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The Sphinx. Vol. 8, No. 8 January 30, 1907

Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin, January 30, 1907

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THE SPHINX



Vol. VIII

Madison, Wis., January 30, 1907

No. 8

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The Sphinx

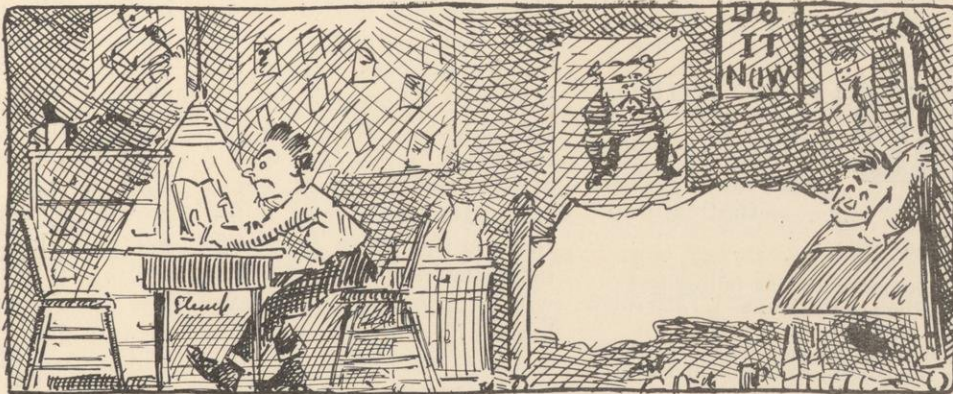

Omar in February

Wake! E'er the Sun has scattered into flight
 The marked-down remnants left of Yester-
 night.
 For now there tingle through the silent
 House
 Alarm clocks, in the rooms to Left and
 Right.

Before the phantom of False Morning died
 Methought a Grind adown the Hallway
 cried,
 "At 8 A. M. thy Final comes in Dutch—
 Buck up, lest thou get conned and slung
 Outside."

Myself when young did eagerly frequent
 The Libe, and came back void as when I
 went.
 But wiser now, I browse among the
 Snaps
 And buck about .1 of 1 per cent.

Could we but grasp this sorry scheme entire,
 We'd cut out all but Parkinson or Pyre;
 The Simple Life of stabs and Ferd's and
 smear
 Is good enough for O. Khayyam, Esquire.



Now from his Bed I see my Room-mate
 rise,
 His teeth are chattering and he rubs his
 eyes.
 I ask him: "Is it Cold enough for you?"
 "_____ " is all that he replies.

Let Worthy Students buck until they wilt,
 I nestle down my Nose into the Quilt
 And curl my toes up, giving not a Darn,
 In luxury. I feel like Vanderbilt.

Yon moon will next semester wax and
 wane—
 Peek through the dog-wagon's artistic pane.
 How often rising will she look for us
 Around the Square—for some of us, in
 vain.

Exams to Nether Hades I consign.
 And should my System fail, and I get
 mine—
 As in memoriam, in the Farmer's Home
 Where I made one — turn down an
 empty stein. —Omar K. M.

THE SPHINX.

Published fortnightly during the College Year
by Students of the University of Wisconsin.

Entered at the Postoffice of Madison, Wis., as
Second-Class Matter, September 28, 1901.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00 PER ANNUM.

SINGLE COPIES, TEN CENTS

(If not paid before January 1st, \$1.50 per annum
will be charged.)

Single copies on sale at the news stands and
book stores.

ADVERTISING RATES MADE KNOWN ON APPLICATION

Address Communications to the Business Editor
All contributions, subscriptions and remit-
tances for same should be addressed to

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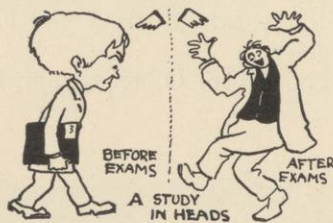
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Always remember that this is only pretence, so that you are not to believe a word of it, even if it is true.—Kingsley



WILLIAM WORDS-
WORTH, author
of "Ode to a Sky-
lark" and "Teas-
ing," once pathetically re-
marked:

The mercury was falling fast
When to the jammed Libe there
passed
A bucker with a bunch of books,
Who cried, with wild and hunted
looks,
"Exams are here!"

