

Ed. Shepard

THE NORMAL BADGER.

VOL. I.

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THE NORMAL BADGER.

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STAFF OF EDITORS.

Editor in Chief, W. F. Lusk
Literary Department, Marie Murphy
Locals, Chas. Sells
General News, Oliver Needham;
Business Manager, J. D. O'Keefe.

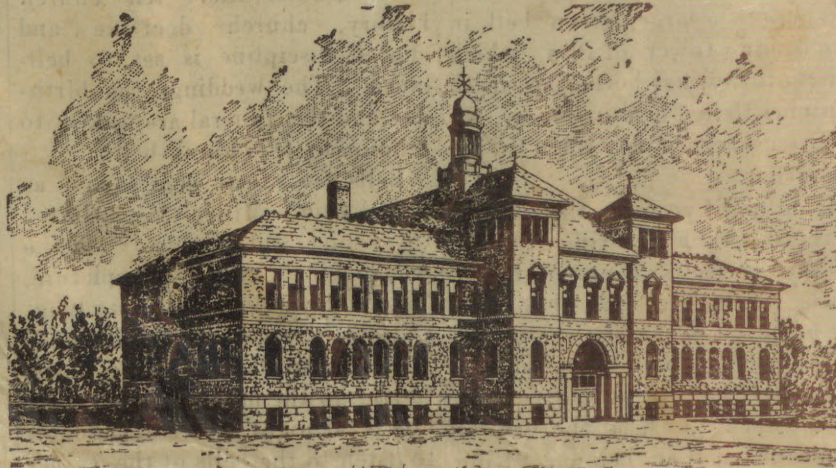
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Editorial.

The students have been anxiously inquiring since early in the year, "When will the bath rooms be ready?" Now it is certain that unless the students take hold of the matter themselves, the bath rooms will not be fitted up at all this year. The Athletic Club especially feel what a great benefit a bath room in the building would be. Since indoor sports have been started, they can appreciate what its benefits would be more than ever. Why should not the students organize and finish the work already begun by the State? The expense necessary to complete the two rooms would be trifling compared with the benefits to be derived from them. In fact the work is nearly done as it is. The cement floors are laid and the pipes for drainage are all in place and connected; the rooms are heated and a tank for warm water of sixty gallons capacity is ready to be placed in position. After these, the principal preparations, are made does it not seem wrong and a stigma on the students that this opportunity should be neglected, when by a little exertion, they might be enjoying the privileges of a fully equipped bath room in the



THE STEVEN'S POINT NORMAL SCHOOL.

school building? As far as expense goes, if the students would unite and each one contribute his share, the amount each one would be obliged to pay would be insignificant. The original estimate for fitting the rooms up from the condition in which they now are, was \$250 which was thought sufficient to place six shower baths in one room and five in another. There are, at the present time over 260 students enrolled in the Normal and even should it be desirable to fit the rooms out as intended at first, the expense would not be large. But it is not at all necessary to put in as many baths as at first intended. A few might be put in at first, say two in each room, and the others added later. In this way the first expense would be very light. This would be a good way of bringing the matter before the Board. If they found the students ready and willing to exert themselves toward improving the school they would be much more likely to make an appropriation for finishing up the rooms. Two of the other Normals of the state have by their own exertions done a work of this nature and is there any reason why this one should not do the same? Certainly we do not want to ac-

knowledge ourselves inferior in anyway to these other schools but shall we not so do if we fail to take advantage of the opportunity now offered?

The Literary Society has received many privileges from the school ever since its organization. Now a good chance is afforded it to show its appreciation of these favors. The treasury of the Society contains an amount of money, which has accrued there from dues, lectures, etc, much in excess of the sum which will ever be required to meet the expenses of the Society. What is the use of this money lying idle when it might be put to a good use? Would it not be a good plan for the Society to appropriate a part of this surplus to help in fitting out the bath rooms? Let the members of the Society think about this and give an expression of their views at the next meeting. While the financial condition of the Athletic Club would not permit of any appropriation from the treasury, individuals of the Club may do much to bring about action on the matter by showing a due activity. Let us hope the students will show themselves to be alive in regard to this matter. If the proper course is taken there is no reason why the school should not be provided with bath rooms in the near future.

