* * * * THE * * * * CONCORDIENSIS

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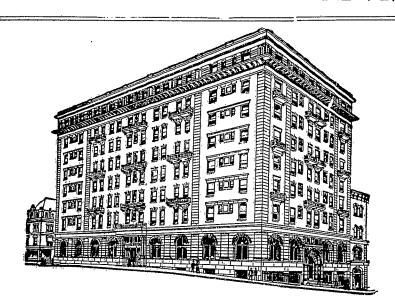
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THE CONCORDIENSIS

VOL. XXIX.

UNION COLLEGE, MAR. 10, 1906.

No 20.

FATAL ACCIDENT IN L'ABORATORY

Paul Wait, '07, Killed by Electric Charge

The college was inexpressably shocked Monday afternoon when it learned of the terrible death of Paul Wait, of the class of 1907. The fatality was so sudden and shocking that its first effect was numbing. The whole sad truth was hardly realized. Wait's death cast a profound gloom over the whole college body, both by its very mystery and because of the great feling of respect that all entertained for him.

Paul Wait entered Union in the fall of 1903 from Fort Edward, having graduated in the previous spring from the Glens Falls Academy. He chose as his course the electrical engineering and had at all times been a faithful and conscientious student. He was a member of the Chi Psi fraternity. He had always taken a prominent part in college affairs, playing on most of his class teams. He was a member of the Varsity track team and ran on the relay team at Troy recently, winning the admiration of all by his plucky and almost successful effort to turn defeat into victory for his college. With the fellows he was quiet and reserved, becoming liked for the many sterling qualities which always marked him.

On Monday afternoon Wait was at work with a number of the other members of the Junior Electrical Engineers in the electrical laboratory. The class was at work on some direct current machines in the two central rooms of the laboratory when the accident that has lost the college one of its most promising students occurred. At the exact moment of the accident Wait was alone in the switchboard room, the rest of the class being in

the next room and up stairs in the laborary. A groan from the switchboard room attracted Waters from the next room and he rushed in to find his classmate standing rigid in front of the switch on the 2300 volt lighting circuit with both hands on the copper of the switch. He instinsctively pulled Wait from the switch when he fell unconscious to the floor. A yell brought the others who were working in the lab. and while some began artificial respiration and did everything that they could for the injured man, others ran for Dr. Towne.

The doctor arrived in less than ten minutes and was closely followed by Dr. Huggins and Dr. Kathan. The three doctors, with the aid of the large number of students who had gathered by that time worked over the man for two hours and a half before all hope for his recovery was given up. At no time during the treatment was any sign of life visible, however. Apparently the shock had been great enough to paralize the nerve centers, and the heart action had stopped instantly. It is not known how long the current passed through the body of the unfortunate man, but it was probably more than ten seconds. All the stimulants known to medicine, including oxygen, which was secured very soon, were used, the bodily warmth being kept up in the meantime by means of hot water and blankets. Every means known to the medical profession for combating shock was applied and the treatment was kept up long after all hope of recovery had been abandoned. The accident occurred at two-fifteen o'clock and it was. half past four before the man was dead.

The exact manner in which Wait came in contact with the powerful switch, and just what reason he had for being in front of the switchboard at that particular time are questions that it is likely will never be answered. The alternating current switchboard is surrounded by a railing about three feet high and Wait had passed inside this railing for some unknown reason. The section of students who were at work in the laboratory at that time were not using the alternating current, but were making some tests on the direct current line, which is on the other side of the room. Wait had worked in the laboratory during the last two years of his college course and was perfectly aware of the danger of the high voltage board, so that it evidently was not due to ignorance that he touched the switch.

From the position in which he was found, it is probable that he walked past the switchboard and leaned around it to read a meter which is situated behind the board. Then in turning to go back his hand must have swung around and hit the switch or else he must have stumbled and fallen against it, at the same time hitting some nails in the floor with his left foot. His shoes were wet and contained many nails, so that a connection between one pole of the switch and the ground was at once made, a half of the powerful current passing through his body. Burns on his left hand and foot showed where the current had entered and left his body. Wait must have placed his right hand on his left in an effort to pull the latter from the switch for he was found in that position.

CORONER CALLED.

After two hours and a half of working over the man without any sign of success his life was finally despaired of and the undertaker and coroner were sent for. Coroner Dettbarn arrived and went over the facts of the accident very carefully, after which the body was removed to the undertaking rooms of Timeson & Fronk. Coroner Dettbarn asked that a test of the circuit be made in his presence to determine if any condition out of ordinary existed. Professor E. E. Creighton and Instructor Ferguson of the Electrical Engineering department made a thorough test of the line and found it to be perfectly normal.

