

The M. A. C. RECORD.

MICHIGAN STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Vol. 13.

LANSING, MICHIGAN, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1907.

No. 7

THE MICA INSULATION MONOPOLY ENDED

Through the Efforts of Three M. A. C. Men.

The decision of Judge Kohlsaar in the suit of the Mica Insulator Company against the Commercial Mica Company, rendered October 24th in the United States circuit court of the northern district of Illinois at Chicago, is said to have ended a monopoly which has lasted for more than fifteen years, and which is said to have been kept alive largely through intimidation of competitors by threats of suits under a patent on a process for making the mica board or built-up mica insulation, which is used in practically all electric motors and dynamos, and is also extensively used for other electrical insulation. This process patent was granted to Arthur H. Dyer in 1892.

At the same time that this process patent was applied for, Dyer made another application for patent on the resultant product, which product the Patent Office declared unpatentable on the ground of prior use. The fact that this product was unpatentable was kept secret by Dyer and his assignees for more than fourteen years. Meanwhile the Mica Insulator Company succeeded in obtaining a decision from Judge Gray of the District of New Jersey, sustaining the process patent on the theory that Dyer had invented the product as well as the process, and that the process patent was therefore entitled to be construed broadly enough to cover every practicable way of making the insulation. The owners of the process patent were thus enjoying the benefits of a virtual monopoly on the resultant product, which the Patent Office had previously declared unpatentable.

The occasion of the present decision of Judge Kohlsaar was an attempt by the Mica Insulator Company to wipe out the Commercial Mica Company, of Chicago, which had begun manufacturing the product early in 1906. They succeeded in July, 1906, in obtaining from Judge Bethea, U. S. district judge, who was then acting U. S. circuit judge, a temporary injunction against the Commercial Mica Company, which injunction was in force up to the time of the present decision by Judge Kohlsaar. This temporary injunction had again been obtained on the theory that Dyer had invented the product, while the record of the patent office refusing him a patent on the product was still kept secret.

The present decision is said to have been due in a large measure to the persistent efforts of William R. Rummler, (M. A. C. '86), the Chicago attorney for the Commercial Mica Company, his Washington associate, Mr. Walter D. Groesbeck, (M. A. C. '92), and Professor Philip B. Woodworth, (M. A. C. '86), professor of electrical engineering of the Lewis Institute, of Chicago. Mr. Rummler obtained the informa-

tion that Dyer had filed an additional application for patent at the time that he applied for the process patent upon which the present suit was brought. This information was followed up with a petition to the Commissioner of Patents which resulted in access to the secret records of the rejected application, which proved to be an application for patent on the identical product resulting from the practice of the process described in the Dyer patent. The technical investigations which contributed in a large measure to the result of the present suit were made by Professor Woodworth.

The result of this decision will be to materially cheapen the cost of mica board or built-up mica insulation to the electrical interests.

MAY FESTIVAL.

It is the intention of Miss Freyhofer and our chorus to give the Oratorio St. Paul by Mendelssohn, about the middle of next May. The chorus under her instruction is making very commendable progress on this great masterpiece.

Already correspondence has been opened with a few leading soloists with a view to engaging four of noted ability to carry the leading parts. It is proposed to give a concert in the afternoon and the oratorio in the evening.

One ticket will be sold which will admit to both entertainments. This ticket will be transferable and will be sold for *one dollar*. The one drawback is the lack of room. The Armory will seat not to exceed eight hundred and the sale of tickets will be limited strictly to this number. In order that all college people may have an equal chance before the sale of tickets is thrown open to the outside public, a canvass will be made at once of students and faculty with the request that each state the number of tickets desired. After this is done, if any seats remain unsold, and there probably will be some, an opportunity will be given to our Lansing friends who have favored us with their patronage in the past.

When it is remembered that from twenty-five hundred to three thousand attended the May festival last spring one can easily imagine that the seating capacity for the next event will fall far short of meeting the demand. If one expects to be present he should make sure of his ticket now. Subscription for tickets for speculative purposes will not be received, neither will reservations be held for those who for any reason may fail to subscribe for tickets. This canvass will be completed by the 21st of this month. If you will write your name on a slip of paper, and the number of tickets desired, and leave this in the Secretary's office you will not be bothered further. Do it now.

Prof. Pettit was recently called to attend the funeral of Miss Alice Pettit's mother. Miss Pettit will be remembered as a student here during '05-'06.

