now 18 inches high. The seed used came from France, Germany, Colorado, Persia, and Michigan grown.

Near the alfalfa is growing 18 strips of clover. The seed for seven of the strips was bought for the mammoth variety. Of the eleven remaining strips the seed was bought for common red clover. All the strips were planted at the same time about a year ago, and neither this year nor last year could any difference be observed between the two kinds sown. May 2: The clover measures 8 inches high. The clover leaf weevil seems to be doing damage this spring especially on the young plants.

One-twentieth of an acre clover plots were seeded in the last week of each month during 1895 and the same experiment is being duplicated this year. Last year the best plots were those sown in February, March, April, and December. The March seeding for this year is up and doing nicely.

Out of 16 different samples bought for spring rye and sown a year ago five proved to be winter rye and produced only a few seed stalks last summer, these samples survived the winter and are now growing finely

with prospects of a good crop. The true spring rye samples all produced their crops last summer and died. They have not shown above the ground this spring.

Perhaps on account of the favorable weather the plots of *lathyrus sylvestris* are showing up finely. The oldest seeding, that of 1891, has been left to fight its way with the grass and the grass now seems to have the advantage.

Of the nine varieties of crossbred wheat received from Australia and sown last fall most have been winter-killed, a very few plants surviving.

The Austrian Buda-Pesth wheat is in fine condition.

Wheats, mostly of Russian origin, have come through the winter in excellent condition although sown very late. The plants just showed themselves through the surface when the first snow fell last November.

SOCIETY OFFICERS FOR THE SUMMER TERM.

DELTA TAU DELTA.

President, J. M. Barnay.
Secy. and Treas., A. C. Krentel.
Corresponding Sec'y, R. W. Millis.

UNION LITERARY SOCIETY.

President, J. T. Berry.
Vice President, L. R. Love.
Secretary, F. V. Warren.
Treasurer, E. A. Robinson.
Janitor, A. Wallace.

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Toastmaster, Prof. Mumford.
Master of Ceremonies, H. H. Rhodes.

ECLECTIC SOCIETY.

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Vice President, D. McElroy.
Secretary, W. F. Newman.
Treasurer, A. S. Eldridge.
Marshall, R. F. Swift.

ARBOR DAY AT M. A. C.

A perfect day and a good program made the celebration of Arbor day at college a successful and long to be remembered event. At 1:30 the Chapel was well filled and the audience joined heartily in singing "A Tribute to Nature." Prayer was offered by the Rev. E. B. Allen and then Pres. Snyder made a few well chosen remarks. Among other things he said, "Progress in one thing always comes from destruction in another. Agricultural progress has resulted in the destruction of our forests from the Atlantic to the prairies. This destruction has made reconstructive methods necessary, and so we have come to celebrate Arbor Day in order to encourage the planting of trees to replace, in a measure, what has been so wantonly destroyed." He then introduced the first speaker, the Hon. John T. Rich.

Gov. Rich spoke of the destruction of timber for the purpose of clearing farms, and of lumbering; of the resulting increase of wind storms and of the lower water level. The forests, the water reservoirs, have been removed, our great lakes have gone down four feet; and, as a consequence, the earning capacity of our lake vessels has been decreased ten per cent. Arbor Day, if it can arrest the wanton destruction of our forests, will do much for agriculture, horticulture and navigation. Shade trees along our highways add much to the beauty of the country and to the pleasure of riding or bicycling. To the objection that too much shade makes poor roads, he said, "Let us use better road material."

Nice large buildings, yes, even whole cities and whole navies, if destroyed by fire or storm can be replaced in a comparatively short time; but one fine large tree destroyed can only be replaced by long years and tender care. If the next generation must have trees, this generation must plant them. One tree planted each year by each family in our State would, in a few years, make a vast difference in our roads, our school grounds and our homes.

After music by the choir, Dr. R. C. Kedzie gave an

excellent address on "The Early Forests of Michigan," which together with Dr. Beal's address on "What Should be Done with Our Forests," and Mr. A. A. Crozier's paper on "Michigan Forests of Today" will be published in full in our next issue. Prof. L. R. Taft's paper on "Arbor Day on the Farm" we publish in this issue.

The program was interspersed with good music, and was full of good suggestions.

NEWS FROM GRADUATES AND STUDENTS.

Benj. T. Halstead, Jr., with '97, will return to M. A. C. next term.

E. M. McElroy, '93, will again spend his summer vacation in study at M. A. C.

We learn that L. C. Colburn, '88, has severed his connection with the State University of Wyoming.

E. Cass Herrington, with '78, a successful attorney, is president of the Bar Association of Denver, Col.

C. I. Goodwin, '77, is mentioned as the Republican candidate for Register of Deeds in Ionia County this fall.

Through Mrs. G. C. Davis we learn of the severe illness of Miss Kate Cook, '93, at her home in Claremont, Cal.

