

# The M. A. C. Record.

Vol. 4.

LANSING, MICHIGAN, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1899.

No. 25

## Changes in the Mechanical Course.

The State Board at its last meeting approved plans for a revision of work in the mechanical course, by which candidates for admission to the College who are not far enough advanced to enter the four-year course now offered can pursue a five-year course. A four-year course will also be offered but the requirements for admission to it will be higher than the requirements for admission to the present four-year course. While graduates of first-class high schools will be able to enter the revised four-year course, it is probable that the great majority of applicants for admission will be required to take the longer course.

The relation of the two courses to each other will be such that the last two years of one will be almost identical with the last two years of the other. The only difference will be in the shop work. Thus it will be seen that the first three years of the five-year course will advance the student as far as the first two years of the four-year course.

It now remains to compare briefly these two courses with the course now offered, to see what has been added. We find that the student in the five-year course will get about 6 hours of English, 30 hours of shop work, 16 hours of drawing, 6 hours of physics, 6 hours of chemistry, 15 hours of German, 10 hours of algebra, 5 hours of calculus, and a few other items that the student of today does not get. This means in several instances that the work is simply spread out over a greater length of time, but in most instances the result will be a distinct advance on the present standard of excellence. As the two new courses are supposed to come out even at the end, it will be seen that the new four-years course will be more advanced than the one now offered.

We hope for at least two good results from this revision. It is expected, in the first place, that such students as now fall behind and become discouraged in the first two years of their course will be able to take the five-year course without serious difficulty; and in the second place, that we shall be able to graduate students better prepared to take up work along mechanical lines.

## Reunion of the Chicago M. A. C. Association.

In spite of the inclemency of the weather, twenty of Chicago's M. A. C. boys gathered at the Victoria Hotel on the evening of Saturday, February 25th, with Dr. Edwards as their guest, to celebrate the fourth annual reunion of the Chicago M. A. C. Association.

After assembling in the hotel parlors, a short time was spent in renewing old ties of friendship, after which President Gullely and Dr. Edwards led the way to the banquet hall, where all were feasted in royal style *a la Victoria*, nearly two hours being consumed in doing justice to the menu.

The inner man being satisfied to his fullest capacity, the chairs were pushed back, and while the disciples

of the weed recalled old fancies from their clouds of smoke, all sang greeting to the strain of "Fair Harvard."

The president then introduced Dr. Edwards, who was greeted with characteristic M. A. C. enthusiasm. After telling somewhat of the progress of the College, Dr. Edwards spoke upon "Vanity Fair," the substance of which talk will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Next came the old familiar College song—sung in the same spirit that used to make it echo thro' College halls. Then after toasts and roasts and stories in general, the gathering resolved itself into a business meeting and elected the following officers for the coming year:

President, Mr. C. E. Smith, '84; Vice President, Dr. John A. Wisener with '88; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. I. L. Simmons, '97.

It was also decided that hereafter, anyone, man or woman, having been connected with the College, in whatever capacity, should be considered a member of the association and entitled to attend the banquets.

The meeting ended with the College yell. One and all voted a royal time, and as one put it, we had a mighty good time. Our only regret is that more of the boys could not have attended. About one-third of those in the city came out; can we not do better next time? One never regrets a meeting of this kind.

W. P. H.

## Union Society Meeting.

Last Saturday evening was held another union meeting of College literary societies. Each society was represented on the program as follows: Essay, Miss Cannel, Fernian; A True Story, F. W. Owen, Hesperian; Recitation, H. L. Kimball, Phi Delta Theta; Reverie, W. H. Flynn, Eclectic; Essay, A. G. Bodourian, Columbian; Reading, Miss Pepple, Themian; Society Paper, H. G. Cowling, Olympic. This with four selections by the mandolin and guitar club, made one of the most enjoyable programs ever rendered at the College. Games, dancing and a general revival of good feeling made 11:30 come only too quickly, when the patronesses, Mesdames Thompson and Havens, appeared and ordered the youngsters home. The three society rooms in Williams Hall were opened together and proved none too large for the gathering. The meeting was presided over by Miss Thompson as president, and Miss Lovely as secretary, and every one of the 160 present seemed to enjoy it thoroughly.

C. H. P.

## Remember March Seventeen.

Miss Ronan, instructor in calisthenics, and the members of the athletic association have arranged to give an athletic benefit in the Armory on the evening of March 17. The part of the program to be furnished by the young women will include a Swedish lesson, a dumb-bell lesson, marching, and a game of basket-ball. The boys will play basket-ball. The sports will take place in the middle of the Armory

and the audience will be arranged around the sides of the room so that all who attend can see. A similar entertainment given last year proved very successful and this should be better than that.

