

# CORNELL ALUMNI NEWS

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## CHI PSI FRATERNITY HOUSE BURNED AND SEVEN LIVES LOST.

The Old McGraw-Fiske Mansion an Utter Ruin—Four Students and Three Ithaca Firemen Killed—Many Members of Chapter Injured—Heroism Shown in Attempts at Rescue—The Inmates of the House Entrapped by Flames—University in Mourning.

Seven lives were lost by the burning of the Chi Psi chapter house, known to older Cornellians as the McGraw-Fiske mansion, early on the morning of Friday, Dec. 7. Four members of the chapter were killed, and three of Ithaca's volunteer firemen, one of them a former Cornell student, were crushed to death under a falling wall. Eight students were injured, one of them so seriously that he may not recover. The house was wholly destroyed.

The following students are dead:

WILLIAM HOLMES NICHOLS, '07, of Chicago.

OLIVER LEROY SCHMUCK, '07, of Hanover, Pa.

JAMES MCCUTCHEON, 2d, '09, of Pittsburg.

FERDINAND W. GRELLE, '10, of South Orange, N. J.

These members of the Ithaca fire department were killed:

ALFRED SLATER ROBINSON, an attorney and a former student of the College of Law.

JOHN COOPER RUMSEY, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Rumsey, who was employed in his father's hardware store.

ESTEY J. LANDON, foreman of the Empire State House Furnishing Company.

The following students were injured:

Clarence J. Pope, '10, of South Orange, N. J.; serious burns.

Henry Milo Curry, '09, of Pittsburg; burns and cuts.

Ray Rivington Powers, '08, of Atlanta, Ga.; burns.

Werner William Goetz, '09, of Milwaukee; burns.

George Raymond Sailor, '07, of Swissvale, Pa.; slight burns.

Herman Alfred Uihlein, '08, of Milwaukee; slight burns.

Horace Silliman DeCamp, '09, of New York; slight burns and bruises.

Gustav Jaeger Requardt, '09, of Baltimore; injured in groin.

The bodies of Nichols and Grelle remained in the ruins until Monday, when they were recovered after some of the tottering walls had been destroyed with dynamite. Schmuck and McCutcheon died in the Cornell Infirmary within a few hours after the fire. The only one of the injured whose life was despaired of was Pope, and as this paper goes to press his recovery is hoped for.

CAUSE OF THE FIRE UNKNOWN.

The cause of the fire is not known, but it is supposed to have started at the base of an elevator shaft, where cloths used in cleaning the floors and walls were kept. This shaft was a part of the original plan for the building. The elevator had not been installed at the time of Mrs. Fiske's death, and the estate boarded up the shaft. In this shaft, off the main floor, was a closet used for the storage of cleaning cloths. If the fire started there, it is easy to understand how it might burst out on all three floors simultaneously. Before any of the inmates were aroused, a large part of the interior of the building was ablaze, and escape by means of the stairways was cut off. All those who got out did so by leaping from win-

dows or by means of vines or of ropes made of bedclothing.

HEROISM DISPLAYED.

The story of the calamity could not be written without mention of the acts of heroism which it brought forth. Not a man left the house till he knew his roommate was safe or until he had repeatedly risked his life in a vain effort at rescue. Schmuck had escaped, but he ran back into the blazing building on a search for Nichols and was fatally burned. Curry received his injuries in efforts to rescue McCutcheon, who was finally carried to the ground unconscious by a party of rescuers composed of Morris S. Halliday, '06; Edwin T. Gibson, '07; Thomas W. Piolet, '08; Charles B. Goodspeed, '08; Paris Martin, '07; Theodore G. Rockwell, '08; James Q. Newton, '07, and Roger T. Holloway, '08, and others, most of whom came from the nearest fraternity houses.

FIREMEN LATE IN ARRIVING.

Owing to the start which the flames gained and to the distance of the house from the town, the firemen were fatally late in reaching there. At least half an hour of precious time was lost. The flames were first discovered at 3:40 o'clock by Mrs. John H. Tanner, who lives across the gorge on Cornell Heights. She immediately telephoned the alarm to police headquarters. About the same time C. B. Goodspeed, at the Alpha Delta Phi house, was awakened by the cries of several men who had gained the roof of the Chi Psi house, and he also telephoned an alarm. The men in the Phi Kappa Psi house, about two hundred yards away, were aroused by the shouts of Clarence Pope, who had escaped from the burning building and run across

the lawns. He was almost crazed by the pain of his burns, and collapsed as soon as he was admitted. The Phi Kappa Psi men, hearing the fire bell ringing, lost no time in sending in another alarm, but at once began using the telephone to summon physicians.

Still further delay on the part of the firemen was caused by the man-



O. L. SCHMUCK.

ner of giving the alarm. The sergeant in charge at the police station, on receiving the news by telephone, immediately rang alarm box No. 62, which is at the station. The boxes on the hill near the Chi Psi house are numbered from 121 to 125. A policeman notified No. 1 hose company of the exact location of the fire. The other companies were delayed by the confusion in the alarm, so that No. 1 reached the scene five or ten minutes before any of the others.

No. 1 made quick time in reaching the fire. It was followed by No. 3, and No. 2's steamer. When a line of hose was attached to the hydrant just below the building there was found to be a pressure of only twenty pounds. No. 2's steamer soon had the water going in one line of hose at a pressure of eighty pounds. No. 1 laid 750 feet of hose in one line alone. Another stream of water was obtained by attaching a line of hose to the pump at Sibley college.

