

# CORNELL ALUMNI NEWS

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ITHACA, N. Y., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1900.

PRICE TEN CENTS.

## DEPARTMENT OF ORATORY.

### The Growth and Development of the Department—Its Instructors, Courses, Methods and Results.

Although there was at the opening of the University in 1868 a chair of rhetoric and oratory, a department of oratory was not instituted until 1887. During the first two years of the University's existence this department was in charge of Professor Homer Baxter Sprague, who was succeeded in 1870 by Professor Hiram Corson. In 1871 Charles Chauncey Shackford was called to the department and there remained for fifteen years. A portrait of Professor Shackford, left as a memorial by the class of '84, now occupies a place in the University Library. It was in 1885 that Mr. John J. Hayes, afterward an instructor at Harvard, was engaged as teacher of elocution, and the following year the same work was carried on by Mr. Louis Leaky under the direction of Professor Corson. It seems that the founding of the Declamation Prize by the class of '86 was largely due to the influence of Mr. Hayes who had aroused a new interest in declamation work, and in 1887 in response to the demand for more specialized work in the field of oratory, the Department of Rhetoric and Oratory was set off as a distinct department.



PROFESSOR DUNCAN CAMPBELL LEE.

President White had been to Hamilton College in the earlier days, and was much impressed by the emphasis there laid on oratory by both faculty and students. The Hon. Stewart L. Woodford, founder of the Woodford Prize at Cornell, was also an admirer of Hamilton College, and these two with other friends of Hamilton and Cornell urged that a Hamilton graduate be called to begin the work of the new Department of Oratory. Accordingly Mr. Brainard G. Smith, who had distinguished himself at Hamilton by winning the Clark Prize in oratory, was called to the Associate Professorship of Rhetoric and Oratory. Professor Smith occupied the chair for six years when he was called to the Upson chair of Oratory at Hamilton. His influence did a great deal toward

arousing interest in public speaking at Cornell. There were at the time two courses in the department, one in elocution, and one in oratory, and the work was well established when Professor Smith left the University.

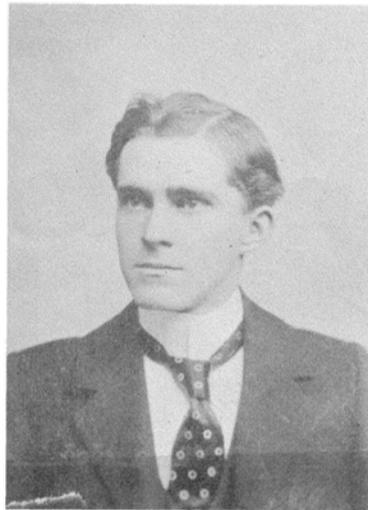
When Professor Duncan Campbell Lee was called to Cornell in 1893 he was at the time teaching English and Greek in the Cascadilla School in Ithaca. A graduate of Hamilton College with the class of 1891, he there made an enviable record in English and Oratory, although he had devoted himself especially to the study of Greek, in which he achieved high honors, expecting at the time to make Greek his life study. At graduation as Latin Salutatorian, he stood second in his class, and was among the number elected to Phi Beta Kappa. At the departure of Professor Smith from Cornell, Mr. Lee was the only person recommended by him as his successor. Mr. Lee was then but twenty-four years old, but his success as a teacher led the trustees to offer him the chair. Upon his coming the department was made independent of all others.

As the number of students in the department increased, new courses were added, the first being Extempore Speaking, a course which has since been established in some thirty different institutions throughout the country. This course, aiming as it does to secure ease and effectiveness in speaking, as well as a rich vocabulary is eminently practical. The weekly addresses prepared by the students upon assigned topics in the fields of American history, political science and current events ground the student in the principles of analysis and persuasion, and offer opportunity for original public speaking. The testimony of former students in the department classes this course as a most valuable part of their college training. No student is admitted to this course without having pursued the elementary course in public speaking for a full year.

The second new course originated in the department was Argumentation, the first course of its kind given at Cornell. The work at the beginning consisted only in brief writing, but as the plan developed oral debates were added to establish a standard for the debating societies of the University. In this course debating is studied as a science and the principles of argumentation applied to oral debating. The advantages of studying debate according to a carefully-planned system may be seen in the fact that a majority of the speakers who win a place on the '94 Memorial Debate stage, and on the intercollegiate debating teams each year are men who have received their training in this course.

The other courses of the department, Oratory and Public Speaking, have been longer established, the work in formal oratory being carried on as by Professor Smith, except that it is now, if anything, more literary in character. The study of the masters and masterpieces of the oratorical art are deemed essential in developing an appreciation of true oratorical style in order that the writings of the student may be more vigorous and better adapted to public delivery.

When Professor Lee began his work in 1893 the entire work of the department devolved upon him. The increase of students the next year, however, made necessary new additions to the instructing staff, and in 1894, Mr. Edwin D. Shurter, a graduate of Cornell in the class of '92, was appointed instructor. Two years later, owing to the increase of students in the department, there were employed student assistants to aid in carrying on the supplementary drill work in public speaking; among these assistants may be specially mentioned Mr. Roger Lewis and Mr. Herrick Cleveland Allen.



MR. JAMES A. WINANS.