In this issue appears a cut of the Stevens Point Normal School building, furnished us through the kindness of Pres. Pray of that institution. This school is now upon the second year of its work and is decidedly established in our State Sisterhood of Normal Schools. It has much in common with our own school, as indeed have all the schools, but the fact of its location in a small city, with geographical conditions similar to ours, seems to make a bond of no small strength between the schools. Like the River Falls Normal it has its Literary Society, Reference Library, Gymnasium, Athletic Club and School Paper. It is also very gratifying to know that the citizens of Stevens Point are not only making the most of the advantages a normal school brings, and give the Faculty and students a most cordial support.

With this month appears the first issue of the Normal Pointer, a paper published by the students of the Stevens Point Normal School. It is a neat paper, well gotten up, and one which deserves a good support. The BADGER extends its best wishes for the success of the "Pointer" and congratulates its editors upon their success with the initial number.

We note another criticism in the educational column of the Pierce County Herald, of an article published in the BADGER some time since regarding the disposal of institute funds. In spite of weighty arguments on side issues we fail to see why institute money should be expended in defraying the expenses of a Normal training department in summer schools.

Owing to unforeseen causes we are not able to publish the articles on "Loyalty to the Alumni" which we had intended to make a part of this issue. However they will appear later, probably in the February number.

Literary.

Bells.

I have heard it said, that a shoemaker can prove that without leather, life would be a blank, if not an impossibility.

But have you ever considered what a blank life would be without bells? I will not ask,—where would you be without the big ones, but where, even without the little ones? You want a servant, but the bell-wire has broken; the time of day, but the clock won't strike; you wish to rise early, your alarm refuses to go off; the cow's bell is gone, and she wanders away; the town crier feels lost without his bell, and bawls unheeded; the dinner-bell no longer calls the hungry; the shop-bell gives no warning of a customer's entrance; the street-car bell is no more, and you wave to the conductor in vain when you wish to leave the car; 'tis no longer "knock and ring" and the guest knocks in vain; the invalid's bell calls not the nurse; the kitchen-bell calls not the cook; the mellow toy-chimes soothe not the fretful infant.

The human misery and loss which rise before my mind, is appalling, and all for the want of a few little bells.

Very little, need be said of the history of bells up to 1500.

Small bells were used before large ones, and large ones were used in India and China long before they reached Europe.

The Romans used bells at the bath, and the Christian church adopted them about 400 A. D. In 550 they were common in France; in 650 they had reached England and in the tenth and eleventh centuries they were common in Switzerland and Germany.

The oldest bells were quadrangular made of thin plates of copper or iron, hammered and riveted together, and must have had a vile sound, which, as they were much used for frightening the devil, may have been one of their chief merits.

Orleans boasted of a bell of 2,600 lbs. in the eleventh century.

The great bell of Moscow is the largest in the world. It is called the "king of bells" but it was never used. It was cast in 1734 but is badly cracked. It weighs 193 tons and now rests on the

ground and serves as a chapel, being 21 feet high.

We cannot think without emotion, of the dramatic role which large bells have played in history.

When the king dies the bells toll "Le Roi est mort"; an hour later they ring out merrily "Vive le Roi."

They herald in all the great epochs of history. They rang at the birth of Charles Stuart and tolled for his execution.

There is a large, green bell in the leaning tower of Pisa, which for centuries, has borne the death sentence to the criminal's ear, as he passes across the bridge to his execution.

Imagine, if you can, the feelings of the venerable bell-ringer, as he stood in the belfry tower of Liberty Hall, waiting for the tidings of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, and think of the sensation, caused by the pealing of the old bell as, at the cry of his grandson from below,—“Ring Grandpa ring, oh! ring for Liberty”, the old man grasped the iron tongue of the bell, and swung it to and fro, proclaiming the glad news of liberty to all the land.

Bells are truly the “voice of man's triumph and despair.”

In olden times, next to cannon, bells were the chief city guardians. He who held the bell, held the town, for he alone could, in an instant, signal his followers from all parts of the city, to the great square, or to the ramparts. The first thing, on taking a town was to melt the bells and thus destroy the signal for revolt.