Four lines of hose were laid, one on the west and the other three on the east side of the building. All were brought into play on the north side of

the mansion, but the fire had spread to such a point that it could not be got under control.

#### GALE BLOWING.

The wind blew at 40 miles an hour and snow was falling. The high knoll on which the mansion stood is a place where the full force of the wind is felt. When the flames reached the second and third stories on the north side, the wind swept them roaring through the building and leaving a hundred feet in the air. Burning embers were carried to the south a distance of 2,000 feet.

Twenty-six members of the fraternity were asleep in the building. They were:

C. R. Andrews, '08, Penn Yan; C. G. Bamberger, '08, Salt Lake City, Utah; J. Bowes, '08, Baltimore, Md.; H. M. Curry, '09, Pittsburg, Pa.; L. B. Daumont, '09, Jersey City, N. J.; H. S. DeCamp, '09, New York; F. B. Dwight, '09, Pasadena, Cal.; W. C. Dyer, '07, Chicago, Ill.; W. W. Goetz, '09, Milwaukee, Wis.; F. W. Grelle, '10, South Orange, N. J.; H. Lamb, '10, Salt Lake City, Utah; A. D. Matthai, '10, Baltimore, Md.; W. Matchner, '10, Pittsburg, Pa.; J. McCutcheon, 2nd, '09, Pittsburg, Pa.; W. H. Nichols, '97, Chicago, Ill.; J. N. Pew, '08, Bryn Mawr, Pa.; C. J. Pope, '10, East Orange, N. J.; R. R. Powers, '07, Atlanta, Ga.; G. J. Requardt, '09, Baltimore, Md.; O. L. Schmuck, '07, Hanover, Pa.; G. R. Sailor, '07, Pittsburg, Pa.; J. String, '10, East Orange, N. J.; R. P. Turner, '08, St. Louis, Mo.; H. A. Uihlein, '08, Milwaukee, Wis.; P. Williams, '10, Salt Lake City, Utah; S. Williams, '10, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Those absent from the house were:

L. V. Almirall, '10, Brooklyn; W. A. Clafin, '10, Boston, Mass.; L. Decker, '09, Minneapolis, Minn.; K. L. Roberts, '08, Boston, Mass.; T. White, '10, St. Louis, Mo.

#### ESCAPED BY WINDOWS.

The stories told by the men who escaped all agree that the stairways and corridors on all the floors were filled with flame and smoke before anybody in the house was awakened. The sleeping rooms were on the second and third floors, most of the men being on the latter. The flames, which started in the northeast corner of the building, had crept up the back stairs to the main floor and from there up both front and back stairs. These were the only means of escape through the interior of the building, and when the fire reached this point the sole way of egress left was through the windows. There were no rope fire escapes in the sleeping rooms. The building was equipped with fire hose throughout, but

the interior was a roaring furnace before anybody was aroused, and no attempt was made to use the hose. Some of the men had an almost miraculous escape.

Six freshmen, String, Matchner, Lamb, Matthai and the Williams boys, slept in one large room on the third floor. They got out through a window and crept for twenty feet along a three-inch ledge about sixty feet above the ground. After successive jumps to a balcony and thence to a porch roof, they finally dropped a dozen feet to the ground.

#### SCHMUCK'S HEROISM.

O. L. Schmuck, '07, had made his way to the gutter of the upper roof through a gable window when he remembered that W. H. Nichols, '07, his roommate, was yet in the house. With the greatest heroism he re-entered the room, then a mass of flames, to save him. The task was hopeless and with his clothing in flames he regained the outside and jumped the three stories distance to the ground, landing in a bush which broke his fall. He received injuries which caused his



W. H. NICHOLS.

death in the Infirmary a few hours afterward.

#### THE RESCUE OF M'UTCHEON.

Curry and McCutcheon roomed together. When Curry was awakened, he found the room filled with a dense smoke. He broke out upon a balcony through a window, and, after being revived by the fresh air, returned to McCutcheon, who was unconscious. In



RUINS OF THE CHI PSI HOUSE JUST AFTER THE FIRE.

his first attempt to move McCutcheon he failed, and barely succeeded in reaching the balcony again. Once more he tried and this time dragged McCutcheon, whose night clothes were now burning, to the window. Curry was exhausted by his efforts. He could not take the body to the balcony. But Morris Halliday, last year's fullback; Gibson, one of the halfbacks of the present season, and Goodspeed, who had brought two ladders from the Alpha Delta Phi house, climbed over the snow-covered slating, lifted McCutcheon out of the window and carried him to the ground. He was taken to the Infirmary, where he died about 1:30 o'clock Friday afternoon, having had only a few moments of consciousness.

Curry re-entered the house a third time in a vain effort to find and rescue Nichols and Grelle. The flames and smoke baffled him, and he was assisted to the ground and carried to the Infirmary, where he is now recovering.

Halliday and the other rescuers used their ladders to assist several other men in making their escape from windows or balconies.

POPE TERRIBLY BURNED.

Grelle, Pope, Uihlein and De Camp went to the roof of the burning building. There they separated. De Camp and Uihlein escaped by climbing down the vines for some distance and jumping to the ground. Pope and Grelle decided to escape by other means. Pope was in the lead, and soon reached a place on the roof directly over a window of McCutcheon's room. He let himself down and kicked in the window. Immediately the flames shot out and enveloped him. He let go his hold and fell to the ground. He was taken to the city hospital, suffering from severe burns on his face, arms and legs. His injuries were so serious that the physicians held out little hope of his recovery.

