

State Normal School

The Birch Rod

Edinboro Pa.

Vol. 1

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1912

No. 8

The Northwestern State Normal School

CALENDAR

1911-1912

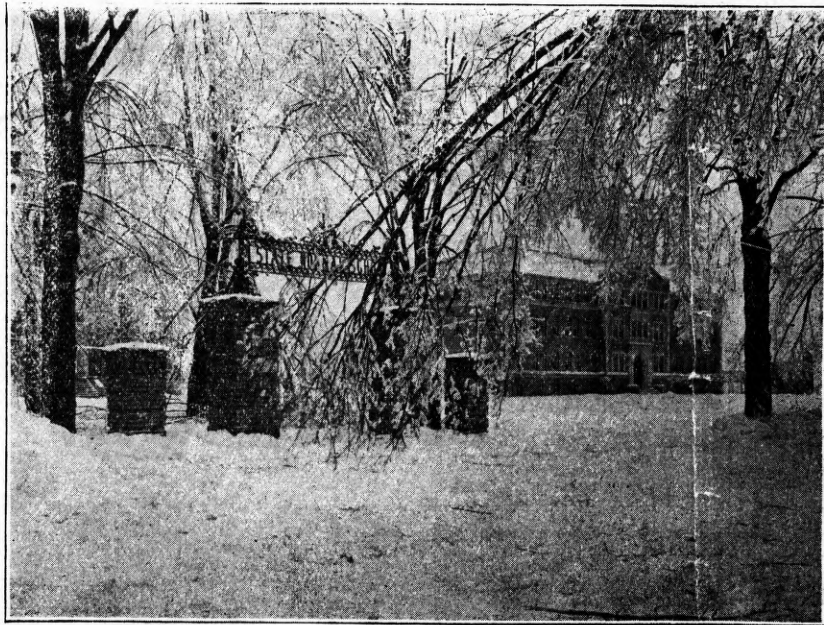
School year begins..... Tuesday, Sept. 12
Thanksgiving Day..... Thursday, Nov. 30
Fall Term ends..... Saturday, Dec. 16

HOLIDAY RECESS

Winter Term begins..... Tuesday, Jan. 2
Washington's Birthday..... Thursday, Feb. 22
Winter Term ends..... Saturday, March 23

SPRING RECESS

Spring Term begins..... Tuesday, March 26
Decoration Day..... Thursday, May 30
State Examinations..... Week of June 17-22
Baccalaureate Sermon..... Sunday, June 23
Meeting of Alumni..... Tuesday, June 25
Commencement Exercises, Wednesday, June 26



The Storm.

On January 28, a severe storm of unusual severity did much damage to the trees of the Normal School campus. The above picture gives some idea of the havoc wrought at one corner of the grounds. The avenue of trees bordering the walk from Normal Station to the rear of the grounds suffered particularly. Some of the evergreens at the corner of Haven Hall were sadly mutilated, while the huge silver birch near Recitation

Hall was almost destroyed. The sound of breaking limbs and trunks was heard throughout the day following the storm, and it was no pleasant sound. The extent of the damage is very great. Just how obvious the injury will be cannot be determined until the leaves arrive, but it is quite certain that some of the best specimens will be seriously marred for years to come, a few will have to be removed altogether.

The alumni picture is not complete. There are absent ones and forms laid low.

And the hearts go out in longing regrets,
While the lonely winds of mem'ry blow.
Ever dear the influence of these winds,
New dream hopes to our souls come flowing,
And the future grows so bright and fair,
While the brightest winds are blowing.

"The Winds of Memory."

The music for "Wings of Memory" may be had of the Kirkus Dugdale Company, of Washington, D. C. The price is fifty cents.

New Furniture.

The experiment of furnishing the first corridor of Reeder Hall as a lounging room is thus far proving a success. While complete furnishings have not been set in place, enough has been purchased to try out the scheme, and results in appearance and comfort suggest that the authorities are on the right track in making the corridor a common meeting place for the boys.