A curious old social use of bells survives in the curfew. The houses of old were made of wood and periodic fires suggested to William the Conqueror the device of the curfew bell, at the sound of which, at eight o'clock, all lights were to be put out. The ringing of the curfew still exists in the few districts of Oxford and Cambridge as a guide to travelers out on the marshes. So also, one still may hear the bell of Strasburg Cathedral ring out the storm signal. From the top of the Cathedral tower the watches can see the storm at a great distance and at the sound of the bell, the travelers on the plains seek some shelter.

Of all the bells the “Tocsin” is the most awful. There is an ancient one in Antwerp which,

owing to age and infirmity is never now rung; it is called “Horrinda” and dates from 1316.

Here is a Tocsin and Storm-bell motto combined which occurs on more than one Belgian bell,—“My name is Roelant; when I swing, then it is for a fire; when I ring, then it is stormy weather in Flanders.”

But bells are even more closely connected with religious than with secular life. All church history, church doctrine and church discipline is set to bell-music. The wedding, the birthday and the funeral are linked to religion by the church-bell.

Bells too, are as dear to art, as to religion. Millet has painted the sound and sentiment of the Angelus into his noblest picture, “Be the day weary, be the day long, at last—it ringeth to even song.”

In Switzerland, the peasants, toiling up the mountains to their homes at night, pause at the door, to listen to the bells of the cathedral below them, and the theme of the bells is always the same.—“Praise the Lord God Evermore” and the mountains send back again and again the echo—“Praise the Lord God Evermore, evermore Praise the Lord, God, Evermore.”

Dickens has woven the bells into some of his writings. You all remember in his story—The Chimes—the character—Toby Veck, more familiarly known as Trotty from the peculiarity of his walk. The cathedral chimes used to cheer him when discouraged. He heard them say to him “Toby Veck, Keep a good heart Toby Veck, Toby Veck.”

Heine lying in the sunny meadows, weaves the wayward melody of bells into a “dream song.”

Milton, Tennyson, Gray, Browning, Longfellow all have sung them, and so have many other poets all the world over.

All literature, indeed, is filled with this silvery music.

Listen, for a moment to the words of Edgar Allen Poe.

Hear the sledges with the bells,
Silver bells!

What a world of merriment their
[melody foretells!

How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,
In the icy air of night,

While the stars, that oversprinkle
All the heavens, seem to twinkle

With a crystalline delight;
Keeping time,

In a sort of Runic rhyme
To the tintinabulation that so
[musically wells

From the bells
From the jingling and the tinkling
[of the bells.

My Impressions on Reading The Iliad.

What impressed me most on reading the Iliad was not the stories of knightly valor and astonishing exploits, not the loves and hatreds of “fair women and brave men,” nor the scenes of joy and sorrow, of festival and carnage, of hope and despair, so vividly portrayed in the wonderful word pictures of Homer; not even being permitted to look in upon the councils and contentions of the gods and to become familiar with their plans for ruling the universe.

No, not all of these wonderful things taken together impressed me so much as the language in which these stories were told.

Most of these stories were familiar to me when I began reading the Iliad. They have been told and retold in nearly every form of composition. They have been translated into the language of childhood so that many of them came to me with the fairy tales and nursery rhymes of my early years.

Wherein, then, lay the deep interest which held me a delighted reader until the book was finished? Why did these oft-told tales, when read in the language of Homer, as translated by Bryant, become possessed of a new and greater charm than they had ever held before?

Why, indeed, but that these stories as told by Homer are to the ordinary prose renderings of them, as any work of art is to a copy of it. Of all the impressions of the Iliad that come to me, now that I attempt to commit them to paper, that of the manner in which Homer tells his stories demands my attention first.

One thing particularly noticeable with regard to the telling of the stories is the wealth of illustration which Homer always seems to have at hand. Often the most trifling occurrence will be adorned by a beautiful simile, just as a kind parent gives the plain child every adornment given to his more beautiful brothers and sisters. Indeed it is the coloring given the poem by its profusion of beautiful figures of speech

Continued on page 3.

