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The Wellesley News (05-18-1910)

Wellesley College

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Exhibition of Gymnastics and Dancing.

Wednesday evening, May 11, the Department of Hygiene and Physical Education gave an exhibition of gymnastics and dancing in Mary Hemenway Hall.

The exhibition was opened by the drill of the entire school, which, with its straight lines, sharp corners and excellent spacing, was a model of exactness and grace. There followed the floor and apparatus work of the juniors, under Dr. Louis Collins, the features of which were as follows: hand travelling of various kinds, balance weight, full hanging, face vault on the horse, running free jumps and balance beam work. The floor work showed remarkable precision and good form, and the apparatus work showed ease and agility, the landings being especially commendable.

The aesthetic dancing, under Miss Fleenor, consisted of two numbers: "Starlight" and "Motor-march." The former was somewhat slow in movement, and showed rare grace and poise. The latter was especially appealing for its quick rhythm and agile pirouettes. The dancing throughout showed that the department is aiming to teach strict technique of movement, with appreciation of mood and rhythm, combined with freedom and naturalness.

The folk-dances, under the direction of Miss Williams, were particularly interesting from an educational standpoint. These dances aim to portray the nationality of their origin, and develop the natural juvenile instincts of joy in music and rhythm.

The class in social dancing gave two numbers, Vairsovienne, a formal dance of the most polished and graceful type, and Topaz, which was lighter and more fantastic in tone.

The senior drill and gymnastic work showed the most severe and finished work the department does. Their drill was flawless in its form and instantaneous response to commands, and their doubting a work of art. The floor and apparatus work was much more advanced than that of the juniors, and showed remarkable powers of endurance and skill in balancing, etc. The tip-toe march was unusually well done, and the side-vault and fencing drill were undeniably the most artistic and difficult floor work of the evening. Their apparatus work was extremely arduous, but was taken, on the whole, very easily. Its features were: span-bending at the bar-stalls, alternate hand travelling, swing jump on the boom, somersault on the boom, ladder, rope and balance beam work, vaults on the horse, the boom and between the double booms.

The exhibition was concluded with the marching and breathing drill of the entire school.

Those who were privileged to attend the exhibition will agree in the fine grade of the work done by the department, its case, finish, precision and enduring powers; and regret that the college at large could not have the same opportunity of appreciating it.

Address to the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

On Monday evening, May 9, President Macaulair of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology addressed the Eta of Massachusetts chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society on "Present Tendencies Away from Individualism." He pointed out how the type of theology prevalent a century or two ago, with its emphasis upon the relation between the individual soul and its Maker, was to the strong man an element of his strength, though it failed to produce the altruistic attitude that characterizes the present age. The newer ideals permeate all our social conceptions, as is evidenced by the widespread view of society as an organism. Such conceptions shape our practical life in all its manifold phases. Commerce and industry alike force the individual into an insignificant place in a great system, and in the course of this process he loses much that differentiates him from other individuals. Other agencies assist in submerging the differences between one person and another; fashion makes us dress alike, and newspapers make us think alike. Education, too, increases the points of likeness and threatens to do still further, since various influences are tending to cast even the different colleges in the same mould. Such encouragements as the Carnegie Foundation and the General Education Fund may yet make it possible for a few men to shape the whole higher education of the country. The tendencies away from individualism involve, to be sure, much that is good and necessary, and there is reason to hope that we may find some way to keep that good and yet to avert the disasters that would follow if the present movement were to go on unchecked.

After the address an opportunity was given to meet President Macaulair in the Horsford parlor.

LECTURE BY DR. COOK.

On Friday evening, May 13, Dr. Cook addressed the Philosophy Club on "Some Aspects of the Mind-Body Problem." The conflict in the mind-body problem is, in the end, between interaction, which conceives mind and body connected in a causal chain, and parallelism, where the relation is one of concomitant variation. The question is not ontological, because arguments on that basis are not decisive one way or the other. Logic demands a continuous and closed series, with every point both cause and effect.

Another class of arguments contrasts teleological with mechanical action. Consciousness is known to be teleological, brain changes mechanical. Here the argument is again indecisive. If consciousness follows the same mechanical changes as the brain, the question arises as to what chance there is for moral activity. The parallelist inquires how consciousness can be teleological, unless volitions have effect on bodily motions. The interactionist brings out the fact that consciousness is the product of long evolutionary processes, in which only that which is of use has been retained.

