

# The M. A. C. Record.

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No. 8

## A New Experiment in Agricultural Education.

Mr. M. G. Kains, '95, writes from Briar Cliff Manor, N. Y., under date of Oct. 8th. His letter describes a new departure in agricultural instruction, and will be of interest to readers of the RECORD. We therefore print it in full:

"In the RECORD of Sept. 25th, I saw an item concerning the resignation of my position as Special Crop Culturist in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and my acceptance of the chair of horticulture in the School of Practical Agriculture and Horticulture at Briar Cliff Manor, New York. Since many of my friends probably thought me permanently located in Washington, some notes concerning the school and my connection with it may be of interest.

"As one of the results of an investigation of the causes that have led to the flocking of country people to the large cities of this state, a number of gentlemen concluded that the time was ripe for the foundation of a school of scientific agriculture and horticulture which should differ from the agricultural colleges in the omission of studies of purely educational interest from its course, and also from their condensed short courses in the emphasis it should lay upon actual practice. A concise two years' course was accordingly planned which should cover all branches of commercial agriculture and horticulture; a farm was purchased; a director, Mr. Geo. T. Powell, appointed; buildings commenced; professors engaged; the school advertised and opened in mid-September.

"Since our buildings were not completed, we started in temporary quarters, being greeted on opening day by a class twice as large as was expected. This has more than doubled since, and we find ourselves almost buried in work of a most exhilarating kind.

"Our object is the training of young men and women in all departments of farm and garden business by actual practice as well as by lectures. In addition to our own resources, students enjoy the advantages of Mr. Walter W. Law's 4,500 acre estate, his superb dairy and herd of nearly 1,000 cows—mostly Jerseys—his piggeries, henneries, greenhouses, orchards—in fact, all lines of farming and gardening. With each product we investigate methods of production, harvesting, storing, and marketing. Our cold storage work, in charge of a specialist, commences with the careful study of the maturing fruit or vegetable and follows it through the chill-room to its sale. As to markets, our proximity to New York affords unsurpassed advantages; students will grow, pick, grade, pack and ship products and visit the city to see them sold in open market.

"All students after being thoroughly grounded in the scientific principles underlying correct practice will be encouraged to specialize in branches that appeal to them.

"In many respects, therefore, our course is unique and for that reason is drawing just the class of students

it was planned for, viz., such as must obtain a business training in agriculture or horticulture in a limited time, and who have not had the opportunity for such training as well regulated farms and gardens afford.

"I am greatly pleased with my work and prospects as horticulturist. At present, I am teaching the structure of plants and the underlying principles of plant growth and have had occasion to use some of the drawings made in 1892 under Dr. Beal and Prof. Wheeler—drawings that awaken pleasant memories, notably of Dr. Beal's stage whisper to my classmate, E. J. H., upon his discovery, under the microscope, of an air bubble.

"The college, I am glad to see by THE RECORD and *The Michigan Farmer*, is forging ahead. I begin to feel the pleasure that comes from the knowledge that an institution is being recognized by the public. I hope, therefore, that the influence of M. A. C. may continue to widen and to increase in power.

"With best wishes for a successful year both for THE RECORD and the dear old College, I remain,

"Yours very truly,  
"M. G. KAINS."

## Report of the Michigan Academy of Science.

The first report of the Michigan Academy of Science, lately issued, covers the time from the organization of the Academy in 1894, to June 30, 1899, and contains a mass of valuable material, interesting to scientists and also to all persons whose plane of thought is at all broad.

Dr. Manly Miles in an article on "Futile Experiments for the Improvement of Agriculture," took strong ground concerning the value of "empirical experiments for the discovery of the underlying principles of farm practice." We quote the two concluding paragraphs.

"No general statement in regard to the nutritive value of foods can be formulated from the results of experiments in which the chemical factors are alone considered and Liebig's classification of foods has not the physiological significance claimed for it. The same animal may give quite different results with the same food at different times, and different animals are not likely to agree in the returns given for the same food under the same conditions.