## Vanity Fair.

ADDRESS BY DR. HOWARD EDWARDS, GIVEN AT THE REUNION OF THE CHICAGO M. A. C. ASSOCIATION.

Our thoughts tonight turn backward rather than forward. They cluster around the old campus up there on the Red Cedar; around the somewhat sombre beauty of its favorite shady nooks in the long ago; around the severe plainness of its class-rooms where both teacher and student forgot all but the thermal units, or the protean chemical metamorphoses then under discussion; around the faces and forms that will gather no more in its halls.

And so it should be. I sit by and listen, and am glad that so much is accomplished; that true, loyal hearts look back on the work done for them and in them, and are glad, and say, "It is good that we sat under the men of that day and associated with the boys of our time."

Your thoughts carry you back now to the years of your youth, to the work, the hopes, the pranks, the disasters of school-boy days. But with me M. A. C. means today, means now, the anxious, earnest work of manhood; the output of a life-time. You will pardon me, therefore, if my words here are somewhat earnest, if it points to the present and the future rather than to the past. I may illustrate:

Did you ever see a street car pulled by a mule? The car is filled with passengers anxious to get to the journey's end. The mule, an earnest conscientious mule, long eared, lean and sad-eyed, plods away, while the passengers growl or scoff at his pace. Finally the end of the tramway is reached; the passengers get out by twos and threes, and singly, too, and hurry away. The street car and the mule become a past, a memory, become even idealized and beautified by distance and time; but to the sad-eyed mule it is still a present, the work is still there, he hitches on to the other end of the car and goes back for another load of passengers. He thinks only of the grade just before him, and looks forward only to the rest and the feed when his day's work is ended. The street car is M. A. C. The passengers are you—that sad-eyed mule am I—and others like me.

But only in one sense. In another we

"Work at the sounding loom of time,  
And weave for the Godhead a living garb."

We are makers of destiny. We shape and fashion souls; yours and yours, and yours are our handiwork. But

'Tis an awkward thing to work with souls;  
And matter enough to save one's own.

and the question often comes to men like me, What are we doing for the men and women we send out? They go out into the great Fair of life with goods that we have furnished. What do they find the fair to be and how do their goods sell? Here and now is not the time

to ask of you, or expect an answer from you to questions such as these. But in the short time I speak with you I will just point out the advancing character of the great fair for which we furnished goods, and the nature of the goods that we think sell best there.

As I would have you conceive the world tonight, then, it is not a wild, desolate, cheerless landscape over and away from which one hastens as swiftly as possible; nor is it a *vanity* fair where debauchery, pollution and crime reign supreme, and where honesty, sobriety and holiness must conduct themselves as pilgrims and strangers. It is a great mart of trade, where every man is both a buyer and a seller. There is much hustle, much confusion, some wild laughter, some mad orgies of crime, but the vast majority of the people are intensely in earnest, and if they are fulfilling the purposes of their nature, if they are buying more earnest lives, nobler characters, a wider reach of vision, if they are doing for themselves and each other the best they are capable of, this may be a fair, but it is not a fair where the staple article is vanity. The vast majority of men are not selling and buying vanity. Not only so, but the great vices of cruelty, intolerance, class-exclusiveness, and tyranny command less respect and obtain less through fear than ever before and the demand for the great unselfish virtues, for strong, sturdy, independent character, for manliness and womanliness is stronger and the price paid for them is more nearly commensurate with their true value than ever before in the history of the world.

We hear much talk about progress of a certain kind—much self-glorification because we can move a little faster over the surface of the earth than did our ancestors; because we can annihilate time and space by means of telegraph and telephone; because we can light our dwellings and our streets with the brightness of the sun, and read at nightfall what all the four corners of the earth have been doing during the day. And truly these are great *potentialities* for progress. They furnish swifter means by which one may tell the world of great deeds; they give quicker feet with which one may run to do acts of kindness and mercy; they banish crime with darkness and render man less the plaything of chance. Every forward step of material progress means men released from some form of slavery, means a lever placed down among the mudsills of society and the whole structure slowly raised.

But, in and of itself, this progress means woefully little. We may be pitifully small men yet rush like the wind across the continent on a palace car. We may have only sordid, mean, silly things to say to each other, yet hasten to say them over a thousand miles of wire. There is more to progress than this.

In the olden days of the fair, birth and favoritism controlled all the business of the place. For the vast masses of humanity there remained only abject poverty and feudal slavery. Now, if you ask a certain

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# THE M. A. C. RECORD.