The solution of the problem lies in the view that teleological and mechanical operations are not mutually exclusive—but are the same process from different points of view. For it is not demanded that a causal explanation between the events of the two chains, but merely that the correspondence be regular. An other than causal relation may be just as invariable as a causal. In this case either side may believe in determinism or the free will. The decision must finally be made from empirical evidence, of which we have not yet enough to determine the nature of the relation. That the correspondence between the events in brain change and conscious action is regular, has been observed. It is still a question whether or not these events form a continuous temporal series, i.e. whether the steps occur successively or simultaneously.

One demand made by logic is that the total cause and total effect must be quantitatively equal. Bearing on this point is the theory of Dr. Montague, who holds that consciousness is potential energy, between the kinetic energy of the brain change and that of the bodily reaction. Some writers deny that consciousness can be quantitatively measured. According to others, there is a "more and less" of consciousness, which Weber's law is an attempt to state. Though the relation is indirect and we cannot measure intensities by arbitrary units, neither can the physicist measure potential energy except in terms of kinetic energy. If it be objected that this theory is materialistic, it may be asked what the nature of energy really is.

Causal relations in consciousness do not invalidate other relations. The relation of effect to cause seems to be quantitative; there are also qualitative relations, as of symbol to thing symbolized. As there is a great deal of empirical evidence still to be gained, we should not limit the possible relations to those of which we already have knowledge.
College News

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EDITORIAL.

The time has come again to eagerly scan the "Courses of Instruction," to weigh and balance and elect your next year's subjects; and as there are few things the News prints to a timelier editorial, it seized upon its opportunity with avidity. No doubt you had advice from almost all of your instructors and perhaps from your family at home as well, but the News, with what some may consider an inflated idea of the value of its opinions as a non-partisan and non-academic opinion, assumes an equal share of your attention for a few moments.

In the first place, the News thinks it a very poor plan to begin by inquiring among your friends about easy courses—as such. For a person whose program as a whole is to be a heavy one, such a method of electing may, perhaps, be justifiable, but in the student who is only trying to dodge hard work, it is far from commendable. You may have a preparatory school with little or no mental effort, but a somewhat different attitude—the word will creep in—is expected of you now. You are here to work, to be interested in your work and in your own intellectual development; and your courses should be chosen in view of these facts. The writer could very easily say that the only course she ever picked because it was one of the proverbial "snaps" was changed over summer. Subsequent observation has proven that it is always so. The course that is easy for one student is not always easy for every student, and the general "snaps" are few and far between. This is one of those cases where the nobler purpose gains, for not only are you likely to find more work than you expected in the course you chose this drilling way, but you are also liable to find it ungenial, or unprofitable in its bearing on your work as a whole. Don't be afraid of work—mental gymnastics are quite as good for one as the physical kind.

Next the News would speak of general culture courses. General culture courses are very nice things in their way. Like precious metals they serve their put to a purpose in enabling you to look knowing while you discourse fluently on Wordsworth as a poet of nature, Goethe as a "harmonische Natur," or Titian as a famous colorist, whereas your real knowledge on any one of these topics could be concentrated on an inch of foolscap. You seize upon a few scraps of information or bits of criticism let fall by the instructor, and to anyone familiar with these books, objects, or peoples therein, are pitiful if not ludicrous. There are no interesting variations to the tune played on one string. You must realize that these courses are in general only background for the real knowledge of a subject. It may seem a waste of time to spend a year studying Milton or the French Revolution when you might cover some dozen authors or several periods of history in the same time; but there is a power of creative criticism, a faculty of seeing a thing more and bearing upon the whole that is gained only by intensive study. A standard of taste is formed and a knowledge of methods acquired that is applied ingrat and advantageous to many other studies outside of one of these special departments. There is so much more to be gotten out of such concentrated courses than the mere title denotes that we would not balance one of them with several general culture courses.

