Yassar Miscellany

for April

Vol. 1

MARCH 27, 1914.

No. 8

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

7:30 P. M, Address by Miss Helen Glenn on Hospital Social Service.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

7:45 P. M. Lecture by Prof. Frederick J. E. Woodbridge of Columbia on The Meaning of Philosophy.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

7:30 P. M. Student's Meeting. SUNDAY APRIL 12

8:00 P. M. Easter Music

MONDAY, APRIL 13

4:45 P. M. Address by Miss Mary C. Wiggin of Boston under the auspices of the Consumers' League.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

4:45 P. M. Recital: The Persian Garden by Liza Lehman, given by the department with the assistance of Mr. Isaac Platt, tenor.

7:30 P. M. Students' Meeting. THURSDAY, APRIL 16

7:30 P. M. Address by Miss Bertha Condé on Openings in the Y. W. C. A. FRIDAY, APRIL 17

7:45 P. M. Lecture by Prof. H. R. Seager of Columbia University on Social Insurance.

> SATURDAY, APRIL 18th French Play, Les Absents, by Alphonse Daudet.

7:30 P. M. Meeting of the Philalethean and Athletic Associations. SUNDAY, APRIL 19

7:00 P. M. Address by Mr. Owen R. Lovejoy on Child Labor.

COLLEGE SUFFRAGE MEETING

An interesting suffrage meeting was held Thursday afternoon in Assembly Hall. Margot Cushing presided. Dorothy Holt opened the meeting by explaining that the coming suffrage campaign of New York in 1915 brought interest in this question near to all of us. She announced the results of the recent canvass of the college: for suffrage, 476; against, 154; neutral, 174.

In the general discussion which followed, Blanche Ellsworth, Harriet Robbins, Martha Bull and Harriet White spoke for suffrage, and Adelaide Knight and Amie Lasalle spoke against it.

After the meeting, suffrage literature was distributed and suffrage buttons were sold.

J. R. E., 1917

WHY NOT ORGANIZE?

Fifty-nine percent of the student body is in favor of Woman Suffrage! And of the remaining forty-one per cent, the majority are undecided and would welcome an opportunity to learn more about this important question. As college women we shall be expected to take our place in society with intelligence and efficiency because of the broad training which we shall supposedly have received. Yet can we call any training broad which omits a study of present day problems? The political status of women appears to us all to be one of the live issues of the day. The manner of its solution rests largely with us.

Women of other colleges, for example, Smith, Barnard, Wellesley, and Bryn Mawr, have felt their responsibility in this matter. They have formed organizations for the study and promotion of the political freedom of women. We, the oldest college for women in America, have not even taken a step in this direction. Since most of us feel the necessity of taking the intelligent stand which other colleges have taken, why should we not organize? Let us in our community adopt the means of self education on the subject of Woman Suffrage which have been recognized in other colleges as most satisfactory and efficient, namely, organization.

S. H. 1917 M F. 1917

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Miss Amy L. Reed, chairman of the committee appointed to arrange the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the college for work, addressed the Students' Association in regard to the proposed plans. The celebration will be in the early fall probably the week beginning Sunday, October 10th. In accordance with Matthew Vassar's design in founding the College,-that it might do for women what the men's colleges were doing for men, the faculty has instructed its committee to make the growth of education of women in the last century the theme of the festivities. To do this the complete cooperation of students, alumnae, faculty and trustees is needed.

A tentative program has been suggested Sunday, October 10th, churches in Poughkeepsie will be asked to have College sermons, and students, faculty and guests will be asked to attend their onw churches. In the afternoon, there will be a Chapel service consisting largely of congregational singing.

In the evening there will be a concert in the Chapel.

Monday, October 11th, will be Students' Day. In the afternoon, a pageant representing the development of physical training of women in the last century has been suggested. There will be a students' dinner with speeches by the students and a repetition of the tree ceremonies of the two classes who have had those ceremonies at the time, 1916 and 1917.