In 1898 Mr. Lewis was offered the chair of Public Speaking in the University of Pennsylvania, of itself a great compliment to the Cornell department. In 1899 Mr. Allen accepted the offer made him by the Ohio State University to take the chair of Oratory in that institution, and in the same year Mr. Shurter left the department to become Professor of Oratory and Dean of the School of Oratory at the University of Texas. His place was filled at Cornell by the appointment of Mr. James A. Winans, a graduate of Hamilton College in the class of 1897. Professor Lee and Mr. Winans are this year assisted by Messrs. George A. Everett, '99, and Frank H. Hausner, '00.

That spirit of continual striving for the original, the practical, and the development of individuality.—Cornell's chief aim, we may call it,—is nowhere more evident than in the Department of Oratory. The department system followed by every student teaches that there can be no right speaking without right thinking, and that right thinking can best be promoted by increasing the powers of reasoning and observation. Especially is stress laid on originality in the interpretation of thought and emotion. Imitation finds no place in the system, and "elocutionary" theories are but little followed. The purpose of the department is to train not elocutionists, but public speakers—to train the intellectual rather than the physical—to give men the practical schooling which a speaker needs in order to satisfy the demands of public life.

The custom of awarding shingles, similar to those given to Varsity athletes, has for the past three years been followed in the department of

oratory. These shingles, written in the form of a letter of appointment, are awarded to all students who by successful competition win a place on any one of the three prize stages. The shingles are tastefully designed, each one containing a steel engraving; the '86 Prize Stage shingle being decorated with the monogram of the class of '86; the Woodford shingle, with an engraving of Stewart L. Woodford, the founder of the Woodford Prize in oratory; and the '94 Debate Prize shingle being decorated as shown in the accompanying cut.

The center of the various forms of oratorical interest is White Hall where instruction is given and where the various debating societies hold their weekly meetings. Especial interest attaches to the Hall of Oratory itself for here many students have learned the elements of address, and gained the practice which has made them successful in practical public speaking in after life. About the well-furnished room are hung portraits of the masters of oratory, and, what is of closer interest to the student, the pictures of students of the University who have distinguished themselves in winning places on the different prize stages.

The ambition of the Professor of Oratory as stated several years ago was to make the department commensurate with the other departments of the University. Its place is now fully acknowledged. The work carried on is of a high intellectual character, stimulating and developing. The number of students in the various courses is at present about 200 and is steadily increasing. Cornell may well be proud of her Department of Oratory, "a department," as President Schurman has well said, "without which no American university can be considered complete."

L. B. S., '01.

### Judges for Columbia Debate.

The Debate Council has forwarded to Columbia the following list of judges for the April debate:

Albert Shaw, Editor Review of Reviews, New York; W. W. Birdsall, President of Swarthmore College of Swarthmore, Pa.; Albert J. Beveridge, U. S. Senator from Indiana, Washington, D. C.; Irving G. Vann, Judge of Court of Appeals, Albany, N. Y.; Hon. Thomas B. Reed, former speaker of U. S. Congress, New York City; Wm. DeWitt Hyde, President of Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me.; St. George Tucker, Dean of Washington and Lee University Law School, Lexington, Va.; James W. Wadsworth, Representative in Congress from Niagara District, N. Y. State, Washington, D. C.; Alfred Spring, Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Fourth Department, Buffalo, N. Y.; Bird S. Coler, Comptroller of the City of New York, New York; Walter Lloyd Smith, Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Third Department, Elmira, N. Y.; Woodrow Wilson, Professor of Political Science in Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.

Of these names, Columbia will return six, of which the first three available will be chosen to officiate.

## SKETCH OF DEBATING AT CORNELL.

### How the Debate Movement Arose --Its Successful Development.

Closely allied to the Department of Oratory are the debating interests of Cornell. This branch of university activity is especially fostered by the department; in fact, it may be truthfully said that the debating system of Cornell today is entirely the result of the influence and personal effort of Professor Lee.

The year 1893-'94 marked a new era in the history of Cornell debating interests. Prior to that year there existed but one debating society besides Congress, and that was the Woodford Club, an organization in the Law School. The college year 1893-'94, however, witnessed a decided change, for in that year occurred three important events, viz.: the first intercollegiate debate with Pennsylvania, the organization of the

1894-'95, witnessed an increased interest in debate owing to the occurrence of the first '94 Memorial Debate. Interest in class debating clubs also continued active and the formation of a second Curtis Club resulted. Then also occurred the second debate with Pennsylvania which contest was again lost to our opponent.

In 1895-'96 a third Curtis Club was formed, but the year is particularly memorable since it witnessed the first of a series of victories over Pennsylvania in the annual debate contests. This was the cause of great rejoicing at Cornell, and the whole University took part in the celebration. Especially gratifying, though, was the result to the initiators of this new branch of University activity for they had been told in 1893 that Cornell was too much of an engineering school to do anything in debate, and the prediction was made that Cornell could not win an intercollegiate debate in fifteen years. To the honor of Cornell the predic-

It is certainly significant when the President of a California University says that he has reason to believe that Cornell possesses "the best organized debating 'plant' in existence."