"From the complex processes of soil metabolism and the various conditions that have an influence for good or ill on the well being of the plants themselves, and the micro-organisms concerned in the elaboration of plant food it may be readily shown that the sources of fallacy are quite as evident in field experiments as in the feeding of animals. In both cases the farmer is dealing with living organisms that thrive best when fully satisfied with the conditions in which they are placed. In nearly all problems that arise in these departments of his calling the farmer will be best aided by researches in pure science for the increase of knowledge relating to the facts and principles of biology."

Hon. L. Whitney Watkins, of the State Board of Agriculture, has an article on "Michigan Birds that Nest in Open Meadows," which shows wide and methodical observation, and contains many facts of great value to the farmer. Mr. Watkins first gives a concise account of the causes for remarkable changes now going on in the habitat and number of species in the bird world, concluding this part of his address as follows:

"Human beings have pushed their way into nearly every nook and corner of this continent and with them have been taken all the revolutionizing influences of civilization. Changes have been and are now taking place before our very eyes, in all the forms of life, as profound as any already chronicled in the great epochs of geological history. Certainly this is the age of man's absolute supremacy among the living things. He has destroyed whole species of birds and mammals and driven others to the verge of extinction; he has conquered the forests and wrought havoc with the wild flowers."

He then proceeds to note and characterize "such species as I have found nesting upon the ground or in the open fields and meadows." It would be advantageous to our readers to quote at length did our space permit. One quotation must suffice.

The Marsh Hawk, *Circus hudsonius*, is the most graceful, most beautiful hawk on wing, that is found in our state, and the only representative of the birds of prey, with the possible exception of the Short-eared Owl, found nesting in the open fields. Coming to us late in February or early in March and remaining very late in fall, this bird is almost constantly seen in favored localities, soaring low over the meadows, poising with flapping wings about to dart below upon some unsuspecting rodent, or dashing into our faces, as we come over a hill, as suddenly to vanish from view, and we are always thrilled by this fairy form in blue or brown (the colors of the male and female bird respectively). Nests with eggs may be found from the first of May to the first of August. Perhaps the more usual site is the wet, bushy marsh or bog, where the nest is raised several inches above the wet moss and water, composed of various sized sticks for a foundation and reeds, grasses and sedges—a rather coarse structure and bulky as is usual with the nests of hawks. Nearly as often is the nest placed flat upon the ground in the hay-fields, or in the growing wheat, rye, oats and barley. In such places it is composed simply of a few spears of the grass or grain plucked and laid upon that which may be bent and trampled down upon the spot. With few exceptions these nests are destroyed before the young are ready to fly. I find many broken up each year. Eggs five, pale blue, usually unmarked. The food of the Marsh Hawk consists of mice, frogs, grasshoppers, crickets, etc., with very seldom a young bird which is learning to fly. It has never been seen, I think, to molest poultry, or birds which are able to

fly. Of no harm whatever, and of exceeding benefit to the farmer.

Dr. W. J. Beal has several interesting articles, one especially on the great seal of Michigan, which contains many curious facts.

Prof. R. H. Pettit has, also, several articles of a highly scientific nature on insects.

From Prof. C. D. Smith's article on "New Problems and New Phases of Old Ones"—thoughtful and suggestive—we must make room for two quotations:

"Whoever is interested in the literature relating to soils has noted the trend away from chemistry and towards physics in the recent discussions relating to the proper treatment and fertilization of fields. Formerly it was supposed that the chemical constitution of the soil was a sufficient guide as to what the soil would do and what it needed to make it grow any one of our common cereals. The opposition of practical experience to this theory was attributed to the ignorance of the objector. Now we are studying the physical side of the questions much more, perhaps, than the chemical. Water is the greater desideratum in plant growth. How can we hold the rain falling in the spring for the use of crops growing in the late summer is the great problem presented to the practical farmer and not how to retain the nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, important as that question is. Hence comes the importance attached to humus and the stress laid upon the application of barnyard manure or plowing under green crops as a means of maintaining fertility. Formerly the value of manure was estimated entirely by the amount of nitrogen and other plant elements it contained, now it is valued because it contributes decaying vegetable matter to the soil and thus helps the physical, water holding, capacity of the soil." \* \* \*