The flames swept toward the roof,

and as Grelle stepped back to escape from the heat he fell into a skylight and dropped into a closet near McCutcheon's room. He was seen to come into the room from which Curry and McCutcheon were rescued and to make for a window. As he reached it, the floor gave way. He was not seen again.

Requardt was also on the roof. He jumped and landed astride a gable ten feet below, injuring himself so painfully that he almost lost consciousness. While he clung there, he heard a scream. He turned just in time to see Schmuck dive through a window and fall to the ground. Requardt leaped to the ground and put out the flames which were then enveloping Schmuck's body.

Bamberger and Turner were in a room on the second floor, directly under that of McCutcheon. They were awakened to find the hall full of smoke and the stairs to the floor below in



WEST FRONT OF THE CHI PSI HOUSE AS IT WAS.

flames. They aroused Pew, who was in the next room, and he joined them. With a rope made of bedclothes, Bamberger lowered Pew and Turner to the ground and then slid down it himself.

Andrews and Goetz made a rope of sheets which reached halfway from the third story to the ground. Andrews descended first and the rope gave way when he reached the second story. Goetz's only recourse was to jump, which he did, escaping with some severe muscular strains.

The injured were cared for temporarily in the Phi Kappa Psi house. The men of that fraternity could not say enough of the presence of mind, courage and tenderness of Mrs. Everett Ward Olmsted, who was at work in the temporary hospital before any of the physicians arrived there. They said that her presence and care did more than anything else to soothe the terribly burned and half-crazed boys.

#### THREE FIREMEN KILLED.

The accident which cost the lives of the three firemen occurred about 7 o'clock, after most of the firemen and spectators had left the scene. Robin-

son, Rumsey and Landon had gone to the north side of the building and had turned a stream into one of the windows directly under a gable in the roof. Assistant Bishop had just told them that their position was dangerous. Without warning the massive stone wall fell, not toward the interior of the building, as might have been expected, but outward, directly into the face of the high wind. The three men were working together in a group when the wall fell and were standing on a stone terrace twenty-five feet from the burning building. They were almost completely buried under the debris.

Robinson and Landon were taken to the Phi Kappa Psi house, where the former lived but a few minutes. Landon was killed outright. Rumsey was struck on the back of the head by a large stone and instantly killed.

Not one of the men who escaped from the burning house saved any of his property, and not one of them had time even to put on his clothes. In the high wind and the biting cold, the mercury being several degrees below

freezing point, they all suffered severely. They were provided with clothing and shelter at other fraternity houses and at the homes of members of the faculty, where many of them are still living temporarily.

#### SEARCH FOR BODIES.

It was a long time before search could be begun for the bodies of Nichols and Grelle. All day Friday most of the walls and one of the lofty chimneys remained standing, rendering any disturbance of the ruins hazardous. It was decided to raze the walls and then make a thorough search of the ruins.

Early on Saturday morning the walls were blown down with a heavy charge of dynamite. The concussion broke many windows in Morse, White, McGraw and Morrill halls. As soon as it was safe to work there, a large force of men commenced to remove the stones, brick and other refuse, most of it being dumped in a hollow on the campus about one hundred yards away. Paul K. Clymer, '97, of Ithaca, a member of the Cornell chapter of Chi

Psi, was in charge of the work of excavation.

The servants in the chapter house, including the janitor, Michael O'Neill, and Fletcher, the negro chef, escaped from the building unhurt.

It has been learned that before some of the members of the chapter retired at midnight they noticed an odor like



JAMES McCUTCHEON, 2D.

that of burning paint in the house. They examined the kitchen range and the furnace, but found no evidence that anything was wrong, and thought no more about it.

The loss is estimated at about \$250,000, although the chapter's investment in the property was represented by a much smaller amount than that. There was about \$25,000 insurance on the building, and \$5,000 on the furniture.

A large number of the alumni of the chapter came to Ithaca on learning of the tragedy. The deaths of so many of the members drove from their minds any material plans for the future, and all questions as to rebuilding were met with the reply that nothing would be done at present.

The Registrar of the University has announced that the Christmas recess this year will begin on Friday morning, Dec. 21, and that instruction will recommence on Thursday, Jan. 3. The first term will end on Jan. 30, 1907, and the second will open on Feb. 3. Easter Sunday comes on March 31, and the spring vacation will be from March 22 to April 2.

### UNIVERSITY IN MOURNING.

**Memorial Services in the Chapel—Classes Provide Escorts for the Dead  
—Many Functions Postponed.**

Not since the typhoid fever epidemic, with its many fatalities among the students, has the University community been depressed as it was by the disaster of last Friday. In its suddenness this calamity seemed even more sad than the memory of the former one. So general was the feeling of grief and so severe the shock to faculty and undergraduates, that little attention was paid to University exercises on Saturday. As a formal sign of mourning, the chimes in the Library tower were hushed, and all day the bells were mute.

Social and athletic events were postponed or abandoned altogether. The 'cross-country race for the Ehrich cup, which was to have been run on Saturday afternoon, was put off indefinitely. The military hop set for Friday evening was likewise delayed. President Schurman cancelled his engagement to lecture before the Cornell Congress, and no meeting of that organization was held on Saturday night. The Cosmopolitan Club, the Saturday Night Club and the Sage College authorities abandoned festivities. A lecture by Professor Irvine in Sibley Dome was given up.