Tuesday, October 12th, will probably be Alumnae Day, with a report in the morning, a luncheon and in the afternoon a procession, illustrating costumes of the time of graduation of each class. In the evening, the College will entertain members of other women's colleges who will be invited to be present. There will probably be an address.

Wednesday, October 13th, will be Intercollegiate Day. The College buildings will be open to the visitors who will be attended. by committees of the students. There will probably be more addresses.

Thursday, October 14th, may be devoted to an educational conference, and a dinner to the townspeople.

In accordance with Miss Reed's suggestion that the students appoint a temporary committee to work on the program with Miss Wylie, the faculty member in charge of the Students' Day, the chair will appoint a committee of five.

I. J., 1916

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Changes in the courses for 1914-15 (New) Course A. Modern Governments.

Open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. First and second semesters (3).

This is a descriptive course, dealing with practical government as it is administered today in the leading countries. The work is not historical, but introductory to both history and practical politics. After a brief consideration of the working of cabinet government in Great Britain the governments of the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Austria-Hungary, Switzerland and others will be considered.

This involves changing the letters of the courses as follows:

- A (new) Modern Governments
- (now A) International Law
- (now B) Diplomacy C
- (now C) Theory of the State
- (now D) Jurisprudence (Not offered for 1914-15)

SUPPLEMENT TO

the Wassar Miscellang

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The WEEKLY is a free forum for the expression of public opinion. All communications should be in editors' hands before 5:30 of each Monday.

FIRST MINOR HALL PLAYS NEGLECT

By Katherine Jeffris CHARACTERS

WHERE THERE'S A WILL BY MARY MALLON AND KATHERINE

OLIVER CHARACTERS

Christina Clemens, grand-daughter

of P. Clemens..........Adeline Hatch Polly Clemens, younger sister. HelenBrightbill Ted Clemens, younger brother....E. Hobbs Rodney Clemens, children's uncle..E. Strunz Walter Ludlow, young M.D....D. Copenhaver Two Lawyers

COMMITTEE

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Helen Ewen, '15 Elizabeth Keller, '16

The presentation of the two plays Neglect and Where There's a Will on March 21st, was significant in giving two entirely different sorts of undergraduate play-writing in interesting contrast.

In Neglect we had a serious play whose interest lay in depicting a phase of modern life. Its presentation was so truly realistic that we were scarcely conscious that it was a play we were watching. The effect of the series of events leading to the full revelation of the tragedy was somewhat marred by Dad, with his grotesque walk and indeterminate makeup. Mother, as a type, was given very consistently. Whether or not she should have shown more enthusiasm in presenting her plan is a question one would ask the author.

Where There's a Will, with its quick interest, entirely dependent upon puns, afforded immediate reaction to the depressing realism of the first play. If Polly's jokes were sometimes trite, we overlooked it in view of the original situation against which they stood out. Her refreshing enthusiasm was a marked contrast to the self consciousness of the hero and heroine. The clever denouement was lost to a great part of the audience because of the dispassionate lover's poor enunciation.

But there were very few such instances. In completeness of detail, the plays were remarkable. Their finish of production was far above that of the average Minor Hall Play, considering that there were only ten days for rehearsal. This might be considered a result of the improved facilities and the stimulating atmosphere of the new auditorium as contrasted with the old Phil. Hall. But since these plays are the material from which actors for the regular Hall Plays are chosen we would rather attribute it to a highly efficient cast and committee. Moreover half the credit is due to the plays themselves. Neglect and Where There's a Will, together with The Christmas Sermon, given in 1912, stand out from the mass of undergraduate plays of recent years as vivid representations of modern

THE FACULTY'S PART IN CO-OPERATION

The time has come for someone to say a few words on behalf of the maligned and unfortunate faculty who are indiscriminately blamed for everything in college. The bitter feeling of antagonism between students and faculty appears to exist chiefly in the pages of the Miscellany, but a few words of explanation may help to clear up certain misunderstandings.