"Turning now to the side of the factory, [in the beet sugar industry] we find our ambition to go at inconsiderate speed into putting up factories confronted by the certainty, well nigh absolute, that within a couple of years our present expensive and, and it must be confessed, clumsy machinery and methods of manufacturing, will be displaced by simpler, more economical and more efficient apparatus. I have but to refer to the experiments going on in Belgium and also in Austria where, by the use of an electrolytic method the crystallization of the sugar from the purified juices is greatly expedited and is much more economically accomplished."

The report has been prepared by Prof. W. B. Barrows, of the M. A. C., and showed great care and pains. All our farmer constituency should have it.

H. E.

## Notice!

For the accommodation of students and faculty, arrangements have been made to have prompt and full election returns displayed in front of the chemical laboratory on election night. The bulletins displayed will be a full duplicate of those given out in Lansing and will be transmitted without loss of time.



# THE M. A. C. RECORD.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE  
MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

EDITED BY THE FACULTY,  
ASSISTED BY THE STUDENTS.

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For various reasons THE M. A. C. RECORD is occasionally sent to those who have not subscribed for the paper. Such persons need have no hesitation about taking the paper from the postoffice, for no charge will be made for it. The only way, however, to secure THE RECORD regularly is to subscribe.

It is somewhat strange that no one has as yet called public attention to an increasingly alarming feature of the game of football as now played throughout the land. I refer to the growing tendency toward limitations which encourage softness and effeminacy among our youth. It is true that even the tame affair of today has something in its favor; it does bring out a certain degree of courage and endurance, for it is well known that now and then a man is crippled for life or is even killed. But when one calls to mind the glorious possibilities of the game, if properly developed—how it might be made a school for the most daring courage and supreme self devotion in the face of real danger, one cannot but regret that it is so hampered by stupid and womanish restrictions. For instance, there is an absurd prejudice against what is known as "slugging," and it is actually barred by rule out of the game. Now "slugging" is a natural and legitimate mode of warfare and when scientifically practiced is highly effective. In a game that is professedly a training for actual warfare and for the fierce strain and tug of life where quarter is neither asked nor given, why should our young men be taught to forego a natural advantage or to cry out against its use by an adversary? Incidentally, too, it might be mentioned that such a rule lessens interest for the spectator and decreases the size of the attendance. Again, it is frequently the case that all operations are suspended while some player is being repaired. Surely in actual warfare no such conduct is tolerated; surely in the desperate competition of daily life men do not wait for their adversaries to recover from one blow before giving another! The thing is all wrong—wrong in principle, wrong in results. Let us take hold of this weak embryo and develop it into the full measure of its ideal stature. It can be made to do for this nation all that the bull-fights have done for Spain, the gladiatorial combats for Rome, and the knightly tournaments for France, if we will only take away these silly restrictions on the natural exercise of strength and skill and leave the weaklings and unfortunates to take care of themselves. Possibly, as a concession to the maudlin sentimentality of the age, we might consent to have an ambulance corps to follow up the players on the gridiron, but in the game itself let us banish this false training for the sturdy heroes of our schools and this false teaching concerning the significance of life. Then

"Rip 'em up! Tear 'em to pieces!" will really mean something, and the final apotheosis of brute strength in the nation will soon come.

What is the matter with our popular magazines in these latter days? I do not refer especially to the fact that by far the larger part of the material presented is signed by unknown names. That in itself means neither good nor bad. But I do refer to the widely recognized falling off in the quality of the articles offered. This fact, while greatly to be deplored, pales into insignificance beside another, viz. a lowering of moral tone in magazines that one has been accustomed to think of as entirely safe to be admitted into the household. Can it be that the passing of "strenuousness" in the moral life of most communities is leading some of the great magazine publishers to think that it is good business policy for them to compete for popularity with the long list of "shady" magazines of mushroom growth and flaring, salacious front covers?