H. N. Rouse, student here in '64 and who went west on account of asthma is now a prosperous farmer at Fort Morgan, Col.

C. B. Charles, '79, besides carrying on his farming operations at Bangor, is secretary of the recently organized "Bangor Oil, Gas, and Mining Company."

H. B. Fuller, '94, will teach again at Lewiston next year besides looking after the educational interests of Montmorency county as Commissioner of Schools.

Dr. W. Joseph Foster, '89, who has been assistant to Dr. Carrow, professor of ophthalmic surgery U. of M., leaves the latter part of this month for a year's study in Germany.

O. C. Hollister, '89, will leave in about a week for Wyoming where he will take charge of one of the government surveying parties. He made M. A. C. a farewell call last week.

Carl Dart, '81, is assisting the well known engineer, Geo. S. Morrison, in a survey of the Holston river in east Tennessee with view to the construction of a large dam for power purposes.

Thanks to the change in the long vacation, Frank Johnson, '95, m., who is in Canada with a bridge erecting crew on the M. C. R. R., expects to return to M. A. C. in September for a year's post graduate work.

W. W. Remington, '80, is superintendent of schools at Fort Morgan, Col. Like all M. A. C. boys he is full of public spirit and has been the leader in organizing farmers institutes in the towns where he has taught.

We are always glad to hear of the reward which comes to our alumni for good work. R. S. Campbell, '94, principal of the Saranac schools, will take charge of the Yale, St. Clair Co. schools next year, with a substantial increase in salary.

H. R. Parrish, '95, m., and W. W. Smith with '95, m., have organized a "joint ranch" 9121 Ontario Ave., South Chicago, similar to the old one, 124 Wells Hall. "We are at home from 6 p. m. to 7 a. m., where all M. A. C. farmers will be welcomed."

C. F. Emerick who received the Lubin prize for his essay on "Agriculture" has also received a fellowship in Columbian College. There were eight scholarships offered and Mr. Emerick stood first of seventy-six applicants.—U. of M. Daily, April 30.

The French national government has conferred the decoration and title upon L. G. Carpenter, '79, of "Chevalier du Merite Agricole" for distinguished services to Agriculture." Prof. Carpenter's earnest labors in the line of irrigation engineering in Colorado have been of the greatest importance in the agricultural development of that state.

Last Tuesday C. A. Jewell, Jr., '96, was called to his home at Hudson, Mich., on account of a serious runaway accident in which both his father, C. A. Jewell, Sr., '61, and his mother were severely injured. It seems that while driving on their way to church the team becoming unmanageable, turned sharply and threw the occupants of the rig, seven in number, to the ground with great force. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jewell were taken up in an unconscious condition. It is feared that Mr. Jewell's injuries, which seem to be mainly concussion of the brain, may result fatally. Mrs. Jewell suffered severe injuries to the spine and hips.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GREENVILLE, MICH., April, 25, '96.

To the Record:

Please accept my congratulations for the excellence of the RECORD, and my good wishes for its future. I thought at first the faculty was beginning a big undertaking to issue a *weekly* paper, but there seems to be no lack of material to make up a good paper each week. If the past few weeks are an indication of what we may look for in the future, once a week is none too often to issue the paper. It fairly takes the breath away from us old fellows that graduated so many years ago, to read of the radical changes that are actually coming to our Alma Mater, and of the proposed changes that the near future is to witness. Evidently the Board of Agriculture is alive to the needs of the hour and is removing one ground of criticism at least, that of keeping the College in the same old rut year after year.

That the changes may all prove to be for the best interests of our College is the earnest hope of

Yours sincerely,

J. SATTERLEE, '69.

THE THREE NEW WHEATS FOR MICHIGAN.

No. 3. Voigt's White Star Wheat.

R. C. KEDZIE.

Among the valuable new varieties of wheat brought to notice last year was a white winter wheat raised on the farm of John Schram, near Corinth, Gaines township, Kent Co. A load of this wheat was brought to Voigt's mill, Grand Rapids, and was offered for sale as White Clawson, but Mr. Voigt saw at a glance that it differed in many respects from the White Clawson, especially in its hard and flinty character, in strong contrast with the soft and starchy Clawson. Mr. Voigt sent some to this college for examination, and the general opinion here was that it was not Clawson, the hard flinty appearance of a cross section of the berry being in marked contrast with the starchy appearance of a section of Clawson. Robert Gibbons of the *Michigan Farmer* said it was not Clawson. Chemical analysis also showed a marked difference in the composition of the two wheats.