DEBATING CLUB.

The question of the replacement of College Hall by a new building admits of more oratory than dialectics, as the reasoning for the preservation of the old landmark must be based finally upon sentiment alone. Nevertheless Mr. Crane talked so glibly that he succeeded in arousing the emotions of his audience and won the decision of the house, although many believe that Mr. Bowerman advocated the better policy, that of replacement.

This week Profs. Hedrick and Rider of the department of history and economics will discuss the two sides of the question for our annual debate with Ypsilanti next spring. After the debate the first preliminaries will be arranged. It is desired that a large number enter these. Membership in the Debating Club is not necessary for entering. Will every one interested in the next M. A. C.-Ypsi debate be on hand next Thursday night at 7 o'clock at room 7 College Hall?

The question for the Ypsilanti debate is, Resolved, That any bills passed by the two houses of the legislature of Michigan shall, upon petition of twenty per cent. of the qualified voters of the state be submitted to popular vote for approval.

HORT. CLUB.

Those so fortunate as to attend the Hort. Club last Wednesday night listened to a very instructive lecture on the Fungus and Physiological Diseases of the Apple, by Prof. Dandeno. He divided plant diseases into three groups; viz, fungus, physiological and insect, including bacterial under the first group.

The speaker brought out some new and interesting ideas concerning physiological diseases of which he said there were about ten. These diseases include such troubles as sun scald, injuries from spraying, bruises, and the like and are not due to attacks of living organisms. They have not long been called diseases and may be due to a variety of causes, such as peculiarities of the soil, wrong methods of culture, injurious changes of temperature, or other ecological conditions. These diseases are more under the control of the horticulturist than are those of the other two classes.

The apple has about one hundred and fifty fungous diseases, some of which are of great importance to the fruit grower. In combating these diseases the grower must seek to prevent their getting a foothold rather than to attempt to cure the affected plant. Some of the most important fungous diseases Dr. Dandeno discussed in detail are: apple scab, bitter rot, black rot, brown rot and powdery mildew.

All interested in horticulture should attend these meetings, especially the new men who intend to take up this subject.

A hug—energy gone to waist.—
Ex.

ALUMNI.

'94.

C. B. Smith, of the above class, now with the department of agriculture at Washington, D. C., called on old college friends last week. Mr. Smith was on a visit to his mother-in-law, Mrs. Q. A. Smith, of Lansing.

'02.

H. E. Young, writing from Huntington, Ind., says, "Hurrah! for old M. A. C.! The result of the game with Wabash was great. I couldn't help giving the old yell again when I heard the score. Keep up the good work."

'03.

Ray Tower stopped at the college over Sunday on his way to a visit to his parents at Belding. Mr. Tower has been with the Patton Paint Co. at Milwaukee.

The new forcing cucumber secured by Prof. Moore last winter by crossing the Duke of Edinburg (English) with the White Spine (American) will be given a further trial this winter. This cucumber is a great improvement over either parent and will be gratefully received by all market gardeners. It is a credit to Prof. Moore's efforts.—*Student Farmer, Wis.*

'04.

C. G. Woodbury spent last Saturday and Sunday with his parents in East Lansing. Mr. Woodbury is now with the horticultural department at Purdue University.

Newell Snyder, sales manager for the Omega Separator Co., at Utica, N. Y., is home for a short vacation with his parents at East Lansing.

Herman Schreiber, with the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture of Washington, called at the college last week. Mr. Schreiber is at the home of his grandparents at Lansing for a few days.

'05.

Richard Fowler, '05, of Detroit, visited college friends Saturday.

'06.

W. P. Wilson, '06, who has just returned from Fort Leavenworth, Kan., has been stopping at the college for the past few days.

P. V. Goldsmith made the college a very pleasant call last week. He is doing testing for advanced registry at Howell this week.

'07.

H. J. Stone is with Clay Robinson & Co., Commission Merchants, Stock yards, Chicago.

H. C. Baker, with the class of '07, came up from Toledo, O., for another look at the campus and see our boys put the "kibosh on to Wabash" Saturday.

R. J. Canfield, '07, now located in Detroit, came home to Lansing Saturday to visit his parents, and incidentally, to visit the college.

THE M. A. C. RECORD.

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TUESDAY, NOV. 5, 1907.