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## Recommendations of President Marston.

BOARD MEETING OF JAN. 25, 1899.

I trust I shall not be thought presumptuous if I assume it my privilege to call your attention to some of the work still pending, and to make suggestions regarding work for which the past has seemed to show the necessity. I shall also speak of a few things which I, as a board member, desire to bring before you and which I should have presented in the shape of resolutions as these plans matured. It is with no inclination or intention of criticising, that in some ways I may seem to do so, but rather by specific example to show more clearly my meaning and to some slight extent justify the remarks. That these few suggestions are not worked to a definite conclusion you will readily see but that even from this crudeness some good will result is my wish.

I would suggest that a committee be appointed on By-laws of the Board. This committee could look over the rules and regulations as they have been laid down from time to time, regarding the board, could take into account the unwritten code sanctioned by past and precedent and should take into consideration the requirements of the present and the future. This would formulate methods of procedure for our guidance. In this line I might mention the question of advisable relation between the standing committees of the board with their respective departments. We have the rule, and wisely too, that all reports and requests from the department must come to the board through the president of the College, yet on the other hand, there exists a deep necessity for a personal conference and relation between the committees and the departments. This relation should be defined. Perhaps the work could be separated into executive and legislative.

As an illustration, some time ago the Mechanical Committee asked this question: "How do our graduate students in the Mechanical Engineering Course rank with those of other colleges and the University?" and were answered, "They are on an equal footing." From this point the committee knowing that we are supposed to take students from the eighth grade while the students from the University are from the twelfth grade or four years farther along, and that to make the two graduates equal we must do in four years what the high schools and

University together take eight years for, began a work of inquiry and found that changes were apparently necessary in the Mechanical Engineering Course. The matter was then brought to the Board and a special committee appointed. Now, why was this not really the committee's work? Or should it have been allowed to wait until brought before the board by the president? I may say for the new committee that part of this work is finished and it would seem wise that they should solve the problem and bring the matter to a successful issue.

There is a second necessity for conference, by no means a small one, that of visiting departments to show your interest in the departments you are supposed to represent before the board. This is not only a benefit to the chief in charge but also a distinct benefit to the committee, they being thus much better qualified to work understandingly on matters referred. When first members of this board, the present secretary and myself, in our youthful enthusiasm, if you wish, attempted to visit departments with the above idea in view. You would hardly believe we were told by some that it was an innovation. We listened to some lectures which gave us information other than what the professor said by word of mouth.

We need concentration. Why not have each committee map out a certain line of work and then pursue that line and have some definite aim? What is the policy or plan of the Farm Committee in regard to the farm? The Experiment Station Committee on the subject of Tuberculosis? Or what experiments shall they pursue? Are we drifting or are we working along definite lines? If along definite lines, is it to the best of our ability? I think Wisconsin can be sighted as working full force along certain definite lines.

Some changes in our standing committees seem advisable. We need a committee on the Women's Department. Then while we have a committee on Veterinary and on Horticulture, yet we have none on the Chemical Department.

There is a need for promptness. When an emergency arises, the president must have the power and authority to act at once. Some delays are unavoidable but in many cases foresight would fully prepare us for the emergency. Reports are not in on time. The inventories last year were not handed in until long past time. If we are to issue a calendar let it come out the first of January or before, not the 15th. The experiment station bulletins are not issued according to the desires of the board at least. Perhaps the printers are to blame but is there no way to remedy this? Were the secretary at each meeting to make a business report similar to the president's executive report many delays which should not occur and unfulfilled resolutions of the board would be brought to our notice. Then let all resolutions be either fulfilled or rescinded.

Some plan is needed in regard to new work and extensive repairs which would do away with all misunderstanding and chance for error in after representations. Were all requirements when needed, yes, even when the necessity was anticipated, sent to a head of department under whose work it might properly fall, for that department to formulate plans and specifications, we should

have the advantage of their expert knowledge. Let all requirements, plans, specifications and estimates be made on paper, these papers signed by each one who may have them in charge and when the work is finished let the result be compared with the papers and errors charged or commendation credited to whomsoever they belong. With some such plan there could be no misunderstandings as there were on the farm barn, the steam pipe for the agricultural laboratory, the electric light and others. Even now we have gone to the legislature and asked \$2,500 for rehaling the heating plant of Williams and Wells halls. Upon what have we based our estimate? It would not be a bad idea if *all* communications between departments and from departments to the president should be in writing.