As the wheat differs so much from Clawson, that name is rejected for this wheat, and I propose to name it VOIGT'S WHITE STAR WHEAT.

CHARACTER OF THE WHEAT.

It is a white winter wheat, bald, the stalk and head resembling the Clawson, and ripening at the same time. Very prolific, said to have produced forty-two bushels per acre on forty acres. The wheat of these forty acres was mostly used for seed on farms near Corinth because of its great productiveness. It would seem probable that seed wheat could be obtained in quantity from these farmers. Mr. C. G. A. Voigt of Grand Rapids can furnish information on this point.

I have not been able to trace the history of this wheat. If it shall retain its good character for productiveness and richness in gluten, it will be prized by farmers and millers.

Chemical Department.

LOCAL FIELD DAY.

Immediately after the Arbor Day exercises last Friday the events of the spring term local field day were run off. While most of the sports were interesting, there were no record breaking events. Following are the list of sports and the records:

100 yards dash, won by Partridge, in 12 seconds.
220 yards dash, won by A. C. Krentel, in 26 seconds.
Quarter mile run, won by Partridge in 1 minute.
Half mile run won by Partridge in 2:40.
One mile run, won by J. Tracy.
Running broad jump, won by A. C. Krentel, 17 feet 8 1/4 inches.
Running hop step and jump, won by Sees, 39 ft. 8 3/4 in.
Standing broad jump, won by Eastman, 9 ft. 7 1/2 in.
High jump, won by Laitner, 4 ft. 8 in.
Shot put won by Warren 30 ft. 5 1/2 in.
Pole vault won by Lundy, 8 ft. 1 in. Mr. Lundy is a nephew of our former pole vaulter, Thos. Bradford.
Hammer throw, won by Marsh, 74 ft. 3 in.
Mile Walk, won by Libby in 10:34.
One-half mile bicycle, won by Thomson.
One-quarter mile bicycle, won by Thomson 49 sec.
Mile bicycle, won by Brown.

The indoor sports which began in the armory at 7:30 were very lively and much more interesting than the outdoor sports. The welter and feather weight wrestles were especially fine, and the exhibition boxing by Messrs. Porter and Millis and Vanderhoef and Miller

called forth considerable applause. The events were won as follows:

Fencing by Frank Yebina.

Wrestling:

Heavy weight, draw between Woodworth and Redfern.

Middle weight, Bolt won from Hoag in fourth bout.

Welter weight, Laitner won from Lowry.

Light weight, Green won from Corey by forfeit after one fall had been won by Corey.

Feather weight, Elliott won from Dibble by forfeit after Dibble had won a fall.

The last indoor event was a team wrestle in which Laitner, Woodworth, and Elliott were pitted against Redfern, Corey and Green. This created much amusement and ended in a victory by the former team.

GRASS SEEDS.

DR. W. J. BEAL.

Seedmen of this country are showing an increased interest in the kinds of seeds they buy and sell, at least some of them display this interest. This week a prominent seed firm in New York sent to this department a bunch of sheep's fescue, which some of their customers objected to in the lawn. This very species is often sold in high-priced mixtures for lawns, notwithstanding it grows in bunches and does not make a close turf. A coarse variety of sheep's fescue with a bluish shade stands dry weather well and the tramping of student and visitor. It abounds on the lawn between Williams hall, the big stone, and the President's office.

Another seedsman from Wisconsin sends three samples of grass seed for an opinion, and well he might for one vile lot of screenings and weed seeds was offered him as fowl meadow grass. But very little of this species was found in the mixture.

Another seedsman made inquiries regarding seeds of a wild grass called "blue joint." The hay of this species has been extensively sold in Lansing the past winter, and is usually of a very poor quality unless cut early in the season.

Botanical Department.

TURNING CATTLE IN ORCHARDS THAT HAVE BEEN SPRAYED.

A few days ago Prof. Taft was asked if he thought there were any danger in turning cattle in on orchard sod soon after the trees had been sprayed with Bordeaux and Paris green. He said: "None whatever, if the trees have been properly sprayed. It is a good rule to stop spraying as soon as the trees begin to drip, and if this be done but very little poison will get on the grass." "But is there not danger of the cattle injuring themselves by browsing on the trees?" "Not much. An animal might eat what would amount to a quart of the mixture as we use it and not be injured seriously. We put only two or three gallons on a very large tree, so you see it would be difficult for an animal to get enough to injure itself. No, I think there is but very little danger in turning cattle into a sprayed orchard."

APRIL FLOWERS.

C. F. WHEELER.

The last week in April in 1896 compares favorably with the usual third week in May. The procession of flowers is so rapid and the new arrivals so numerous, that a bare list of names would take too much space. The following dates of the flowering of a few plants selected at random from notes taken at Hubbardston, Ionia Co., Mich., from 1869 to 1889, may be of some interest.