Naturally enough there are some subjects in which you will not have the time to delve deeply, and yet with which it is necessary that you be somewhat familiar. This is where the litely-arranged general culture course comes into its own. To the student majoring in the sciences some lower grade courses in literature, history and languages are quite necessary. It is also hoped that the student who plans for some sixteen hours of literature will strengthen her course with philosophy, languages, or even that branch of literary folk, a science. Few of us seem to realize, as a member of the faculty said recently, that mere courses in science as well as in other subjects; and to those who come from preparatory schools where no science was required in the curriculum, nine hours or more would be little to devote to gaining a knowledge of the fundamentals of botany, physics and other sciences. Economics is another subject about which every person with pretences to culture should be informed. Courses in music and art may be necessary to some of us, and there are others that might be mentioned. The point is, that, having decided in what directions the larger proportion of your work is to be, you should discover your weak points and prescribe accordingly.

Of course you may not be able to minister to all of your failings, to take all the courses, you may want—these four years are much too short; you are called upon to exercise your individual judgment, to distinguish between the courses that are luxuries and those that are necessities, to choose between courses of more and less value and often between two courses of equal value. Your final aim in studying at college, the careful balancing of your work and often the personality of an instructor are considerations; and the News begs that you will consider them. So much of the shoddy and superficial work done in Wellesley, so much of the disappointment in our courses and a great deal of what is known of our "lack of intellectual atmosphere" might be traced to the careless and unwise manner in which we elect our courses. But now the News finds itself verging towards a discussion of the much-mooted topic of the elective system, and fearful of abusing your patience, pauses for the time being and retires to an inward contemplation.

(Continued on page 3.)

NOTICE.

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Editorial—Continued.

The inconvenience of the lead pencil edict in the library and the subsequent partial revocation permitting the use of ordinary pens, will, it is hoped, do something to mitigate the “ink-slinging” habit that is so prevalent among certain students, and which the recent trouble has brought into prominence. It is a thing that goes on continually in class rooms; if a fountain pen proves in the least refractory, its owner shakes it vigorously over the floor—often over her neighbor’s white skirt—and having sprinkled the neighborhood with a profusion of dark black spots, continues her writing most unconcernedly. The editor is pleased that something has at last occurred which will brand this person for what she is, a person with bad manners and slovenly habits. The great majority of the innocent suffer with the guilty in this case, but the editor feels that the possibility of curing some of these scampgraces fully justifies the most drastic measures the librarian could take. If only some of the absurd indulgences that result from the banishment of the fountain pen were turned upon those who caused the passing of this rule, the student body and the Library Committee might come sooner to a better understanding.

College Calendar.

Saturday, May 21, at 3:30 P.M., in College Hall Chapel, an address to students intending to teach, by Mrs. Eliza Carlisle Ripley, the teacher in Social Science.


At 7 P.M., in the chapel, vesper service, with special music.

Monday, May 23, at 7:30 P.M., a meeting of the Alliance Française.

At 7:30 P.M., in the Observatory House, a reception for the Department of Physics, with an exhibition of apparatus.

Gift to the Art Department.

Through the generosity of Professor Margarethe Möller, the Art Department has received a fine copy of Herr Mallr-Dachau’s Prodigal Son. Members of the college who were unable to see Herr Mallr’s work during the recent exhibition will find, in this example, much of the power and penetration which characterize his style.

Notice.

The following may be of interest to some of the students:

"Life" has announced a new competition open to all college students. "Life" will give one hundred dollars for the cleverest article suited to "Life"’s use on each college and its life. Every college student is eligible to compete. It is not necessary to be a subscriber to "Life". For all manuscripts which do not receive a prize, but which are deemed worthy of publication, "Life" will pay at its regular rates.

Conditions.

"Manuscripts should not be more than fifteen hundred words in length and should be typewritten when possible or written in a legible hand. Manuscripts should be written only on one side of the paper. The contest will close on June 1, 1910, no contributions received after that date being considered. The name and address of the sender and his class year should be written on the upper left-hand corner of each manuscript. Manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by return postage. No individual inquiries can be answered, but where an inquiry is of a general nature a reply covering the point at issue will be published in "Life." The competition is open also to girls’ colleges. All communications will be treated confidentially, and the author’s name will not be published unless so desired.

Address: College Contest, "Life", 17 West 31st Street, New York, N. Y.

College Notes.