At ten o'clock the guy was found,
All glassy-eyed, as in a swoond,
Still clasping in his dexter mitt,
The reading notes that he had
writ.

Ex-hel-sior!

Wordsworth was always a
graphic old cuss.

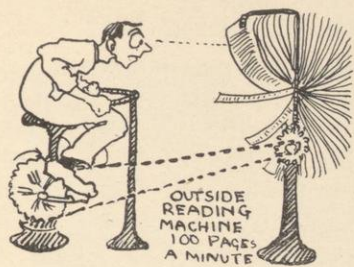
We are all sufficiently
aware that this is the season
when we apply our devoted
noses to the scholastic grind-
stone with unwonted vigor.
We know that from now on

we will be bucking from
electric-lighted morn to the
hour usually associated with
the dog-wagon revels of the
Prodigal Son. We will get
semi-circular necks and sore
eyes; we will blister the air
with bad language, varying
in forcibleness from the
plaintive "Oh, la!" of the
freshman Y. W. C. A., to
the * * * ? — x !! x x !! ?
of the college sport whose
sins have found him out—
there is the same heart-felt
intensity in both cases. We
will approach the exam
loaded to the gunwales, in
a state bordering on ner-
vous prosperity; and when
the examiner, smiling
ghoulishly, writes the first
question on the front board,
we will feel like a seasick
monkey in a falling elevator.

In the face of the above
THE SPHINX rises on her
hind legs to make herself
unpopular by upholding the
system. In the first place,
it places the normal stude
on an equality with the
Normalite, for once; as the
Irishman said, it gives him

a fighting chance to squeeze
through the knot-hole by
the skin of his teeth in a
Garrison finish. If a man
doesn't know what's in a
course by the time he fin-
ishes it, it's a one-best bet
that he doesn't want or need
it. Exams allow him to
charge himself with tem-
porary information like a
soda water bottle, and un-
cork it, and let it dissipate
harmlessly, leaving no trace.
Exam bucking will not dis-
figure you permanently, un-
less you maliciously and
meanly grind for an ex, in
which case it is your funeral,
we hope.

A certain Oriental tribe,
with a name like breaking
glass, has the dainty cus-
tom of starving and casti-
gating itself for a week be-
fore its feasts and religious
blow-outs, simply to make
the later more deliriously
joyful by contrast. Thus
does examination week put
us in shape to enjoy the
Prom. What t'ell, friends,
THE SPHINX sees a great
light ahead.



While our vestal sister, the *Lit*, has nobly expressed our printable sentiments on the matter of outside reading, we cannot refrain from adding a few words on the principle of the thing. (THE SPHINX is strong on principle.) Its disadvantages are patent to the undraped eye; its advantages have never been visibly isolated from the foggy realm of professorial fancy. It is wasteful of brain tissue and optic cells, subversive of morals, and consumptive of Co-op pencils. As far as usefulness goes, the vermiform appendix is a model of utility by comparison.

If, by miracle, a patient stude gets any information at all out of these steeple-chasing reading courses, he has done so with a vast waste of energy. The same information might be better conveyed by a single text book. If none exists, the prof catalogued for the course is supposedly able

to correlate and present the matter in a better form than what the student gleans from a hurried flipping of 500 pages. If he cannot or does not, the University might more economically employ some deserving \$800 instructor with a five-cent blue pencil to assign and correct reading notes, and let it go at that. An efficient lecture course should not need a comic supplement.