IN almost every community, no matter how isolated, can be found young people desirous of obtaining an education beyond that which they are able to receive at home. Thanks to the establishment of colleges throughout the country and the splendid way in which most of them are maintained this desire is being gratified in many cases, but there still remain a goodly number who are barred from taking a college course through lack of means, lack of necessary preparation or for the reason that they are unable to leave home except for a short time during the winter months. It is to satisfy this demand for a glimpse of college life and at the same time give practical instruction along certain specific lines that the short courses at M. A. C. were established. That they are fulfilling their mission is shown by their growing popularity. Last year 203 people, who otherwise would have been denied all knowledge of college experience, took these courses and have had an opportunity to acquire habits of study and concentration, the selection of helpful reading and have been awakened to a new responsibility and to new ambitions. This year preparations are being made for a larger class than ever before. Courses in general agriculture—1st and 2nd year, horticulture, creamery and cheese-making will be offered.

FORENSIC SOCIETY.

The Ciceros and Demostheneses met in goodly numbers in chapel Saturday evening and completed their organization. A constitution was adopted, a name chosen, and the program announced for the next meeting. Henceforth they will be known as the Forensic Society.

They wish especially to emphasize that it is to be an open society, and that all who are interested and willing to work are welcome. Next Saturday evening the newly elected officers will make their inaugural addresses.

Next meeting will be held Saturday, November 9th, at 7 p. m., room 11, College Hall.

PRINCIPLES OF BREEDING.

BY EUGENE DAVENPORT, M. AGR., LL. D.

Perhaps the best many-sided recommendation I ever wrote for a graduate of this college was written in behalf of Eugene Davenport, '78, then a post graduate in Botany at this college. He soon became Professor of Agriculture. For eleven years past he has been a member of the faculty of Illinois University, and for some years past Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of the Experiment Station. During this period the students in agriculture have increased from an insignificant number to over 450.

One would naturally suppose that the duties pertaining to this position would tax his ability to the uttermost—but here comes a book of 727 pages published by Ginn & Company with the title "Principles of Breeding," a treatise on thermatology or the principles and practices involved in the economic improvement of domesticated animals and plants. Those who are unacquainted with the author will be surprised at the originality, breadth, depth and thoroughness displayed in this volume. True, he has quoted much, but these passages are apt and up to date, and do not detract from the statement that this valuable book is out of the beaten track. Page 3, begin the following which state the proposition to be considered.

THE PROBLEMS OF THE BREEDER.

"Certain questions stand clearly out in the minds of practical breeders, and though an attempt to answer them seriatim would not be the best method of study, and though some of them cannot be answered with certainty in the present state of knowledge, yet nothing is of more consequence at the outset than that the student get a clear idea of the problems needing solution and towards whose solution the student of thrematology is directed. They are substantially as follows:

To what extent are the characteristics of an individual at maturity due to its ancestry (heredity), and to what extent are they due to the conditions of life (environment), such as food, climate, exercise, and general care during development?

Are the influences of the conditions of life limited to the individual or are they in certain instances and to some extent carried over upon the offspring? That is, are the effects of environment inherited?

Can variations be directly controlled to any extent whatever, or only indirectly through selection and by special care through development?

How effective is selection in controlling variation? That is, are congenital variations due entirely to parentage, or are there back of the parentage certain inherent and constitutional tendencies that largely fix the general direction of variations, independent of selection?

Does improvement consist in raising the standard absolutely, or only in raising the general average by eliminating the less desirable? That is, does breeding improve upon the best, or does it only bring the general mass nearer to the upper level?

To what extent is evolution a gradual process and to what extent may profound advances appear suddenly, as in sports? And is the one class of improvement any more permanent or reliable than the other?

Do all possible values of a variable

character appear, or are certain values seldom or never presented? That is to say, is variation always continuous, or is it sometimes discontinuous, making certain things impossible because the proper variations or combinations do not appear on which selection may be based?

What variations are most likely to appear in successive generations of any given breed, variety, or type?

Are variations correlated? That is, do they tend to all move together, suggesting relation of cause and effect?

What are the proper standards for selection? How much shall be given to utility and how much to appearance?

To what extent is individual excellence a safe guide to breeding powers?

To what extent is an offspring like the immediate parent and to what extent does it resemble more remote ancestors?

What is the relative influence of sire and dam with respect to transmission of characters?

To what extent do the condition of the male at the time of service and the care of the female during pregnancy influence the offspring?

What are the real dangers from close breeding, if any, and are they certain or only probable?

How can the advantages of close or line breeding be realized without encountering its dangers?

