




2-13-1903

## The Ursinus Weekly, February 13, 1903

Walter E. Hoffsommer

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# The Ursinus Weekly

Entered December 19, 1902, at Collegeville, Pa., as Second Class Matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

VOL. 1. NO. 19.

COLLEGEVILLE, PA., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 1903.

PRICE, 3 CENTS.

## A SKETCH

A visit to some of the old graveyards near Collegeville is scarcely conducive to the solemn thoughts that usually attend such places. The sublime and the ridiculous are so closely joined that the impression on the observer is somewhat grotesque, and his ideas of the "eternal fitness of things" receive rude shocks. Side by side stand the neat stone of a few years past and the crumbling ruins of an uncut rock with its inscription, part German, part hieroglyphic, dating back to the seventeenth century. Here stands a massive pillar erected by the people of the state in memory of a former governor; a few feet away lies a neglected grave, marked by a single board, roughly hewed, bearing the mournful inscription, "Rest in Piece." The board is painted white, with a black border of irregular width; and the letters wander aimlessly around, "s" and "n" being invariably turned the wrong way. The artist began the name with an allowance of space so liberal, that it is evident he did not observe the Greek motto, "Consider the end," and in spite of careful crowding, one letter must be carried over to the next line.

In another graveyard lies a mound bearing the inscription, "100 Revolutionary hero's lie here." Nearby is a similar mound, but the visitor, expecting other "hero's," finds that this marks the resting place of a number of "Beans." Whether they were buried in the same promiscuous way as the "hero's" were, or not, the inscription fails to answer. A short distance away is a large stone slab bearing the image of two small lambs and the notice "Infant Twins." The parents were evidently somewhat sheepish. Another stone gravely announces the final abode of a man who was born in 1837 and who died in 1785; he must have been a very backward fellow. Not far away lies a stubborn rascal who insists that "until the judgment day" he intends to lie there "a solid lump of clay." Mistakes in grammar and spelling are numerous. One touching inscription on the grave of a child speaks of her as a "but" that was cut off before it bloomed into a flower; and another gravely announces that "wonst" he was alive.

The custom of adding a stanza of poetry was common between 1750 and 1850. Some of these were taken from familiar hymns, usually with appropriate modifications; others must have been the work of local poets. The one beginning,

"Farewell, kind friends and children dear,  
I am not dead, but sleeping here,"

was evidently a great favorite and may be seen scores of times. Another common and rather sinister one is,

"Remember, man, as you pass by,  
As you are now, so once was I.  
As I am now, you soon shall be,  
Prepare for death and follow me."

Some fellow, whose earnest desire for remembrance overcomes his elegance of expression, beseeches,

"Though I lie here till my bones are rotten,  
I hope I may never be forgotten."

Perhaps the most peculiar of all are those verses which are written on the install-

ment plan. They begin with the first death in the family and are not completed until all have followed. Each one seems to say, "Continued in our next." The names are curiously woven into the poetry at the expense of rhyme and rhythm; and the story grows like the "house that Jack built." At last the family is reunited and the cycle is complete.

Such are some of the curious things that may be observed in a visit to these old graveyards; and the student interested in antiquarian pursuits need not limit his research to Valley Forge or the venerable Trappe church. In these inscriptions he may read not only history, but human nature; and if he chooses to moralize he may quote from numerous epitaphs,

"Remember, man, as you pass by—"  
GETTELL, '04.

## AUDUBON SCIENCE MEETS

A well attended meeting of the Audubon Science Club was held Monday evening. Papers were presented by Dr. Crawford and Professor Gummere. In a Journal Report, by Miss Myers, '06, the discovery of the germ of laziness was mentioned.

The following officers were elected for the second term; President: I. M. Rapp, '03; Vice-President, O. D. Brownback, '04; Secretary, Mary E. Behney, '06; Treasurer, C. D. Trexler, '05; Members of Executive Committee, Dr. Murlin and Prof. Gummere.

An abstract from Dr. Crawford's paper on "The New Psychology" follows:

"The first and only treatise on psychology as a special science that ancient philosophy produced was Aristotle's *De Anima*. The Middle Ages developed many systems of dogmatic metaphysics, but no psychology. Even in modern times psychology was for centuries only a part of the wider philosophical science, and was treated by most writers speculatively and not scientifically. The English School of Locke were among the few who regarded experience as a succession of ideas, and who used the method of direct introspection. Yet even this school was not without its metaphysical hypothesis.