A special test was made to see how much of a current could have passed through the body of a man if perfect contact were made from the nails of the floor to the metal of the switch and a voltage of from 900 to 1500 was detected. After the test the coroner gave it as his opinion that no one was to blame for the unfortunate accident and that no negligence was apparent. Though the nails in the floor are a dangerous thing a man operating the switch would not be in any great danger as he would touch only the insulated handle of the switch and would not come in contact with the copper of the switch itself as was done in the case of Wait. Nevertheless the floor will be more safely insulated in the future.

STUDENTS' MEMORIAL

Directly after the regular chapel exercises Tuesday morning a special meeting of the student body was held at which a committee was appointed to draw up a resolution expressing the high honor and esteem in which Paul Wait was held by his fellow students and the grief which is felt at his loss. A committee was also appointed to take charge of the sending of flowers to the Wait home for the funeral on Thursday. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the junior class. The class decided to wear crepe for a period of thirty days in tribute to the memory of their classmate. A committee was also appointed to draw up resolutions and send them with flowers to Fort Edward.

MEMORIAL SERVICE.

A very simple but impressive service was held in the College chapel at 10:30 o'clock Tuesday morning over the body of Paul Wait. No regular college exercises were held during the morning. All the faculty and students and a number of the unfortunate man's relatives and close friends were present to pay tribute to his memory. The pulpit was draped with a large American flag and the body of our late fellow student lay directly in front of it. The family sat on the left of the hapel and the Chi Psi fraternity on right, while the Junior class occupied the front seats in the center. President Raymond officiated at the service, which was begun by the singing of "Abide With Me." After the hymn Dr. Raymond delivered a short impressive address in which he said:

"For the second time this year, we gather here to show our respect and affection for one of our own who has left us never to return. As on the former occasion, so now, our minds and hearts are oppressed with the suddenness of our loss. One who but yesterday was with us in the full vigor of young manhood, with the promise of many years of life and service, now lies before us in death. Nothing that I can say will add to the impressiveness of this sad and tragic ending of a human life.

"No one can be indifferent to the lesson of such a Providence. No one can look upon this casket and remember yesterday without realizing as perhaps never before, that in the widst of life we are in death, that it is but a step from time into eternity. This does not mean that we should live always in the shadow, but it does mean that we should think seriously of life, and ask "what can I do that is worthy my manhood, and my hope of eternal life"? If these lips now closed could speak what message would they give to you, his classmates and friends and brothers? Some message we may be sure that would make you think more of the things that are abiding. And that is their message, for being dead he yet speaketh.

"Paul Wait was worthy the respect we now give to his memory. He did not live among us for nearly three years without revealing traits of character that make him beloved of many. Words and deeds have already been recalled telling of his sincerity, his affection, his loyalty. Let us then bring our tribute of loving remembrance in this hour of parting and pledge ourselves and each other in this presence to live more earnestly and helpfully."

A prayer followed and the service was brought to a close by the singing of "Jerusalem the Golden."

The body was removed directly after the service,, nearly the whole student body marching with it to the railroad depot. From there the body was taken to the Wait home at Fort Edward.

THE FAMILY.

Wait is survived by his mother and four brothers. The mother and two brothers live in Fort Edward. One of his older brothers, Lawson Wait, is em-

ployed in the General Electric Works in this city, while his other brother, Luther Wait, attends Cornell. Mrs. Whait came to this city as soon as she received word of the awful accident that had befallen her son. She remained here until the body was removed to the Wait home in Fort Edward. The funeral was held at the home of Judge A. D. Whait, the grandfather of Paul Wait, Thursday afternoon. The whole of the Chi Psi fraternity, attended and about twenty others from the college. Rev. Dr. Talmage, of this city, who is a Chi Psi from Rutgers, preached the funeral sermon. The service was largely attended and the floral gifts many and varied.

Resolutions Union College IN MEMORIAM Paul Wait

Whereas, God in his infinite wisdom and divine mercy has seen fit to call away our beloved friend

PAUL WAIT

and

Whereas, In his death the college has lost a loyal and devoted son, and we have lost one who had endeared himself to all by his many winning ways which made friends of all he met. be it

Resolved, That we hereby express the great sorrow and sense of bereavement that befell all of us on the news of his untimely death, and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to his bereaved family, to the Alpha Pi Chapter of the Chi Psi fraternity, and that copies be entered in the Concordiensis and the records of the Student Body.