The powers of the faculty as regards their relation both to the trustees and the students have never been exactly defined, but they may generally be said to include educational matters and broad questions of policy regarding student organizations.

The social rules of the college were made by the department of the Lady Principal. Their continuance and administration belongs within the powers of the department of Wardens, a body which is not appointed by the faculty. They form a separate department which has jurisdiction over its own province, like any other department of the college. During the period of my own connection with the faculty I recall few instances of purely social matters which were referred to them,

and in those cases the initiative came from the office of the Lady Principal.

The transference of social matters from the office of the Lady Principal, a system of fifty years' duration, to the modern system of Wardens is one which necessitates much readjustment and reorganization, and it is only fair to the wardens for the students to realize that patience and time are necessary to rearrange social legislation in accordance with modern usage. The appointment of a joint committee of students to confer with the Wardens is a most hopeful sign for the right sort of co-operation.

Matters of discipline come before a committee appointed by the trustees for that purpose, and their decision on a case is reported to the faculty simply as a matter of information.

1. C. T., '97

MAILING OF OUT OF TOWN COPIES OF WEEKLY

The Board of the Vassar MISCELLANY is sorry to state that one of its great desires for the Weekly cannot be fulfilled until the beginning of next year. This was a desire that by sending the WEEKLY to the Alumnae of the college every week, they might be brought in closer touch with, and consequently be more interested in all the activities of the college. We are unable to do this because of a lack of money. When the plan to issue a Weekly Newspaper was adopted by the Students' Association, it was agreed that the subscription to this should be included in the regular yearly subscription to the MISCELLANY Monthly. Therefore the issuing of this has been a great added expense and no extra funds have come in to meet it. To mail the papers every week to the alumnae would mean nearly \$100 added expense and we cannot afford this. The expense would be so great because the Government will allow no second class mailing privileges for the WEEKLY on the ground that it has no legitimate list of subscribers since it has no regular subscription price but is sent only to subscribers of the Monthly. We were unable to meet the objection by fixing a temporary subscription price for it, since that was precluded by our agreement with the Association. However, we are able to mail the four copies once a month with the Monthly, under the second class privileges allowed the Monthly. This must be done the rest of the semester but we sincerely hope to be able to change the system before next year.

> Frances L. Skinner, 1915 Business Manager

NOTICE

It has been brought to the attention of the MISCELLANY that the story called "Chelsea 2570" published in the March issue of the magazine was in many respects similar to a moving-picture film called "Chelsea 7750." The editors wish to express their profound apologies to the author and owners of the film for this unwitting encroachment upon their rights.

DISCOURTESY TO LECTURERS

Lack of the rules of common courtesy towards lecturers has of late reached such a point that many of us feel that it should be placed foremost in the category of college bad manners. Those students who attend lectures out of idle curiosity, should at least have some little consideration for the speaker of the evening and for those of us who are interested, or they should seek their amusement elsewhere. It seems almost incredible that people with an ordinary degree of courtesy should annoy those about them by audible inattention and by taking their leave in the midst of an address, but such we find to be a common occurence.

P. E. R., E. D. K., E. U., 1916

To the Editors of the Weekly:

Apropos of manners, which are subjected to criticism in the last WEEKLY, rudeness in class might well be mentioned. Although certain formalities of the preparatory school are superfluous at college, still there is no excuse for the discourtesy shown to instructors at the close of periods. The moment the bell sounds there is a general stir of shutting books, collecting belongings and putting on coats. The instructor, who is frequently in the middle of a sentence is forced to trail off hurriedly because she cannot make herself heard above the prevailing hubbub. The professor, of course, should not keep the class over time, but it is only primary deference not to interrupt the person who is speaking.