There are three resolutions of the board (perhaps one was more a consensus of opinion) to which I should like to call attention: The first the bulletins for school children, especially in the rural districts. This has not developed into much yet. Could not something valuable to the College be derived from such bulletins? Made up in attractive and proper shape, it does not seem as though they could be made of much value. This might properly come under the College extension work. The second, a more free publication in the press of experiments, rather than saving all for the bulletins. One of our laws permits if not requires some such publication though more by the College than by the experiment station. The third, the giving of all employment possible to the students. I trust this may be more earnestly insisted upon. Of course it is more difficult for the one who is accountable for such work but it is worth it, and the secretary has seemed to make it successful. Prof. Mumford also at this time is having all the work under him done by students with the exception of the herdsmen. Surely if in his department it can be done, it is not impossible in others. Both the secretary and Prof. Mumford are deserving of commendation for the way in which they have tried to make this feature a success.

I should like to see a sharper distinction between farm proper and the experiment station. This for one thing would settle the matter of more published experiments outside of the bulletins as all experiments of the farm proper could be for such publication. If the farm were run from a practical point of view, all monies received by that department would be credited to that department, of course with the idea of its being used under the same restrictions as now.

I hope the policy of this board will be to pay professors and instructors liberally but to insist upon value received and not hesitate to better the College when possible by making changes. To this end, if all instructors except heads of departments were engaged for a certain period of time, there would be less friction in making such changes.

Among a few of the things which may be looked into, I might suggest:

The more economical management of the boarding clubs.

Necessity for a good bath house.

Better gymnasium facilities.

Water closets in all professor's houses.

Superintendent of buildings and College property who would super-

intend all repair work and building and at other times might do some teaching.

Arrangements for rifle practice in connection with the Military Department.

Enlargement of the boiler house, higher chimney, steam stokers, etc. This plant is already up to its capacity and perhaps some improvements in changing would be more economical.

Lastly, and now that there is a change in the secretaryship, it would be better if other quarters were found for the superintendent of institutes.

## Vanity Fair.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE I.]

rather pompous, heavy-browed, fat-shouldered old lady in the fair how the market is on blood, she will tell you that the article is quite cheap; only a light local trade, with a large visible supply, and no foreign demand. You can buy a German prince almost anywhere as low as \$10,000—and a girl. So much at any rate has been done.

On the other hand, much remains to be done in ennobling the traffic of the fair. The staple today is wealth. Does it not purchase most here in our own America? Now wealth, unlike blood, should have real purchasing power. It assures us freedom from physical want; it brings us the means of culture, it is often a blessing to the community even when in unworthy hands. But like all useful things its power for evil is just as great as its power for good, and while it confers power, the relation of that power to the rights of the community are not at all clear either to the possessor of the power or to the community. The power of the petty kings of the past was as nothing compared with that of our mighty multi-millionaires of today. Yet the prerogatives of that sovereign as against the rights of the subject were carefully defined by law and custom; while the power of the rich man is, in certain directions, limited only by his own caprices or notions of selfish interest. Here much remains to be done in settling a fair and equitable price on the goods. New social conditions and relations, utterly unknown and undreamed of in the past, have arisen; new complications of privileges and rights such as dwarf the issues of the past confront us, and law seems utterly impotent to cope with the problem, or brutally relegates us to the property rights of a crude and undeveloped system, based on the same principles that not long ago gave man the right to property in his fellow-man. In fact the most infamous iniquities ever perpetrated by man upon man have found their justification and their support in codes of law. Law never precedes or forestalls reforms; it only recognizes them after they are an accomplished fact. Here and now the weal or woe of thousands of men hangs upon the stroke of the millionaire's pen, yet we are told that these thousands have no rights as against his powers and privileges. It is the same old story under a new name. It is the divine right of property now. It intrenches itself in science and anathematizes in the name of political economy, just as the other intrenched itself in religion and anathematized in the name of theology. That is not a true system

which permits wealth to buy limitless power without an iota of responsibility. The system that allows the whimsies of one man to crush out the life of thousands and disorganize the industries of sixty millions of people is absurd—just as absurd as the feudal system and just as sure to be reformed. Louis XIV's "L'etat c'est moi" is no more unsound, no more dangerous, no more pregnant with evil, woe, and anarchy, than is Vanderbilt's "the public be damned."

Yes, wealth has great purchasing power. It goes with the courts of law and draws around the bloody criminal, or brazen debaucher of innocent girlhood a host of zealous and indignant friends—at so much per degree Fahrenheit of zeal and indignation. It lends cunning, eloquence, pathos, to the lawyer's tongue—at so much per horse-power of persuasive influence. It warps the judgment of the ermine and the panel—size of consideration proportioned to angle of deflection.