"The new psychology tried to study mental processes directly and accurately, and without presupposition. This movement started in Germany, and Herbert was its precursor. But Weber and Fechner were the first really scientific psychologists, or rather psycho-physicists. They investigated by experiment and exact method the relations of psychical and physical. They formulated the first real scientific law discovered by psychology—the Weber-Fechner Law. With the founding of the laboratory for experimental psychology at Leipzig in 1879, Wundt firmly placed the science upon an experimental basis. It was not long before careful analysis and classification had been made of sensation, and the astounding result reached that mind can distinguish nearly fifty thousand different sensations. Higher mental processes have also been investigated, but the results cannot be said to be so well established. It may be added that the new method of experiment does not in any displace introspec-

tion, but is only an aid to control it and to standardize the conditions. It has thus replaced opinion by definite knowledge.

"Among the results to which the new psychology has contributed, one of the first is the direct correlation of the physical and psychical. No one can any longer identify them, though some regard them as parallel. It is seen that they are very closely related, and the view is now obtaining that they constitute a single psycho-physical organism. The organic view of mind has become pretty well established. It is seen that the mind (and the body) has grown from the simple to the more complex, and as such shows all the marks of a living, active organism. It can no longer be regarded as merely passive, and as made up of a series of atomistic units or ideas. Mental elements are clearly processes in a complex, organic whole. Moreover, no one would now deny that mental functions take place according to law; and it is not physical but psychical law. This has helped to transform our view of freedom from that of indetermination, which held that the will operated without causes, to that of self-determination, which conceives the will as acting according to its own nature.

"These are but a few of the many ways in which the new psychology of exact experiment has contributed to our knowledge of mental processes."

Prof. Gummere spoke on "The Theory of Parallels: An Example of the Higher Criticism in Mathematics." An abstract is appended:

"Greek mathematics, in common with other branches of Greek thought, was looked upon as almost sacred in the Middle Ages and during the Renaissance. Practically nothing had been added to the Greek achievements for a thousand years. This was especially true of geometry, and Euclid's "Elements" held undisputed sway. One of its fundamental statements, however, the famous "Parallel Axiom," was so clumsy and complex that many attempts had been made to prove or simplify it, with little result. The invention, in the seventeenth century, of new mathematical methods, far transcending in power those of the Greeks, did much to change this attitude of veneration, and thenceforward the trend was decidedly in that direction. The profound study of our concepts of space and time by the great philosopher Kant showed mathematicians the need of examining the fundamentals of their science. In 1826 a Russian, Lobatschewsky, and in 1833 a Hungarian, Bolyai, published treatises denying the parallel axiom, and deducting a perfectly consistent geometry therefrom. The "giant mathematician," Gauss, had also been thinking along this line, but not till the publication, in 1864, of Riemann's doctor's dissertation "On the Foundations of Geometry" was general attention called to the subject. Followed shortly by Helmholtz' able work with the same title, it stimulated thought in this direction marvellously. Many mathematicians in many countries have since been studying the question, with far-reaching results. We know now that the parallel axiom, like many other axioms, is neither confirmed nor denied by experience, and we may therefore assume or deny it at pleasure.

## CALENDAR

Friday, Feb. 14. Literary Societies, 7.40 p. m.  
Saturday, 14. Valentine Fete and Athletic Supper in Chapel, 6 p. m. on.  
Sunday, 15. Service in Chapel, 8.00 p. m. Address by Prof. Kline.  
Tuesday, 17. Chorus Rehearsal, 7.00 p. m.  
Wednesday, 18. Y. M. C. A., 6.40 p. m. "Constancy in the Christian Life."  
Sunday, 22. Service in Chapel, 8.00 p. m.

## EDWIN P. GRESH DEAD

Ursinus College has sustained a great loss in the death of Director Edwin P. Gresh Friday morning last at his home in Norristown. Mr. Gresh had been ill since August, and his condition was considered exceedingly unfavorable from the beginning of his illness. The last time the students of Ursinus saw their enthusiastic friend was at the F. and M. football game, when his debilitated condition compelled him to leave the grounds before the conclusion of the game.

Mr. Gresh's interest in Ursinus was the outgrowth of genuine affection. He was a student here from January, 1874, till June, 1876, but instead of entering college he embarked upon a business career. The friendships he formed with a number of students of that day were steadfastly maintained throughout his life. He was a constant attendant upon college occasions, and his love for the place and his devotion to the welfare of the college were not surpassed by the interest manifested by any alumnus.