Tae Zeta Epsilon reception did not take place as scheduled in last week’s New. "The Call of the Church to the College Woman" was the subject discussed in the Christian Association meeting at College Hall Chapel, Thursday evening. It was missed. Miss Walton led the visiting meeting, where the subject was "We Deceive Ourselves." For Fisher has been making interesting studies of the vibrations felt in different college buildings. By the stopping of the dynamos in the power house one night during the taking of a record on smoked paper these were conclusively shown to be the cause of the inconvenience. Methods of damping these disagreeable vibrations are under consideration.

On Monday, May 9, in the faculty parlor, the Eta of Massachusetts chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society initiated its new members.

Judge Raymond’s Address on Peace.

On Sunday evening, May 15, at the vesper service in Houghton Memorial Chapel, Judge R. F. Raymond, Director of the American Peace Society, gave an address on the subject of international peace. Judge Raymond said that one of the most hopeful signs of the times was the turning of men’s minds from the question of might to the question of right, in all departments of life, but especially in respect to relations between nations. The modern movement toward world-wide peace is a result of the same increase of attention to moral questions which has produced, or is producing, higher standards of ethics in business and municipal life, greater equity in law and in the distribution of the products of industry.

The progress of the peace movement has been marked by two Hague Conferences. The first one, in 1901, brought to pass three definite results. First, it established the principle of mediation in international law. Formerly, no nation might interfere between two warring nations without serious consequences; according to this modification of the law, each nation of the two between whom war might be imminent, may choose a neutral nation as a "second." These neutral nations are to be allowed to deliberate for at least thirty days before action is begun, in attempting to find a means of arbitration. Secondly, the Hague Conference established an International Commission of Inquiry. A signal example of the success of this commission is seen in the amicable settlement between Russia and England of the troubled question during the Russo-Japanese war, by a Russian fleet’s inadvertently firing upon some English fishing vessels in the Baltic. The third result of the first Hague Conference was the establishment of a permanent international court. All difficulties between nations may now be referred to the Hague tribunal, and not once has an ordering of that body been disregarded by any of the twenty-six leading nations represented in it.

The second Hague Conference came eight years after the first. Its results are not so obvious, but are even more significant than those of the first. It established an International Prize Court, for determining the justice of any case of the property of a hostile nation. It forbade the bombardment of all unfortified towns; it ruled that no financial claim may be collected by force from any nation by any other nation, and arbitration has been proposed and refused. Most important of all, it provided for a third Hague Conference in 1915, and others at regular intervals thereafter.

Such hopeful signs of the times, Judge Raymond concluded, surely point toward universal unity and justice, and ultimately to the federation of the world.
FREE PRESS.

I.

Is there not some Senior who would like to give her services, in residence, to the Italian Department of Denison House next year? Marian Savage, 1909, who has been in residence this season, leaves us to accept a settlement position in New York. Having known the help of an added worker, we lovers of Little Italy do not see how we are to prosper without it.

Board at Denison House costs from six to nine dollars a week. No knowledge of Italian is necessary. The work is under the direction of the writer, and of Miss Mary Gove Smith, head of the Italian Department. It consists in the practical application of goodwill to the multiform and often interesting needs of an immigrant population. I shall be glad to make this statement concrete to any who may care to consult me. We offer all applicants a very good thing: the opportunity to give generously, and while giving to receive systematic training in the task that lies to-day before all patriots: that of fashioning into one happy people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues.

VIDA D. SCUDDER.

II.

In looking over the "Vocations for Women," discussed in recent issues of the News, it has surprised me to find no mention made of the nursing profession, because, while not everyone can be trained as a nurse, nursing at home as well as in hospitals lies most truly in the realm of women's work, and should therefore be of interest to college women. The days are past when nursing was done by untrained and "low-down" women, and now the profession is recognized as one which requires culture, tact and education for its best expression. Some people who are not very wise still consider nursing as menial work, but that which is dominated by the mind and dignified by the spirit in which it is done is not derogatory. In no other field of activity is the Wellesley ideal of service nearly realized than in this which, constantly broadening, includes private, institutional, district, tuberculosis, school, city and settlement nursing; all differing in detail, but all aiming to restore health and strength and to prevent the spread of disease.

MARGARET E. NOYES, 1907.

Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, May 9, 1910.

III.