But even here we are making progress. In our republic today wealth can't buy public respect, it can't buy public love and admiration; it can't buy immortality on earth. The great names that this nation loves to have on its lips are not the names of its rich men; not even of those who after a long life of hardness, injustice and greed, have at the end thrown a sop to morality and decency in the shape of a school, a library, or a hospital. The public refuses to be bribed or hoodwinked after this fashion. The names it has chosen for immortality are names that stand for brains, unselfishness, character, heroism. They are singularly free from the meanness of a Marlboro, the ambition of a Napoleon, or the hypocrisy or fanaticism of a Cromwell.

There is another thing that has a great purchasing power in vanity-fair; whether for good or for evil, you shall say. I just stated that wealth cannot buy love. It may indeed, and I have no doubt often does, purchase a whole original package of wife; but the is-marriage-a-failure debate of some years ago very clearly succeeded in demonstrating that love and marriage are by no means Siamese twins. Now, I can tell you something that has in vanity-fair the virtue of infallibly purchasing love. Oh, no! it is not the careful, middle part of the hair that the young man about town has developed, nor his eye-glass screwed into one eye, nor the heavy-weight cane that he uses to cut his wisdom teeth on, nor the limp, tired air of helpless and hopeless idiocy that he religiously wears under his shiny silk hat. No, these are the "uses of this world" that Hamlet, calling to mind again, no doubt, an egg that he had had that morning at the hotel Elsinore, dubbed as stale, flat, and unprofitable. Now, I have spent much time observing, reflecting, and pondering on the intricacies of female human nature; and the following is the concentrated wisdom bought by long and painful study. Wealth won't buy love, rank won't buy love, a buckram shirt-front and a big chrysanthemum won't buy love; but try her with a pug-dog with a triple-extract curl to his tail and she will fall on your neck, shed plentiful tears of unfeigned rapture, and call you (or the dog) a dear. Mysterious is the power of the pug dog over the female heart! I do not pretend to account for it. I only

observe and record. It is one of those deep secrets of nature's great arcana; it is like hypnotism, or the gyroscope, or original sin, or the occult law governing the upward and bifurcated movement of the ancient bustle in modern fashionable female attire. The pug dog is an established fact in the social life of vanity fair, and we have to take him where we find him; for if he were where we would have him be, he would assuredly find himself most peculiarly, uncomfortably warm.

But I must stop, and according to the regulations your toastmaster announced, should have stopped some while ago. What does it all come to? What are you buying? What are you selling? Thank God the old mother up there on the Cedar has cause to be proud of her sons and daughters. She gave you the goods—strong character, sturdy, moral brawn, earnest devotion to truth, trained brain and eye and hand, and with it you are buying the love of wife and child; the cosy nest that you call home; the riches of the world; honor and dignity in your chosen work; the gratitude of the weak, the erring and the fallen. And the old mother as she looks on you, busy for honor and for right in this same Vanity Fair, a worthy theatre for the most and the best that we can do, smiles proudly down on your successes and your dignities, points you out to the brood still flocking around her, and softly murmurs to herself, "I taught them how, I taught them how."

I bring you hearty greetings from old M. A. C.

**At the College.**

Dr. Alfred C. Lane, assistant state geologist, called at the College Thursday.

A number of the visiting delegation of Ohio legislators called at the College Thursday.

Several members of the teaching force were in Pontiac last week, attending the Round-up Institute.

Mrs. L. R. Taft entertained several ladies of Faculty Row very delightfully Wednesday afternoon.

Last Tuesday Mrs. W. S. Holdsworth entertained a few friends at supper in honor of her husband's birthday.

Union meeting of Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. next Sunday evening will be led by Mr. Stevens. Subject, "Missionary Work."

The Columbian Literary Society entertained lady friends last Friday evening. After the usual literary program refreshments and games made the time pass pleasantly until 11:30 o'clock.

The Natural History Society will meet Wednesday evening of this week at 6:30 in the Zoological lecture room. The program will include a talk on "Additions to the Michigan Flora since 1892," by Prof. Wheeler, and "The Larvæ Stage of Bees," by J. M. Rankin.

The annual business meeting of the Y. M. C. A. was held in the parlors of the association last Thursday evening, and the following officers for the ensuing year were elected: President, C. H. Parker; vice-president, George Severance; corresponding secretary, W. D. Wright; recording secretary, W. W. Wells; treasurer, W. R. Wright.

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