Two heavy oak settees, and several easy chairs and tables have completely transformed the first floor. With a piano in place, the arrangement will be quite to the point.

The Chorus.

Mr. Gleason, head of the music department, states that the progress of the chorus is very gratifying. Music Hall has been crowded on the night of each rehearsal. The enthusiasm in the cantata is general.

The cantata is "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast." Last year the Albany Musical Association gave the same performance under the direction of Dr. Arthur Mees, of New York City. The public performance at Edinboro may be looked forward to, though Mr. Gleason declares his aim to be that of acquainting the students with good music rather than arranging a show piece for the public. The Birch Rod ventures that he will accomplish both ends.

Mrs. Tanner.

Mrs. Tanner held her first house meeting in Haven Hall on Tuesday night. The enthusiastic clapping that followed her talk was enough to assure everyone within hearing distance that the Haven Hall girls, with characteristic wholeheartedness, were applauding something they found very much to their taste. It is needless to add that the good taste of Haven Hall girls is recognized throughout the school.

Other State Normal Schools may boast of their preceptresses as loudly as they like, Edinboro is proud of her new preceptress, and welcomes Mrs. Tanner in her new capacity. As matron she won the hearts of students and teachers. Edinboro couldn't do without Mrs. Tanner, the matron, and she is heartily glad to have Mrs. Tanner, the preceptress.

Clarion Again.

On February 19, the home team journeys to Clarion, where they will meet the team representing the Normal School at that place. This game should prove very exciting, as the Clarion boys held the same team to a 35 to 29 score in the third game of the season on our floor. The Normal squad has been making a good record thus far under the splendid coaching of Coach Foster. Of the four games played, three have resulted in victories.

Burnt Cork Artists.

Minstrel show plans are progressing rapidly. All performers will be selected within a few days. The date of the performance is March 16.

Normal Lecture Course

1911-1912

October 22.....Strickland W. Gillilan
November 20.....Camden M. Coburn
December 9.....Dudley Buck Concert Co.
February 7.....Ex-Governor Joseph W. Folk
February 28.....Redpath Concert Co. with Mr. Carl Duft
April 27.....Edward Amherst Ott
May.....Allegheny College Glee Club
May.....Dr. S. Parke Cadm

Oysters for Athletes.

Although the game was not, the party was, the oyster stew party that Mrs. Baker gave for the team and others.

It is a fact that party-goers, like the general public never know what they want; they are morally certain, however, to know at the close whether or not they have got it. Everyone knows that Mrs. Baker is no bungler in the art of entertaining. She knows what one wants, even when one doesn't know oneself, and she gives it in the most enticing form.

Suffice it to say that the party ate. It is said, by the way, that the worthy coach displayed a more than delicate liking for oysters. The feast of reason came later. The particular form of reason chosen was the fascinating game of twenty questions. And then there was talk of Galileo and the cathedral at Pisa and of the "Lobster Station" in the Hudson River tube. Only the fortunate one who was there can explain these things. So absorbed did they become in Cy Quick's efforts to locate a coal mine near Punxsutawney, that an interesting hour had arrived before there was talk of rubbers and wraps.

This might end with "every one voted the party a success." As it happened there was no need for voting. Everyone went home with a comfortable, happy feeling that has lasted.

Class Games.

In the first two games of the inter-class championship series, played on Saturday evening, February 3, the seniors were victorious.

The first game, which was between the junior and senior boys, was fast and interesting throughout. The outcome of the game was in doubt until the end, the score then being 15 to 7. The second game was played by the senior and middle year girls. The teams were evenly matched, but the senior girls by their brilliant goal shooting succeeded in winning the game by a 17-13 score.

The games were witnessed by a large crowd of enthusiastic rooters who did much in encouraging the players. The line up was as follows:

Senior		Junior
Hanna	} Forward ...	DeWitt
Gillespie		Schrivver
Billings	} Center	Urban
Morrison		Hoover
Kough	} Guards ...	Harvoy
Senior		Middler
Eleanor Morrison	} F {	Mable Morton
Minnie Pierson		Marjorie Fisher
Alice Woods	} C {	Ruth Kidder
Alice Hoff		Ethel Case
Adaline Kelley	} G {	Lena Quick

The Orchestra.

