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The Wellesley News (02-01-1905)

Wellesley College

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PROF. SPINGARN'S ADDRESS.

Through the courtesy of the Phi Sigma Fraternity all members of the college were invited to hear Professor Spingarn of Columba University lecture at Billings Hall, Saturday afternoon. Known to us only as the author of that fine piece of scholarly work "The History of Literary Criticism in the Renaissance," it was a chance of peculiar interest to hear him speak on a subject whose very title carries with it some of that old beauty of romance, "The Ideal Gentleman of the Renaissance." Though Professor Spingarn did not tell who or what in particular were those bygone knights and courtiers, still his history of the ideal which they held, of its slow fading and present, and its final inheritance in the future, brought them very near. They seemed, the whole great host of them, like a brilliant pageant moving just beyond our eyes, distinguishing of individuals.

Professor Spingarn pointed first to that furthest group of all, the men who became crusaders. They had lost much of the rough savagery, the sheer brutality of their Teutonic fathers but their spirit was still wholly a martial one. Their ideal was of strength, of prowess in arms, and it had no softening element tull the church, establishing orders of secular knighthood joined to it the high earnestness of a passionately religious spirit.

From the perfect knight of the Crusades with his splendor of native strength and shining armor, his desire of honor and of God, came naturally the knightly courtier of Provence. His world had grown rich and beautiful, he had less need of fighting and a great need of pleasure. In small but brilliant feudal courts, "in alliance with fair ladies," he became preoccupied with his manners. Professor Spingarn gave an amusing example of the stock conversations prevalent in this dawn of "polite society," a dispute of the relative fairness of English and Gascon ladies. Telling briefly then of the absorption of these smaller courts in the movement of European centralization, of the scattering of the knights, seeking personal advancement of new and larger centers, he showed how they had necessity to enter into these "two gateways of the Renaissance, Humanism and Courtliness;" how they found in one the sensuous beauty and learning of Antiquity, in the other the beauty of medieval chivalry. Worshiping loveliness with a pagan enthusiasm, careless beyond all limit for a perfection of skill, an infinite variation of accomplishment as poet, scholar, musician, courtier, lover, these gentlemen of the Renaissance elevated culture in its broadest sense to its ideal, but lost it much of the martial and wholly the religious spirit of medieval times. They had become courtiers of a type most perfectly-described in "Toscan Castiglione's" "Book of the Courtier."

This "book, formulating the ideal of the early sixteenth century Italian gentleman, established the rule throughout Europe, and the gay, learned courtier kept on his prescribed way, till by natural decay, his courtesy became a thing of listless ease, his chivalry a "lip kindness," his honor a matter for an "external coifed system, the duello of Spain," to decide. By the eighteenth century he had lost his inheritance of the soul earnest passion of mediaevalism, of the magnificent all embracing culture of the Renaissance, that his ideal could be no more than one fit for a beaux or a quibbling wit. It needed the French Revolution, with its rising of the common people, its establishment of a moral sense in reaction from the license of courtly society, to establish that it had on the new broad basis of honor, social democracy. From that time dates the ideal that admits gentleman to all spheres of activity, asking of them only honesty and humanitarianism.

At the close of the lecture, there was a reception given at the Phi Sigma House at which Professor Spingarn met various members of the Faculty and some students.

MISS BACON'S LECTURE.

Public interest is so concentrated on the situation in the far East, that every additional bit of information is gladly welcomed, especially by college girls, who have so little time to keep posted. It was, therefore, with great anticipation of pleasure and profit, that students of the History Department went to hear Miss Alice Bacon, who talked on Wednesday afternoon, January twenty-fifth, on "The Relations between Japan and Korea."

There are three reasons, the speaker said, why Japan is ready to rush to arms, whenever Korea is mentioned, and these she divided into economic, merely political, and the most important, sentimental. To understand the present relation of Japan to Korea, it is necessary to know the whole history of their intercourse, especially with the Christian Era.

Miss Bacon then sketched briefly, but in a clear, forceful, and most interesting way, the history, from the first invasion of Korea by the Japanese in the thirteenth century, the teachings of Buddhism, were introduced into the Island Empire. It was because of this that Kuba Bokatae, in the sixteenth century, planned to invade Korea. He was at first unsuccessful, because the Japanese thought it discourteous to attack during the landing of the Tartars. They were, however, driven back to their ships, and the armada wrecked by a storm. Seven years later, a second invasion was defeated, the only incident in history when men with artillery were conquered by men with swords, and bows and arrows. This great victory resulted in the beginning of Japan's naval strength, and in the infesting of the Korean and Chinese coasts by Japanese pirates, an additional method of gaining civilization.