Impressive memorial services for the victims of the fire were held in Sage Chapel on Sunday afternoon. A sermon was delivered by the Rev. Dr. James Fairbairn Brodie, pastor of the Congregational Church of Auburn-dale, Mass., the University preacher for that day. He said in part:

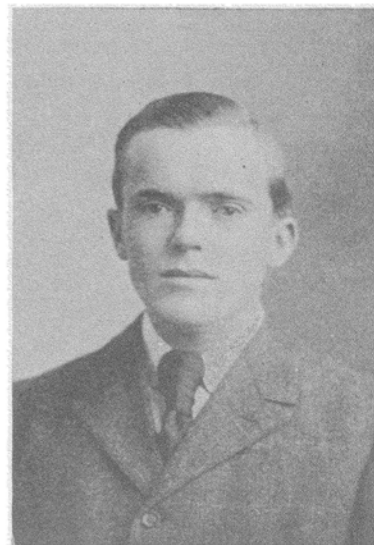
Human character with worth to it is a building whose design and material both require another world for its fulfilling. Anything else would be out of keeping with the Universe of God.

Here is good comfort to take amid the saddening shadows which have so lately fallen upon this University and city. The flower of young student manhood and of heroic citizenship come to its rescue have fallen together. These young men were well known to you and to miss them from your lives is distress and loss. But their promise cut short and their beginnings left incomplete are but additions to the volume of witness that lives well begun here will surely come to their fulfillment in a world where there is room to realize their fairest promise, and most abundant hope. So do they add meaning and richness to the words cut in stone in your library portal, which may well be used to sum up the message of the hour,

"God finishes the work by noble hands begun."

A special musical service was rendered by the members of the chapel choir.

As an expression of respect to their dead classmates more than two-thirds of the members of the senior class assembled on Saturday afternoon at



F. W. GRELLE.

Sage Chapel, where the body of O. L. Schmuck had been laid, and escorted the body to the upper station of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. The body was taken to Hanover, Pa., by way of Elmira. It was accompanied by Mr. P. Schmuck of New York, and by A. Coors, jr., and H. M. Rogers, representing the senior class.

About five hundred members of the sophomore class had assembled at the chapel a little earlier and paid a similar tribute of respect to the memory of James McCutcheon. His body was taken to Pittsburg by way of Buffalo. T. W. Piollet and J. K. Jamieson accompanied it and represented the sophomore class at the funeral.

### The Dead Students.

The students who lost their lives in the fire were all widely known and popular among their fellows, especially the two seniors, Nichols and Schmuck. McCutcheon was first substitute full-back on the 'varsity football team this fall, and was a sturdy and hard working player. He was in the Princeton game at New York for a part of the

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**Editor**

Woodford Patterson, '95.

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**CORNELL'S CALAMITY.**

One of the saddest calamities in the history of Cornell, the burning of the Chi Psi house, with its tale of seven lives lost, is relieved by the deeds of heroism it evoked. We cannot forget the bravery of Schmuck and Curry, of the rescuers who came from other chapter houses and of the Ithaca firemen, in our mourning for the men who died. That heroism has become a part of the story of Cornell.

**EAST HILL'S DANGER.**

How many terrible deaths must be suffered before the City of Ithaca wakes up to its responsibility for the better protection of life and property on East hill? Within a half-mile of the campus are a hundred rookeries—in as much danger from fire as the Chi Psi lodge or the house that burned on Hazen street a few weeks ago. They are filled with young men of whose lives the city—every voter in it and every officer from the Mayor down—is morally the guardian.

If the city has no conscience to be aroused to a sense of moral responsibility, it has at least one sensitive spot, and that is student trade. The town prospers as the University grows. Fathers and mothers think of many things before sending their sons away from home to be educated, and it would not take many fires in chapter houses or boarding houses on East hill, if they occurred within a short period of time with the present lack of protection, to give Cornell a bad name.

For years the town's center of population has moved eastward and up the hill, and the fire-fighting apparatus has not kept pace with it. The most effective part of it still has to be dragged up a half-mile declivity to reach a fire in the most thickly populated part of the city. If a modern engine and ladder truck were stationed on the hill the effectiveness of the department would be doubled. It is easier to get a load down the hill than up, and ladders were needed more than hose at last week's fire. Ithaca has seen enough of the spectacle of firemen arriving, exhausted from a long climb up hill, to play water on a blaze already beyond control.

The danger will not be averted merely by having more and better apparatus on the hill. There must be trained and paid men there to operate it. Ithaca firemen have never shrunk from danger, as the three men who gave their lives last Friday proved; but a volunteer department is not efficient, as efficiency is understood nowadays. It is wasteful of effort and even of life.

Inspection and precaution such as only professional firemen can give are what Ithaca needs. Men whose business it is to fight fires lighten their labors and lessen the danger of their calling by doing what they can to prevent fires from occurring. They see that the law regarding the storing of combustibles is observed, and they

compel householders to provide means of escape from upper floors in case of fire. The volunteer fireman begins his work after the house is in flames; the paid department is on duty all the while.

The Board of Trustees of the University is not without responsibility in this matter. Until somebody provides the dormitories which Cornell so sadly needs, the University must look to the City of Ithaca for fire protection for the majority of its students. If the Trustees but realize the imperative need of such protection, they can find a way to obtain it.