HARRY COOK,
WARNER KING,
DANIEL F. IMRIE.
For the Student Body.

Christian Association

SUNDAY VESPERS: The delegates sent to the Student Volunteer Convention at Nashville will report.

TUESDAY EVENING: Subject, "The Courage of Christ. Leader, Waldron '06. Election of officers.

The election next Tuesday should bring all members out as it is important that the officers elected should be the choice of the whole body.

The Association wants especially to thank the faculty for their generous gifts towards the fund used to send the delegates to Nashville. Financial report of the delegates to Nashville:

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| \$1 | L08.17 |
| Paid Out | |
| Convention fees\$ | 12.00 |
| J. T. Wright | 32.00 |
| E. E. Harvey | 32.00 |
| J. T. Bacon, Jr | 32.00 |
| _ | |
| Cash on hand\$ | 108.00 |
| | .17 |
| _ | |

Nashville Convention

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Of all the many great religious conventions of modern times, the convention of the Student Volunteer Movement last week in Nashville, Tenn., in every way was second to none. It is by far the largest ever held by this organization and indeed in representativeness and in real importance it ranks above any gathering of students ever held.

Nothing could be more inspiring than the contemplation of the work, purposes and personnel of the great gathering. More than 5.000 per-

sons from the four corners of the North American continent and from the most remote portions of the world, civilized or uncivilized, assembled with one common purpose, one inspiration, one hope to realize, the evangelization of the world in this generation.

There were 4,188 accredited delegates from exactly 700 institutions of higher learning. There were 144 missionaries from 26 heathen countries, 149 official representatives of 95 missionary agencies, fraternal delegations from abroad, a large press representation and hundreds of others unregistered. By actual count over 19,-000 inspected the missionary exhibit.

Perhaps nothing showed more plainly the arnestness of the gathering than the subscription taken Thursday night for the work of the Volunteer Movement in the next four years. It amounted that evening to nearly \$85,000, and by subsequent subscribtion was raised above \$90,000. This amount is to be paid yearly, not once for the four years. It means that the movement will be able to extend its operations to about four times their present magnitude.

The scope of the work of the convention was very comprehensive. Every morning and evening the whole body of men and women met in a general assembly and the afternoons were taken up by section conferences in the many different churches of which the city is justly proud.

Wednesday afternoon the convention was called to order by John R. Mott, the chairman of the executive committee of the movement. Great credit is due him for the promptness with which the assemblies were conducted. He justly holds the reputation of being the best chairman of large gatherings in the business. The first session was taken up by introductory remarks by Mr. Mott and an inspiring address by Robert E. Spier, chairman of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, on the object of the convention and the spirit of consecration that should pervade it. Mr. Spier was one of the most popular speakers of the convention.

It is impossible here to give an adequate report of the five days work. Such a report will

be attempted by our delegates tomorrow Vesper Service. Dr. Hale is to occupy the pulpit in the First Presbyterian Church tomorrow evening taking the convention as his subject and some of the delegates will report in the near future in both the First Reformed and the State Street Methodist Churches.

To summarize, the general assemblies took up discussions of various topics by many speakers, one topic usually taking up a whole session. The insufficiency of non-Christian religions for the needs of mankind; the equipment of the missionary in various phases; the relation of the missionary to foreign and international politcs; success abroad as dependent on loyalty of the home base; the unprecedented opportunities inthe foreign field today; reasons why a college man should join the movement; report of the last four years' work; and appeals and reports from various mission stations, were among the subjects treated.

Among the speakers were Sir Mortimer Durand, English ambassador to America; Hon. Henry B. MacFarland of Washington, Hon. J. W. Foster, ex-secretary of state; Bishop Thoburn of India, and many others well known in church circles.

College Briefs

Reed, '06, has evolved a brand class hymn. It's the goods.

J. H. Skillicorn, Medic '85, was on the hill Tuesday.

Prof. Landreth who was ill during the early part of the week is again meeting his classes.

The Glee Club makes a trip to Troy on the 29th. The quartette will give a concert next Friday under auspices of the Men's Club of Schenectady.

The freshmen began baseball practice in the gym. this week. Prospects for a skin diamond are good.

The Senior Banquet is scheduled for March 30th at the Kenmore in Albany. Fuller will serve as toastmaster. Hagar, Mead and Fuller are the committee in charge.