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**THAYER'S
"27"
TROPICAL.**

Mr. Todd of the American Book Co., visited the school, Monday, Jan. 6.

We note with pleasure that our former schoolmate A. C. Brant has been honored with the office of mayor of Buffalo City.

Misses Lilla Anderson and Josie Johnson who are teaching school in Cumberland visited the Normal the week before Christmas.

We acknowledge the receipt of a neat exchange, "The Kodak," published by the Milwaukee and Downer Colleges at Milwaukee.

P. E. Thorsen, Class, '91, visited the school last week. He said he failed to find above half a dozen students whom he had known in school. This shows how rapidly the student body changes.

A member of last season's football team who has been interviewing members of the Menomonie High School team, find they were as badly disappointed as our team, that the arranged game could not be played.

A telegram was received at the school from Beldenville, Wednesday, Jan. 3, asking for a teacher to take charge of the school as the teacher there had been taken sick. Mr. Oltman has left to take the position. The BADGER extends to Mr. Oltman its best wishes for his success.

The class in English Literature was entertained at tea, Saturday eve, Jan. 11, at the home of Prof. Brier. It was a very pleasant affair and the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Brier was appreciated by the guests. An evening spent in this way is of great benefit to the student who is apt to become a mere book worm unless his school duties are interspersed with duties and pleasures of other kinds.

If you know of persons who would be interested in the Badger, and who have not yet made its acquaintance, kindly send us their names that we may bring this enterprise to their attention.

The doubt has been expressed that the Badger would not be a financial success. There is no doubt in the minds of its management that the Badger will come out at the end of the year with all accounts settled and some to spare. Yet we are not rich and have room for a few more subscriptions on our books and shall be glad to receive yours if it has not already been placed with us.

The State Teacher's Association.

The twenty-third annual session of the Wis. State Teacher's Association which met at Milwaukee, Dec. 26, 27 and 28, was a success.

Pres. Brier had spared no pains in providing interesting and competent speakers and his efforts were abundantly rewarded. The rally of teachers numbered about 1,000 strong and the spirit of all the meetings was sincere and earnest. The hotel accommodations were ample, the rooms for the meetings commodious, and the weather superb.

Pres. Brier's most beneficent star must have shone over the occasion, so smoothly and acceptably did he manage its affairs. The teachers of Wisconsin asked for bread and he gave them a feast.

The ubiquitous school-book men were in evidence and displayed a tempting array of wares wherever shelf room could be obtained.

The River Falls Normal School was well represented, there being present about 30, either past or present members of the school. The brief re-unions of old teachers and old students was not a small part of the enjoyment of the occasion. Hearty handshakings and cordial words of greeting were among the most delightful incidents.

The program provided for both general and sectional meetings. Among the latter, none were more earnest than the department of Co. Superintendents. It was largely attended and every county seemed anxious to be heard from. The duties of Institute Conductors was vigorously discussed and the Superintendents were not backward in stating their views as to the weakness or efficiency of much of the Institute work. If any of the Institute Conductors were present, they must have received some wholesome suggestions respecting the needs of institute work.

The kindergarten meetings were very popular. Miss McCulloch, of St. Louis, added the inspiration of her presence and words to the association, and the kindergarten interest ran high. A resolution was adopted by the association asking for legislative action in favor of kindergarten departments in all public schools.

Continued next month.

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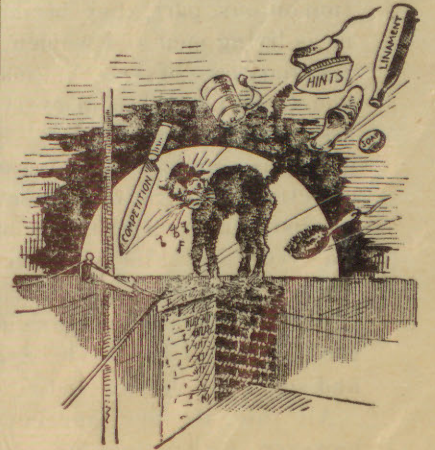
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which makes it more than the simple telling of stories of war and bloodshed. By the lofty tone of the poem the most ordinary event is lifted above the commonplace and given a halo of sanctity.