**A Story of Heroism.**

One cannot read the story of the bravery of the men of Cornell, who went to certain death, in the effort to save their comrades, without a thrill of admiration for young American manhood. Some of these self-sacrificing students were mere lads, as the years go; yet they did not hesitate to give their lives that others might live. No more cool heroes ever risked life on the battlefield, where glory and the grave synchronize, than were these young university undergraduates. The meager details as yet received are replete with deeds worthy of preservation in song and story. Literally, and ungrudgingly, they gave their lives for their friends.

In making up the tale of heroism, the work of the men whose lives were not sacrificed must not be overlooked. Stalwart young men, trained in sinew and muscle and nerve, on the football field and at the oar, put forth their strength, as did their comrades who lost their lives; and in consequence many helpless men were borne in safety from the burning chapter house; and the story of the heroism of students, and volunteer firemen as well, is a fitting theme for an epic.

After all has been said in tribute to these martyrs, and the other gallant men to whom comes not the martyr's crown, their conduct was what would be expected by those who have made a careful study of the American boy of the period. It is a truth which cannot be too greatly emphasized that modern university and college training tends to the development of manhood. Much as has been said, and usually not unkindly, regarding the athletic training which goes hand in hand with intellectual advancement, it makes men. The most carping critic of football, for illustration, will, in his inmost heart, be thankful for the physical and mental athletics which developed young heroes who honored this young American manhood in the midst of the dire calamity at the Fiske mansion; and the names of the football men who made a flying wedge into what has been described as a fiery inferno, to save

life, will be forever associated with the annals of Cornell.

All honor then, to the husky young giants of university and college. The calamity at Ithaca abundantly demonstrates that physical training is not a deteriorating influence; and that it fosters the coolness and spirit of self-sacrifice which found such a notable illustration amid the flames of the Chi Psi fraternity house at Cornell.—*Rochester Democrat.*

**Our Ways Approved.**

Cornell men are calling attention to the fact that in their big game with Princeton this year their team played through both halves without being penalized. They call attention to it because they are proud of it. They say they like to be represented by a team that plays a straight game. This is rather a new idea, or perhaps the resurrec-

tion of an old one. For a good many years, anyhow, in the world of sport as in other places, a penalty has been regarded as the price you had to pay for doing certain kinds of things. If you owned an automobile and wanted to run more than so fast through a crowded street, the price of indulging your whim was from \$15.00 to \$50.00 according to circumstances. If you played football, the cost of holding, tripping, throttling or slugging was plainly stated in the rules. If it seemed worth while to do it, and you could afford the price, whose business was it but your own? So this new idea, that a penalty is something more than the market price of a privilege, seems pretty radical; this idea that disregard of fairness in work or play is—well, "the sort of thing a man doesn't do." If that notion could leaven the whole lump of our society, it would go far toward solving our vexed questions.—*Ridgway's.*

**ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENT.**

*Announcements for publication should be received not later than Monday morning.*

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—The Cornell Club of Rochester will hold a meeting on Friday evening, Dec. 21, at the Friars' Club, to adopt a constitution and effect a permanent organization. This date has been chosen in order that undergraduates from Rochester and vicinity, who are home for the holidays, may be present. They will be eligible to membership. They and all Cornell men, whether connected with the University in the past as students or as instructors, are cordially invited to be present.

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AND NOT BE FOWNES  
BUT THEY CAN'T BE  
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AND NOT BE RIGHT.

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'96 University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill., for '96  
'96 all of whom I have done work. '96  
'96 **31 NASSAU ST., NEW YORK** '96

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## UNIVERSITY IN MOURNING.

Continued from Page 125

second half, and was carried off the field with a sprained ankle.

Nichols was twenty years old. He was a son of George R. Nichols, a commission merchant of Chicago, whose home is in the Metropole Hotel, and he prepared for Cornell at the Uni-



A. S. ROBINSON.

versity School. He was a member of the 1907 *Cornellian* board.

Schmuck was a graduate of Phillips Andover Academy and was twenty-three years old. He was a son of Joseph Henry Schmuck, of Hanover, Pa. He belonged to Nalanda and Undine and had served on the Ice Carnival Committee.

McCutcheon was the only son of the late John L. McCutcheon, a hardware merchant of Pittsburg. He is survived by his mother and sister. He prepared for college at the Shady Side Academy. He was twenty years old.

Grelle was the son of Mrs. Ferdinand Grelle, of Maplewood, South Orange, N. J., and was about twenty years old. His college preparation was obtained at Carteret Academy, in Orange. He was president of the school athletic association and played on the hockey, football and baseball teams there.

### Funerals of the Firemen.

The funerals of the three firemen who were killed while fighting the flames at the Chi Psi house were held

on Sunday and Monday.

Alfred S. Robinson was thirty years old, and is survived by a widow to whom he was married three years ago. He was a student in the Cornell College of Law for two years, 1895-97, but did not graduate. Soon after he left college he was admitted to the bar, and had practiced law in Ithaca since then. Formerly his home was in Trumansburg.

Estey J. Landon was born in Danby in 1871, and had been a resident of Ithaca for fourteen years, being employed by the Empire State House Furnishing Company. A widow and a son six years old survive him.

John C. Rumsey was a son of Charles J. Rumsey, the hardware merchant, and had been employed in his father's store since his graduation from the Ithaca High School. He was twenty-three years old and was unmarried.