Will a given breed, variety, or family strain endure indefinitely under proper conditions or will it inevitably "run out," necessitating a constant return to foundation stock for new combinations as the basis of improved strains?

What are the laws that determine the sex of offspring?

Do the same laws of breeding apply equally to animals and plants and to all species and varieties alike, or do different species operate under somewhat different laws?

Is a given species, variety, or breed always subject to the same laws? That is, are the identical variations always due to the same causes and do given causes always produce the same effects?

How can results be secured with the least wastage either in time or numbers?

Upon the answers to these questions will depend the policies of all breeding enterprises and permanent value of particular family strains. Upon some of these points there exists much specific and reliable information; upon others, unfortunately, the evidence is yet scanty and uncertain. At the present rate of progress, however, we will not have long to wait for much additional knowledge. In the meantime we must make the best use possible of the information and experience at hand.

These problems can best be answered not by directing attention to each separately, because they overlap, but rather by following out what are known to be the characteristic lines of study in the subject as a whole. The order pursued in this book is the one believed to be the most favorable, both for this purpose and for the most successful answering of these definite questions." W. J. BEAL.

REVISED LIBRARY HOURS.

Daily—7:30 to 12, 12:20 to 6, 6:20 to 9.

Sunday—10 to 2, 3 to 5.

BOOKS FOUND.

The following text books with the accompanying names written in them have been left at chemistry department. Owners may have the same by calling:

Physics, Carhart & Clute.—Rex Roberts.

Mineralogy.—Mr. Crissey. University Physics, Carhart.—L. T. Burrett.

Chemistry, Hessler & Smith.—Jay Baker.

University Physics, Carhart.—Mr. Holly.

Laboratory of Manual of Chemistry.—Louise Allen.

FARMERS' CLUB.

Last Tuesday evening, "Good Roads" Earle entertained a large audience in the chapel by giving a fine talk on roads, bad as well as good. The many lessons brought out in the talk were made very concrete and instructive by fine stereopticon views. These scenes were many and with wide connections, ranging from men to roads—though some tramps complain that the connections become painfully close at times. Mr. Earle is to be highly complimented on the great work he is doing, and on the persistency and earnestness with which he does it.

Next Tuesday night, Prof. R. S. Shaw will speak in the Agr'l. Lab. on "Establishing a Reputation in Stock Breeding." All are invited to come and listen to the "man who knows."

J. SLOAT WELLES.

A BOOK OF IMPORTANCE TO THE FACULTY.

"Individual Training in Our Colleges," by C. F. Birdseye, has recently been added to the library. The thesis maintained in the volume is that the college of today, owing to lack of vital touch between student and faculty, is not turning out the high grade product that was turned out by the American college of a half century ago. The remedy suggested is individual training as opposed to general instruction.

This is a volume of especial interest to instructors, to alumni, who strive to keep in touch with the college and with their societies, and to the leaders in literary societies and fraternities. For the author believes that the fraternity, together with athletics, must have much to do with bringing about the needed reform.

Another evidence that practical and theoretical education are becoming more closely related is found in the establishment by a Boston laundry firm of a fellowship in chemistry at the University of Kansas. The fellow to whom it is awarded is to devote two years to studying methods of saving clothes in the usually destructive process of laundering, and, at the end of the fellowship period, to write and publish a monograph on laundering.—Ex.

Dr. R. W. Clark, missionary secretary of the sixth district of the Episcopal church in the U. S. and formerly rector of St. Paul's church at Detroit, conducted chapel exercises Sunday.

There are but two other cities in the Union with as many inhabitants as there are pupils in the public schools of New York City, 750,000.