YE SPHINX HAS HER BACK SCRATCHED



We note with holy joy that some of the speakers at the meeting of the Wisconsin Teachers' association took exception to the educational policy of the University. THE SPHINX has known for a long time that the incandescent bunch on the Hill had it coming. As much as two years ago it was pointed out in these columns that a university whose potential energy was inadequate to the needs of her undergraduates could scarcely afford to devote that precious commodity to the glorification of her gradu-

ate school. Last year we said things about professors who had no time for their students outside the classroom. In the first editorial of the current year we cussed the general educational policy of the Powers; and since that time we have been saying all that the postal regulations allow about their methods.

THE SPHINX is particularly pleased because some of the specific criticisms of the University were couched in almost the identical language of her comments. The distinguished speakers made no direct reference to the source of their information, but there can be no reasonable doubt that they had drawn their inspiration from her back files.

The faculty have not, as yet, shown signs of animatedly endorsing the reforms agitated by THE SPHINX. However, President Van Hise thanked the speakers for their criticisms and, since these criticisms originally emanated from THE SPHINX, we may be pardoned for considering that he has publicly thanked Us.

THE SPHINX accepts the delicate tribute, and blushing pins this dainty bouquet to her corsage.

—Phelim.

With the scintillating recurrence of each Prom time, it has been the custom of THE SPHINX to spread herself on a special number with trimmings. She is framing up a similar stunt just now. She has been religiously saving up her girly jokes and her goo poetry and her dinky stori-ettes and all the other kids of her brain that are fit to appear in polite society, for this number. She is happy to announce that she is to be materially assisted by several of the illustrious company whose work beau-

tified her pages in the years gone by.

She would also like to hear from more of the undiscovered flowers of genius which, she has a hunch, are blooming unnoted around this University. The Prom SPHINX is the most eligible medium through which to initially emerge. Say, YOU—throw that book under the radiator and tear off something for the Prom SPHINX.

Buy one for your Prom girl. Order early, for if she misses it her cheeks will lose their pristine bloom and she



will never recover from the disappointment.

We are designing it for her special benefit. It will be of convenient size to fan with; it will do for a blotter if she spills ice cream on herself; when she returns to New Athens, Wis., she can take it with her as a delicate souvenir; it will bear inspection by

(this spilled)

the Methodist minister; and we will use digestible ink, absolutely non-toxic in case her baby brother chews it.
GET HER A PROM SPHINX.

Long Haired Artists— Attention

THE SPHINX offers a prize of five plunks (\$5) for the best cover design for the Prom number, sent or submitted to her editor on or before February 5th. Design may be suitable for black or white or color. There is no limit on entries; any present or former Wisconsin student, whether on or off THE SPHINX staff may kick in. Try your luck.

Designs should have seasonable application. All unused entries, it is understood, are subject to adaptation in whole or in part, credit being given their producer.

Chaucerian Grammar

I saw ye sygne: "Fleect Underwear—
From off ye woolie beaste."
Butte when I bought ye doggone stuffe
'Twas only me was fleect.

Played Out

"Anything on hand this week?" said the manager of the stock company.

"Um, no," admitted the Press Agent "nothing much. I've got a little Sunday story about Montmorency's heading the charge up San Juan, and a skit about Tessie St. Clair as the incognito daughter of one of New York's richest families, and I've faded a couple of sticks about that damned comedian's inventing an airship, and of course there's the usual horse and rescue stunt for Mae De Vere—but when it comes to real good copy it seems as though I hadn't any imagination left."

"I have a soft spot for you in my heart"—began the It, mushily.

"Are you sure it isn't your head, maybe?" suggested the Caustic Gyurl.

Another Song Hit

"I Don't Like Your Family" has gained popularity because of its world-wide appeal. This version is submitted to the mimic world of school in the hope of striking a responsive chord in the heart of some fellow-serf. Watch carefully, and if you see it strike, write us:

I.

The scene is a room in the frat, when the
gloom

From the Cons and the Flunks is deep
And the thought of exams is eliciting
damns

While no one is dreaming of sleep.
Bill betteth with John that he getteth a con
In all of his chemistry sections.

Hank cusses his torts, and the engineer
sports

All sing, with profane interjections:

CHORUS.