L. B. S., '01.

## THE DEBATING SYSTEM AT CORNELL.

### Professor Lee Gives a Detailed Statement of the Work That is Carried on.

Whatever distinction Cornell may have attained in debating is due chiefly to an unusual enthusiasm for debate on the part of the students who are in the debate clubs, as well as to a system of training and control that tends to develop the very best there is in every aspirant. Almost every week I am in receipt of inquiries regarding the "Cornell system" and, while I recognize the value of our organization, I cannot fail to emphasize at any time the fact that there would be no debate system at Cornell worth speaking of were it not for the enthusiastic and loyal support given by the students of the University to the debate movement ever since its inception in 1893.

All Cornell men might not go so far as to say with President Wheeler, that we have here "the best debating plant in the country"; for Cornell has her debating trials as well as other Universities. It is certainly true, however, that the organization of debating interests at Cornell is very complete. Each class in the University has its own debating club; and, for the whole University, there is the Cornell Congress, modeled after the Federal Legislature; while the debating policies that interest all are in the hands of a council representative of all.

In every Freshman class there is a sufficient number of men ambitious for debate honors to make the organization of a large sized club possible. However, it has been found better to form a small club of twenty made up of good men, than a club of fifty or sixty of whom many are no better than poor lumber. In consequence, the membership in the class societies has been limited and admission to the clubs is based upon open competition. The first, or charter members, are usually selected by the Debate Council, but any vacancies that occur afterward are filled by the club itself upon a competition advertised in the college papers. This plan

makes membership more of an honor, and is well liked, the standard of membership being very much improved.

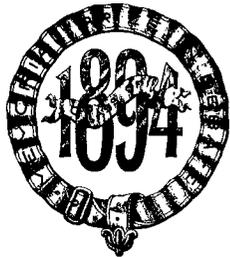
Each club chooses some patron and gives his name to the club; so that in our list of debating clubs we now have "George William Curtis," "Andrew D. White," "Stewart L. Woodford," and "Jacob Gould Schurman." This custom gives each club an individuality and tends to develop an *esprit de corps*, without which the work of a debate club may quickly grow monotonous.

It is the belief of those at Cornell who understand the conditions that the interest in debating clubs is kept alive by means of contests between the clubs and for the University prizes. It does not seem possible to perpetuate the interest without a system of prizes and rewards. One of these at Cornell is the inter-club championship banner, for the honor of possessing and inscribing their names on which, the clubs contest annually at a time when other contests are not absorbing university attention. In addition to this yearly tournament, the underclass societies usually hold a special contest in the autumn to determine the underclass supremacy in debate, much as these classes meet about the same time to determine the championship in baseball, football, and general athletics.

The great incentive, however, is the honor of being appointed to the University debate, known as the "'94 Memorial Debate," the foundation of which is a fund of \$500, left as a memorial by the class of 1894. About the middle of November the Debate Council announces a subject for the first competition, and registrations for the competitions are made. The twenty-four contestants who excel are appointed to a second competition the subject for which has previously been announced.

The methods of choosing the final eight men to appear in the University contests are not always the same in different years. The method that seems to afford a real test, however, and the one that gives satisfactory results, is to divide the twenty-four contestants into squads of eight and to require a five-minute speech from each, the side each is expected to uphold not being announced until five minutes before his appearance. This method, like every other that has been given a trial, is open to some objections, but it has also certain advantages, among which not the least is its influence in mini-

*Continued on page 159.*



Cornell University

Ithaca December 9, 1895

Mr. Walter Martin Zink . . . . .

Dear Sir:

*It gives me pleasure to inform you that by vote of the University Faculty you have been appointed a contestant for the Class of 1894 Memorial Prize in Debate.*

Yours truly

*Amasa Campbell Lee*  
Asst. Professor of Oratory



SHINGLE AWARDED IN THE '94 MEMORIAL DEBATE.

first Curtis Club by the class of '96; and the leaving of the '94 Memorial Fund for a prize in debate. These innovations, however, were not ushered in without discouraging features. Especially was this true in the case of the first intercollegiate debate. It was argued in the University press that the new undertaking would be too much of a burden upon the students, that there was no room for intercollegiate debates.

Although the first intercollegiate contest was lost by Cornell, the careful management of the department of oratory, however, soon aroused a new and unusual enthusiasm for public speaking and debate which swept away all objections, and thoroughly won the interest and support of the senior class. The class of '94 became so thoroughly interested in the movement that it voted to leave \$500 to establish a permanent prize in debate. The following year,

tion had been gloriously proven false.

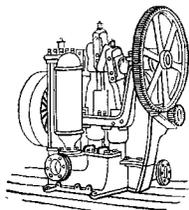
Since '95, debating at Cornell has been eminently successful. The system of class debating societies was completed and is fully explained in an accompanying article on our "Debating System." Intercollegiate debates have taken place each year and in '96-'97 and '97-'98 Cornell again won from Pennsylvania, but was defeated in '98-'99. This left the series a tie of three victories for each University. This year it has seemed best not to make another agreement with Pennsylvania, and our Debate Council has entered into a three year agreement with Columbia, the details of which have already appeared in the columns of the NEWS.

Thus as a result of untiring effort there has been developed at our University a debate system that has won recognition throughout the country.

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THE ALUMNI.