The orchestra is growing in interest and enthusiasm. At present there are twelve members. Their first public appearance, like that first robin, is due at any time. Those taking part are:

Violin—Grover Congdon, Avis Thompson, Elda Swift, Leo Armagost.
Cello—Mr. Thompson.
Clarinet—Glen Greenman.
Cornet—Charles Scott, Reed Snyder, Neff Cass.
French Horn—Vincent Howland.
Trombone—Jerome Rusterholtz.

Basket ball has been dropped at Trinity. The manager submitted his schedule to the faculty, but they would not approve it, and have forbidden any games. Trinity has thus been forced to cancel all her games. The students, however, are taking steps to have this action reconsidered.

These Three.

An invitation to meet in the library at half past eight on the night of January 24 had gone abroad among the teachers. It was sent by ones who signed themselves The Faculty Triplets. No other information was offered. It was a most mysterious affair. Preparations were felt rather than seen. The three worked in secret; they achieved the walks of the curious and let not their deeds be known among men. It was only after much sustained effort that the identity of one of the three was discovered. She was shadowed and seen to enter every store in town, even the barber shop. Naturally no clew to the possible nature of the purchase could be found. It was due to Miss Markle that the center of operation was finally located in Miss Powell's art studio. Miss Powell, Miss Wilson and Miss Hauser each in an expression of conscious importance, were seen to enter this room and promptly shut the door. What was on the other side none could tell.

The guests declared it was the prettiest party ever seen. Surely red candles never shone so bravely, food never tasted so delicious, guests never looked so pleased and eager. Here is a health to the triplets. May they prosper.

Another Sleigh Ride.

The music class and their friends, duly chaperoned by teachers, to the number of thirty-five, enjoyed a sleigh ride and very pleasant evening at the Riverside Hotel, Cambridge Springs, Monday, February 5. The company assembled at Music Hall at 4:30 p. m., where the sleds were in waiting, and after some little deliberation, pro and con, the class was sent on its way rejoicing.

After an uneventful but very enjoyable ride, the party reached its destination, cold but happy. The big blazing fire place proved the great attraction, and through its gentle influence the temperature of each one was restored to normal.

Dinner being announced, the guests repaired to the dining-room, where all did justice to the meal. The remainder of the evening was spent in the amusements offered by the genial proprietor. The toboggan, an amusement which is new there this year, was the source of much pleasure to all.

At 10:30 the party prepared for its departure each feeling that the evening had been very enjoyable and well spent.

The Vita.

There is a rumor about school that the senior class is going to establish a new precedent in the way of a year-book. The hum of business is already in the air; the editor and the manager are wearing the look of those bearing the burdens of many. Cyrus Quick, the editor, is already deep in copy; Claude Whitenberger, the manager, has long been busy with publishers and engravers.

This feature of the year should be the one toward which much student interest is directed. The importance of such a piece of work does not appeal so largely now as it will ten years hence when memory begins to be a bit hazy on many of the pleasant features of the year. The yearbook is a volume whose interest and value increases with the lapse of time; this is particularly true when the book is a full and accurate account of all the happenings of the year.

Professional coaches for the crews have been abolished at Yale. The same will soon be done for baseball.

A Letter and a Song.

Briarcliff Manor, N. Y., Feb. 8, 1912.
Miss Mary A. Agnew, Alumni Editor,
Edinboro, Penn'a.

My Dear Miss Agnew:—Mrs. D. G. Church, of Mesilla Park, New Mexico, whose maiden name was Julia Ryan, and who graduated in music in the class of 1883, has sent to the president of the Alumni Association the words and music of a song which might be used as an alumni song. The music was composed by Mrs. Church and the words by Miss Margaret Marsh, of McKean, Penn'a., who graduated in the class of 1882. Miss Marsh could not meet with her class at their reunion in 1910, so she wrote this poem instead.

I am enclosing a copy of the words, which it might be well to have printed in the Birch Rod with the above information.