I don't like the faculty,
They don't make a hit with me;
I do hate to bother asking money from my
father

When the bursar gets it all away from me.
I do wish that Dean Turneure,
Just for once, could hear me roar.

He's a perfect pusher but when I go 'way
to school

I want a gay time.

II.

The engineer's life is a record of strife
And of effort expended in vain,
A continual fight from morning till night,
A terrible strain on the brain.

A man must be brave to be willing to slave
Four years of his life away,
And you'll find this is true: that when he
gets through

He's exceedingly likely to say:

(Soft pedal and cuss-word accompaniment.)

CHORUS: "I don't like the faculty," etc.

R. R. B.

Foiled Again

Prof.: Mr. Nurvey! Why do you keep your face down to your cuff? Ha, a crib!"

Mr. Nurvey: "No, professor. I was only laughing in my sleeve."

The pin-boy is a convivial cuss; he's always setting 'em up.

You Will Not Buy This Picture



Any Old Love Song

The size of the charming picture (of which this is a reproduction in miniature) is 6 feet 6 inches in its stocking feet. The large print is a sepia photogravure, plate marked with boarding-house gravy. It is hand printed on Eczema tin plate paper, 7 come 11, ready for framing. Handy to throw at the dog.

The Picture Can Not Be Sold.

But the bum print will be delivered, delivery wagon postpaid, to every new subscriber to THE SPHINX at \$1.50 a year; if we receive the remittance before February 1, 1907, we will probably never recover from the shock.

We apologize to LIFE PUBLISHING CO.
We apologize more to our readers for printing this thing.

Slide, Kelly, Slide

At this season of precarious standings, a few words on the etiquette of the Hill shoot-the-chutes-bump-the-bumps sidewalk will not be amiss. We quote from Lord Chesterfield's Rules of Order.

"When losing your equilibrium, retain your composure. Should you descend on your posterior terminus, do not arise, ruffled, and sneak off brushing and blushing amid the gibes of the entire registration of the law school; remain where you are, nonchalantly extract a note-book and ap-

pear to buck. Look as if you had sat there on purpose.

Should you flip-flop forward, pursue a more active method. Contrive to have your Derby precede you, and in alighting, gather it to your bosom. You will then appear to be patriotically practicing the diving tackle for next football season.

Little drops of water—
Mighty little sand—
Bring Omega lotion
Into great demand."

"The Drama"

By MAT CALF.

A Rose o' Plymouth Town—Fuller's Opera House, January 12.

NOTE.—THE SPHINX prides itself on its prompt dopping out of news items. See also our notes on President Von Ice.



Duel Scene—in which All the Principal Characters contribute Gore.

Our local theater goers were furnished with a rare treat last evening in the Red Domino production of that stirring melodrama, "A Rose o' Plymouth Town." The play is a highly pleasing representation of the strenuous life of our Puritan ancestors and was intelligently interpreted by an "all-star cast," as advertised (anyone controverting our statement will be made to see stars not in the dramatis personae).

Miss Susan Armstrong, the eminent emotional actress, appeared as Rose, the original American beauty, ancestress of the late David S. Rose. Miss Armstrong's acting was characterised by a delightful naturalness which brought the audience to her feet in reverential homage. We felt, however, that Rose's histrionic abilities were somewhat restricted by having to hold her hat on with one hand while she went through the great emotional scene of the third act. Even so, she clung to it with a constancy that reminded us of the well-know tableau "Rock of Ages."

Charles Mercein as Garret Frosther was superb. Every movement was characterized by ease and grace. In the climax of

the third act he was the very reincarnation of Joseph Jefferson as Rip van Winkle after the nap. His wig appeared a trifle too unstable and his hair was too red for a real Englishman's, but we lay this to the property man.

Miss Hildebrand was naive and willowy. This popular actress played a difficult role in which she ranged freely the entire gamut of human passions. Her entrée was the signal for vigorous applause from the second row in the balcony, and her exit, in one case, was effectively striking.