After a winter's arduous work the skating rink is about to enjoy a well earned rest. Suggestions are open as to the advisability of holding a water carnival thereon.

The annual banquet of the Albany Club of Delta Upsilon was held at the Kenmore March 2d. Most of the active chapter attended.

Conditions are over (?). Term exams. next

The sophs will meet '08 of R. P. I. next week in basketball.

Negotiations are under way for a chess tourwith Hamilton. Hill, nament Wright Elmendorf compose the team at present. Any member of the club has the privilege of challenging for position in a series of three out of five games.

Report of the Nashville delegates will be given in chapel meeting Monday.

The Dean has excused his 707 history class from final examination this term.

The Poughkeepsie trip, scheduled for today, has been postponed because of Paul Wait's death. It will probably take place the first week in April. The election of assistant manager will take place at the first spring term rehearsal. The clubs are now trying the new music and will be able to give an excellent concert by the time of the Troy concert.

Last Wednesday Ashy astonished the sophomores by letting them out at ten minutes to twelve.

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PAUL WAIT

Again Death, terrible and awful under any circumstances, but doubly shocking this time, has overshadowed our college with its black wings. For the second time this year has Union been plunged into profoundest sorrow by the sudden and tragic end of one of her most promising and respected sons. Last fall we heard, with all the suddeness of a bolt from a clear sky, of the fatal accident which had befallen Harold Moore on the football field at New York. Last Monday afternoon, with like unexpectedness, did we learn of the sad death of Paul Wait, while engaged at his work in the laboratory.

Facing this manner of death, there cannot fail to come to the most thoughtless of us, a feeling of overwhelming awe. "In the midst of life we are in death." We know not at what moment the hand of death may touch us. From this moment there is no drawing back; ready or unready, all must go, alike. In this last fatality which has overtaken us, there is a lesson so written that even he who runs may read; let us be prepared to answer the call of that unknown moment.

Paul Wait was a young man of the kind that it is an honor to know. No one of us who has known him during his three years here in college can feel otherwise that uplifted by his acquaintanceship. He possessed a fine, lovable character, unselfish to a degree. In disposition he was retiring and modest. Once known, he could not help making friends; once made, time only served to make the friendship stronger. He cherished his college deeply, working hard and untiringly to contribute his share toward her success on the track. "Paul Wait, young, brilliant, healthy, vigorous. was a perfect specimen of American nobility."

The cause of his death will never be known; its secret was buried with him. While the fact cannot bring him back to us, it is a slight comfort to know that his death was purely an accident; it occurred through the negligence of no other person. The deepest sympathy of the whole college goes to that bereaved family, of which he was so promising a member, and to his fraternity, in which he was so loyal a brother.

Alumni

'38.—Lawrence J. Goodale celebrated his 90th birthday at his home, 35 Mullin St., Watertown, N. Y., Feb. 20th. Mr. Goodale was born in Watertown, Feb. 20, 1816. In 1838 he began the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1840. Soon after he removed to Carthage and at different times resided there for many years. In 1842 he formed a partnership with Micah Sterling in Watertown and later entered into partnership with Joseph Mullin, '33. In 1853 he established himself as a lumber dealer in New York City, where he also opened a law office. He remained there for eight years. returned to Carthage in 1864 and became agent of vincent Le Ray de Chaumont, whose affairs he settled. He removed to Watertown about ten years ago. He is now in almost perfect health.

'43.—"Tuesday, Feb. 27th was the fifty-ninth anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Franklin R. Haff, assistant rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Oshkosh, Wis. He was admitted to the ministry Feb. 25, 1847, by Bishop Kemper. Rev. Mr. Haff is eighty-five years old and reads the service in church without the aid of glasses. He was for many years a missionary to the Indians."—Boston Evening Transcript, Mar. 5.

'46.—Matthew J. Shoecraft has changed his residence from Oneida to 185 South Fitzhugh St., Rochester, N. Y.