M. B. G., 1916

FRESHMEN AND CHAPEL SERVICE

To the Editors of the Weekly:

During the last two weeks I have heard it stated several times that the Freshman class is the most law abiding group in college. In making this statement, the law of maintenance of quiet during chapel service has evidently been completely overlooked. The disturbance in the last five or six rows in chapel is disgraceful. Night after night, girls sitting there converse in perfectly audible voices. To a part of the student body chapel undoubtedly is a bore, but this does not release those students from their obligation to maintain order during the short time devoted to prayer and worship each evening. To those who seek in the chapel service a short respite from academic work, a reaction, and change of thought, it is most distressing to be constantly annoyed by gossiping, laughing, whispering neighbors. Even if the spirit of reverence for a place dedicated to worship is lacking, do not college girls realize that a certain respect and consideration is due the comfort and desires of those who find pleasure in the short evening chapel service?

M. K. B., 1917

CHANGE IN REUNION SCHEDULE

Has anyone thought seriously of the proposed change in our reunion system which

has worked so well in the University of Michigan? By this system, when a class returns for a reunion every fifth year, it meets three other classes, which it knew in undergraduate days, also holding reunion. And by skillful mathematical calculation, each class during twenty years of reunions meets in turn all of the six classes it knew from its Freshman to Senior year. Is this not vastly more pleasant than coming back with strangers each time, as our alumnae do under the present system? This question is being agitated at present by the Alumnae Association, but it is quite as vital to us of the undergratuade body, who will have more years to profit by the improvement of the proposed system.

M. M., 1916

PROFESSOR TREADWELL TALKS ON EVOLUTION

At the regular meeting of the Christian Association, Thursday evening, March 19th, Professor Treadwell gave an informal talk upon The Message of Evolution. He summed up in the briefest manner possible the scientific proofs of the facts of evolution, and ended his address by saying,"By evolution, we mean an orderly progress, a working out of a definite law all the way from the beginning of the solar system through the separation of the planets and through the development of all life, up to the present time. All information that scientists have been able to gather, tends to prove that everything originates by a process of evolution and that there is no evidence to show that, at any time, there has been any interference in this process by outside forces."

M. E. I., 1917

RECITAL BY MRS. BIRMINGHAM

On Wednesday afternoon, March 18, Mrs. Lillian Birmingham, accompanied by her daughter, Miss Alma Birmingham, gave a most enjoyable recital of German, French and English selections. Mrs. Birmingham has a full, deep, rich contralto voice, pleasing in tone and smooth in quality. She put into her interpretation of the different songs that degree of feeling and yet of discrimination that characterizes the trained artist.

PROGRAM

Ballade de la MandrajoreDelibes.
Der LindenbaumSchubert.
Am Chloe
Der Schmied
HeimwehWolf.
Ein TraumGrieg.
L'heure d'Azur
Que je t'oublieLuckstone.
Psyché
Ave Printemps
EilyVannah.
Spirit Flower
The Cry of Rachel
Indian Lullaby Stewart.
Flower Rain Loud.
M. E. I., 1917

COLLEGE SETTLEMENT WORK

From Miss Spahr's interesting talk on Tuesday, March 17th, we learned that since 1887 the work of the college settlements in America has grown from a small, unknown activity into a large and powerful force in the life of the city slums. Although, outwardly, the college settlements may have seemed to accomplish nothing, they have, nevertheless, been the "experiment stations" for many of the best innovations of the day, such as playgrounds, open air schools and public baths. They have been instrumental in obtaining better laws; they have fought against the menaces which surround the young on all sides,-the saloon, pool rooms, and dance halls, and have supplied in their places dramatic and debating clubs, dancing classes and gymnasium work. Connected with the college settlements are camps where the boys and girls may go in the summer, away from the noise and heat of the city, and where they may learn that a hornet is not a "beautiful green bird." For all this work, college graduates, especially women, are needed. A fellowship of three hundred dollars is offered by each of the college settlements of New York, Philadelphia and Boston. The recipient is under skilled settlement direction, and receives in inspiration and experience all that M. S. H., 1917 she gives.