*One purpose of THE ALUMNI NEWS is to keep Cornell men informed about one another. Every Cornell man, therefore, is invited to contribute to this column news concerning himself or any other student, and every contributor should remember that in sending news items he is conferring a favor upon other Cornellians.*

'72, M. S. David Starr Jordan's visit last week to Cornell was made pleasant by his many acquaintances. During his stay, he was the guest of Professor Gage, '77, who on Thursday evening held a reception in his honor. Friday noon, Professor Jenks received Dr. Jordan at a luncheon. Professor Tichenor entertained him Friday evening. Saturday night, he was the guest of Delta Upsilon, at their lodge. Dr. Jordan's trip East is for the purpose of looking up men suitable for the teaching force of Stanford University, which will soon be considerably enlarged. He went from Cornell to Columbia.

'75, Ehrick Censett Rossiter, '75, and Frank Ayers Wright, '79, are partners under the firm name of Rossiter & Wright, 94 Liberty Street, New York City.

'78, B. M. E., '86, M. M. E. Albert W. Smith has been professor of mechanical engineering at Stanford University, since 1892.

'86, C.E. Arthur Rutledge is connected with the Rockford Construction Company, at Rockford, Ill.

'88, B.L. Thomas Shannon has just been elected mayor of Bath, N.Y.

Ex-'88. Lawrence L. Dougherty is president of the First National Bank of Wabash, Ill.

'89. The Journal of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute for March contains two articles by Cornell men, now members of the faculty of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Albert Kingsbury, '89, writes on "Experiments with an air-lubricated journal" and Harold B. Smith, '91, on "The application of complex quantities to alternating current circuits." Both articles are technically illustrated.

'90, LL.B. George Meade Emory is a prominent lawyer of Seattle, Washington. His address is 626-628 Bailey Block.

'90, A.B. Leland L. Landers is principal of the Rockville Center, (N. Y.) High School.

'90, E. E. George H. Walbridge, who has been some years with J. G. White & Company, engineers and contractors, New York City, is now vice-president and treasurer of that concern.

'91, E.E. Joseph L. Hall is connected with Westinghouse, Church, Kerr & Company.

Ex-'92. William Chauncey Langdon is headmaster of the Norwood School, Norwood, Mass.

'93, C.E. Francis W. H. Clay, (of the District of Columbia bar; Ld. M., C.E.) begs to announce that having resigned his position as examiner in the United States Patent office, he has associated himself with Charles L. Sturtevant, Esquire, and Hon. A. P. Greeley (late assistant commissioner of patents), and has entered upon the practice of law, with special attention to patents and patent causes. His office is at 31 Carlisle Building, Cincinnati, O., the main office of the

firm being at 930 F. Street, Washington, D. C.

'94, B.S. in Arch. Mrs. C. W. Harris, who graduated from the University as Miss Grace Doubleday, of Jamestown, N. Y., now resides in Lisbon, North Dakota.

'94, B.S. Harry Hayward, assistant professor in dairy husbandry, Pennsylvania State College, will sail with his wife for Germany on March 31, on an eight months' leave of absence for study and travel.

'94, LL.B. Robert Lathrop is an attorney-at-law at Rockford, Ill.

'95, B.S. Darwin Abbott Morton has been appointed assistant chemist by the Solvay Company of Syracuse.

'95, C.E. Danly D. Sprague, of St. Paul, Minn., and Miss D. Maude Bagg, daughter of Mrs. Mary L. Bagg, were married Wednesday afternoon, March 14, at the home of the bride at 121 Jefferson avenue, Springfield, Mass. The rooms had been adorned with a profusion of evergreen, and the bay window was set off by an arch, forming an alcove, in which the wedding couple stood while the ceremony was performed by Rev. W. E. Waterbury. More than 100 guests were present. They were received as they entered by the mother of the bride and Mr. and Mrs. George Campbell. The wedding party came down stairs shortly after 5 o'clock preceded by four ushers, Albert Boedeker, Louis B. Woodward, Lewis H. Allen and Sidney T. Mullens, the two latter drawing white satin ribbon, forming an aisle. Miss Maude Terry, of Springfield, played Mendelssohn's wedding march as they entered the drawing-room. The maid of honor, the nine-years-old niece and namesake of the bride, Miss Maude Campbell, was followed by the guests. Following the ceremony a wedding lunch was served, and the couple took an evening train for a wedding trip to New York and Washington, after which they will go to their new home in St. Paul, where Mr. Sprague is employed as a civil engineer on the Great Northern railroad. Mr. and Mrs. Sprague were the recipients of many beautiful gifts. The out-of-town guests included Mrs. Hattie Reynolds, Miss Lizzie Reynolds and Miss Florence Hall, of Leominster, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ferry, of Pittsfield, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Dwight and Miss Edna Dwight, of East Longmeadow, and Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Sibley, of West Springfield.

'96, M.E. Robert J. Kittredge is teaching in the Schenectady, N. Y., High School.

'96, A.B. Vernon Everett Duroe is teaching in the public schools of New York City.

Ex-'96. N. Judson Lipes is a practicing physician in Albany, N. Y.

'96, LL.B. Howard O. Cobb, of Buffalo, has moved his law office to 92 Erie County Bank Building.

'97, Ph.B. Robert Davidson is society editor of the Albany Press and Knickerbocker.

Ex-'97. Walter W. Stebbins has recently opened offices in Green Bay, Wis., for the practice of medicine. Since leaving Cornell he has graduated from the Bellevue Medical College, New York and spent eighteen months as house physician and surgeon in one of the large charity hospitals of that city.