The funeral services, held Tuesday afternoon of this week, were conducted by President Spangler and his college roommate, Rev. George S. Sorber, '76, of York, his pastor, Rev. J. B. Henry, being absent on account of sickness. Mr. Gresh was born April 15, 1855. He was a member of Trinity Reformed Church, Norristown, a manager of the Norristown Y. M. C. A., and a Director of the Norristown Trust Company as well as of Ursinus College. The Executive Committee of the college adopted the following minute on his death:

In the death of Edwin P. Gresh the Directors of Ursinus College have lost an associate whose character and presence always inspired confidence, awakened hope and diffused good cheer. He came into the Board in the ripe strength of manhood, bringing with him a naturally warm heart whose affection for the institution in which he was a student from 1874 to 1876 increased with the years in which he was laying the foundations of business prosperity that he might make his service to the institution more effective and abundant. Although less than two years a Director he entered with energy and enthusiasm into the discussion and determination of every question that confronted the Board. His personal donations to the expenses of the institution during the past year attest the fervor and reality of his devotion. The knowledge of his larger plans and greater hopes for the institution will remain with us an inspiration and encouragement, and we commend their speedy fulfillment to all who love the cause of higher education and take pleasure in honoring the memory of a true and noble man.

Attest: HON. H. W. KRATZ, Pres.  
REV. J. H. HENDRICKS.

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Published weekly at Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa., during the college year, by the Student Editorial Staff.

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Office, Room 75, East College.

Office hours, 6.30-7.00 p. m. Friday, 2.00-5.00, p. m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 13, 1903.

## EDITORIALS

In many ways the student in the small college is subject to the same fierce light that beats upon a throne. He is known by his fellow students both by his action and his thought, and this intimate knowledge and its consequent criticism is just what is going to make or unmake him. College students, as a rule, are not slow in giving their opinions of persons, and especially of those whom they do not like. And three or four years of class life, and dormitory life, and society and football life, and all the life that goes to make up an active student's course,—these reveal every possible hidden trait or possibility in character.

It is very fortunate that this life is so keen, and especially so at the age in which young men are in college. This is not exactly the formation period, but it is the period that settles the self. Gladstone said truly, "Censure and criticism never hurt anybody. If false, they cannot hurt you unless you are wanting in manly character; and if true, they show a man his weak points, and forewarn him against failure and trouble."

It is certain that each man who is doing anything worth doing is the special mark of talk. But criticism can be made of great use by the one criticised. It enlarges his point of view and shows him the way other men are looking at the things which go to make up his life.

"At the flaming forge of life,  
Our fortunes must be wrought."

\* \* \*

"There is only one rule of life eternally binding. It is this: Try thyself unwearyingly, till thou findest the highest thing thou art capable of doing, and then do it." It is well for us college men if we keep this saying in mind. At every turn we meet the questions, "What are you going to be; what are you going to do?" And if we are undecided toward the close of our college course, the question brings a sting with it.

We might with profit take the injunction to try the spirits that are within us and see which we can use best, which will lead us to the greatest possibilities of our manhood and our work. Indecision as to one's own life work comes too often from a lack of earnest consideration of what qualities he possesses, and from the lack of a daring spirit to use these found qualities in the greatest possible way.

The presence of the will to do the thing after it is once decided upon is what separates the truly successful man from the unsuccessful one. Just here is the real crux of life. The men are few, indeed, who will dare their all for their convictions. But these men are the great men. There is stern stuff in them. They followed the advice of the great Spurgeon. "Do right, and leave the consequences to God."

## TO-MORROW NIGHT

A delightful social event is promised all who will attend the second annual athletic festival to be held to-morrow, St. Valentine's night. Many will recall with pleasure the success of the Valentine Fete of last year. Why not help to make to-morrow's fete equally successful or more so?

There will be lots of fun and plenty of games. Ping pong and crokinole will vie with ring-toss, table croquet and pillow-dex. Do you know what the last is? Ah, well—just come and see! And don't you miss the egg foot-ball—if you do, you will miss half your life.

Then there'll be something to eat. A grand oyster supper with all accompaniments will be served in style. Ice cream, cake, candy and lemonade will be present in abundance. Flowers of every hue, bewitching ones—just the kind for valentines—will be seen on every hand.

And mind you, any anxious swain—or lady fair—who wishes to consult St. Valentine on private business can have the opportunity at the post-office annex. For if St. Valentine isn't there himself, his accredited representative will be.