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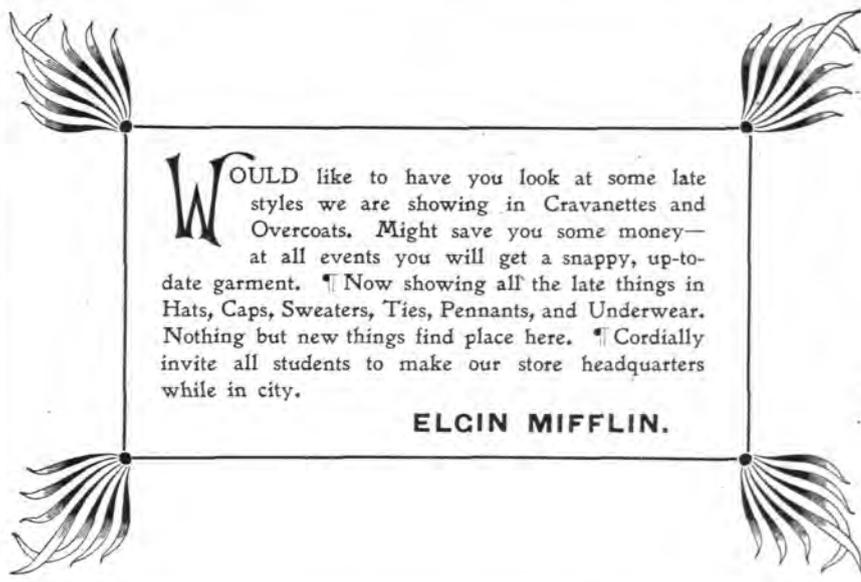
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ABOUT THE CAMPUS.

Pres. Snyder addressed a meeting of the Farmers' club at Rives Junction, Saturday.

Mr. Walter took a photograph of the forestry class last Friday. There were fifty present.

Pres. and Mrs. Snyder entertained a company of friends at a picnic Hallowe'en dinner Thursday evening.

Notice.—All men interested in the preliminary debate will please meet in room 7 college hall at 6:30 Thursday evening.

Dr. Lane, state geologist, will speak before the Forestry club tonight on "Mining timbers and waste in the forest." 6:30 o'clock.

An effort is being made to secure a lecture course for the winter, the management proposes to give 5 entertainments for \$1.00. A good thing. Push it along.

The following M. A. C. people and ex-M. A. C. people were in attendance at the Teachers' Association meeting at Battle Creek last week: Pres. and Mrs. J. L. Snyder, Dr. and Mrs. Thos. C. Blaisdell, Prof. J. A. Jeffery, Mr. H. W. Howe, Prof. Ryder, Miss Pearl McDonald, Glenn James, Maurice Carney, with '94, Alice M. Crimmer, '00, James A. Elliott, '97, E. L. Elsworth, Emma B. Barrett, '03, Harriette I. Robson, '00, Mae M. Gingles, '04, Katharine Slaughter, '04, E. E. Gallup, '96, Alida Alexander, '06, Joe Taylor, '06, and Helen Ashley, '07.

Miss Bessie Stadelmann has been obliged to leave College on account of the illness of her mother and sister.

Steam fitters are at work in the engineering laboratory, installing engines and other apparatus for the senior work next term.

Under the new schedule the library will be open almost continually from 7:30 a. m. to 9 p. m. It will also be open Saturday evenings and six hours on Sunday. Mr. Joseph Rosen will have charge during the extra hours.

A limited number of very excellent pocket manuals of parliamentary law has been placed on sale at the book store. The author has used great care in condensing the subject into the small form which sells for ten cents. The work is based on the most reliable authority.

The museum has recently received from Mr. V. M. Zimmermann, with 1905, Breckenridge, Colorado, some interesting crystals of quartz and feldspar, which are unusually perfect. Nearly all the crystals show a tendency to double, and some of the feldspars show the perfect double form known as "Carlsbad twins." In a letter to Professor Barrows Mr. Zimmermann states that near his cabin are a number of great rocks piled up about 400 feet and apparently made up entirely of these crystals "cemented together." With the weathering of the rock the crystals are loosened and accumulate in large quantities at the base of the rocks.

Mrs. Hanson, of Hanover, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Warren Babcock.

Secretary Moon of the Y. M. C. A. expects to leave about Nov. 20, to attend a Y. M. C. A. convention at the Jamestown exposition.

Sunday's *News Tribune* contained two pages of half-tones of Michigan's state buildings at Lansing, in which M. A. C. played an important part.

The third annual meeting of the Michigan Forestry Association will be held at Saginaw, Nov. 12 and 13. Dr. Beal, Prof. Pettit, Prof. C. D. Smith and Prof. J. F. Baker will speak.

Dr. Beal and Prof. Dandeno have recently published a third edition of their glossary of botanical terms. This is the only text required for the first two terms' work in botany, the work being mostly lectures and laboratory.

Last year the railroads used 103,000,000 ties each averaging about 30 board ft. or a total of 3,090,000,000 ft. We consume in the U. S., between three and four times as much timber each year as our forests grow in the same length of time.

A few misplaced articles Friday morning served to remind us that another Hallowe'en had passed. A wagon in college hall, a few decorations on the Woman's building and a large tank south of the library were about the only noticeable evidences about the campus.