'49.—The death of George H. Hearman, one of the oldest and most prominent residents of Upper Troy, occurred at his home, 619 Fifth Avenue, Feb. 27, 1906. About four years ago Mr. Hearman underwent an operation, since which time he had been an invalid. He was born in Pittstown in 1820. His boyhood was spent on a farm, which he left to attend an academy at Union Village, near Schenectady. He later attended the Lansingburgh Academy and entered Union College. He belonged Philomathean Society and the Delta Upsilon fraternity. After leaving college, Mr. studied law for several years in the offices of Pierce, Beach & Smith and later associated himself with Marcus L. Filley in Lansingburgh. He remained with Mr. Filley for some time, when he opened an office at the corner of Second Avenue and Sixth Street. He practiced law until he was obliged to retire a few years ago owing to ill-health and advaced age. Mr. Hearman held many important public offices in Lansingburgh. For nineteen years he served as Justice of the Peace, twelve years as Police Justice and two years as Justice of the Court of Special Sessions. He had always ben a Republican in politics. Mr. Hearman was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his wife and son, Harry C. Hearman.

'57.—Moses Hawkes Bliss, a farmer, died at his home in Pasadena, Cal., 1905.

'58.—Rev. George W. Colman is living at 6158 Ingleside Avenue., Chicago, Ill.

166.—Edward Jansen Westfall, M. D., died at his home at Rahway, N. J., Feb. 18, 1906. He was the son of Matthew and Martha Evans Westfall and was born at Sussex, N. J., Nov. 7, 1845. His preparatory education was received at the Deckertown, N. J., and Cambridge Academies. Dr. Westfall gave the German oration at Commencement and was a member of the Adelphic Society and the Psi Upsilan fraternity. He was an occasional contributor to

medical journals. In 1874 he was married to Lizzie Beemer and their only child, Lizzie, born 1876 died 1878. Dr. Westfall was a Republican and a member of the Presbyterian Church. He had been in ill health for the past few years. He was a brother of Daniel M. Westfall, '54, and an uncle of Daniel M. Westfall, Jr., '96, both of Cambridge.

* * * *

'66.—Thomas Rogers has changed his address to Sag Harbor, L. I.

* * *

'66.—Charles W. Johnson is Chief Engineer of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad and may be addressed at 118 Virginia Ave., St. Paul, Minn.

* * * *

'98.—Fred W. Hild has charge of the construction of a railroad at Dubuque, Iowa.

* * * *

'98.—P. B. Yates has changed his residence from Chicago, Ill., to Boston, Mass.

Pharmacy Notes

At a meeting of the senior class last Wednesday evening the following men from the junior class, Mr. Reller, Mr. Shoemaker and Mr. Donahue were chosen to act as ushers at the senior class' banquet to be held during the commencement week.

A committee consisting of Mr. Beavan and Mr. Van Housen was appointed to secure offers for the rental of caps and gowns.

Finals are almost in sight.

Caught in Rip

Question on Test in Eng. Hist., "Can you tell in what respect Queen Mary did not undo Henry's work?"

Bright Soph, "She couldn't undo his marriages."

Hag, "Well, now, once again Poland rose in resurrection."

Georgie, "The French didn't like Louis XVI, because he was leading a double life."

An Appeal For Clean Politics

The recent revelation concerning many of the large insurance companies and business concerns in our country, and our pretty certain knowledge of the viciousness of political environments of today, must cause us to stop in order to realize the magnitude of the impending danger. There is no need to argue the question that there is a danger impending, for that is all too evident. But the questions face "What is its exact nature, its cause, its remedy?" Do these expositions of fraud and graft indicate merely infected spots in our society which are curable by local application of the remedy, or are they the certain symptoms of a subtle disease which is working its way through the entire system of the business and world? I fear it is the latter, because it is all too apparent in every town, village and city from coast to coast. We see the symptoms of the disease everywhere and yet we regard them heedlessly. That is the error. We do not fully



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realize the meaning of these signs. We do not fully realize that there is something eating into the very vitals of our nation which, if not checked, is destined to work our social and political ruin. What do we mean by the expression, "our vitals"? Our vitals, that part of our people upon which depends the very existence of the nation, are the men who take part in public activities—the college men. And that which is eating into them is the corruption of moral character.

Many a man has gone forth into the world with the intention of being honest, but, surrendering to the overpowering influence of love of gain, has cast his honor to the winds, and has joined in that struggle for existence which ends not in the survival of the fittest but in the survival of those most unfit.