DANTE EXHIBITION

An exhibition of pictures pertaining to Dante is being shown in the Library between March 10th and 27th. Most of the material has been loaned by Cornell University, but some of it belongs to Harvard and to our own library.

One of the most interesting things in the exhibition is the set of studies in red chalk of the Divine Comedy, by Violet Oakley. They were originally made for medallions in a painted glass window, and were published in Harver's Magazine. They are extremely graceful in line, and the face of Dante in the study of the tenth heaven is an unusually beautiful conception. The likeness to the traditional portrait is entirely kept; but without that grim, morbid expression which generally accompanies it, rather with a strength and wonder, almost amounting to rapture. The Botticelli drawings of the Divine Comedy are also there, grotesque and confused; but interesting, particularly in comparison with the more modern representation of Dante's

Among the thirty-seven different portraits of Dante, all except one or two modern idealized ones, convey the idea of a man who has suffered inexpressible grief and sorrow. There are numerous photographs of statues of Dante. On one shelf are several rare old editions of Dante: a facsimile of the edition of 1508, and one of the original volumes printed in Venice in 1502. We are certainly much indebted to Miss Fahnestock for negotiating and arranging this exhibition.

V. G., 1915

PROFESSOR SABINE SPEAKS ON ARCHITECTURAL ACOUSTICS

Professor Wallace A. Sabine of Harvard University lectured in the Assembly Hall, Friday night. He explained that the four things which affected the acoustic properties of an auditorium are reverberation, interference, echo and consonance. Reverberation is the prolongation of the sound after it has ceased, and is dependent upon the absorbing quality of the materials used in construction, and of the audience. Interference is the neutralization of sound waves by being flung back at each other, causing "deaf spots" in an auditorium. It is dependent on the shape of the room. Echo depends on material and shape. Consonance, for which there is no adequate definition, is the one positive merit of architectural acoustics. It is the concurrence of sound and echo, and should be the support of a good auditorium to the speaker. Professor Sabine presented slides showing the defects in the acoustics of many well-known auditoriums and how they had been remedied. He concluded his lecture by saying that the general trend of modern architecture, because of the doing away with wood lath and other sound-absorbing materials, and the introduction of rigid walls, and domed ceilings, was toward poorer and poorer C. C. W., 1917 acoustics.

ICE HOCKEY

On Thursday, February 26th, was played the last of the match ice hockey games which it was possible to play off this season. There has been an exceptionally long period of cold weather this winter, which has favored ice, but due to the extreme cold in February, a thaw, and the unusually heavy snowfalls which kept us off the ice for two weeks, we were able to play but four games out of the six of the series. These were in order:-

1914-1917 score (3-0)

1915-1917 " (0-0)

1916-1917 " (2-2)

1915-1916 " (4-3)

This year has been the first that Ice Hockey has been an organized sport. The members of the Minor Sports Committee are still as formerly the managers and captains for their classes, but in addition arm bands and numerals are now given to any girl who plays in two match games of the series. The girls to receive numerals are:-

From 1915:- Mary Adams, Julia N. Brooks, Helen Haitmann, Elsa Muhlfelder, Emma Lester, Maude Louise Strayer.

From 1916:- Luella Cole, Irene Coye, Margaret Beard, Elaine Ralli, Marian Robbins, Lois Williams.

From 1917:- Dorothy Brown, Julia Bryant Dorothy Carter, Helen Evarts, Elinor Machado, Helen Potter.

As 1914 played only one match game, no one from that class received numerals.

We feel that this year has been a good beginning for organized Ice Hockey, as there was much interest in it shown among the skaters. We hope in the future, that it will have the support of general college interest.

J. N. Brooks, 1915 Chairman of Minor Sports

A Meeting of the Students' Association was held March 21, 1914.

Miss Amy Reed gave an outline of the temporary plans for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the college to be held early in October, 1915. In accordance with her suggestion it was voted that a committee of five be appointed from the Students' Association to assist in making plans for the students' part in the celebration.