At a meeting of the Ithaca Fire Commissioners on Friday evening, appropriations of \$1,500 each were made to the widows of Robinson and Landon from the Ithaca firemen's relief fund. They will each receive \$500 from the city in addition to this, under a state law which requires a municipality to pay such a sum to the family of a volunteer killed in actual service.

### Football Alumni Meet.

A meeting of the advisory committee of the Cornell Alumni Football Association was held at the office of the Athletic Association in Ithaca last Sunday afternoon. Those present were C. R. Wyckoff, '96; T. F. Fennell, '96; J. W. Beacham, '97; Henry Schoellkopf, '02; E. R. Alexander, '02, and the secretary, W. J. Norton, '02. There were also present at the meeting Professor Irvine, president of the Athletic Council; Mr. Cushman, faculty member for football, and Captain Cook of the team. After adjournment the secretary stated that the committee had no announcement to make as to the purpose of the meeting or its results.

A meeting of the Athletic Council will be held next Monday evening.

More than two hundred students are registered in the short course in Agriculture. Instruction began last Friday.

## THE MANSION'S HISTORY.

Built by Jennie McGraw Fiske, but Never Occupied by Her.

The history of the McGraw-Fiske Mansion is bound up in that of the University. As the home of the Chi Psi fraternity at Cornell, it was the finest chapter house in the country. It was built for Miss Jennie McGraw, the daughter of John McGraw, one of Cornell's earliest benefactors. It was for him that McGraw hall was named. She herself was generous in her gifts to the young University, as every Cornellian who has heard the Library chimes knows. The house was begun in 1879, about a year before her marriage to Professor Willard Fiske, the first Librarian of the University. It was designed by William H. Miller, of Ithaca, the architect of the University Library, and he superintended its construction.

Mrs. Fiske never occupied the house. She was in Europe during most of the time it was building, and after her marriage, which took place at the American legation in Berlin on July 14, 1880, she and Professor Fiske continued to travel abroad. Her health failed, and she returned to this country only to die. Her death occurred at Ithaca on Sept. 30, 1881, a few days after her arrival, and her funeral was held in the mansion which she had hoped to make her home.

Throughout the unfortunate controversy over her will the place was untenanted. In 1896 it was sold to Edward G. Wyckoff, of Ithaca, for \$45,000, and since then it had been occupied by the Chi Psi fraternity. Mr. Miller, the architect, estimates that the building and interior decorations were worth \$250,000. The original cost of the house alone was \$150,000, and \$40,000 worth of imported woodwork was installed. The building, however, was done with labor costing \$1 for a ten-hour day. Besides this about \$75,000 had been spent in improving the grounds.

The house was noted for its beautiful design, and many of the fixtures and decorations were obtained in foreign countries. The woodwork in the library and hall was imported from Italy, and fitted together by the best cabinet makers that could be found in this country.



**BUFFALO ALUMNI MEET.**

**150 Present at Smoker—Kent Arouses Enthusiasm for Coach Warner.**

About a hundred and fifty enthusiastic Cornellians of Buffalo and nearby towns gathered at the University Club in that city on Tuesday evening, Dec. 4, and held a most successful smoker. Professors Catterall and Sill of the University faculty had accepted invitations to go from Ithaca and make speeches, and Professor John S. Shearer, '93, was on hand with his collection of lantern slides illustrating the history of the University and the development of the campus. Other speakers were Supreme Court Justice Cuthbert W. Pound, '87, and Ralph S. Kent, '02.

The first part of the entertainment took place in the large assembly room of the club, and consisted of the exhibition of his pictures by Professor Shearer. Many of these aroused cheers, and some of them, depicting groups of students arrayed in the fashions of years gone by, were greeted with laughter. The keenest interest

was manifested by some of the older alumni present in the earlier groups of the faculty and the classes. Nearly one hundred pictures were shown.

The rest of the evening's doings took place in the grill room. At one end was a long table for the speakers, and the assemblage was disposed about the room. Walter P. Cooke, '91, president of the Cornell Alumni Association of Buffalo, to whom much of the credit for the success of the smoker was due, presided and introduced the speakers, first calling on Professor Sill.

One of the topics with which Professor Sill dealt was the prominence of Cornell men in the affairs of the nation and the state. Then he drifted to a discussion of the Cornell spirit, using as an illustration the recent intercollegiate 'cross-country run, where Cornell men present outnumbered the representatives of all other colleges combined. He said that it was not in athletics alone that there was general interest at the University, but that intellectual interests were occupying a growing place in undergraduate life. "We are training up a lot of clean young fellows who are learning to take

an active part in public affairs," said Professor Sill in conclusion.