Miss Bacon speaks with great authority of conditions in Japan, owing to her extensive acquaintance with the people. She is a member of the New Haven family of Bacon, and when she was a child, some Japanese girls sent to this country to be educated, were received into her father's family. One of these girls, a Vaassar graduate is now the wife of Marquis Oyama. For some years Miss Bacon has lived in Japan, as head of the Normal School for Peacemakers, in Tokyo. She is the author of "Girls and Women in Japan."
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COLLEGE CALENDAR.

February 1-2, 1:15 P.M., in Billings Hall, two recitals by the students in the Department of Music.
February 2, 7:30 P.M., Social Association.
February 4, 1:30 P.M., lecture by Mr. Robert A. Woods. Subject: “Town and Village Conditions.”
February 6, 7:30 P.M., in Billings Hall, artists’ concert. Miss Mary Howe in scenes from opera, in costume.

COLLEGE NOTES.

Miss Oliver Cook, 1908, has left college permanently.
Miss Ethel Pomeroy. 1906, has left college for this year.
At the meeting of the American Psychological Association at Philadelphia during the holidays, Professor Calkins was elected president for the year 1905. This is the first time that a woman has ever been chosen to fill this office. The retiring president is Professor William James of Harvard.

The Scrubbers’ Club met in the Alphas Kappa Chi House, Friday evening, January 20. Miss Cadwell read a story.

A meeting of the Student Government Association was held Friday, January 27. Miss Genevieve Wheeler (1906) was elected representative of the International Institute League for girls in Spain. Miss Carolyn Nelson (1905) made an appeal to the Association for sympathy and financial aid for the people of Russia. It was announced that the last furniture has been ordered for the Student Government Office.

Miss Katerina Tsilka, the Bulgarian companion of Miss Ellen M. Stone during her six months’ captivity among the brigands of Macedonia, will deliver a lecture in the Wellesley Congregational Church, Wednesday evening, February 1, at 7:30 o’clock. She speaks English fluently and tells a thrilling story of her experience during that terrible winter of 1901-2 in the Balkan Mountains. Little Elena Tsilka, born in captivity, now three years old, will be introduced to the audience. Admission 25 cents.

Miss Frances Kellor, secretary of the Bureau of Household Research, will speak at the College next Saturday afternoon under the auspices of the College Settlements Association, on the opportunities open to college women in social and civic service. As a C. S. A. fellow, Miss Kellor has for three years past been engaged in a study of employment bureaus in New York, Philadelphia and Boston. Students of the Department of Economics and all others interested are asked to meet Miss Kellor after the address, in the Faculty parlor, in order to hear somewhat in detail of the methods of investigation in this field.

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WELLESLEY'S ALDINE COLLECTION.

The history of the Aldine press begins back in the fifteenth century with the attempts of Aldus Manutius to make more universal the classic tongues. He was a scholar of great learning, who lived at the time of the Renaissance revival and was the close friend of Pico della Mirandola, patron to Erasmus, and adviser of half the great scholars of the day. His printing was from the first a labor of love, for the new art already was spread among more than a hundred printers. But nobody had attempted the task of making the Greek manuscripts widely available, partly from the vastness of the undertaking and partly except to scholars. Greek was a language little used. To the scholars in those early days, fell not only the mechanical task of typesetting, but of editing and publishing as well. Nevertheless in an incredibly short time Aldus had brought out many of the most famous and some of the lesser Greek works—for which he never fully received remuneration. Of these earliest books, the College has none in the Greek text, but there are some belonging to the period directly following, still classified as the "First Period" of the Aldine work. A volume of Petrarch, dated 1501, belongs to the Wellesley collection, valuable not only for being one of the first books printed by Aldus in the Italian tongue, but also for its type and size. Formerly all books had been as ponderous as an unabridged dictionary, but this volume of Petrarch is very nearly a pocket edition. The revolution is due to the invention by this progressive scholar, of a new type, known to us as italics, a term invented by the French book pirates in order to evade the patent rights of Aldus. He is said to have gained the idea by a study of Petrarch's fine Italian handwriting. The second book in order of date in the collection is quite as interesting as the first, being a first edition of Dante's "La Terza Rima." It was in this edition that Aldus first used the famous imprint of the dolphin and anchor, a device which the motto "testa lente" "true but slowly" interpreted to mean that the work of Aldus was both quick and accurate. The copy owned by the College does not bear the dolphin and anchor, being struck off early in the edition; while the device was thought of after some books had already been printed. The price of the books of Aldus was now a little less than sixty cents; our money, enormously cheap, considering that the former price had been about sixty dollars. A quaint and beautifully printed volume is the "Book of the Courtesie," by Count Baldesca Castiglione.