Why does such a man so easily succomb to this impulse? Because in his college career he learned to become accustomed to crooked politics and graft and to regard them as legitimate means for the accomplishment of his ends. He learned to beg and barter for an office he was not capable of filling and to give and take graft whenever the opportunity presented itself. At that time when his mind was most easily influenced for good or evil it was indelibly

stamped with impressions which caused moral downfall in after years. It is here—in a man's college life—that the moral corruption has its origin—in very great part, at least—and it is here that he remedy ought to be applied. And I believe that it will be applied—and is being applied already. What does it signify that recently we often find but one man "running" for an office in college which it ought to be considered an honor to hold? It signifies to my mind that the number of men who are willing to beg for honor is decreasing and that college men are beginning to shun an office which can claim no merit for its holder. When the time comes that no one will put himself forward as a candidate, then the man who deserves the office will receive it. The worthy man does not need to beg or barter for honors, they come to him.

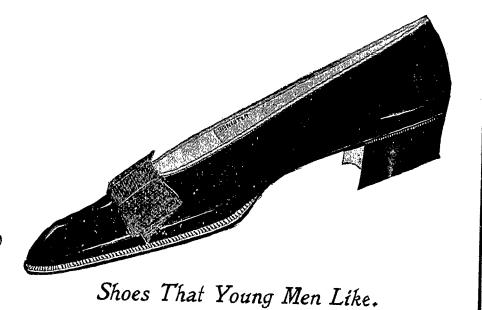
Fellow classmates, let us do our share toward accomplishing the desired end; let us instill into the minds of our under-classmen this doctrine. Let us lay here a foundation for clean politics in college and out. We can leave to our Alma Mater no grander legacy.

(Note—Class oration delivered before the Senior class.)

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MEDIC NOTES

Dr. Van der Veer in Europe as Delegate.

On Saturday, March 3, Dr. Albert Van der Veer, Ph. D., Professor of Surgery in the Medical College, sailed for Europe to attend the International Convention of Surgeons of the World, held at Lisbon, Spain, as one of the delegates from the United States.

* * * *

On Wednesday, February 26 Dr. A. J. Bedell gave, a whist party at his home on Lancaster Street to Drs. Lumax, Robertson and Blackfan of Albany. Drs. Huggins and Reed of Schenectady and the active chapter of Nu Sigma Nu. Messrs. Collie, Ehle, Whipple, Krieger, Hawn, Conway, Doescher, Corning, Grover, Treder, Diver, Jennings, Beebe. Fuller, Harris, Hagedorn, Wingate, Witter, Tredway, McSorley, Parsons and Kennedy.

Foreign Correspondence

The class of 1907, now senior class of the Navai Academy, has resolved to abolish hazing. It is expected that other classes will follow suit.

* * * *

Eighty students at Cornell and 10 per cent. of those at New York University "flunked" the midyear exams.

* * * *

Nine baseball players of Iowa University have agreed not to play baseball this year. They say that under the rules they are professionals and assert further that there are no amateur players of skill in any college in the United States.

* * * *

Andrew Carnegie has given \$150,000 toward the erection of a new library at Brown University, as a memorial to John Hay. The entire cost of the building will be \$300,000, of which the alumni are to raise half.

* * * *

I: 1904 five states and territories in the United States failed to qualify candidates for the Rhodes scholarships. This year ten have failed; namely, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dacota, Utah and Wyoming.—The College Signal.

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Cornell's latest catalogue shows an enrollment of 3385 students.

At a recent meeting of the student body of Williams College, a motion to abolish hazing at that institution was defeated.

* * ;

At Yale a movement is on foot to organize the whole Freshman class into a social club. The club is to be sub-divided into four allied branches. The lack of general social life among the Freshmen gives rise to this scheme.

Living in the past only puts the headlight on the rear platform.

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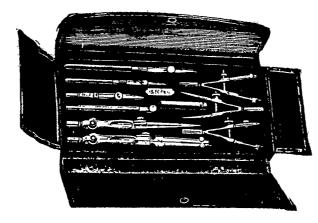
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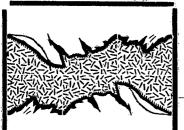
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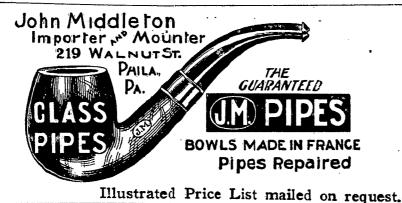
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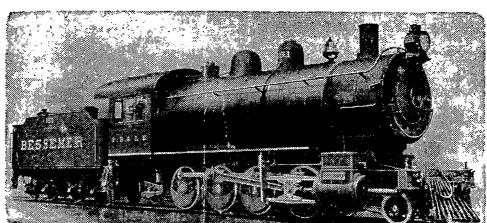
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