Mrs. Church was born and raised at McLallen's Corners, and is a daughter of Spencer Ryan of that place.

Yours very truly,
FRED P. STAFFORD.

The Winds of Memory.

There's a strange influence in the air,
Rev-rie notes and zeph-yrs fair,
Bringing gently to the western lea
Faces and forms so dear to me.
The shadows blend in the twilight glow.

They pass from now to the long ago,
I pause in peace, my heart well know-
ing
They're the winds of mem'ry blowing.

I drift away on mem'ry's breeze,
To the dear old town with maple trees
Stretching their branches across the street

As if to kindly each student greet.
The buildings, the campus, and all the rest.

The lake, the lilies on its bresat,
And with love and joy my heart o'er-
flows,
While the winds of mem'ry blow.

The tender touch of the passing years
But makes us strong, we have no fears.

What lies before us we cannot tell,
But this we know, He doeth well.

There are joyous raptures and minor notes,
There's proud ambition, the loss we know;

The hearts that are blighted, the hopes deferred
While the fitful winds of mem'ry blow

I see on the breezes so gently borne,
The days of youth, the hearts that glow,

The hopes that aspire, the dreams that bless
While the sweetest winds of memory blow.

THE BIRCH ROD

A fortnightly newspaper edited by the students of The Northwestern State Normal School, and published at the printing shop of the Edinboro Independent.

TERMS

The newspaper will be supplied for the school year, (fifteen numbers for 1911-1912) for the sum of fifty cents, or five cents the copy.

This paper is entered as second class mail matter at the postoffice at Edinboro, Pa.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief - NICHOLAS WARD
 Associate Editor - LEE H. ABBEY
 Literary Editor - LILLIAN CRISTENSON
 Athletic Editor - CHAS. CAULKINS
 Exchange Editor - MARIAN R. JUDD
 Alumni Editor - MARY A. AGNEW
 Class Editor - CHAS. SCOTT
 Manager - J. BLAINE WILLIAMS
 Assistant Manager - SILVAN HILLIARD

Nothing More About

The Birch Rod has gone too far. Complaints in regard to the constant reference to—who is an altogether innocent party to the controversy, make up the bulk of our contributions these days. Hence, beginning with this issue we faithfully promise never to mention—again. We have laughed over the joke until it is impossible to find a laugh in our system!

Let us turn to "fresh fields and pastures new."

Poultry Department.

We have engaged John Scott, '13, to act as director of our poultry department. Mr. Scott comes to his duties with a wide experience and deep knowledge of this subject. We have solicited local subscriptions to The Birch Rod on the ground that the poultry interests would be well cared for; therefore, it is with considerable pride that we announce that the promised editorship is in such capable hands.

Mr. Scott is at present engaged in the poultry business to the extent of caring for one venerable rooster that is being trained for the butcher's block at his hen conservatory. Anything he has to say is said with authority.

ALUMNI NOTES.

Frank Harvey, '08, is teaching near Corry, Pa.

Lizzie Strobel, '09, is teaching the Freeman school near Crossingville, Pa.

Anna Thompson, '05, Viola Scowden, '10, and F. Bell Holder are teaching in the public schools of New Brighton, Pa.

John L. Coughlin, '00, is principal of Elk Creek High School at Lundy's Lane, Pa.

Miss Genevieve Carr, '06, is attending Oberlin College.

Anna Coughlin, '10, is teaching a district school in Crawford county.

Nora Sherman, '05, is teaching intermediate room of Elk Creek High School.

George L. Benent and his sister, Miss Eugenia, are farming a few miles out of town.

George W. Zaun, '01, a former member of the Normal faculty, is serving a second year as principal of the high school at Oceana, Virginia.

Gladys Maloney, '95, is assistant principal in the Cochran High School. Floyd Bathurst, '10, has been principal of the Hydetown schools ever since his graduation.

Emma Gaskill, '01, is teaching in the primary room at Conneaut Lake.

John Rusterholtz, '10, is meeting with good success as principal of the Glenwood High School.