Supper will be served from six to ten p. m.

Come one, come all.

Bring yourself and g—.

## THE ÆSTHETICS CLASS

Dr. Crawford with his class in Fine Arts took in the exhibition at the Academy last Saturday. The professor led the class throughout the building and pointed out in considerable detail the qualities of the various paintings. The class took exceptional interest in Millet's "Return of the Flock." The sculptures and the reproductions in bronze and plaster were of considerable interest to some of the party.

Various forms of architecture were explained by means of some of Philadelphia's most noted buildings. After the sight seeing, Dr. Crawford took the class to dinner at The Little Hotel Wilmot.

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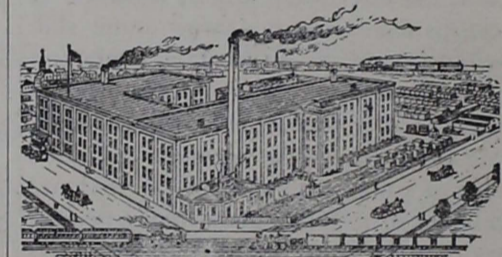
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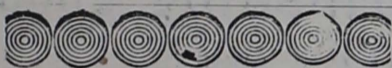
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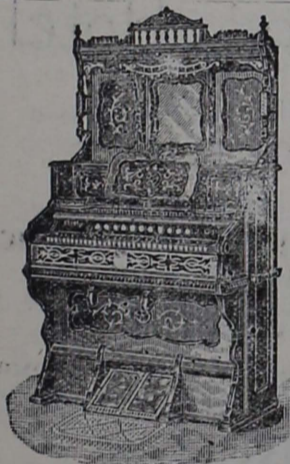
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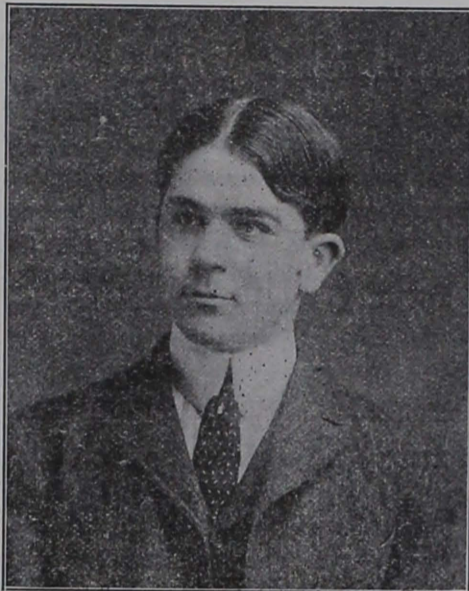
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Manager Hobson has arranged a heavy schedule; there are seventeen games scheduled; about eight are with colleges whose teams are first-class. A few new games appear, Lafayette, Fordham and Manhattan; all of these are played away and all will be hard games. There is a likelihood of more games being played yet, to fill in the few open dates. So far six games are to be played at home, eleven away. This year's schedule is probably the best ever gotten out at Ursinus and great credit is due Manager Hobson for his indefatigable labor. It may be too early to prognosticate on the chances of different players making the team, but it is not too early for candidates to start mild preparatory training.

**THE SCHEDULE.**

- April 1. Fordham at New York.
- April 4. Lehigh at South Bethlehem.
- April 8. Lafayette at Easton.
- April 10. Susquehanna at Selin's Grove.
- April 11. Dickinson at Carlisle.
- April 17. Manhattan at New York.
- April 18. Rutgers at New Brunswick.
- April 22. Open.
- April 25. Muhlenburg at Collegeville.
- May 2. F. and M. at Lancaster.
- May 6. Open.
- May 9. Open.
- May 13. Susquehanna at Collegeville.
- May 16. Rutgers at Collegeville.
- May 19. Dickinson at Collegeville.
- May 23. P. M. C. at Chester.
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June 6. F. and M. at Collegeville.

June 10. Commencement Day, Lebanon Valley College at Collegeville.

**"THE DISTRICT SCHOOL"**

An entertainment under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society of Trinity Reformed Church was given in the chapel last Saturday evening. A piano solo by Miss Ida L. Robison preceded the presentation of the farce entitled, "The District School at Blueberry Corners." A number of college students took part, which added interest to the occasion. Miss Rhoda Archer, of Norristown, directed the play.