The death of Aldus Manutius in 1515 brought to a close the first period of the Aldine press, and during the minority of Aldus' son Paulus, the business was carried on by Paulus' uncle. The decadence of the work began with the death of Aldus. Among the most valuable books of the second period owned by the college are Cicero's Orations, date 1519, and a copy of Anicius, 1517, in octavo volumes. Paulus took up the business in 1519, but his books were not so perfectly printed as in the early times. He was an ardent Ciceronian, and the books which showed the most loving care are the letters of Cicero, and his own Latin translation of Demosthenes. To this period belongs the discourse of Nicholas Machiavelli, among other volumes of letters perhaps less unique, to be seen in Billings Hall.

The son of Paulus, Aldus Manutius, the younger, succeeded in 1561. He was a youth possessing marvelous precocity, which, however, was not so lasting as his grandfather's genius. He made an extensive collection of letters. In the Filippo collection are the "Letters of Ambibale Caro," remarkable for their elegance.

The dolphin of the elder Aldus always appears, but it is sometimes surrounded by an elaborate design, and surmounted by a crest. A volume printed in 1568 shows a title page of complicated design engraved on wood. This book is the latest in the College collection, as Aldus the younger died four years later.

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I.
It is, I think, admitted by the more enlightened members of the medical profession that, leaving surgery out of account, the success of the practice of medical science has been due in part to the prevention of disease, not in its cure. The greatest obstacles in the progress of such prevention have been, always, superstition, ignorance of hygiene and undisciplined sentiment. There is no record of more patient courage than that which has overcome the first two of these obstacles in so far that smallpox, yellow fever and cholera have nowhere appeared from the places where they used to be most deadly, while diphtheria and tuberculosis are no longer enemies that walk in darkness.

It is becoming generally known that, besides these grave maladies, such diseases as tonsillitis, gripe and the various forms of influenza are, commonly, contagious. We are all aware that our college community is, or has been, suffering from a mild but prevalent epidemic of some sort. It must be evident to all that hospital isolation is, with so many cases to be cared for, impossible. What, in these circumstances, is the duty of the victim toward the social body, and of society toward the victim? It would seem a simple matter, being ill, to say: "I must, for a few days, even at the price of loneliness, spare my friends all possible danger of contagion." Or, being well, I must, even at the price of misunderstanding, try not to expose myself needlessly lest I pass on the common peril to other people." As a matter of fact, what is our preventive? A student is ill with gripe or tonsillitis and sympathizers gather half-a-dozen at a time. They sit in "circle-wise" about the bed, consoling the invalid, but exhausting her supply of air, and, finally, each goes her way, to establish, after a few days, a like center of infection in her own room.

Turning back a few centuries, even a few generations, it is easy to find a society in which to be ill was equivalent to giving invitations for a reception; but, under contemporary conditions, this sort of social gathering takes place, I believe, nowhere except in college dormitories and in halls tenanted by the North End of Boston. One is likely to find a person sick with some infectious disease in a room crowded with men, women and children. Yet, even in the North End, the cards posted upon houses by the Board of Health are in some degree respected; while in Wellesley college a warning signed by the visiting physician has been disregarded and even removed, and at least one case of measles has been concealed. Such removal and such concealment would, of course, in the North End constitute an action punishable by law. The best prevention of disease is exercise, good temper and work; the earliest transmitters of contagion are worry and alarm; but sheer thoughtlessness rarely helps anybody.

Reformers tell us that women are deficient in social science, yet, surely, to all of us the well-being of our college community is dear. Any one of us would be foolishly most of us would be foolishly most of us would be foolishly most foolish to risk to serve another's need. May we not do better, and, even in this mercifully tempered visitation control our kindly but crude impulses, and learn a lesson of more intelligent sedentary—of wider-reaching altruism?