Caroline Mimm, '01, is principal of one of the ward schools in Oil City.

H. L. Ford, '01, is a ward principal in Bradford.

Clyde Porterfield, '01, is still engaged in teaching in Denver, Colorado.

Aris Bovee, '07, has taught the four years since her graduation in Cleveland, Ohio.

Blanche Sheldon, '99, Blanche Squires, '06, and Edna Bentley, '09, are teaching in Akron, Ohio.

Isabel Reher, '08, is a teacher in Youngstown, Ohio.

Gaylord McCobb, '09, has been forced to give up his position in the preparatory department of the Pikeville Collegiate Institute in Kentucky, on account of illness with typhoid fever.

Mamie A Price, '01, is supervisor of writing and drawing in the Sharpville schools this year.

Elizabeth Garver, '11, and Frances Spitler, '01, are teaching in the Meadville schools.

Ethel Mason Patterson, '01, has been living in Corry since the first of September.

Blanche DeWolf, '01, is studying Kiropractics at Davanport, Iowa.

Robert McWilliams, '06, is ably filling the position of principal at New Lyme Institute in Ohio, this year.

Senior Rhetoricals.

February 2.

Emeline Reed.....Oration
 "Regeneration of the South"

Knight Smith.....Oration
 "Reciprocity"

Julia Colvin.....Essay
 "Women of War"

Elfrieda Campbell }.....Dialogue
 Ethel Boughner }

Nurse Scene, "Romeo and Juliet."

February 9.

Carrie Steyer.....Oration
 "A Never Failing Spring"

Adaline Kelley.....Reading
 "Herve Riel"

Edna Bortz.....Essay
 "Mark Twain"

Vincent G. Howland.....Essay
 "Idols."

Byrda McIntyre.....Reading
 "In the Desert of Waiting"

Mable Thompson }.....Dialogue
 Susie Baker }

February 16.

Jennie Hazen.....Essay
 "Edgar Allen Poe"

Flora McDaniel.....Reading
 "The Lady of Shalott"

Victor Snapp.....Oration
 "The Passing of the Indian"

Edith Cook.....Essay
 "Child Labor"

Ada Abbey }.....Dialogue
 Anna Gee }

"Scene from Hamlet"

February 23.

Arline Smith.....Reading
 "Hiawatha's Wooing."

Florence Russell.....Essay
 "James Whitcomb Riley"

Frank McEntire.....Oration
 "Universal Peace."

C. R. Whittenberger.....Oration
 "Justice to the Negro."

The Clonian Society.

The Clonian Literary Society is still in blooming health in spite of home goes and zero weather. The date of meeting has been changed from Saturday to Monday evening. A large number of visitors has been present and the membership is steadily increasing. The society extends a cordial welcome to all visitors and would-be members.

The following is the program for the meeting held February 10:

Devotionals—Gladys Brown.
 Roll call answered by quotations from Lincoln.

Essay—Lincoln—Edith Cook.
 Question Box—Mary Wilcox, Vincent Howland.

Newspaper—Jennie Magnuson.
 Essay—Origin of St. Valentine's Day—Mary Sayre.

Impromptu—Educational System of Germany compared with that of the United States.

Reading—Alforetta Johnson.

Philo Society.

The members of Philo Society gave a short but interesting program February 10, 1912. It was as follows:

Reading—Claud Whittenberger.
 Short talk about Narcotics—Vincent Hayes.

Piano Solo—Rena Ritchey.
 Debate—Resolved, That questions confronting the United States today are as important as those in Lincoln's

The Birch Rod

time. Affirmative, Mont Hanna, Jennie Perry; negative, Nial St. John, Hattie Morrison.

Impromptu—Sheldon Jewett.
 Impromptu—Clarence Urban
 Mandolin Solo—Elfrieda Campbell.

Grammarians, Take Notice.

"My parts of speech are inflicted."
 "The plural of alumna is almanac."

The plural of shad is shady or shades."

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ERIE, PENN'A.

Potter Society.

