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The Ursinus Weekly, March 18, 1912

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Ursinus College

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The Ursinus Weekly

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COLLEGEVILLE, PA., MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1912.

PRICE, 3 CENTS.

LETTER FROM JAPAN

Weekly's First Editor Writes of Japanese Customs and the Island's Natural Beauty

Continued from Last Week.

Then towards the end of the day, as the stop is reached, we teachers, especially, hear from all sides, "How tired you must be!" "Did you walk all the way, teacher?" "Oh, your legs are strong!" etc. And when we land at the rest house the same remarks greet us; and in the teacher's room, "Yah", answered by "Yah" (which translated is just a universal grunt of welcome) plus the usual solicitous inquiries about how we stood the day, and the suggestion that we get into the bath at once, which suggestion no one is loath to follow.

The Japanese bath is an institution that deserves more than a passing word. Each guest furnishes his own towel and soap. No sitting in a shallow, cold sided foreign styled bath tub, privately, but in a deep wooden tub, which, when one sits down, comes just to his neck, and in company with others. Unless, of course you just come from home or feel that you can never come to a common bath. I do not mean to say that each one gets into the tub and, soaping himself as you do, washes the perspiration and the dirt off into the tub. That is really a very dirty and uneconomical way of doing something that ought to be done often. Here with a little private tub about eight inches in diameter, you wash yourself off and when you are clean you get into the tub. Then, don't you see, I am not adverse to following you in. And there one has a luxurious soak. It's hot, too, and when you come out you look like a lobster and feel like a king. I shall not speak of the process, slow and painful, of getting into something where you feel as if you would in all probability leave a good part of your skin. But after a tramp, in the words of my friend, "It's bully."

The students have about three by six floor space to sleep on. This means twenty or thirty of them in a room. The teachers fare better, yet last year there were seven of us to eight mats (a mat is three by six) and I had the extra one for my feet and squirming. Indeed as I am writing this the maids are fixing up our beds—Reischauer's and

mine—(he is a fellow teacher,) and they are laughing and wondering how they can prevent our feet from sticking out from under the short covers. It generally ends by putting the covers in lapped relays.

As for the students, after their usual round of fun they turn in quite decently. There are seldom any pillow fights, for that would be pretty dangerous where pillows are hard as footstools and walls are made of paper.

At supper and at breakfast when the fellows are putting down the rice it keeps the girls busy serving. I can assure you. Generally between the bowls full of rice the maid puts the lid on the large rice bucket to keep the rice warm, but there is no time for that politeness when the students are eating. They bolt their rice, eating as much as can be eaten with the relishes, fish and soups. And at the beginning of the meal they are quieter than in my class room, for chop sticks make no racket. I am strongly reminded of the way lumbermen eat. But when the first hunger is appeased and the tea begins to flow, the tongues are loosened for other business and between the long drawn drawing in of the breath and the sipping of the tea and the chatter, it becomes lively enough for any one who believes in laughing and talking as gastronomical aids.

Songs, yells and games enliven the evenings. The last night of the trip is given over to stunts and a social meeting of the whole bunch. The first year I told them about a bumming trip I had in America, thus losing my caste at once. Since then I have always had time to prepare my impromptu "doing." This year I tried to imitate the fierce unnatural voice of the old styled actor and ended up by carrying "my lord Reischauer" through a crowd of the students. About half of the performance consists of humorous accounts of the trip by representative students from the different classes; the other half is divided between solos, stories, short lectures, and so on. Sometimes they begin with prayer and end with the school song, though just what is in the quickly gotten up program depends somewhat upon the committee. I have had the baton work to do in the chapel lately but in this line I might well sit at the feet of the chap that led the college song this fall.