The thought of more lost—or losing—opportunities, this Free Press would edify you with! What are our musical clubs for? To entertain the Maverick Church and the college settlement? Twice a year we hear the Glee and Mandolin Clubs; once, we hear the college orchestra—whose splendid work is by no means appreciated. All of these we could well afford to enjoy oftener—provided the members of the various organizations would be as ready to give as we are to receive. At the Barn, especially, all our musical clubs could be particularly active in filling up cheerfully monotonous intermissions and leading in the college songs.

Why can they not awake to a versatility and generosity of their talents?

IV.

The care necessary to keep Wellesley the College Beautiful is certainly a gigantic and ever present one. One week we are rated for casting our bread upon the waters, the next for the waywardness of our empty bags and boxes; then we exclaim violently against an obtrusive ash-pile, and now something new has come up. Undoubtedly everyone has noticed the position chosen for the new cement walk going around the Art Building hill toward the Tau Zeta Epsilon house. Instead of placing this walk where the old wooden one was, for some unknown reason it is being laid on the other side of the road, thus stopping the growth of the new grass and spoiling the appearance around generally. It is not known who are responsible for this eccentricity of management, but it is hoped that it is not too late to do something about it.

1912.

PARLIAMENT OF FOOLS.

EXTRACTS FROM THE TRAGEDY OF THE FOUNTAIN-PENS.

Dedicated to the New Library.

(With apologies to the author of "Macbeth.")

"But screw your pens unto the sticking-point
And we'll not fail."

"Is this a blot which I see before me? Come, let me clutch thee,
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
Art thou but a false creation,
Proceeding from the ink-oppressed brain?
It is the inky business which informs,
Thus to mine eyes."

"I've done the deed. This is a sorry sight.
Go get some water, and wash this filthy witness from the floor.
Why did you bring these ink-pots from the place?
Go carry them, nor take your precious notes in lead.

"My hands are of your color, but I shame to wear to heart so white.
I hear a step,
Come up the stairs—retire we to the stacks.
A little blotter clears us of the deed.
How easy is it then."

"Ink hath been shed ere now, i' the olden time
Ere human statute purged the gentle weed,"

"Out, damned spot! out, I say! Fie! What need we fear who
Knows it—when none can call our pledge to account?
Yet who would have thought the old pen to have had so much
ink in it?"

I entered at the door,
An umbrella in my hand.
A voice said, "In the basement
Is an umbrella stand!"

I sat me on a chair
And grasped my fountain pen.
"Didn't read the sign upon the door?"
Murmured the voice again.
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The "Royal Edward" will inaugurate the fortnightly service of the Canadian Northern Steamships, Limited—The Royal Line—from Montreal and Quebec to Bristol on Thursday, May 26th.
The twin ships, the "Royal Edward" and the "Royal George" are the fastest triple screw turbine boats in the Canadian service. The British port is Bristol (two hours nearer than Liverpool). Special Royal Trains within 100 minutes of London. The steamers are driven by the newest type of turbine engines, insuring a maximum of speed and minimum of vibration. Their equipment is the finest ever seen in the St. Lawrence—large staterooms, spacious social apartments, sheltered promenade decks, artistic furnishings, perfect service, and ventilation by thermo-tank system, the fresh air being warmed or cooled as required.

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PARLIAMENT OF FOOLS—Continued.

THE SONG OF THE EDITORS.
We sigh and struggle as we strive
With lectures and Free Presses,
With dreary Editorials,
With changes of addresses.
We labor on unceasingly.
Our rest, it cometh never:
For Nexuses come and Nexuses go,
But we go on forever.

On a pillar, in the Center,
(A which I am a frequenter),
I observed a sign which stated
That a sale was contemplated
Of a substance sweet, appealing
To each girl of natural feeling—
"Lovely candy."
Lovely are the arts and graces,
Lovely are some women's faces,
Lovely is the human soul.
But I question, on the whole,
"Lovely candy."

ENVOY.
"Lovely candy," "Lovely candy,"
Is lovely, then, a word to handy
Thus? Is it not too grandly
Ose a word for common candy?

M. H. S.

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MISS HOMANS' LECTURE.

On Thursday, May 5, in place of the regular hygiene lecture, Miss Homans talked to the Freshmen on the new requirement in regard to physical education, and the responsibilities of the Freshmen in this direction. Miss Homans first announced the new requirement—that all Freshmen and Sophomores should take work in physical education. In the first term the work for both classes will be in the gymnasium; in the second, there will be sports and large group games again.