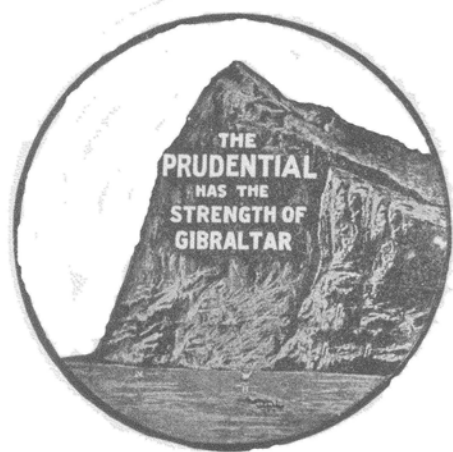
Ralph S. Kent then spoke on the Cornell football situation, and said that lack of "head work" was all that kept the team this year from winning a pre-eminent place. He continued:

Cornell had the material and she will have it next year, for our strongest men are in the sophomore and junior classes. Now the question is: Is Cornell to have a system of coaching that will make the best of her material? What Cornell needs, in my opinion, and in the opinion of the majority of the alumni, is a coach that will be commander-in-chief and that can establish a Cornell system just as Walter Camp has established a system that brings results to the Yale team. If there are to be graduate coaches they should be subservient to the head coach, and should fit in with his system, instead of causing discontent and strife among the members of the squad, as they have often done at Ithaca in the past. And if you want a man to establish a Cornell system that will win out, Glenn S. Warner, the present head coach, is the person capable of establishing and carrying out such a system.

Kent's speech was followed by three rousing "short yells" for Coach Warner, led by "Dan" Upton, '90.

Then Justice Pound was called to the floor. He spoke of the departments of Cornell which made the in-

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stitution one of the greatest in the land, and asserted gravely that the chief ornament of the educational structure was the College of Law. Cornell lawyers, he declared, were always ready to offer themselves as sacrifices on the altar of public service.

"In this crucial moment," he added, "it is gratifying to know that Cornell men are coming forward to accept even the office of justice of the peace. It is gratifying to know that Cornell men are not content to sit on the bleachers and criticize the actions of the players on life's gridiron, but are taking a hand themselves in the game."

Justice Pound cautioned his hearers not to be carried away by words in the matter of the mooted restoration of the honor system. He said it did not incite him to crime just to see a policeman on his beat, and could not understand why a student could be impelled to cheat at examinations because a professor was in the room with him.

Professor Catterall closed the speaking with an appeal to alumni to forward the work on the new athletic field, and he also referred to the great need of more comforts for the students at the University in the form of dormitories, eating halls and clubhouses.

President Cooke announced that another smoker would be given by the association in January, and that the annual dinner would be held in February.

The following Cornell men were present:

Walter P. Cooke, '91; C. S. Jones, '84; O. J. Lutz, '93; E. F. Knibloe, '73; C. C. Wood, '74; H. L. Lyon, '72; G. C. Miller, '90; Eugene Cary, '78, Niagara Falls; W. C. Krauss, '84; C. W. Johnson, '04, Niagara Falls; A. S. Tennant, '03, Mayville; G. D. Crofts, '01; W. J. Warner, '03; M. M. Drake, Jr., '99; A. B. Weber, '06; E. W. Jones, '06; J. W. Persons, '06, East Aurora; E. L. Parker, '71; G. A. Carleton, '97, North Tonawanda; Eugene Kinsey, '01, La Salle; C. R. McSparren, '04; D. S. Moore, '94, Lockport; J. S. Shearer, '93; C. J. Miller, '90, Newfane; E. H. Terrer, '91, Lockport; E. B. Cary, '00, Lockport; G. S. Crosier, '05; F. D. Bosche, '05; R. S. Kent, '02; V. C. Mott, '95; P. C. Dudley, '05; J. A. Magoffin, '02, North Tonawanda; J. H. Madden, '07; O. D. Roats, '06; E. T. Williams, '90, Niagara Falls; R. K. Robertson, '04; F. H. Peters, '06; E. E. Haslam, '96, Niagara Falls; J. L. Tiernon, '95; I. H. Myers, '77; R. J. Moore, '01, Niagara Falls; H. D. Garre'son, '05; John Scarr, '05; Max Hartwig, '05; J. F. Fairbairn, '02; G. W. Grattan, '02; W. B. Sumner, '06; A. T. Jones, '06; S. L. Nelson, '02; W. W. Zittel, '04; Bryant Flem-

ing, '01; E. W. Jameson, '04; L. F. Wing, '93; C. E. Kelsey, '03, North Tonawanda; F. A. Abbott, '90; W. G. Barney, '86; Francis Looney, '76; F. M. Moore, '77; F. H. Callan, '90; W. M. Dollar, '89; Vernon Cole, '92; G. H. Hall, '03, Niagara Falls; L. M. Francis, '98; Parton Swift, '98; J. B. Fenton, '98; J. E. Neary, '06, Niagara Falls; I. R. Giles, '06, Niagara Falls; F. W. Darling, '02; T. A. Sullivan, '91; P. D. Dunn, '04; J. M. Harwood, '04; W. C. White, '93; M. F. Dimberger, Jr., '01; D. V. Murphy, '90; Daniel Upton, '90; F. E. Wade, '89; E. P. Reynolds, '94; H. S. Williams, '95; J. C. Trefts, '02; Warren Tubbs, '04; A. F. Siebold, '05; C. G. Babcock, '96; W. N. Bird, '80; Henry Altmaan, '73; L. W. Simpson, '96; C. J. Seymore, '91; G. D. Conlee, '05; C. H. Bierbaum, '91; P. E. Wurs, '99; F. W. Ely, '90; I. P. Bishop, '77; R. M. Codd, Jr., '97; J. B. Richards, '96; J. L. Ahern, '94; H. L. Nuese, '06; C. G. Hardie, '02; J. A. Hamilton, '92; C. D. Stephan, '94; A. H. Berry, '94; Lawrence Hendee, '02; Fred C. Busch, '95; Alfred H. Clark, '99; F. O. Bissell, '91; Porter R. Lee, '03; H. B. Lee, '99; F. W. Rope, '04; R. A. Edson, '06; E. L. Brady, '72; C. D. Coyle, '99; R. B. Hamilton, '96; Harry Seymour, '75; M. M. Wilner, '88; J. J. Hurley, '93.