Sophie Jewett.

II.

Once again the sword of Damocles hangs by a thread—this time to fall on the heads of the thoughtless. If any "gentle reader" entertained her gentleman friend through the last musical vesper, let her not read this organ of free-speech—or, rather, let her read that she may avoid meeting in some cold, dark, damy spot this black-browed spirit.

One who loves musical vespers as one of the best treasures of our college life can hardly find any annoyance more insufferable than the neighborhood of whisperers. And so widespread has this thoughtlessness become that the time seems auspicious for some daring Cassandra to prod the community consciousness. Is musical vesper, I may ask, to become a reception-room wherein to entertain one's gentleman guests? And is the spirit of note-taking so strong that one must needs employ her program to eavesdrop news to distant friends? Surely those who appreciate the kind generosity of our college organist, and the personal thoughtfulness of our president in making musical vespers a tremulous-house of good things will challenge such an abuse. What punishment the Olympians might send to crush out such disturbers, one may not say. But only the thunderbolts of Jove are heavy enough to launch at the student who will hum throughout Handel's Largo.

Sir Oracle has spoken and the dogs may bark, but at least the wrath of one sufferer has been relieved for a little space.

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What wonder those fancies could never be quiet!

Lesson, lesson in a book!
Sharky caught it with a look,
Smartly blushed it, "cause she can.
Puckily flanked it like a man!

There was a small maiden lived up on the Hill,
And if she’s not gone, she lives there still.
Rich judges she ate and Peters and pies,
And yet this small maiden was said to be wise.

Curly Locks, Curly Locks; wilt thou be mine?
And come up next Sunday to Stone Hall and dine?
Thou shalt find daintiness, as thou longedest of old.
And be served in the Parlor with coffee and cream.

There was a girl in Our Town and she was wondrous wise.
She paid off all her debts one day, to everyone’s surprise:
And when with all her might and main she settled every score.
She straightway went to work, alas! and soon incurred some more.

"Where are you going, my pretty maid?"
"To catch the Elevator, sir," she said.
"It’s just gone up, my pretty maid" —
"I’ll meet it on the next floor," she said.

Eeny, meeny, miny, mo!
Catch a froggie by the toe!
If he gurgles, let him go.
Eeny, meeny, miny, mo!

Mary, Mary, quite contrary,
How does your English plot grow?
With psychic freaks, and genius streaks,
And confidences all in a row!

Hi diddle diddle!
Ruth played on her fiddle.
The quiet bell rang too soon;
The proctor laughed
To think of the sport,
She didn’t enjoy the tune!

Sing a song of Midyears,—
Our sprits to beguile,—
Several thousand bluebooks,
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When the books are opened,
Most wondrous things are seen;
Now won’t there be some pretty marks
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ALUMNAE NOTES.

The 1909 news-sheet is now ready for distribution and members of the class are requested to obtain copies as soon as possible. The price is seventy-five cents, and the money (not stamps) should be sent with proper address to the Class Secretary, Miss Clara Curtis, 90 Winthrop street, Boston, Massachusetts.

The following change of address has been received: Mrs. Claire Morrison Case, 1902, 90 Winthrop street, Willimantic, Connecticut.

Professor Kendall brings from India an interesting account of the work of Dr. Jessie R. Carleton, student at Wellesley, 1880-1882, M. D., 1883, Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, who has been a missionary under the Presbyterian Board since 1886. Dr. Carleton was born in India in the Punjab, and is now in Umbala in charge of a hospital well equipped by Philadelphia women who are interested in the work. This hospital is "purely," or free from men's presence, and she has been most successful in inducing women of all classes to undergo treatment there. Her work at the time of the plague was very remarkable and she is regarded as the friend of the people. In the course of her duties she rides and drives at night without hesitation. Miss Kendall reports that Dr. Carleton and the Civil Surgeon practically manage the district. Her own home is a bungalow on Kim's old trunk road.

Mrs. Charlotte Allen Farnsworth is serving as Social Head of Whittier Hall, the women's dormitory connected with Columbia University and The Teachers' College in New York City. Her husband is professor of Music in the University.

Miss Grace G. Rickey, 1893, has been with her brother in Indiana for the past year. Her address is 316 South Franklin street, South Bend, Indiana.