Then Miss Homans spoke of the matter of marking. All girls cannot do equally well in a gymnasium. She gave the illustration of a light-weight girl climbing to the top of a rope, while a heavier girl could hardly get above the floor. Therefore, she said, it would not be fair to mark on accomplishments. The only fair way is to mark on carriage, on "good health as shown in the complexion," on increase in chest girth, if that is needed and on increase in general good health.

R. T.

ART NOTES.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS: Exhibition of new prints.
ARTS AND CRAFTS: Exhibition of Silverware.
VESSEL'S GALLERY: Painting by Benjamin West.
BOSTON CITY CLUB: Pictures by Mr. White.
BOSTON CITY CLUB: Pictures by Mrs. Spaulding.
BOSTON CAMERA CLUB: Twentieth Exhibition.
CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WORK.

Tuesday evening, May 10, there was held in College Hall, a conference on "Social Work as a Profession," led by Dr. Jeffrey R. Brackett of the School for Social Workers, and Miss Stebbins, a representative of the Boston Associated Charities. Dr. Brackett showed that there is equal need in the social service for both volunteers and trained workers. The volunteers are needed for the multitudinous tasks to be done by the rank and file, especially the work of Civic Leagues and Women's Clubs, whose influence is paramount in legislation; and the trained workers to fill the place of secretaries and governmental employees. He spoke of the growing demand for trained workers now in comparison with former years, and the increasing willingness on the part of the public to pay them good salaries. He mentioned two Boston societies engaged in social service work, who employ trained workers to work hand in hand with a volunteer band.

Dr. Brackett pointed out that a current notion to the effect that the profession of social service is isolated, is mistaken. The social worker has his literature and his conventions, and is part of a great brotherhood. He spoke of the opening fields for college women in governmental research work, which needs not only accuracy and skill, but a sympathetic knowledge of social conditions. At the same time he emphasized the fact that such positions are open to comparatively few, and that in the meantime, the smallest opportunities should be seized, and utilized as experience. In social work whatever kind the invariable necessity of an ideal was stressed. Only by keeping before one the vision of an ideal social condition can one succeed in passing easily the petty mileposts of the way.

Following Dr. Brackett, Miss Stebbins spoke for a few minutes, outlining the work of a trained helper.

The work of a district secretary for the Associated Charities consists in personal dealings with needy families, keeping in touch with other agencies and societies, and lastly in the training of other workers, paid and unpaid. Thus the district secretary work demands intellectual ability in dealing with the origin and cause of poverty and executive and administrative powers. The chief romance and romance of the work is the work of the "Friendly Visitors," helpers being trained by the secretaries, who come to know the lives of our protégés intimately. The Associated Charities offers training to paid and voluntary workers. All desiring information should apply to 43 Hawkins Street, Boston.

The course in training for a district secretary is three years. The first year there is a salary of $500, the second, $600 and the third, $700. After that the salary is raised according to individual ability.

THEATER NOTES.

COLONIAL: Robert Edeson in "Where the Trail Divide"—"A commonplace Western melodrama."

HOLLIST-STREET: Ethel Barrymore in "Mid-channel"—"A bourgeois tragedy of disillusionment, with Miss Barrymore achieving her greatest success."

PARK: William Hodge in "The Man from Home"—"A thoroughly American play."

MAJESTIC: Charlotte Hunt and Company in "The Blue Mouse"—"A new summer stock company, intelligent and amusing.

BOSTON: "Three Twins"—"A musical farce with a lively plot."

TREMONT: "The Girl in the Taxi"—"A French comedy, at times frankly vulgar and coarse, with an able cast and quick acting."

AMERICAN MUSIC HALL: "Black Beauty."

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OBSERVATORY NOTES.

Clouds have been very unkind to would-be observers of the famous comet as a morning object. A fine view of it was obtained from Observatory House from before three o’clock till dawn the morning of May 3. The tail of the comet lay along the horizon instead of perpendicular to it on account of the position of the ecliptic at this time of year. When Venus and the crescent moon were added to the display in the sky, flushed with dawn, the sight was rewarding. Glimpses of the nucleus chiefly, were gained, May 12, through holes in the clouds, and it was as bright as Venus.