### The Chicago Concert.

The Cornell Alumni Association of Chicago has appointed a general committee and a number of sub-committees to supervise the arrangements for the concert of the Musical Clubs to be given at Orchestra Hall in Chicago on Monday evening, Dec. 31. They are made up as follows:

#### GENERAL COMMITTEE OF TWENTY.

J. K. Cady, '76 (President), Chairman of General Committee of Twenty, 172 Washington street; John R. Bensley, '00, (Secretary), 3933 Ellis avenue.

#### SUB-COMMITTEE, SOCIAL AND ENTERTAINMENT.

R. C. Meysenburg, '98, Chairman; John H. Wynne, '98; J. Allen Haines, '99; James M. Gilchrist, '00; Erskine P. Wilder, '05; LeRoy Woodland, '06.

#### SUB-COMMITTEE, PUBLICITY.

L. C. Fuller, '97, Chairman; Charles S. Young, '95; Graham C. Patterson, '04.

#### SUB-COMMITTEE, ATTENDANCE.

C. M. Howe, '97, Chairman; William A. Day, '86; W. H. Baldwin, '89; Arthur C. Field, '91; Spencer L. Adams, '93; Maham H. Haig, '00; C. M. Vail, '02; Lawrence Viles, '04.

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William H. Brown, Secretary and Treasurer.

**CREW VICTORY CELEBRATED.**

Speeches by President Schurman and Coach Courtney—Rowing History.

Students filled Sibley dome on Wednesday evening, Dec. 5, at a meeting held to celebrate the rowing victory at Poughkeepsie last June. The feature of the occasion was an illustrated lecture on the triumphs of Cornell crews of former years, given by Professor C. V. P. Young, '99, who told a number of interesting stories about the early days of rowing at the University. The pictures shown were from Coach Courtney's collection. Mr. Courtney himself was present.

Professor Frank Irvine, '80, presided, and after the Glee Club had led in the singing of "Alma Mater" and had responded to two encores, he made a short speech in which he explained the purpose of the meeting. He said that the crew races came at the wrong time of the year for a celebration, and that consequently such a gathering as the present one was likely to be more or less perfunctory, and to give the impression that the University community took the success of its crew and the achievements of the coach with complacency. Indeed, he said, complacency was a natural result of so many years of almost continuous success as Cornell has had on the water, but it did not indicate any lack of enthusiasm.

President Schurman then spoke. He praised the work of the crew and the skill of Courtney, and proceeded to a discussion of athletics in general. He expressed the opinion that Cornell University had developed an ideal system of physical training and athletics. For the first two years of the course, all students were required to take regular physical training, which consisted of drill under an officer of the United States army during the first year, and gymnastics or athletics during the second year unless the student elected to continue drill. Within certain limits, the student was permitted to take his athletics in the form which was most attractive to him, so that while hundreds of students might be found any day going through gymnastic exercises, other hundreds were engaged in outdoor recreation. Under this system, he said, intercollegiate athletics took its proper place as an incident to the

physical training, sports and recreations of the students.

President Schurman then explained the recent faculty action in reference to drill. He said:

"The War Department is considering the question whether theoretical instruction should not be substituted for military drill at the colleges and universities to which officers of the army are detailed. At Cornell this theoretical instruction is already provided, being given in the later years of the course. The faculty committee on university policy has unanimously instructed Captain Barton to report to the War Department that from the point of view of the University the

abandonment of military drill would be a mistake. Besides its value as a means of physical training, we attach another importance to military drill in the colleges and universities. In the event of an insurrection—which God forbid!—or of a foreign war, it is highly important that this nation have a large body of men, *educated* men, trained in the elements of military science, on whom it can rely for effective service in the preservation of order or in national defence."

Having concluded his address, the President handed to a representative of the College of Civil Engineering the intercollege rowing trophy which was won by that college last May. This



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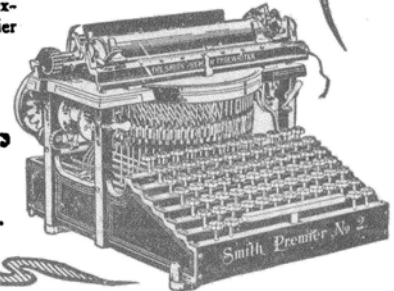
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trophy is a cup which was presented by John H. Barr, '89.

Professor Young then delivered his address on the history of Cornell rowing, and more than fifty lantern slides were exhibited.

In concluding, Professor Young called Coach Courtney to the platform. The "Old Man" was greeted with a long yell. He made a short speech in which he urged the freshmen to turn out for the crew, and said there was no reason why they should not have a winning eight at Poughkeepsie next June. After Coach Courtney had concluded amid cheers, the Glee Club sang the "Evening Song" and the meeting closed with three short yells for the crew.

**Cook Re-elected Captain.**

The members of the football team met in the Armory on Tuesday evening, Dec. 4, and re-elected George Tandy Cook, '08, of Canton, Ohio, captain of the team for the season of 1907. Cook was captain throughout the season just past, having been elected on April 18 of this year to take the place of Ray Van Orman, '08.

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