Continued on fourth page

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Fredrick of Muhlenberg Won First and Ammerman of F. and M. Won Second Prize

At the Twentieth Annual Intercollegiate Oratorical Contest at Gettysburg last Thursday evening, the first prize of twenty-five dollars was won by Herbert B. Fredrick, '13, of Muhlenberg, with his oration, "God's Crucible," the second prize of fifteen dollars was won by Howard E. Ammerman, '14, of Franklin and Marshall, with the oration, "The Problem of the Twentieth Century," and honorable mention was given to W. K. Hoyt, '13, of Swarthmore who spoke on "Our Cities." Only five members of the Union participated, Lafayette failing to enter.

Ursinus was represented by A. Melville Billman, '12, who orated on "The Man Behind the Bars," "The Spirit of the Fathers" was the subject of J. Gould Wickey, '12, of Gettysburg.

Larry B. Small, '14, of Ursinus presided. The contest was a good one and evenly balanced but was presented to a very small audience. The Judges were W. W. Dietrich, A. M., Sc.D., of Kutztown; Hon. David W. Nevin, of Easton, and Wm. Hain, Esq., of Harrisburg.

Last year the contest was held at Ursinus when the prizes were won by Tyler, '12, of Swarthmore, and Krauss, '13, of Muhlenberg.

GLEE CLUB CONCERT

Don't miss the annual concert of the Glee Club in Bomberger tomorrow night. The best ever. Begins at eight o'clock. Admission twenty-five cents. Seats reserved free.

Baseball Prospects Good. Princeton Played Next Saturday

Coach Price called out baseball candidates on Saturday and the first practice of the year was held on the commons. Mud and water made a decent practice impossible but gave opportunity to the one who intends trying for the team. Captain R. Kichline, West, Isenberg, Gay, Boyer, Mitterling and E. Kichline of last year's team will likely retain their berths on the Varsity. Bransome, Come, Heller, Seaman, H. Mathieu and Mertz of last year's Scrub will try hard for positions. Of the Freshman candidates Bush, from Slippery Rock Normal and Shellenberger from

Continued on fourth page

TALK ON CHINA

Mr. Keller, from the Orient, Spoke to Christian Associations.

The joint meeting of the Y. W. and Y. M. C. A. was given over to Mr. Keller, a missionary from China. In his brief talk he enlightened his audience on many interesting facts. He pointed out that party lines and church lines have been pushed aside and all denominations co-ordinate as much as possible in bringing the Chinese under the banner of the Cross. China is just awakening and will play a much greater part in the economic and political activities of the world in the future than it has in the past. Its government and literature of thousands of years ago have been brought down almost unchanged to the present. Its history since 2800 B. C. is as reliable and accurate as that of any comparatively modern European nation. Its literature is second to none among the nations of antiquity. China has done great things during its long history, a few examples being the Great Wall, the thousands of beautiful bridges, and the Great Canal, six hundred miles long.

Their idea of vengeance does not limit itself to massacring the inhabitants of a district but consists in the destruction of every vestige of human habitation as well. It is due to the missionary that the Manchu dynasty came to an end, not by inciting rebellion, but by educating the sleeping giant to a knowledge of his own power and possibilities. Americans are held in higher esteem by the Chinese than any other nationality, due to the fact that we were never engaged in the opium traffic, never in any land-grabbing combination, never consented to the partition of China, cancelled the Boxer indemnity and are the only nation who ever dealt squarely and above board with her. Christians hold responsible positions in the Government service and give excellent results. The keynote of Mr. Keller's talk is summed up in the following question: "Are we going to take advantage of our splendid opportunities and lead China into the first rank of Christian nations, ultimately reaping the fruits of China's gratitude?" Mr. Keller then closed his remarks by repeating the Lord's Prayer in Chinese.

THE URSINUS WEEKLY

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EDITORIAL

With this our last issue we make a final appeal in behalf of the business manager. Subscription payments are coming in very slowly and the ordinary expenses of the paper are continuing. Kindly send in your dollar and relieve the stringency.

Last week it was our sad duty to record the death of one of our most beloved students and warm personal friend, Robert Thompson. He was buried at eleven o'clock on the Saturday following his death, surrounded by friends of his home and Normal School life and covered with floral tokens of respect and esteem from his many friends in Ursinus and Collegeville.