These remarks are called out by the fact that in a certain magazine of the current month, side by side with a "Life of the Master" in serial form are two stories, in one of which the interest turns on a bet of \$1,000 made on the outcome of a football game by two beardless college boys, neither of them wealthy and one of them dependent on a widowed mother and sister for support, while in the other—announced as "A Temperance Campaign"—illustrating the self-sacrifice of those citizens who contributed money and brains to its support—the whole subject of temperance agitation is held up to the ridicule of those whose laughter is "as the crackling of thorns under a pot." In the first story large betting is represented as so common among the students that no word of remark as to the morality of it is dropped throughout these moving scenes and that the hero of the game, after borrowing money to bet with, announces that if he could borrow \$500 more he would put it up without the slightest hesitation. An atmosphere of cheap romance is thrown over the whole by having one of the boys, through love of the other fellow's sister, sacrifice his school career to save the other man's money. In the second story the representative of temperance, the very incarnation of stupidity, pomposity, and self-seeking, has made millions in business in the city, and yet is taken in by a trick which the most ordinary business intelligence would detect. In other words, virtue is made thoroughly odious and vice is endowed with supernatural shrewdness and success. Surely there must have been some mistake and these stories, designed for some pot-house journal, were bound up by accident in the pages of the magazine in question.

H. EDWARDS.

## The Mechanical Juniors in Chicago

The annual mechanical junior inspection trip occurred week before last. About 35 of the mechanical students under the guidance of Profs. Weil and Reynolds left Oct. 25th for Chicago and returned late the following Sunday night. The boys were comfortably quartered at the Saratoga hotel and received very courteous treatment from the man-

agement. The first inspection visits were made Friday forenoon when the party was divided into squads and visited Siegel, Cooper & Co.'s large establishment and the Chicago Edison Lighting plant. The latter was especially interesting from a mechanical standpoint, and the power displayed there was a revelation. The prime motive for the trip was to inspect the plant of the Illinois Steel Works at South Chicago, and a visit was made there by the whole party Friday afternoon. This immense plant covers 350 acres and employs 5,500 men. A mere description is inadequate, for no idea of its magnitude can be conveyed by words. The converter plant and rail mill were not in operation, but the entire afternoon was occupied in a somewhat hurried investigation of the other operations carried on by this company. It was a very tired and grimy, but a much wiser and thoroughly satisfied crowd of boys, that wended their way back to the city that night.

Saturday morning was occupied by visits to Fraser & Chalmers' large machine shop and to the stock yards. These two places formed a very interesting part of the trip and most of the boys agreed that Fraser & Chalmers' was second only to the Steel Works. In the afternoon nearly the whole party went to the Michigan-Illinois football game where an exhibition of the real article was enjoyed.

Leaving for home Sunday p. m. at 3:00 o'clock the crowd arrived in Lansing at 9:35 very tired but feeling happy and well satisfied with the trip.

Much commendation is due to Prof. Weil for his efforts in behalf of the students for it was through his untiring energy that this trip was brought to its high degree of success. The boys all declare that it has been of great help to them in their studies and has lent a fresh impetus to the College work. It is to be hoped that this custom will continue for the trips are sure to be popular and it has been proven conclusively that they are very beneficial.

H. S. K.

## Visits of Inspection.

The following from the *Pontiac Gazette* gives an account of a tour of inspection as viewed by the farmers visited. The account of the second tour is written by a student, a member of the visiting class.

"Some of the sheep breeders of Oakland county were honored by a visit last Saturday from Prof. Herbert W. Mumford and a class of 15 students from the Agricultural College at Lansing. They came for the purpose of instruction in judging live stock.

"As Oakland county is noted for its fine stock and good specimens of all the breeds were easy of access in the vicinity of Pontiac, an arrangement was made with Peter Voorheis, of Waterford to meet them at the 7 a. m. train and go with them to see the flocks of H. E. Moore, of North Farmington, Albion Green and Thos. Wyckoff of Orchard Lake, and William Newton of Pontiac.