Again, we cannot but remark the skill with which Homer fills his characters with life and action. For though it is difficult to think of the creatures of Homer's imagination as having much in common with the ordinary mortals of the present day, yet he makes them move before us as we read in such a way that with scarcely a conscious effort of the imagination on our part, they become to us as living men and women, with peculiarities of speech, manner and dress, much as our every day associates. This he does by a generous and skillful use of adjectives. Each character has his distinguishing mark by which we recognize him whenever or wherever we meet him. Achilles is the swift-footed, Agamemnon the mighty, Ulysses the crafty, and so on through the list.

All this is done incidentally however, rather than by studied effort, for it is not the manner of Homer to go into detailed description of particular characters. The knowledge of particular characters rather grows upon us as we read, as does our acquaintance with our daily associates, by meeting them frequently in various situations until almost unconsciously we form our opinions of them. This power to tell without seeming to tell, to describe without making any definite effort to do so, shows Homer's mastery of the art of depicting characters.

Another thing which impressed me on reading the Iliad was the poetic skill of the author which, whether studied or intuitive, is shown in many ways. For instance, notice the skill with which he makes Helen's attitude towards Paris, the back-ground against which to bring out in stronger relief by the contrast, Andromache's solicitude for Hector.

But greatest of all the Iliad's charms is the happy combination of lofty poetic thought and simple language.

The Iliad stands as a grand testimonial of the beauty and power of simple language.

And as, in conclusion, I attempt

to answer the question, "What has impressed you most on reading the Iliad?" my answer is, "The inherent poetic genius of Homer."

The Sound.

The waves of that sound, which joins the wild waters of the German ocean to those of Skagerack, were my companions in my childhood. By them I have watched, worked and played. By them I inhaled the salt seabreeze that carried strength to my being. Not until thousands of miles were put between us did I realize what a great part of my life they had been, and how I had loved them.

About two miles from where the sound broadens into Skagerack, is my native city Helsingberg, situated on a plateau, north of which is a range of hills. South of the city is the sound about six miles wide, between Helsingborg and the Danish city Helsingor, which cities are opposite each other.

From an old tower, a relic of wars of the middle ages, situated on one of the hills, a splendid view may be had of the sound and the surrounding country. Toward the north are the hills with their soft green beeches, white barked birches and sturdy dark green oaks. Stately mansions, neat red cottages and white churches with black roofs and yellow spires, show from between the shady trees. Three, or perhaps, four miles to the east across a sandy plateau is a fisher village with its low, red cottages.

Towards the south is the city with its gleaming roofs and spires, with its harbor full of boats and ships; beyond is the Sound like a wide, blue glittering belt between the Danish land and Sweden.

On the west side the hills go down in terrace-like precipices to the water. Beeches and willows grow here, and under the shade of these, winding paths lead the wanderer down to the shore. A little brook, coming from a mineral spring far up in the hills, has found its way down the precipices and empties its slightly yellow water into the Sound.

The beach is rather narrow here, but none the less attractive. The slender willow bends down until it touches the blue waves; the dark withered seaweed and the green grass stand out in contrast to the white sand, which glitters where the overhanging branches have

parted to admit the sunshine.

The beach and the country change as one comes nearer the city. The hills and precipices change to one fertile slope that reaches down to the water.

On the east side of the city the beach and the country are entirely different in character. Years ago the sound covered the country as far as the foot of the hills; about half of that stretch of land is now a sandy plateau on which grow strong firs and brown heather. The plateau ends in an abrupt bluff and leaves a wide beach as a playground for the waves of the sound.

I have watched the sound from this bluff many times, and under many conditions. I have seen it in the early morning, shortly after sunrise, when it was clear and transparent, reflecting each tree and object along the coasts, as if the miles wide water were only a few rods wide.

Again I have seen it later in the day when a slight breeze has arisen; as if by magic hundreds of sails ply between the ports on the coasts; steam boats and fisherboats mingle with each other, sometimes it looks as if the little fisherboats would come into collision with the steamboats and be overturned.