**SOCIETY NOTES**

The Schaff Literary Society on February 6 debated the question, "Resolved, That the group system should replace the old class system at Ursinus College." The teams were: affirmative, Messrs. Gutshall, Dotterer and Wismer; negative, Messrs. Brownback and Foltz, and Miss Myers.

The affirmative side showed how the group system brings those men together who are interested in the same subject, and in this way contributes to each other's intellectual development. It would also reduce unwholesome class rivalry. The other side claimed that the class system gives one more social development and that class spirit is an essential of college life. Besides, they pointed out the uncongeniality of association between the higher and the lower classes which the group system would necessitate. The decision was given in favor of the negative.

After the debate the bi-monthly election of officers was held. Those elected were: President, W. E. Hoffsommer; Vice-President, R. G. Gettell; Recording Secretary, L. H. Rice; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Wolff; Financial Secretary, C. D. Trexler; Treasurer, R. F. Wismer; Chaplain, O. D. Brownback; First Editor, F. H. Hobson; Second Editor, H. H. McCollum; Critic, Miss Spangler; Pianist, Miss Hobson; Janitor, W. H. Harman.

"Drama vs. Novel as agents for producing feeling," was debated in the Zwinglian.

The Zwinglian Review was read by Miss Bertha E. Shipe, '05.

Active preparations are being made for the Sixth Annual Declamation Contest which will be held Thursday evening, February 26.

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#### LOCALS

Miss Spangler, '03, was visiting in the City the latter part of last week and enjoyed several of the fine musical productions given at that time.

R. B. Price, the brother of John Price, '05, visited him last week.

John Lentz, '02, was the guest of the "Dog House" over Sunday.

R. E. Miller, '05, has returned to school, after a month's absence.

#### Y. M. C. A.

The meeting of the week was in charge of W. R. Anson, '03. He spoke on "The Fall and Restoration of Peter." The historical setting of the subject was reviewed. The speaker urged the cultivation of courage, the necessary accompaniment of a self-determined life, to wage a successful warfare against besetting college sins. Dignity, self-respect, a high sense of honor, coupled with love and mutual helpfulness for others, so expressive of the well-rounded Christian, should characterize our actions.

Prof. Kline will address the meeting on Sunday evening.

#### THE BANJO CLUB

Enthusiasm lately manifested among musically inclined students has culminated in the organization of the Banjo Club under the supervision of Miss McCain. It is the intention of the club to embody also mandolin, guitar and violin. The following officers were elected at the business session: Leader Wentz, '05, Treasurer, Snyder, A.; Manager, Wise, '06. Those reporting at the meeting were as follows: Violin: Laros, '03; Benjeaurine: Wentz, '05, Schweyer and Foltz, '06; Mandolin: Farringer, '06, Miller, '05; Guitar: Place, '05, Wise, '06 and Snyder A. In accordance with the spirit shown, it is hoped that the new club will be a valuable addition to the college organizations.



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#### SENIOR RECEPTION

Mr. Frank H. Hobson, '03, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Hobson, Esq., '76, Treasurer of Ursinus College, extended a very delightful, informal reception to his fellow-classmates and invited friends Wednesday evening of this week. The earlier part of the evening was devoted to social chat and several unique and interesting guessing contests. The Prizes were won by Miss Mary E. Shade, '04 and J. LeRoy Roth, '03. Refreshments, extempore performance and college songs completed the evening's round of merriment.

#### AMONG THE COLLEGES

The last number of *The Phoenix* appears in a new dress. It has been changed from a bi-monthly to a monthly and in its new form it has a very neat and attractive appearance. The incident "One of the Many" illustrates a truth that is only too true—disregard for the welfare of ordinary men. The current number has a good exchange department.

The last issue of *The College Student*, is an Alumni number. The article "Franklin and Marshall in Athletics" is an exhaustive review of the institution's record in the athletic world. The article "A Yale—Princeton Football Game" is a vivid description of one of the games which always attract a great deal of attention among the colleges.

#### ALUMNI NOTES

At a special meeting of Lancaster Classis on Thursday of Last week Licentiate Stephen Flickinger, of the Ursinus School of Theology, was dismissed to Iowa Classis and will become pastor at Liscomb.

The business meeting and banquet of the Schuylkill Valley Alumni Association of Ursinus College, which was to have been held at Stritzinger's parlors, Norristown, on February 5, has been indefinitely postponed, owing to the serious illness at the time of E. P. Gresh. Since then Mr. Gresh's death has occurred, an account of which is given in another column.



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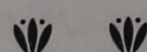
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