"The young men of the class that was here expect to compete with classes from other agricultural colleges in judging live stock in the near future. They therefore were willing to pay the expense of the trip for the benefits to be received through object lessons and the extra

instructions on judging by Mr. Voorheis and their teacher, Prof. Mumford.

After spending several hours examining good typical sheep from the flock of Messrs. Moore, Green and Wyckoff, the Ayrshire herd of cattle at the Michigan Military Academy was inspected and passed upon. In the afternoon the flock of Wm. Newton containing nearly all of the mutton breeds was gone over, carefully inspected and commented on, after which a visit was made to the Eastern Michigan Asylum to see the fine herd of Holsteins there. It was the intention to go and see Mr. Voorheis' flock of Delaine Merinos but their time was too limited and they had already put in a good day so they took the six o'clock train for Lansing.

"This class is mostly composed of farmers' sons who are thorough students. If they do not all become farmers they will be able to fill some important position in life.

"It is expected that one of their number will soon leave for South Africa to take charge of a large sheep ranch belonging to Cecil Rhodes for which he will receive a good salary.

"It would be a good thing if more of Michigan's sons and daughters would avail themselves of the opportunities offered at the Agricultural College to get a better education in the practical sciences of the farm and home."

The senior class in animal husbandry made another pleasant and profitable stock-judging tour October 24-27, this time giving special attention to beef cattle. Accompanied by Professor Mumford and Mr. Robt. Miller of Canada, one of the best judges of Shorthorns in America and himself a very prominent breeder and importer, the class visited the herds of registered Durhams at Mr. Crystal's near Marshall, Mr. Dwight Curtis' near Addison, and Mr. Wm. Boland's near Grass Lake.

Prof. Mumford followed the same general plan in conducting the work as in judging sheep the previous week. That is, the animals belonging to a given class, e. g., three-year-old heifers, were placed together and the students asked to select first, second, and third best animals, after which Prof. Mumford and Mr. Miller would make their selections and explain to the class the good or bad points of the animals under question. Both Prof. Mumford and Mr. Miller took great pains to point out anything in the various herds that would give the boys a better idea of beef and Shorthorn type and of strong or faulty points. Part of the time the students were called upon to give reasons for their choice.

At Mr. Crystal's we found a herd of about two hundred and fifty head, mostly registered Durhams, but containing a few grade steers. Mr. Crystal has recently entered the business and has picked up his large herd from various places; on which account there is necessarily a lack of uniformity in type, though he has many animals with great individual merit. Here the boys could agree pretty closely with the instructors in placing first, second and third animals, but considerable difference of opinion was exhibited when the very uniform herd of Mr. Curtis was judged. His herd has been under his own management for years and has been bred toward a definite type so that it contains



animals as nearly alike as two peas. His herd is not kept for show purposes but every animal is in splendid condition and gave the class an idea of what a profitable working herd should be to stand in the front ranks. At Mr. Boland's were seen some of the finest show animals in the United States. There we were privileged to view some champions.

We feel that we enjoyed a rare privilege in visiting these three places. Besides the Durham cattle we saw some very excellent Berkshire swine. All of these men have fine farms and buildings which together with the fine stock and hospitable proprietors inspire the visitor with a love and respect for agriculture that can never be gained from books and bulletins. The class feel that these tours are one of the finest things in the College course, and sincerely believe that they should be given a prominent place in the Agricultural Course.

G. SEVERANCE.

### Meeting of the State Board of Agriculture.

[Concluded from last week.]

On recommendation of the farm committee Prof. Mumford's plan regarding the tuberculin test as applied to the College herd was adopted. This plan is as follows:

*First*, That so far as practicable, no animal be added to the College herd that has not been subjected to the tuberculin test and found sound.

*Second*, That all animals now belonging to the College herds that have not been tested, shall be tested this fall before going into the barns for winter quarters. This will include calves and young cattle.

*Third*, That all animals that have at any time shown any signs which would lead us to suspect a tuberculous condition, should also be tested.

*Fourth*, That in addition to the contemplated test, repeated tests of such animals as exhibit suspicious reactions be made at the end of one year. Animals which do not exhibit suspicious reactions, to be retested at intervals of three years.