Again I have seen it in the time of a terrible storm. The foaming waves are going in mighty masses past, chasing each other in a wild, vain, never ending chase. The wind is blowing a perfect gale; the white foaming waves dash far upon the land and boil beneath the precipices; the lightning cleaves the heavens above, and sinks into the dark deep below.

Again the scene has changed. It is evening. The Sound lies like a wide shining band of silk, colored softly by the crimson glow of the setting sun. It is just the time for a boat-ride; children are playing with smooth pebbles on the beach; groups of young people are walking to and fro, chattering gaily, invalids are peacefully at rest in their chairs; men are busily reading their news papers. Half the city seems to be out on the beach.

Fisher boats are gliding homeward from the busy day at the fish-market. A brig with the blue and yellow Swedish flag waving from its main mast, lies at anchor in the Sound. A song sh possesses my companions and myself to visit it as we take our places in the little boat, but no, we glide

slowly over the silvery water past the city to solitudes broken only by the nightingale's song. Slowly the shadows deepen; it is night. One star after another comes out into the sky. As we glide homeward thousands of lights are reflected in the now dark water.

Such is the Sound that I love, the Sound by which I have spent my happiest days.

Collegetown, Jan. 1, 1896.

Dear Mr. Badger:—

Now that the holidays have passed we will have more time to devote to our usual occupations.

I have been very ill, dear Mr. Badger, since last you heard from me but am getting along nicely now. You know we had so many nice things to eat and had such a good time generally that we were all severely attacked by that dreadful complaint, indisposition, and many of us were a day late in beginning work.

I wish I could tell you all about the good time I had but must wait until I get stronger, so will speak of just a few things. Well you know I went to visit an old chum of mine—she is six—and we had a lovely time; we had music and everything. I think music is so inspiring to the intellect and so soothing to the soul. Everyone should be a musician of some kind and then the world would be so much better. Every morning when I wake, sounds of sweet music are ringing in my ears so I forget about the cares and disagreeable things of the day and go about the house with a light heart and a smiling face. Grandpa says even such people as the Chinese are great lovers of music and that when a boy he would often see them in the audiences of Thomas' noted concerts, listening in sublime rapture to the tuning of the violins.

I suppose you have many new subscribers this month. People generally include new subscriptions and payment of arrears in their resolutions. I was greatly surprised to learn that so few of the old graduates had subscribed. At our school, when we published a paper, the members of the alumni'd literally tumble over each other in their haste to place themselves on our subscription list.

Continued on page 6.

Literary Society.

The lectures are now upon us. How many are availing themselves of the opportunity that is now open for obtaining light upon a subject that has connected with it intricate problems that every American should be familiar with?

Can any person afford to miss these lectures? The answer should be to every wide-a-woke person—"No."

Mr. Scott in his discourse Friday night, proved to a full house his ability as a speaker and his tact in presenting the subject in a way in which few, if any, persons have thought, and in a way that anyone could easily understand.

The Literary Society wishes to say to those who did not hear Mr. Scott's introductory lecture, that they should be present at his next lecture and hear these problems solved in a free and easy way that is interesting throughout.

Those persons who attended the lecture Friday night and bought single admission tickets may secure season tickets and have the price of the single admission ticket accredited toward the price of the season ticket and thus reduce the price of each lecture to the small sum of 16 3/4 cents for the general admission and 8 1/2 cents for students.

The Society at a special meeting called by the President passed a resolution abandoning all regular business meetings during the course of lectures given under its direction, except Friday Jan. 24 which is the night set apart for the election of officers for the ensuing term. Is it not the duty of every member of the society to think along this line and be ready when the time comes to put the right man in the right place and make our next administration a brilliant one in its entirety.

The Society is doing for students a work that all do not appreciate for various reasons, and they become passive, do not attend regularly, are negligent in keeping their dues paid up and take little, if any part in its functions.

No student can be helped by the society or any other institution if he does not act in some capacity.

Let us then as individual members see to these failings ourselves, and as this is the time of the year for students as well as others to make resolutions let those who have not already done so, join the Literary Society, become active members and receive the valuable training afforded by it.