'98, LL.B. Pliny Bartlett is managing clerk for the law firm of Thayer, Jackson and White, 1010 D. S. Morgan Building, Buffalo.

'98, E.E. Richard S. McGowin is with the Western Electric Company in New York City.

'98, M.E. William B. Shafer, Jr., who since graduation has been employed in the Sprague Electric Company of Bloomfield, N. J., is now direct assistant to the electrical engineer of the company.

'98, LL.B. John Francis Murtagh, now connected with Huestis Brothers, lawyers, Elmira, was chosen supervisor of Chemung County, New York, at the recent election.

'98, Ph.B. Henry M. Bellinger, Jr., is in the law office of Eugene L. Folk, 805 D. S. Morgan Building, Buffalo, N. Y.

'98, B. S. Francis A. Richmond has removed from Adams, Mass., to Elmira, N. Y.

'98, A.B. It is probable that within the next few weeks, American readers will be given a special opportunity to inform themselves upon what is really the most vital of all questions in the Philippines—the relations of the people to the friars and of the friars to the people. While pursuing his professional studies in Germany, the Filipino hero-martyr, Dr. José Rizal y Mercado, wrote, in the form of a novel, a story of Filipino life. Its title was "Nole Me Tangere." It was really an exposé of the arrogance, the immorality, and the despotism of the friars in their relations with the natives. Copies of the book were publically burned in the squares of Manila, and Filipinos were shot for no greater crime than that of having the book in their possession. Frank E. Gannett, '98, the secretary of President Schurman as a member of the Philippine Commission, was able to secure a copy of this work, and has placed a translation of it in the hands of American publishers, who are expected to have it on the market at an early day.

'99, B.S. J. M. Taber is chemist in the Elmira (N. Y.) Steel Company.

'99, M.E. E. C. Loetscher has left the Midvale Steel Company, of Philadelphia, to enter the department of rolling stock and machinery of the Pittsburg Coal Company. His new address is 900 Sandusky Street, Alleghany, Pa.

Ex-'99. Milton C. Miller is living at Edgewood Park, Pa.

'99, Ph.B. Edmund H. Hollands lives at 1427 Fifth Avenue, Water-vliet, N. Y.

'99, B.S. Howard A. Baylis is teaching in Hampden Hall, Hampden, Conn.

'99, C. E. On February 21, Harry A. Young sailed for Havana, Cuba, where he will hold a position as transit man in the public improvements being made by the U. S. Government engineers.

'99, C.E. Ogdin Merrill visited Ithaca over Sunday. He has just left the position of assistant engineer of the Brooklyn & Jamaica Bay Turnpike Company, and expects to sail on the 27th on the Kaiserin Maria Theresia for Germany. He will spend about three months travelling in Europe.

'99, LL.B. Robert H. Ripley visited the University last week. His stay was prolonged by a slight illness.

'99, B.S. Edwin Sewell Browne is in the employ of Miller, Bull & Knowlton, as one of their agents at San Juan, Porto Rico. He may be addressed, care of his employers, 32 Broadway, New York City.

'99, Ph.B. Miss E. M. Davis is a member of the junior class of the N. Y. State library school at Albany.

Obituary.

HERBERT GUERNSEY GEER, '93, M.E.

Herbert Guernsey Geer, a consulting electrical engineer, died on March 7, at the residence of his father-in-law, Mr. James B. Macneal, 1804 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Md. He had been in failing health for about a year. The funeral took place on March 9, at his late home. Rev. Dr. Anthony Bilkosky officiated, assisted by Rev. Royal H. Pullman.

Mr. Geer was born at Ogdensburg, N. Y., March 13, 1869. He graduated from the State Normal School at Pottsdam, N. Y., in 1887, and from Cornell University, at Ithaca, N. Y., in 1893. For six years he was associate professor of mechanical engineering at the Johns Hopkins University. After retiring from that position he engaged in private business, and was a consulting engineer in the construction of the new Maryland Penitentiary. In this connection he was sent to personally inspect some of the best of similar institutions in other parts of the country. Mr. Geer was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pa., and of Racket Lodge No. 213 of the Masonic Order, at Pottsdam, N. Y.

In March, 1898, Mr. Geer married Miss Sarah M. Macneal, who survives him. His mother and brother, William C. Geer, '02, live in Ithaca. He leaves sisters, also.

Quill and Dagger Resolutions.

Whereas, It has pleased God, in His infinite wisdom, to take from this world our beloved friend and brother, Herbert Guernsey Geer, who, by his zealous efforts in behalf of the University, has done much to advance her fair name, and who, as a founder of Quill and Dagger, did much to firmly establish our society, be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Quill and Dagger Society express to the family of the deceased our profound sympathy over our common loss, and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be published in the organ of the Cornell alumni.



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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1900.

THE NEWS will suspend publication next week on account of the vacation. The next number will be put in the mails on April 4.

HERBERT GUERNSEY GEER, '93.