His character and what he meant to us was well summed up by Mr. Price in his address at the memorial service held last Monday. In part he said: "All who knew him loved him and his ways. Even the little children on the street welcomed the bluff, but hearty and pleasant smile of Bob and received with joyfulness his affectionate touch. His daily life of simplicity and whole heartedness will be one of our best and biggest lessons and will remain with us as an imperishable legacy. *** And thus may we always think of him, not as one lost to us but as one, who having passed into the great unknown, has left shining in our memories the brightness of the light, shed as he passed by our way."

The parents and brothers and sister of Robert have requested us to acknowledge with heartfelt

thanks the kind words of sympathy extended to them by the various organizations and individuals at Ursinus.

With this issue, the Weekly passes out of the hands of those who have guided its course for the past thirty-six issues and new hands will take the helm and man the deck. The coveted port has always been a Greater Ursinus. At times the wind has been favorable and the sailing easy but at other times it has been necessary to tack from side to side out of the direct course in order that the progress should be forward, rather than backward with the wind. As the voyage has not been sufficiently long for the port to be reached, it devolves upon the new captain and crew either to seek a new port or to complete the tacks already begun.

We started out a year ago with several definite things to accomplish but we soon came to realize with the gentleman from Oregon that while you can hit more birds with a handful of sand than you can with a brick, you can bring more down with the brick. Thus we dropped the idea of a literary department until the paper becomes sufficiently large to afford it. The deviation toward basket ball was abandoned because of the utter inability to get a suitable floor. However, a movement was started that will likely culminate in basket ball at Ursinus next year. Student government and its resultant education for political activity was advocated by the Weekly, and through the efforts of a large number of the students, helped by Prof. Omwake and Prof. Kline, it has become a reality at Ursinus. This is another legacy left to the new staff either to advance or to abandon. The sailing is not easy in this direction but we feel that real progress has been made toward the final goal by acquiring for the students a place in the administration of Ursinus College and thus engendering a spirit of helpfulness and interest that will follow the student into the world and make him a valuable alumnus.

The effort to stimulate the Alumni to a greater interest in Ursinus, through our alumni column and pertinent Ursinus news seems to have met with success. The alumni editors and others have contributed items and as a result there has been an average of a full column of Alumni News in every issue during this school year. We feel especially indebted to Rev. John E. Stone, '00, Rev. Calvin D. Vost, '01, G. L. Omwake, '03, Miss Rhea Duryea, '08, Garry C. Myers, '09, and Paul A. Mertz, '10. The interest of alumni in the

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college is greater than ever before. The local meetings held at Philadelphia, Lebanon, Tamaqua, Nazareth and Chambersburg were well attended and much spirit was manifested. This is a long step toward a Greater Ursinus as it is only by having an ever increasing, loyal, enthused alumni use their votes and influence that the faults of Ursinus will be eliminated and the student body increased.

May the alumni of Ursinus College increase their interest and devotion to their Alma Mater and give even greater aid to the new editor and his staff than they have in the past so that the Ursinus Weekly may be a real live factor in the development of the college.

We acknowledge our debt to the the staff for the service rendered in producing the paper and feel especially indebted to the business manager, Mr. West, for the excellent way he has conducted the finances and co-operated with us in all moves for the paper's betterment.

The paper has received honest effort in our hands and we hope it has met with the approval of its owners and readers. There is yet much room for improvement and we pledge our support to future editors in anything that will bring about that improvement.

It is with true regret that we

relinquish a task that has been both a pleasure and profit, and with this our last sentence lay aside our pencil.

Classical Group Meets

The Classical Group held a very interesting and entertaining meeting last Thursday evening. Business incident to the welfare of the Group was transacted previous to the literary part of the program.

Dr. Good was then presented to the group and spoke to the members on "The Humorous side of Foreign Travel." Dr. Good has traveled extensively throughout Europe and Asia, having visited the mission fields in Palestine and Egypt.