As the school has had a new force added to begin this new year, let us as members see that these new students are invited to join us that they may get the most possible good from the school during their stay here. Every student of the school should seek for these advantages which he can get in no other way than by joining the Literary Society.

About 150 new reference books were ordered the first of the year. We have a good reference library but are pleased to see an addition to it.

There is still room upon our subscription list for the names of those yet wishing to subscribe for the BADGER. Now don't all speak at once, please.

A number of the students attended a dancing party given by Miss True the Friday evening before vacation. All report an enjoyable time.

Mr. Stroebel presented a very pleasing rhetorical to the school Monday morning. His subject was "The Study of Music in Public Schools."

We wish to correct the mistake made in a former issue when we stated that Rose Thelen was located at Stillwater. She is teaching at Spooner where she enjoys the company of Hattie Flint of the Elementary class of '95 and that of Anna Dennis another former student of the school.

The following is a list of new students who have entered since the holidays; Clara Jensen, Harrie Devereux, Ernest Kirsch, Hannah Nelson, Martha Esterby, Fannie Tulip, Oscar Bergseng, Willie Hawkins, Swening Holverson, Selma Wahlsten and Martha Hagar.

A large number of former students have entered since the holidays among whom are Nettie Asp, David Clough, Chas. Dorgau, Mamie Willams, Chas. Hawkins, Geo. Gray, Vernon Hemenway, and Frank Hemenway.

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Grandpa came to see me this morning and joked for an hour. He told me I must hurry up and get well for a young lady—you know I am five now—could not idle away any time on leap-year. He said his father used to tell about the leap-year they had when he was attending your school. It was in 1896 and you know there was no other for eight years, so the girls had to do two year's work in one and they did it with a right good will, too. Then grandpa chuckled and said he wished he was young again.

Oh! say, large hats are coming into style and the ladies actually keep them on at the lectures. Isn't that awful? I was angry when grandpa said woman was the most selfish creature on earth but there must be some good reason for his saying so. I know some of them will often nag away at you and then get very indignant if the joke is turned upon themselves.

Goodbye, Mr. Badger, come and see me soon and bring me all the news from your school.

Your little friend,

PROGRESS WONDERFUL.

P. S. As a New Year's present find enclosed fifty cents; perhaps you had better send your paper to some poor graduate for it.

Scientific.

An ordinary piano contains a mile of wire string.

There are four thousand five hundred different species of bees.

Young snails come from their eggs with a shell upon their backs.

Perhaps the readers of the Badger for December thought the Scientific Department had been abandoned, but such is not the case, however, it was only crowded out by other matter.

The Third Year Physics Class has begun the subject of Electricity. The work of the class will be greatly assisted by several new pieces of apparatus among the most important of which are an ammeter, an electric motor and a number of Giesler tubes.

Gas Well in a Tree.

From the Pittsburg Dispatch.

A singular case is reported from the south end of Washington

County. Hunley Gooch and his son Kit were coon hunting, and while they were chopping down a tree for game, a hissing sound, accompanied by an unpleasant odor, suddenly came from the tree. Young Gooch struck a match to see what was wrong, and immediately fire flashed all over his head and shoulders, burning him severely. He made a desperate leap and landed beyond the circuit of the flames. The tree continued to burn until the bark was burned off several feet above their heads. The ax, which was left sticking in the tree, had the handle burned off. The man had chopped into a pent-up reservoir of gas.

The Man with the Iron Skin.

From the London Graphic.

In Berlin a Singalese baffles all investigation by physicians by the impenetrability of his skin. The bronzed Easterner, a Hercules in shape, claims to have found an elixir which will render the human skin impervious to any metal point or sharpened edge of a knife or dagger, and calls himself the "Man with the Iron Skin." It is true that it has been impossible to even scratch his skin with sharply pointed nails, with finely ground knives and daggers. He is now exhibiting himself, and his greatest feat is to pass with his entire body through a hoop, the inside of which is hardly big enough to admit his body, and is closely set with sharp knife points, daggers, nails and other equally pleasant trifles. Through this hoop he squeezes his body with absolute impunity. The physicians do not agree as to his immunity, and some of them think that Rhannin, which is his name, is a fakir, who has by long practice succeeded in hardening himself against the impressions of metal upon his skin. The professors of the Berlin clinic, however, considered it worth while to lecture about the man's skin, pronouncing it an inexplicable matter.