It was announced that Miss Julia Lathrop and Miss Lucy Madeira, both alumnae of the college, will speak to the Students' Association on April 11th on the subject of student government.

The following plans for meetings after the Easter vacation were announced: On April 11th a meeting will be held for nomination and reduction to two of the officers of the Students' Association for next year. On April 18th the Athletic Association and the Philalethean Society, and on April 25th the Christian Association will hold meetings for the same purpose. Election day will be May 2nd, and the final business meeting of the Students' Association for the nomination and reduction to two of the minor officers of the Association will be held on May 6th. The meeting at which reports of the work done during the year will be given by the heads of all those organizations included in the amalgamation plan will take place on May 23rd.

The following appointments were announced. For the Election Day Committee: Jeannette Langhaar, 1914, Chairman, Elizabeth Adams, 1915, Gertrude Farnham, 1916, Elizabeth Kruse, 1917; For the Students' Building Committee: Louise Stanley, 1914, Chairman, Katharine Freeman, 1914, Portia Richardson, 1915, Rhoda Harris, 1916, Margaret Tangeman, 1917.

It was decided that the money left from Dr. Taylor's gift be given for the purchasing of lantern slides and other equipment for Taylor Hall.

The Senior member of the self-government Board reported the action of the board in appointing a temporary committee to meet with a committee from the Wardens for the purpose of discussing means of coöperation between students and Wardens in the regulation of the social life of the college. This was reported in order that the Students' Association might have time to consider before its next meeting whether it wished to provide for the formation of a permanent committee to meet with the Wardens. M. M. D.,1916

On Tuesday, March 17th, Rev. Robert Seneca Smith, of Poughkeepsie, held an open meeting of his Bible Class on *Modern Sunday* School Methods. Mr. Smith discussed the Bible as a whole, taking up the question of its origin, its nature, its inspiration and its authority. The Bible, said Mr. Smith, is the result of the attempts of the Jews to answer the great questions of all ages in a religious manner. For instance, the legend of creation in Genesis is their answer to the question: "Who made the world and how was it made?" It is of course impossible to look for scientific accuracy in all statements of the Bible; it is not a text book of science or history. The stories, legends, and proverbs were handed down from generation to generation before they were written. The Bible is inspired in the sense that its writers were good men who lived close to God-not in the sense that "God stood over the shoulder of these men and dictated every word and punctuation mark." It is authoritative because it is the only book which shows us how to succeed in this great experiment which we call life.

E. B. T., 1916

On Friday evening, March 20th, Professor and Mrs. Hill gave a reception to their Bible and Mission classes at their home. Those in the receiving line were adressed in missionary costume and an interesting exhibit of curios was shown,

C. L. G., 1916

On Saturday evening March 21st, the Southern and New England clubs combined to hold their annual dance. The members masqueraded as spectators and actors in a circus. Candy, lemonade and ice cream were served as refreshments and the gymnasium was decorated with booths, where the cotillion favors were given out.

C. L. G., 1916

On Sunday evening, March 22nd, Professor Hill spoke to the Christian Association on The Meaning and Use of the Sabbath.

At the meeting of Der Deutsche Verein held Tuesday, March 17th, in the Students' Building, Dr. Jenney of the German Department gave the club members a very interesting talk upon German folk costumes. She spoke with several amusing personal reminiscences, of the costume which is still worn in the various parts of Germany. The talk was illustrated by the radioptican and colored postal cards.

M. N. W., 1914

An exhibition to illustrate Professor Churchill's last lecture on *Impression* is being shown in the library. The pictures illustrate the use of divided tones in impressionism and neo-impressionism by such artists as Grieseke, Hermann, Pissaro, Monet, Manet and Surat. Examples of the Cubist and Futurist work by Duchamp, Picasso, Villon, Brancusi and Malisse are shown as the latest development in Impressionism.

C. L. G., 1916

During Holy Week, Lenten services will be held on Friday and Saturday, besides the regular services on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

D. W., 1914