Prof. Nadal, of Olivet college, conducted the services of the East Lansing church Sunday.

Mrs. A. M. Brown has been spending a few days with her daughter, Hearty at Ann Arbor.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Bissell "*The Living Church*" (a church paper published in Milwaukee,) will be placed in the reading room each week. Many thanks.

The first team had the pleasure of witnessing Saturday the game between Alma and Olivet at Olivet. Kalamazoo cancelled the game scheduled with M. A. C. only four days before the day set and it was impossible to get a game with any other team.

The football team, Coach and Mrs. Brewer and Manager Merwin were given a three course dinner by Mrs. Farleman at Club G last Friday night. Short speeches enlivened the dinner after which the team expressed their appreciation by giving nine rousing rahs for their hostess.

Dr. Beal and Prof. Jeffery spoke before a meeting of Capitol Grange at Lansing last Saturday night. Dr. Beal's subject was Corn is King and Prof. Jeffery gave a report of the recent corn show at Chicago. Thursday, Nov. 14, Capitol grange will entertain the Ingham County Pomona. Dr. Beal will give an address of Welcome and Instructor Halpin will give a talk on the Care of Poultry for Fall and Winter Eggs.

ATHLETICS.

Four days before the game scheduled with Kalamazoo, their team cancelled which left M. A. C. without a game last Saturday and instead of keeping the squad at home for practice, Coach Brewer took his men to Olivet to see the Alma-Olivet game.

The foot ball work out last week was rather light, most of the time being spent in mastering new signals and new plays. The old code was dropped and an entire new set was given out. The next few weeks every effort will be put forth to have the team in the best possible shape to wrestle with Olivet on November 16th.

Next Saturday afternoon our ancient friend and rival, Albion, will be on hand to take a whirl at the Farmers. Although Albion showed up in rather poor form the earlier part of the season is no reason why they will not put up the game of their lives next Saturday.

They have shown a marked improvement the last few weeks and they will leave no stone unturned to have every man in the best possible shape. All her stars who were out of the game the fore part of the season will be in the line up.

There is no doubt but what Albion will put up a strong fight, and just as good rooting is needed next Saturday afternoon as was needed at the Wabash game two weeks ago. Don't let your spirit lag as in former years, but keep it up throughout the year.

At the meeting of the board of control last week it was decided to play Capt. Small the remainder of the season under the same conditions as Bishop of Olivet played last year.

Saturday the class championship was decided by a game between the Juniors and Sophomores, the latter winning by a score of 10 to 5 though there is some dispute concerning the result. Until the last minute of play the score stood 5 and 4 in favor of the Juniors when the Sophomores punted and the Juniors failing to catch the punt, a Sophomore player grabbed the ball and ran for a touchdown. The Juniors claim that the player who was to catch the punt was interfered with illegally and that the score should have been in their favor. The officials sustain the score as given above but the Juniors still claim to have the better team.

E. C. KREHL.

THE FIRST MILITARY.

The first military of the season was held at the armory last Friday evening. About 75 couples were present including the patrons, Prof. and Mrs. Vedder, Dr. and Mrs. Blaisdell and Mr. and Mrs. Brewer. Baker's orchestra furnished the music. It was one of the most delightful opening militaries ever given at the College.

AURORIAN PARTY.

The Aurorian Society gave their first eleven o'clock party in the armory Saturday evening. The decorations were autumn leaves and red and white, the society's colors. Prof. and Mrs. Sackett and Prof. and Mrs. Ryder acted as chaperons.

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, Sorrow has entered the family of one of our brothers through the death of his beloved sister, Miss May Knecht; be it

Resolved, That the heartfelt sympathy of the members of the Union Literary Society be extended to the family and friends in their bereavement; that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the afflicted family and a copy be spread upon the records of the society and a copy be printed in the M. A. C. RECORD.

J. V. GONGWER,
L. W. DOUGHERTY,
G. P. BURKHART.

While at Chicago last week Prof. Hedrick saw the following M. A. C. people: Prof. and Mrs. P. B. Woodworth, Mrs. Oscar Clute, P. M. Chamberlain, '88, John Neis, '94, and Chas. E. Hoyt, former instructor in foundry. Messrs. Woodworth, Neis and Hoyt are now with the Lewis Institute, Chicago.

The man who works with one eye on the clock is likely to have plenty of time to look for another job.



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