The classmates and intimate friends of Herbert G. Geer have heard of his untimely death with profound sorrow. His college mates remember a man of keen, even brilliant mind, ambitious; yet withal a genial comrade, a lover of good fellowship, a true friend. Of his adopted class (he had entered with '91, but had been obliged by ill health to live in the West during 1889-91) he was a loyal member. To Alma Mater he showed the deepest devotion. Cornell never sent forth a truer, more faithful son. His conscientious work won for him a high place in the esteem of his instructors, who upon his graduation recommended him for one of the most responsible positions then open, a position in which he at once found a wide field of usefulness. He has done his work well; and if our grief brings the bitter, never answered question, "Why do such men go first?" time will show us that in the inspiring example of a noble life he still lives. C. S. N., '93.

## ORATORY AT CORNELL.

Owing to the number of inquiries which have recently come to this office concerning the Department of Oratory, the NEWS this week presents to its readers a history of this comparatively young branch, and of the way in which debaters are made at Cornell. The proximity of the intercollegiate debate, as well as the fact that we try our mettle this year against a new opponent, should make this of considerable interest.

The marvellous development of the department since its inception in 1887 shows that, in spite of the preëminence of the technical courses at Cornell the advantages of this kind of training have not been lost sight of

by the students. The registration in these courses is over two hundred, and the high standard of admission required by some of the more advanced courses causes the rejection of some twenty or thirty applicants each year. Certainly there can be no better evidence than this of the appreciation of the work of this department among the undergraduates.

## Annual Dinner of the New England Cornell Club.

The Cornell dinner, as already announced, for the evening of Friday, March 23, at the University Club, Boston, promises to be of unusual interest.

Besides an address by President Schurman, there will be talks by President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard University, and President J. M. Crafts of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, formerly professor of chemistry at Cornell.

As the capacity of the rooms engaged at the University Club is limited, application for tickets should be made at once to Louie Erville Ware, 108 Austin Street, Worcester, Mass.

## Chess Team.

The team which will represent Cornell in the chess match with the University of Pennsylvania has been chosen. The choice was based partly on the previous records of the players, partly on a competition held recently. The following will compose the team: Louis C. Karpinski, '01, of Oswego; Ernest H. Riedel, '02, of Brooklyn; Gerhard W. Heuser, '03, of Brooklyn; John P. Badenhansen, G, of Hoboken, N. J.; Franklin S. Storey, '02, of Brooklyn; and Parker F. Scripture, '02, of Rome.

The match will be held in Philadelphia, March 30 and 31.

## Baseball Team.

Since last week, the make up of the Varsity baseball team has been somewhat changed. Stratton, the short stop on last year's team, will return to the University and fill his old position. Robertson will play at first base instead of at short stop, as was announced last week. The definite make-up of the team for the southern trip will be:

Pitchers—J. K. Bole, L. S. Lyon, T. R. Sanders, J. Bushong.

Catchers—M. R. Whinnery, W. L. Rilling.

1st base—E. L. Robertson.

2nd base—D. K. Brown.

Short stop—F. L. Stratton.

3rd base—G. J. Costello.

Left field—T. L. Newton.

Center field—G. H. Mueller.

Right field—One of the pitchers. F. C. Howland will go as "sub" infielder and Hugh Jennings as coach. The trip will be managed by W. L. Wright, with D. R. Thomas as assistant.

## Railroad Engineers' Trip.

During the vacation a party from the Department of Railway Engineering will go out on a tour of inspection. The party will leave Ithaca next Monday morning for Depew and Buffalo where they will visit the Malleable iron works, the car shops, and the railroad shops. From Buffalo the party will go to Dunkirk to visit the shops of the Brooks locomotive works. At Franklin, Pa., they will visit the Galena oil works. At Pittsburg, the next stop on the

trip, the party will visit the blast furnaces for manufacturing pig iron, the Bessemer and Open-Hearth steel works, the puddling furnaces and the locomotive works. From Pittsburg, the party will go to Altoona, where they will visit the great shops of the Pennsylvania Railroad with their 3,300 locomotives. This is a part of the practical work of the school from which fine results are realized.

## The Stock Exchange.

The course of lectures on Banking and Investments was continued last Thursday afternoon by Mr. Alvah Trowbridge, president of the North American Trust Company, who spoke on the "Stock Exchange." His remarks were confined to the New York Exchange, which, he said, is limited to eleven hundred members. Each member, besides having to be elected to the Exchange, must pay \$40,000 for his seat. Probably in no other place, said the lecturer, does a man's simple word go so far. No books are kept on the floor of the Exchange, and no third person records the sales. The deal is arranged verbally, both parties to it make a note of the sale or purchase, and their word is law. Anyone refusing to carry out his part in such a transfer of stocks or bonds which has been agreed to, forfeits his seat in the Exchange and immediately loses caste among his fellow brokers. Strict honesty is consequently enforced on the brokers in their dealings with each other.

Mr. Trowbridge went on to describe the various kinds of securities dealt in at the Exchange. These, he remarked, are more or less insecure. Sales on the floor must be of at least one hundred shares each, though an open market is held outside. Of the securities the best of those known as "high class" are the United States government bonds. "It is a high tribute to the patriotism of the people and their faith in the government," the lecturer said, "that though these bonds pay the small interest of two per cent., they sell at a premium which brings the real interest much below this figure."