The following program will be given in Potter Society February 17, 1912:
Roll call answered by favorite quotations from father or mother.
Song—America
Debate—Resolved, That the United States should own and control the mines of the country. Affirmative, Ada Abbey, John Krasinski; negative Carl Holder, Merle Griswold.
Piano Duet—John Scott, Ned Dearborn.
Reading—Charles Caulkins.
Dialogue—Nina Swift, Ruth Brown.
Impromptu—Grover Congdon, Lee Abbey, Ward Deamer.

Agonian Society.

The following program will be given February 17, 1912:
Impromptu Speeches.
Talk—Lincoln as a Story Teller. Daniel Cantlon.
Important Events in the Life of Lincoln—Madeline Scott.
Piano Solo—Regina Autate.
Effects of Civil War—Almeda Kilgore.
The Emancipation Proclamation—Edward Dewitt.
The Home Life of Lincoln—Miss Powell.
Recitation—Hildor Isaacson.

Philo Everett.

Notwithstanding the crowded schedule of the Normal students for the winter term, the members of the Philo Society find time for society work. The interest has been especially good, as only one member has failed to fill his place on the program or send a substitute.
On Saturday evening, January 27, the program was rendered by the young men of the society. At the next meeting, February 3, the young ladies rendered the program.
Mr. Gleason is society teacher, and although it is impossible for him to attend all the meetings, his presence and helpful suggestions are greatly appreciated by the society.

Miss Swenarton was a welcome visitor at the meeting on Saturday evening, February 10.
The Philo Society cordially invites the faculty, one and all, to attend its meetings.
The following is the program for Saturday evening, February 17:
Roll Call—Current Events.
Vocal Solo—Cyrus Quick.
Essay—"The Life of Washington." Allien Babcock.
Piano Solo—Ethel Seddon.
Talk on Cocoa—George Morrison.
Vocal Solo—Esther Averill.
Debate—Resolved, That fraternities are desirable in colleges. Affirmative, Sheldon Jewett; negative, Helen Loomis.
Vocal Solo—Ruth McLallen.
Impromptu—Minnie Pierson.

Young Women's Christian Association.

The last meeting of the Young Women's Christian Association was Thursday, February 15, 1912. Topic: School Friendships, Prov. 18-24, John 15:13-16. Leader, Lillian Christenson.
The Association is preparing to give a stunt social Saturday evening, February 7.

This promises to be a very interesting affair. Everybody is invited. Small admission fee.

Young Men's Christian Association Notes.

Next Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Association room of the gymnasium Howard Tiffany will introduce the opposite side of this great sphere by describing life in India. Come and hear him tell the interesting details of how some of the fellow creatures of the American are in need, and how and where best service can be rendered.

A prize of five dollars is offered at the University of Kansas to the undergraduate who submits the best original football song.

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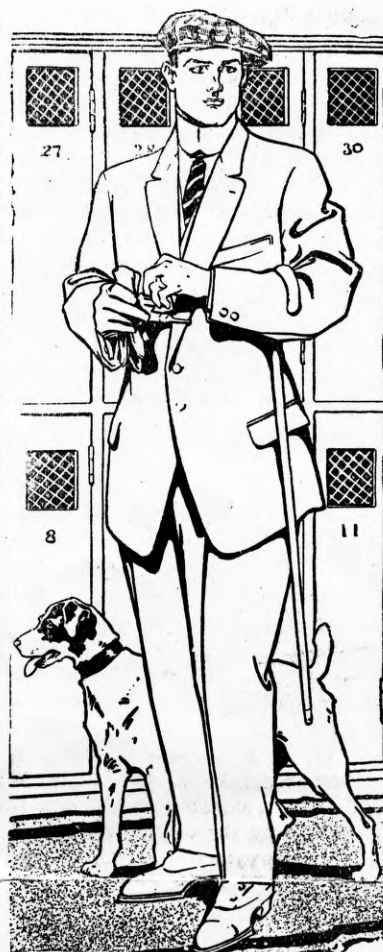
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Local Institute.

At the local institute of Grangers during the present week several of the teachers of Normal were on the program.