The only harmful influence the comet will have upon the earth will probably be from the loss of sleep of astronomical enthusiasts.

At the invitation of Professor Whiting and Professor Fisher, Dr. Woodworth of Harvard and Dr. Tagger of the Institute of Technology met at the observatory to discuss the installation of a seismograph in the basement.

There has been increasing interest in investigations of earth-tremors of late, and further knowledge would be of great service to mankind in predicting earthquakes and protecting life and property.

It is also desired to study more systematically secular movements in the earth’s crust.

The instruments are so constructed that near-by vibrations like those caused by passing trains do not mar the record.

The observatory is a desirable place to set up an instrument, and this is a desirable station. Funds only are awaited.

S. F. WHITING.

FROM A FRENCH NEWSPAPER.

The French Department has recently received the following interesting clipping apropos of ex-President Roosevelt’s recent stay in Paris. The article is from “Les Nouvelles, Paris, 28 Avril, 1910,” and is signed by R. Téfè.

Parmi les souvenirs les meilleurs qu’il a conservés de son séjour à Paris, l’ancien président rappelaît, sur le quai, au représentant du ministre de l’intérieur, l’agréable surprise qu’il avait eue de se voir compris à la Sorbonne par un cent étudiants parlant anglais.

—S. M. Loubet, à l’instar de M. Roosevelt, avait l’occasion de conférencier en Amérique dans la langue de Rubéliez, éprouverait-il une satisfaction analogue?

—Certes, non. Mais il est assuré au siège de l’“Alliance française” pour la propagation de notre langue à l’étranger où nous avons posé la question. Et, chose plus piquante, l’ancien président français serait entendu, non pas d’un nombre au moins égal d’étudiants... mais par des étudiantes.

“Nous tenons cette certitude d’une de nos plus éminentes correspondantes, Mlle. Pauline Régné, licenciée ès lettres, chargée de cours à Wellesley College, qui nous écrivait à une époque à laquelle on ne prévoyait pas que M. Roosevelt parlerait en Sorbonne.

Wellesley College est une vaste agglomération universitaire du Massachusetts; c’est la plus importante université féminine du Nouveau-Monde.

Les progrès qu’a faits la langue française à Wellesley depuis quelques années sont extraordinaires. Pourtant, la plupart des professeurs de français des États-Unis n’est point exempte de difficultés. Nos compatriotes ont d’abord à tenir compte de la très forte concurrence que leur fait l’enseignement de l’Allemand, de l’italien et même — le croit-on? — de l’espagnol, depuis la guerre de Cuba.

 Ils n’ont pu résister qu’en donnant à leurs cours, grâce aux œuvres de l’image et de l’imagination, un tour attrayant. Car, dans les universités américaines, la valeur ne s’impose guère sans le charme. Avant d’intéresser, il faut plaire. C’est là une des limites du caractère yankee que les professeurs de français de Wellesley ont compris admirablement.

Grâce à cette méthode, les étudiantes américaines — dix-sept à vingt-deux ans, la fleur de l’âge et de l’intelligence — se sont mises au français avec ardeur. C’est ainsi, dit Mlle. Pauline Régné, que, dans les grands cours, les élèves font couramment de petites thèses sur des sujets historiques, qu’elles analysent nos romans, nos pièces contemporaines avec une intelligence qui met en valeur la finesse de psychologie d’un très grand nom. La majorité a été gagnée par les rapprochements ingénieux, des comparaisons entre les œuvres françaises et américaines, et cette majorité a fini par acquérir un certain goût pour les sujets sérieux auxquels elle semblait rebelle dans les premiers temps.

L’œuvre intellectuelle de nos professeurs a été complétée par une œuvre sociale aussi agréable pour elles que pour leurs élèves. Des leur arrivée à Wellesley College, ces Françaises ont vu dans les bâtiments mêmes de l’Université, prenant part à la vie quotidienne des étudiantes, elles les ont pénétrées davantage de l’esprit français, elles ont pris part à leurs réunions intimes, à leurs distractions mondaines, à leurs jeux. Elles sont devenues leurs amies.