### Junior Horticulture.

This term's work of the agricultural juniors in horticulture is divided into three parts, labor, laboratory work and lectures.

The labor comes from one to three p. m. about three times a week. It is during this time that the student has an opportunity to put into practice so many of the theories that are handed down to him by his honored professors. Mr. Dean, assistant horticulturist oversees the work that is done in the east forcing house, in the vegetable garden, and in the orchard. The principal work that is done in these departments at this time of the year is sorting apples, banking up fall celery and hoeing the strawberry beds.

The labor also takes in work under Mr. Gunnison in the green house. Here experience is gained in the making of cuttings, in transplanting seedlings and in doing other miscellaneous things which are necessary in the running of all floricultural establishments.

The laboratory work and educational labor are under the supervision of Prof. U. P. Hedrick. The educational labor includes practice on budding, grafting, etc. The main object of the laboratory work is to acquaint the student with the varieties

of fruits and trees that are of the greatest commercial importance.

A secondary object is to acquaint the student with the primitive fruits. The primitive fruits are of considerable importance to the horticulturist for it is by the crossing of primitive varieties with other distinct varieties or by the simple cultivation of the primitives, that we have obtained our most important varieties.

By the comparing in the laboratory of the size color, shape, flavor, texture, etc., of three or four varieties of a single species the student can fix in his mind a somewhat definite idea as to the individualities of the fruits that are brought before him.

The lectures in horticulture given by Prof. U. P. Hedrick occupy a period of five hours per week. Up to the present time, the lectures can be classified under three main heads: Plant-breeding, History of Plant-breeding, and Pomology or Fruit Growing. Under the first head such subjects as plant-working, variation, evolution, crossing and hybridization were discussed. The second head is self-explanatory, and the lectures under the third head have not been completed.

W. K. W.

At the last meeting Prof. Pettit lectured, for the benefit of the Natural History Society, on the curiosities found and the observations made when he and Prof. Wheeler were in Northern Michigan. He displayed the collection of birds, small animals, and insects he made while there. To make some points described and others not described he threw a number of views on the screen. To show the richness of the ground he gave views of peas 10½ feet high, corn 11 feet, turnips weighing 12 pounds, and mammoth standing spring wheat. Butterflies, fleas, moths, and other insects were shown in great numbers. Topics for observation for the coming two weeks: Spiders, death of house fly, and birds on the campus. Mr. Gunnison will talk at the next meeting.

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The man who stands with arms akimbo set, Until occasion tells him what to do; And he who waits to to have his task marked out, Shall die and leave his errand unfulfilled. —J. R. LOWELL.

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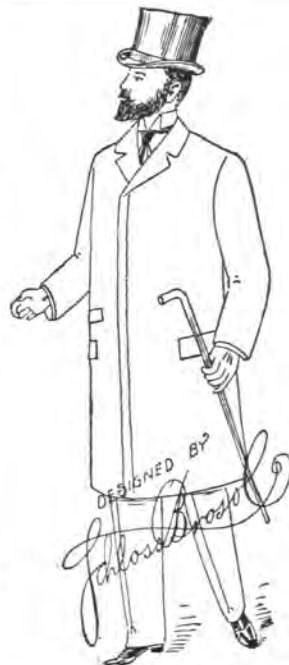
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### News From Old Students.

R. J. Robb, (sp. '93-95) and wife were on the grounds dedication day.

E. W. Ranney, '00, and bride stopped at the College Wednesday the 24 ult.

Miss Gertrude Lowe, with '01, was at the College last Friday and attended the U. L. S. hop.

D. A. Garfield, '89, visited the College a week ago. He is cashier of the Albion State Bank, Albion, Mich.

E. A. Calkins, '98, was on the grounds Saturday. He is the Democratic candidate for county surveyor for Ingham county.

F. N. Lowry, '98m, has written to friends at the College that he has a good position and enjoys his work with the Studebaker Company.