He is well acquainted in Europe, having gone there frequently to do research work in church history. Dr. Good in his own quiet and humorous way, related many of his own amusing experiences in foreign lands. The lecture was enlightning in that he showed clearly just how each people has a peculiar wit or humor of its own and how it effects the traveler. All were in a happy mood and enjoyed excellent refreshments to the full.

West, '12, who took charge of the body of Robert Thompson on the trip to Clatonia and represented Ursinus at the funeral, returned to college last Monday evening. Kerr will return to-morrow.

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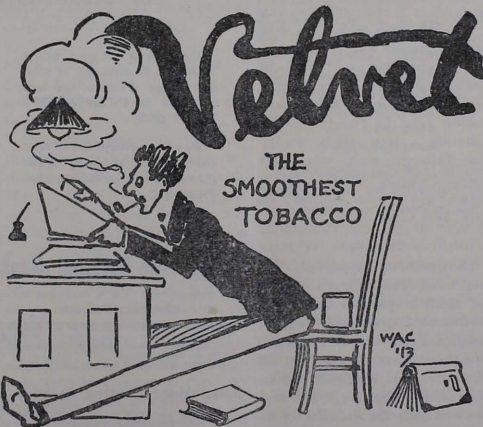
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LETTER FROM JAPAN

Continued from page one

The expenses of such a trip are necessarily light, or the one half or two thirds of the students, which in our school it is necessary to have to make such a trip, could not go. This year on account of the fires that we had at the Meiji Gakuin the trip was short but for twenty-five cents gold, the fellows had ninety-two miles on the railroad, a night's lodging, two hot meals, refreshments on the social night, one lunch, and a post card for remembrance apiece. I call that pretty cheap, don't you?

It is true that we profs have to help out a bit and that the students have a small fund for the purpose, but it's dirt cheap anyhow. They are great educators—these trips—both for the students and the teachers. They give a man a chance to get under the shirt of his fellow as when one buffets the breakers with him at Kodzu or tries for bottom in the tarn at Hakone. I go every time, and expect to do so until my interest in students ceases.

Cordially,
W. E. HOPFSOMMER.

Baseball Prospects

Continued from page one

Brown Prep. seem to be of Varsity calibre. Bush is a pitcher of much promise, having the advantage of size and strength. Shellenberger captained Brown Prep. last year and showed ability as a pitcher and infelder. He is also a good hitter.

Patterson Feld will be put into shape so that practice can be held tomorrow or Wednesday. It is not to be expected that the team will be in shape for the game at Princeton on Saturday.

SOCIETY NOTES

Schaff

The first part of Friday evening's meeting was given over to Dr. E. Stagg Whitin, Secretary of the National Committee on Prison Labor.

Dr. Whitin gave us a most interesting account of the status of the prisoner in different States and of the measures which are being taken to remedy the abuses existing in our prisons. The other numbers included in the program were: Piano solo, Miss Clark; reading from La Follette, Fisher; recitation, "How Girls Study," Miss Talmage; vocal solo, Holt; essay, "Champ Clark," M. C. Jacobs; piano solo, Krause; Gazette, Miss Clark.

Zwinglian

The question, "Resolved, That the United States should establish the recall of judicial decisions on constitutional questions," was debated on Friday night by Bogert, Davidheiser and Wetzel on the affirmative, and Riegler, Alleva and West on the negative. The negative won both the decision of the judges and the house. A piano solo was rendered by Robinson and a vocal solo by Miss Snyder. The Review was read by Miss Wiest.

Under voluntary exercises, the society had the good fortune to be instructed on prison conditions and reforms by Dr. E. Stagg Whitin of New York city. Dr. Whitin, as Secretary of the National Com-

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mission on Prison Labor, is ably informed on prison conditions and advocates much needed reforms. He denounced the sale of prisoners, enforced idleness, useless trades and competition with free labor. He advocated large penal farms, the products of which would not go on the open market but to supply State institutions. Capital punishment should be abolished and wages paid to criminals during their term of imprisonment. Dr. Dresser gave an interesting talk.