About 150 new reference books were ordered the first of the year. We have a good reference library but are pleased to see additions to it.

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Local.

Miss Sylvia Egbert of Baldwin visited the school this week.

Notice the Standard Dictionary advertisement on the back page.

What did the holidays do for you? Rest you, or tire you out?

Mr. Fred Miller who attended this school last year and is now at the Minnesota University, spent Sunday, Jan. 5th, in town.

All the graduates should subscribe for the Badger and read the articles on loyalty to the Alumni which appear in this issue.

Miss Emily Hendrickson, a former pupil of this school and a popular teacher of La Crosse, Wis., was recently married to Judge Kleeber of that city.

The Badger wishes to apologize for any mistakes in mailing papers to subscribers. Any one failing to receive his paper should at once notify the Badger and the error will be promptly rectified.

We notice that the students of the Stevens Point Normal School are also going to issue a paper. It will be called the Normal Pointer and the first issue was to come out last month. We hope to see a copy soon.

Those having in charge the lecture course are preparing statistics for the university extension departments regarding the course. The department wishes to keep a record of attendance etc. at its lectures.

The resumption of school after the holidays has brought a greater number of new students than usual. The seats in the assembly room are now all filled. A number of former students of the school have returned to study during the winter.

The gymnastic apparatus has been moved into the new gymnasium in the basement and the classes in physical training will meet there hereafter. The upper gymnasium will not be open to students generally but the Literary Society will hold its meetings there as formerly.

The Literary Society has received a communication from the committee on the Inter Normal Oratorical League requesting them to signify their choice of time of

holding the first contest and the time to be allowed each speaker. They have chosen May 15 as the date of the contest and fifteen minutes as the time to be allowed each speaker.

Prof. Maria Sanford of the University of Minnesota lectured at the Congregational Church, Thursday eve, Dec. 19, on Shakespeare's "King Lear."

Her address was interspersed with readings from the play and was highly interesting to all.

The audience owe their gratitude to the Tuesday Club for securing the lecture. May we have more of them during the year.

A special business meeting was held Monday Jan. 6, after school to dispose of business pertaining to the lecture course. It was voted to hold the lectures in the assembly room so that those attending need not climb the stairs to the third floor where the lectures have usually been held. The society also decided that the lectures should take the place of the regular meetings except a regular business meeting to be held the first Friday of next term at 4 o'clock P. M. for the election of officers.

No student or business man can afford to miss hearing the course of lectures now being given under the auspices of the Literary Society by Prof. Scott. The course of lectures has come to be a regular part of the society's work each year and one in which it has been well sustained by the citizens of River Falls.

The two previous lecture courses were upon scientific subjects. This year the subject is one which brings before the audience the practical problems of Political Economy which confront every voter. All those questions which are today agitating the politics of the country will be brought up and discussed in clear and impartial manner thus giving the listener a clear knowledge of the things which will guide him in judging for himself what course will be the wisest for the country to follow. The course will be of especial value to business men and with the low rate for course tickets no-one should hesitate to take advantage of the opportunity afforded.

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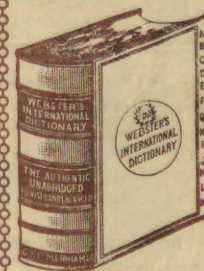
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H. S. ALBEE, Pres. of Oshkosh State Normal School, (Sept. 16, 1895): "So far as our use of the Standard in this school has subjected it to a critical test, it has been found a thoroughly trustworthy work, as copious in its matter as the average man could desire, careful and extensive in its definitions, and the only one of its kind which has been so highly approved the way for the most successful spelling reform recommended by the American Philological Association."

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SAMUEL PLANTZ, Pres. Lawrence University, Appleton, Sept. 23, '95 "I have carefully examined the Standard Dictionary, published by Funk & Wagnalls, and am convinced that it is the best dictionary for general use that we have in the language. The mechanical work is especially commendable."