Mrs. May Pitkin Wallace, 1893, is Dean of Women and Associate Professor of English at Beloit College. Professor Wallace has recently accepted an appointment in the English Literature Department at the University of Toronto, entering upon his duties this winter. Mrs. Wallace's resignation goes into effect at the close of this college year and she will join Professor Wallace in Toronto.

Those who are interested in the business enterprises of college graduates will be glad to hear something about "The Little Laundry on the South Lee Road," which was opened and managed last summer by Miss Charlotte Goodrich, 1885. The building is the old Farmhouse on the farm in the Berkshires between Stockbridge and Lee, where Miss Goodrich and her sisters have built their summer home, and the idea of opening the laundry was suggested by the difficulty in getting such work properly done, and the fact that the presence of a large number of summer visitors made a great demand for it. The laundry was started with two thoroughly trained colored women from Virginia, and the work was all done by hand under careful supervision and so successfully that more helpers of the right kind would have been welcome. The experiment has been so successful and the business management so interesting that Miss Goodrich plans to open again with a larger force of workers in the summer of 1905.

Miss Elizabeth Evans, 1897, is spending the winter with her brother in West Philadelphia. Her address is Chester avenue and 42nd street.

Miss Florence E. Hastings, 1897, after three years of teaching in Iowa College, went last June to Berlin for a year of study.

ENGAGEMENTS ANNOUNCED.

Miss Lelia Ward Day, 1907, to Mr. Frank H. Stevens of Boston.

MARRIAGES.

PARKER—BURDETT. At Pittsford, Vermont, December 28, 1904, Miss Carrie Mason Burdett, 1904, to Mr. John Earl Parker.

DEATHS.

At Portsmouth, New Hampshire, January 6, 1905, Mrs. James Wright Hoyt, mother of Sophie O. Hoyt, 1896.


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A MAETERLINCK PLAY.

"Sister Beatrice," one of Maeterlinck's recent plays, is to be presented in Boston by the Dramatic Committee of the Twentieth Century Club. The play is an exceedingly interesting one, embodying as it does, a charming medieval legend of the man whose place in her convent was taken by the Virgin, when she, Sister Beatrice, had been led back to the world by love.

So great was interest in this play that the seats for the Boston performance were sold out in a single day. It is now proposed to give a special Wellesley matinee of "Sister Beatrice" on Monday afternoon, February sixth. The regular price of orchestra seats is one dollar, but if there are a hundred students of the College to take tickets the price will be reduced to seventy-five-cents and the tickets will be delivered to the College. If there are fewer than seventy-five applicants there will be no reduction in price and tickets must be purchased in Boston. The performance is to be given at Jordan Hall, on Huntington avenue.

The play will be briefly introduced by Professor de Sumichrast of Harvard University. One of the most interesting features of the performance will be the music. The supernatural presence of the Virgin in the place of Beatrice is heralded by a burst of c'estim music—the ancient canticle to the Virgin—Ave Maria Stella. This is to be sung by the Choristers of the Church of the Advent. The choir master, Mr. A. W. Snow, will use the old plain song of the fourteenth century, suited to the period of the play. Another ancient plain song, "O'Gorton's Virgo," will be used as incidental music. The Virgin's song at the opening of act two is a melody composed for the occasion by Helen A. Clarke, Mr. S. B. Whitney, organist of the Advent, will play "The Crede" from Marbecke plain song service of 1500, and a transcription of his own of "Tantum Ergo" whose theme is of unknown age and authorship. Mr. A. W. Snow, sub-organist, will play a prelude. Bach, and a choral of Kemberger.

The opportunity of seeing and hearing this performance of "Sister Beatrice" acted now for the first time in this country, is unique, and it is hoped that it will be appreciated and embraced by as many members of the College as possible.

GRADUATE CLUB.

The Graduate Club of Wellesley College has adopted a most interesting scheme for its series of meetings during this year. From time to time there will be presented to the club a series of talks by the heads of the different academic departments in which the club members are working. At the December meeting Miss Calkins gave a most interesting talk on the relation of graduate to undergraduate work, showing the attitude which Wellesley takes towards its graduate work. The second department talk was given by Miss Brown, January 17, when a most interesting phase of modern art education was presented. During the remainder of the year, the club is planning further meetings representing work in the departments of German, Botany, English and English Literature.

THEATER NOTES.


Tremont Theater—James K. Hackett in "The Fortunes of the King.


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