After describing briefly the tactics of the two classes of brokers known as bulls and bears, the speaker went on to relate the story of Commodore Vanderbilt and the Harlem Railroad. The stock of this company stood at about 7 when Vanderbilt decided that he wanted to get control, but went up rapidly as soon as a market was furnished for it. Many brokers hurried to make large sales to the Commodore, knowing that the real value of the stock was but little and expecting to be able soon to buy cheaper. But when the day for settlement came they found themselves obliged to pay at the rate of 240 for stock to cover their sales at 60, because Vanderbilt already had secured a large part of the stock. It was on this occasion that the latter composed the couplet:

"He who sells what isn't his'n,  
Must either pay or go to prison."

Mr. Trowbridge concluded his remarks by denying that the Stock Exchange deserves the evil reputation it has in many places. He declared emphatically that the Exchange is neither a bucket shop nor a gambling house. As to the charge that it gets up great combines and trusts, this, he said, is not to its discredit, for trusts have proved a great blessing to mankind by lowering the price and improving the quality of commodities.

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From all other Sources	14,365,587 99
	\$58,890,077 21

DISBURSEMENTS	
To Policy-holders for Claims by Death	\$15,620,979 43
To Policy-holders for Endowments, Dividends, etc.	10,739,057 12
For all other accounts	12,228,444 13
	\$38,597,480 68

ASSETS	
United States Bonds and other Securities	\$173,185,461 74
First Lien Loans on Bond and Mortgage	74,794,821 63
Loans on Bonds and other Securities	6,330,000 00
Loans on Company's Policies	4,314,636 66
Real Estate: Company's 12 Office Buildings, and other Properties	23,186,525 06
Cash in Banks and Trust Companies	13,012,455 02
Accrued interest, Net Deferred, Premiums, etc.	6,900,637 41
	\$301,844,537 52

LIABILITIES	
Policy Reserves, etc.	\$251,711,988 61
Contingent Guarantee Fund	47,952,548 91
Available for Authorized Dividends	2,180,000 00
	\$301,844,537 52

Insurance and Annuities in force \$1,052,665,211 64

I have carefully examined the foregoing Statement and find the same to be correct; liabilities calculated by the Insurance Department.

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**THE DEBATING SYSTEM AT CORNELL.**

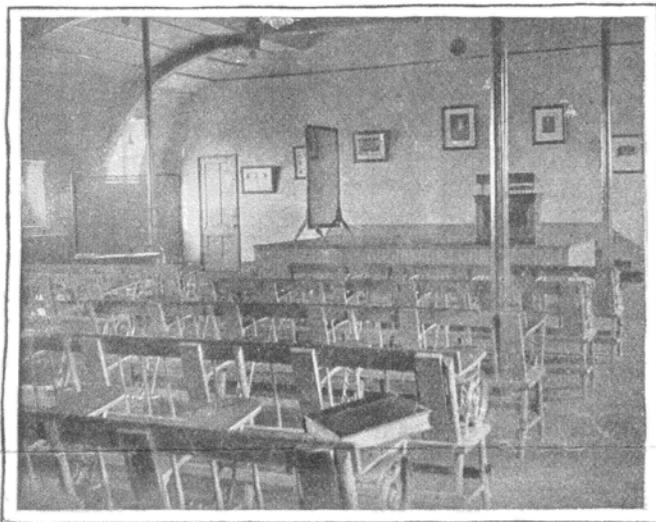
*Continued from page 156.*

mizing the evil of committed addresses, which are not considered "good form" in Cornell debate circles.

The '94 Debate usually draws a large audience, the interest resting in the practical and timely character of the questions discussed as well as in the individual contestants. The eight speakers determine their sides on the debate at least a month in advance, individual preferences being recognized so far as is possible. When not possible to arrange sides by conference, the lot is resorted to. To prevent any collusion between opponents for the sake of rebuttal "effects," it is always agreed that the men will work up their arguments independently of any members of the opposition. At the opening of the exercises the order of speakers on either side is determined by lot. Each debater is allowed ten minutes for direct argument and five minutes for refuta-

and then to use his experience in speech to deliver his briefed debate to his audience.

The Department of Oratory is an independent department equipped with a teaching force of one instructor and two assistants, in addition to the professor in charge. Much of the strength of our system undoubtedly lies not only in the thorough training afforded by this department in the course in public speaking referred to above, but also in the debating standards set by the department before the students of the University in the advanced class in oral debate from which the prize debaters usually come. We believe that the University debating should be carried on by the students themselves in their several clubs, but the influence of this one high-class course upon the several clubs is very marked and is now generally regarded as essential. Debate is studied in this course first of all as a science; the principles of evidence and proof are thoroughly fixed and no oral work is attempted



THE HALL OF ORATORY.

tion. The prize is awarded to "the most effective debater, account being taken both of his thought and of its expressions." The judges are disinterested persons, not acquainted with the participants, and are usually non-residents of the city.

Another reason for the popularity of the '94 Debate contest is found in the fact that the speakers at this contest are regarded as preliminary candidates from whom the Debate Council selects the representatives for the intercollegiate debate. The University of Pennsylvania has recently established a similar prize and makes the same use of the contest as does Cornell.

The '86 Memorial Prize in declamation is another prize that has done very much to encourage public speaking at Cornell and cannot be disregarded by anyone who is writing of the debate system here. This prize is offered for excellence in the technique of public speaking and is annually competed for by over 100 students, who have a full year's work of special training in this line under University instructors connected with the Department of Oratory. From this aggregation of trained speakers there comes each year a large number who wish to specialize in debate. Having mastered the technique of delivery, solved the problem of thought control, and acquired a habit of graceful and effective speech, the student finds the advanced work in debate much simplified. His task is to learn the science of brief-writing

until the analysis of any problem into the form of an exactly correlated brief can be readily made.