Tel est le travail réalisé depuis les cinq années qu’est créé à Wellesley College le “département de français,” par nos érudites compatriotes, grâce à une volonté persévérante, à une intelligence active, à un entrain infatigable. Ces résultats magnifiques leur ont acquis la sympathie, l’admiration générale et non seulement celle de leurs contemporains, mais aussi celle de leurs confrères et rivales, les professeurs américains et étrangers.

On ignore en France, et ces beaux efforts et ces beaux résultats. Mais que M. Loubet, à l’instar de son co-ex-président Roosevelt, n’oublie pas cette conférence à Wellesley College et il verrait... comme il y sera entendu!

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ALUMNÄE NOTES.

In addition to notes concerning graduates, the Alumnae column will contain items of interest about members of the Faculty, past and present, and former students.

Mrs. Helen Wemersley Norcross, 1886, has recently been elected president of the Wellesley Hills Women's Club. A play, "Tommy's Wife," by Marie J. Warren, 1907, was given by the Wellesley High School Alumnae Association on May 5, 1910.

Mrs. Ethel Stanwood Myers, 1882-86, expects soon to sail with her husband and son for a three months' visit to Germany. Miss Theodora McCutcheon, 1903, spent a few days in Wellesley lately.

ENGAGEMENT.

Miss Edith Osgood, 1909, to Mr. George E. Nerney of Attleboro, Massachusetts.

MARRIAGES.

HILDRETH—BUCHER. April 27, 1910, in Denver, Colorado, Miss Rosema Bucher, 1907, to Mr. Roy Leoland Hildreth of Lindon, Colorado.

HALE—EATON. April 18, 1910, at Danvers, Massachusetts, Miss Susan W. Eaton, 1884, to Mr. George Henry Hale. At home after June 1 at 52 Helen street, Danvers, Massachusetts.

BIRTH.

May 9, 1910, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, a son, David Bernard, 26, to Mrs. Bernard E. Loveman (Hilda K. Garrison, 1907).

DEATHS.

May 7, 1910, by drowning near San Antonio, Texas, Grace D. Knox, 1905.

April 1910, in Tokyo, Japan, Mary J. Greene, mother of Fanny B. Greene, 1892.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Mrs. Grace Dennison Barnett, 1897, Livermore Road, Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts.

Miss Elizabeth Browning Mason, 1890, Monticello Seminary, Godfrey, Illinois.

Miss Nellie G. Prentiss, 1897, 63 Meigs Street, Rochester, New York.

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THE BOSTON WELLESLEY CLUB.

The Boston Wellesley College Club held its annual meeting in Billings Hall, college grounds, Saturday, May 7. The president, Miss Mary W. Capen, presided. A short business meeting was held first. Reports of the year's work were read by the recording secretary, Miss Florence L. Ellery, and the treasurer's report by Miss Alice C. Stockwell. The special feature of the afternoon was the reading of Miss Sherwood's "Daphne" by Mrs. Helen Weil. Mrs. Weil read most acceptably and delighted the audience with her rendering of the story. After the reading, the company was invited to the Agora House, where tea was served and social intercourse enjoyed. Before leaving the college, the club was conducted through the new library. About two hundred members and guests were present at this annual meeting and a most delightful afternoon was spent within the classic shades of their alma mater.

GRADUATE CLUB.

At the annual election of the president on Friday, April 29, Miss Ruth Ingersoll was chosen to succeed Miss Florence Risley.

Miss Ingersoll presided at the formal meeting of the club held Friday evening, May 6, at the Shakespeare House, and introduced Professor Calkins, chairman of the Committee on Graduate Instruction, who was the speaker of the evening. There were thirty members present, besides members of the Committee on Graduate Instruction and instructors who conduct graduate courses. Among this number were Miss Pendleton, Miss Roberts, Mme. Colin, Miss McKeag, Miss Fisher, Miss Lockwood, Miss Moffett and Miss McDowell.

Professor Calkins spoke on the meaning of graduate study, describing the opportunities for research work in universities and colleges in Europe and America, and the equipment necessary before a college could confer the doctor's degree. Miss Calkins also mentioned some of the new questions which have arisen concerning graduate study, particularly the advisability of a student obtaining the master's or doctor's degree from the same institution conferring the A.B. At the close of this address a short discussion followed concerning the points raised, giving evidence that the subject had been extremely interesting, and very charmingly presented.