W. G. Merritt, with '93, is convalescing from a severe sickness. He is employed as chemist with the Berry Bros. Varnish Mfg. Co., Detroit. His address is 179 Canton Ave.

G. B. Fuller, '00, called at the College a few days ago. He is home for a few weeks, having recently been employed as draughtsman with the American Blower Co., Detroit.

John W. Tracy, and Stephen W. Tracy, both of '96, were at the College Wednesday Oct. 24. John is a seedsman in Philadelphia, and "Step" is prospecting in the Cripple Creek District, Altman, Colo.

R. L. Reynolds, '95m, spent Friday and Saturday at the College renewing old friendship. Mr. Reynolds has been doing electrical work in West Virginia mines during the summer, and is on his way to Sacramento, Cal., where he will be draughtsman for the Southern Pacific R. R. Co.

C. H. Parker, '00, has been superintendent of the Towar Dairy Farm near Ann Arbor since July last, and enjoys his work very much. On September 19, he acted as bridegroom at a pleasant little wedding near Saginaw, Miss Winnie McLellan being the charming bride. Mr. and Mrs. Parker stopped at Grand Blanc, Mr. Parker's former home, on their way to Ann Arbor, and met their friends at an evening reception. The best wishes of many friends attend them.

### Campus Notes.

A large number of students have gone home to vote.

The farm department has just purchased seventy lambs for fattening purposes.

Mr. E. L. Hendrick of Grand Rapids, has been visiting his brother, H. B. Hendrick.

"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free," was the text used by Rev. Hunt, of Lansing, for his sermon in chapel last Sunday morning. W. R. W.

The women's building was the scene of merry making last Saturday evening. More than one hundred young people spent a very pleasant evening in conversation and dancing in the gymnasium.

At a meeting of the freshman class the following class officers were elected: President, Francis Lamoreaux; vice-president, Miss Dora A. Skeels; secretary, C. G. Olmstead; treasurer, A. C. Dodge.

The Botanical Club meeting last Tuesday evening was given over to the subject of leaf scars. Numerous specimens were offered for examination. It may be interesting to note that the largest leaf scar examined was that of a castor bean.

The first paper published at M. A. C. was called "*The Bubble*." Only seven numbers were published. Prof. Alfred Gulley, '68, has just sent six numbers of this "old timer" to the College library. The second number is missing.

Mr. Robt. Miller of Stouffville, Ont.,—one of the most successful stock farmers on this continent and American agent of one of the large exporting firms of England—was at the college Wednesday, Oct. 24, and gave the students two lectures on the breeding and selection of cattle.

On Oct. 22d, the College received for use in the Botanic Garden, twenty-seven species of living plants that were selected by Dr. Beal last June while in New York. The plants are the gift of the New York Botanic Garden, or perhaps we might say, an exchange for plants formerly sent from M. A. C.

Prof. Mumford last week attended a meeting at the Sherman House in Chicago to make arrangements for the intercollegiate live stock judging contest to be held in Chicago during the international live stock exposition. An organization was formed of which Prof. Mumford was elected secretary and treasurer.

Prof. Ferguson entertained the College Farmers' Club, Wednesday evening, by a lecture on live stock. The attendance was as large as usual but the lecture warranted a still larger attendance. Prof. Ferguson said, that cattle have been improved most by natural selection (survival of the fittest), and by selection made by man. He mentioned climatic conditions and character of the land over which the cattle roamed as a factor of great importance in giving the different breeds their particular characteristics. He cited the Brown Swiss as examples of heavy boned and muscled animals caused by constant climbing; and the Jersey as an example of what warm climates and level pastures will do to reduce the size of bone and muscle. His lecture throughout was practical and interesting.

### Exchanges.

In the October number of the *Crucible* of the Colorado State Normal School, is an article on "Life or Existence," which treats of the purpose of a person's life. The selection is one well worth reading.

If Germany produces germs, and Paris, parasites, what does Ireland produce? Mike-robos. — *College Index*.

The *Connecticut Agricultural College Lookout* is a very interesting paper from the fact that most of it is written by students.

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—*The Crucible*.  
E. D. A.

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