Mr. George E. Walk made a most favorable impression with an address on the need of "Agriculture as a part part of the common school curriculum."

Principal Baker spoke on "Rural Schools." His ideas were stimulating and forcibly presented. His discussion of current school problems was most interesting.

Mr. Gleason furnished music at several of the sessions, that was much appreciated.

The New Catalogue.

News from Normal office has it that the annual catalogue is under way, and that printers' estimates are being considered. The plan of the 1912 book will be an enlargement of the illustrated booklet that appeared during the past summer. There are to be one hundred pages in the book, and twenty picture inserts. The paper is to be the same excellent Alexandria, and the cover is to be of light Strathmore board. The effect of a catalogue in this style promises to be exceptionally good. The date of its appearance is set for the middle of the spring term, or as soon as the student enrollment for the year is completed. It is possible an alumni register may be a part of the book.

Haven Hall.

Arline Smith and Carrie Walter spent Sunday and Monday in Erie.

Mr. Proudfoot visited his daughter Ruth on Sunday.

Miss Swenarton has been relieved of her duties as preceptress. Mrs. Tanner, the matron, will perform duties of matron and preceptress now.

Okle Kline, of Cambridge, visited Haven Hall Sunday.

J. W. March visited his daughter Hazel, Sunday.

POULTRY DEPARTMENT

JOHN SCOTT, Editor.

In Praise of Hens.

As the poultry department is a very recent addition to The Birch Rod, we shall begin at the bottom. Our platform is to strive to please all, to instruct and enlighten the way to success via the chicken route.

The poultry business is subject to some laws that prevail in other parts of the universe. Success is not reached by cackles but by delivery of the goods. It takes close and careful study to get a good start in the business, but there is no surer nor better returns for the same amount of work, time and money expended than from hen culture. Many people think it is nonsense and a nuisance to raise poultry. They have the sincerest sympathy for being so ignorant of one of the greatest joys of life. Yet it is a nuisance, unprofitable and unenjoyable if mongrels are raised. Careless breeding of poultry is neither a profit nor a pleasure, but there is no prettier sight than a flock of pure bred, well-groomed chickens; it is a profit and a pleasure.

The poultry business is becoming one of the foremost industries, the demand far exceeds the supply, both for fresh eggs and dressed poultry. The sky is the limit on the price of eggs, even in this agricultural center. The hen that laid the golden egg is no longer a fable. The possession of one specimen that represents many good breeds is a greater distinction than to drive an imported car.

"How to make hens lay," next.

Pointers.

Don't attempt to shoot a duck while it is under your neighbor's runabout. Your neighbor may not be even tempered.

A newly patented shotgun is guaranteed to bring down any fowl in less than five shots at any range from one to twenty feet. The Birch Rod, through advertising contracts, will supply you with one.

T. & L.'s

\$3.50 Shoes

For Young Men and Young Women.

Our Shoes at Three Fifty are the most talked of shoes in Erie.

An army of young folks know of the goodness of these moderate priced shoes, continue to wear them every season, and to speak well of them to their friends.

We believe our \$3.50 shoes to be the greatest shoe value the price ever bought. We guarantee every pair.

Give us a call when in Erie.

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828 State ERIE, PA.

Greater Erie's Greater Store—Boston Store

WE INVITE Edinboro students and the residents of Edinboro in general to make the Boston Store their headquarters in their visits to Erie.

Our Rest Rooms in the Balcony and in the Basement provide a meeting place for friends and you may take advantage of writing desk, stationery, etc., which is here for your convenience.

Our Dining Room in the Basement pleases the most fastidious, and you can get a nice meal here (home cooked) at a nominal price.

In the matter of Merchandise it is hardly necessary for us to say that the Boston Store is par excellence. We aim to supply every customer with just the article desired at a lower price than the same thing can be purchased elsewhere and at the same time give them the advantage of larger selections.

If unable to visit the store in person why not try ordering by mail? We are glad to send samples at any time and give all orders our immediate attention, sending the goods the same day the order is received.

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