In 1878 peaches were in blossom April 12; in 1879, May 5; in 1888, May 20; in 1896, May 1.

In 1878 cultivated sorts of plums and cherries blossomed April 18; in 1886, April 28; in 1889, May 5; in 1881, May 9; in 1888, May 20; in 1896, April 24.

In 1878 silver maples were in flower March 7; in 1879, April 12; in 1876, April 18; in 1887, April 20; in 1882, April 1; in 1883, April 7; in 1889, March 26; in 1896, April 5.

Botanical Department, May 1.

WANTED.

We will pay a reasonable price for the following periodicals to complete the files in the library:

Vicks Magazine, Vol. 16, No. 10.
Jersey Bulletin, Vol. 12, No. 23.
Grange Visitor July 1, 1891.
Grange Visitor Jan. 15, 1892.
Grange Visitor Dec. 15, 1893.
American Dairyman Vol. 32, No. 2.
American Dairyman Vol. 31, Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10 and 16.
American Dairyman Vol. 33, Nos. 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 22, 23, 25 and 26.
American Dairyman Vol. 34, Nos. 1-8, 10-22, 25 and 26.
American Dairyman Vol. 35, Nos. 1-9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17-21, 23-25.
American Dairyman Vol. 36, Nos. 3 and 11.
American Garden Vol. 12, Nos. 2 and 7, 1891.
Popular Gardening and Fruit Grower Vol. 6, No. 2, 1890.
American Agriculturist May, 1894.



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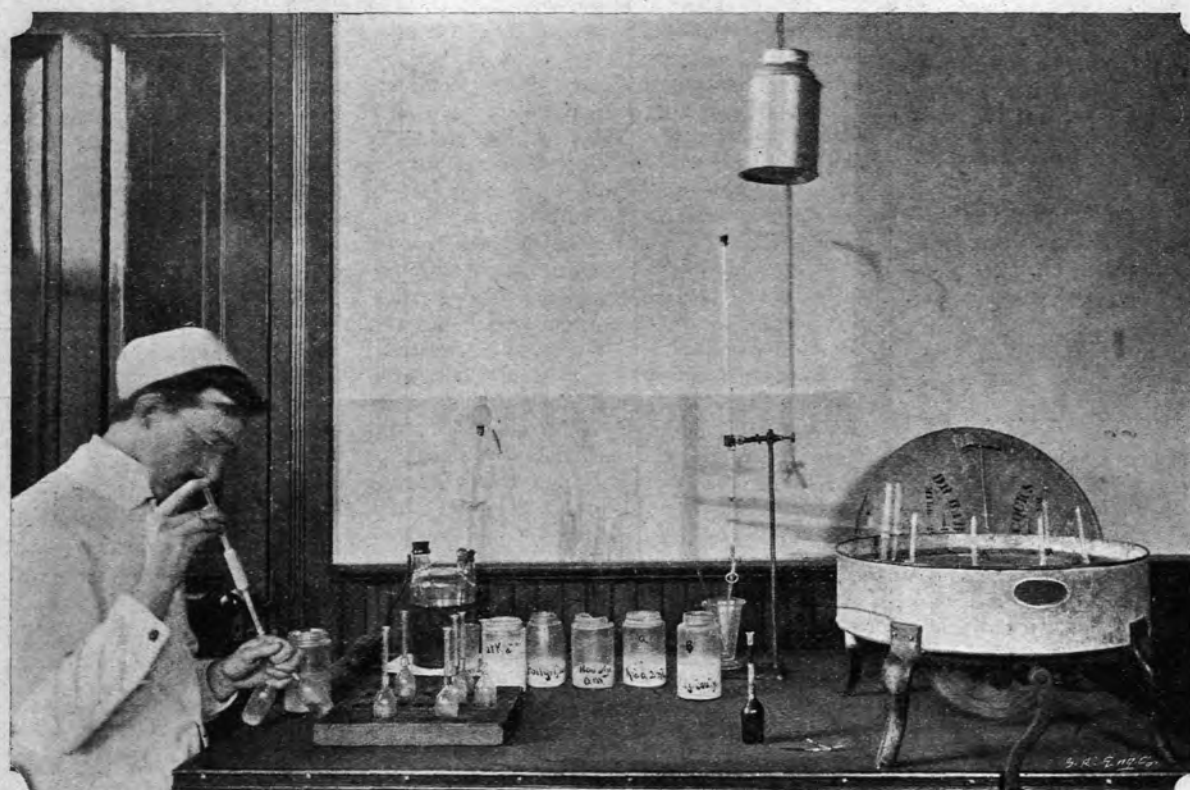
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