Nearly all of the debaters take advantage of further practice in connection with the course in extempore speaking, which originated here and has since proved very successful. Every student in this course delivers an address weekly upon a topic previously assigned, and after having carefully studied and outlined the subject. At the close of each exercise the instructor offers criticism and suggestion regarding subject matter, form, and rhetorical style.

It will be readily seen from this sketch of some of our methods of training that while the scientific spirit at Cornell has strongly influenced debating, there is due weight given to the meaning and value of literary methods and literary culture. Effective debaters cannot be trained unless there be a careful balancing of these two methods.

The Debate Council is the executive committee of the debating student body. It possesses authority to conduct all intercollegiate debating contests and to exercise general supervision over the debate interests inside of the University. The Council is composed of one representative of each club, two delegates-at-large, who are usually alumni, and three members chosen from the faculties of the University. It will be seen that the students outnumber the faculty members on this board, the principle being that the faculty members are on the

Council as advisers rather than as executive officers. Added dignity and honor accrue to the members of the Council from the fact that by them the intercollegiate representatives are chosen and intercollegiate agreements made.

The whole plan is of course somewhat of an evolution, but it is very successful and we commend it heartily as a working scheme. As a former prize-man well points out: "The organization does not by any means involve all or even a large percentage of the students, but it does keep all who are working, working together; and it makes the debate teams the result not of spasmodic effort once a year, but the result of continued effort from the time a man enters the University until he is chosen from the eight on the '94 stage to represent Cornell against Pennsylvania or Columbia."

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### FOOTBALL RULE CHANGES.

#### Rules Committee, Which Meets This Month, May Make Alterations.

[From The Yale Alumni Weekly]

No definite steps have yet been taken toward a formal call for a meeting of the Rules Committee to act upon the present football code. It is being discussed and there is every likelihood that a call will shortly be issued. What the changes likely to come up for discussion are, no one can certainly predict, but it is safe to say that the scoring rule will be one that will be brought up and many are the promised variations that may be offered. Conservatism and a strong belief in making as few alterations as possible are features that have always marked the deliberations of the rule-making body. Hence it is one of the probabilities that sweeping changes in scoring will not be adopted. Two points are most likely to bear the brunt of the discussion in this particular rule. These are the value of a drop or rather field kick and the credit to be given for converting a touchdown into a goal. Minor points in the rules which are merely matters of interpretation will also be taken up and definite understandings reached so as to leave as little as possible to the discretion of the already over-worked officials.

Another point that has been brought forward with unusual prominence, owing to an incident of one of the final matches of the past season, is that regarding coaching by non-players and those enjoying side-line privileges. Whether the result of the consideration of this question will be the relegation of all persons to certain prescribed limits outside of any possible infraction of this rule, is still an open question which can only be decided when the committee meets. Another rule that has long existed but which has seldom been brought into such prominence as it was in the Yale-Harvard game, is that permitting the retention of the ball by a side willing to sacrifice twenty yards for the sake of still holding the ball. There has been some suggestion that this rule is to come up for consideration before the rule-makers, but this is not nearly so generally commented upon as are the other rules already spoken of. The meeting will probably take place some time during March, to be followed by other meetings should they prove necessary.

### An Association of American Universities.

Early this month there was held in Chicago a meeting of representatives of the leading universities and colleges of the country, which resulted in the formation of an organization, calling itself the Association of American Universities, to consider matters of common interest relating to graduate studies. David Starr Jordan, '72, chairman of the committee on permanent organization, reported that the initial membership consists of the University of California, Catholic University of America, University of Chicago, Clark University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Michigan, Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania, Leland Stanford, Jr. University, University of Wisconsin, Yale University.

This has been a pet scheme of Professor Benjamin Ide Wheeler's for a number of years, in recognition of which fact it was proposed to make him the first president of the new Association. Professor Wheeler declined this honor, however, and President Eliot of Harvard was elected, Professor Wheeler accepting the vice presidency.

Among the matters which the Association will consider are: plans to secure uniformity regarding graduate degrees among the institutions of this country; the advisability of requesting foreign universities not to admit American students to examination for the degree of Ph. D. unless they present bachelor degrees from American colleges or universities; the advisability of limiting the number of institutions from which such bachelor degrees may be accepted; and plans for assisting small institutions to raise to the proper standard such of their work as they have the means to carry on.

Institutions other than those now represented in the Association may be admitted at the annual conference by a three fourths vote, and it is expected that every university and college of importance in this country will shortly be enrolled. The Association is going to send representatives to the Congress of Education to be held in Paris this summer.

Ambassador Andrew Dickson White is preparing for the *Century* a biography of Martin Luther.

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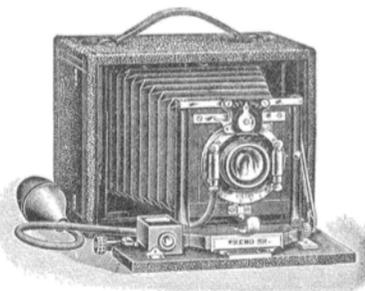
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