Farewell Gascoigne was a pleasant surprise. We were delighted to find the bluff old captain of romance such a rosy complexioned little chap, with such tiny feet, such cute brown whiskers and such nice hair. The part in his hair was almost too pronounced, however, and we suffered no little uneasiness lest the genuine article should sprout through. In the war-like scenes, during which he was contained in armor, Mr. Gascoigne gave a realistic impersonation of the tin man in the "Wizard of Oz."

Miss Scott was most satisfactory as a superannuated coquette. From her appearance in funeral ceremonies in the first scene until her final disappearance in the fourth, she played her part with the buoyancy and sprightliness of a girl of sixty summers.

Miss Adams was captivating—especially her singing. Her handling of the army musket was evidence of her versatility. She even succeeded better with this than with the knitting needles.

Art Greunewald and Harry Brandel made Increase Mather, Matt Byles and other heroes of William Cairns move vividly before our eyes. Mr. Brandel was a most obliging young pilgrim, falling abstractedly upon the point of the rapier at a signal from the prompter, and making love at the next moment with the fervor of an Alaskan clam. Mr. Greunewald's falsetto betrayed the villainous John Margerine and we loved him from the start, knowing all the time that he was not as black as he was painted.

Foley carried a lace sun shade to shield her from the opera glasses of the upper house.

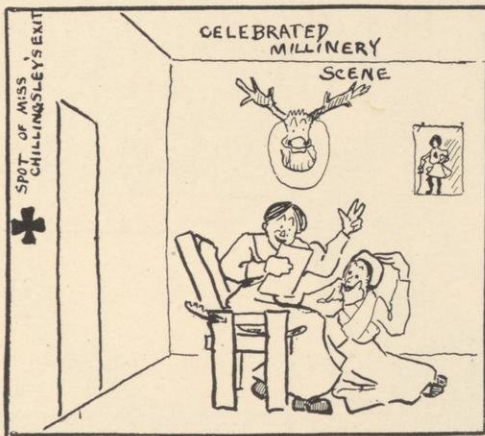
Among the prominent personages who occupied front seats in Nigger Heaven were the Rev. Squee Timlin, Prof. Thomas H. Thickenon, the analytical dramatist; A. C. Kissling and best; Joseph Bond Whitmore, captain of the varsity baseball team, and Mr. Frederick Brandenburg, distinguished for finesse as a fusser.

Ned Jones tarried in the balcony for a few moments, but, intimidated by the careless handling of fire-arms by Miss Adams, soon retired.

E. J. Southwick, coach of the Junior Class Play, swept the boards with a telescope from the front row in the balcony.

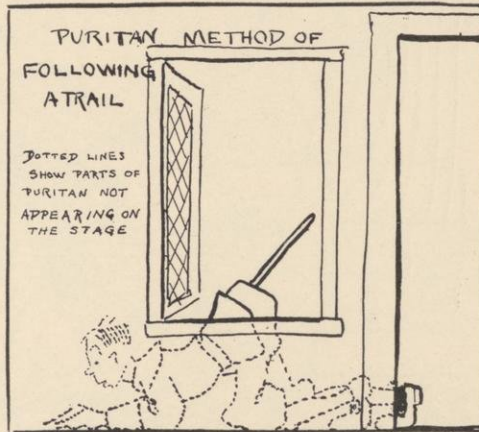
Other News Notes

It was rumored that two strange women in green baize walking skirts and cardinal shirt waists, who occupied prominent seats in the parquet, were *not* patronesses. How intrusive!



Society Notes

The business manageresses of the production were conspicuous in a box. They were both charmingly gowned in peek-a-boo waists of dotted mall, trimmed with chiep du sheen and Irish point lace. Miss Frankenburger bore a picture hat. Miss



A theater fire was arranged by the management, before the real excitement of the play itself. The gas flame, which was the source of the conflagration, was finally turned off through the heroic efforts of the Madison police force, a chemical fire extinguisher (seltzer bottle), six ushers, two scene shifters and the unruffled proprietor.

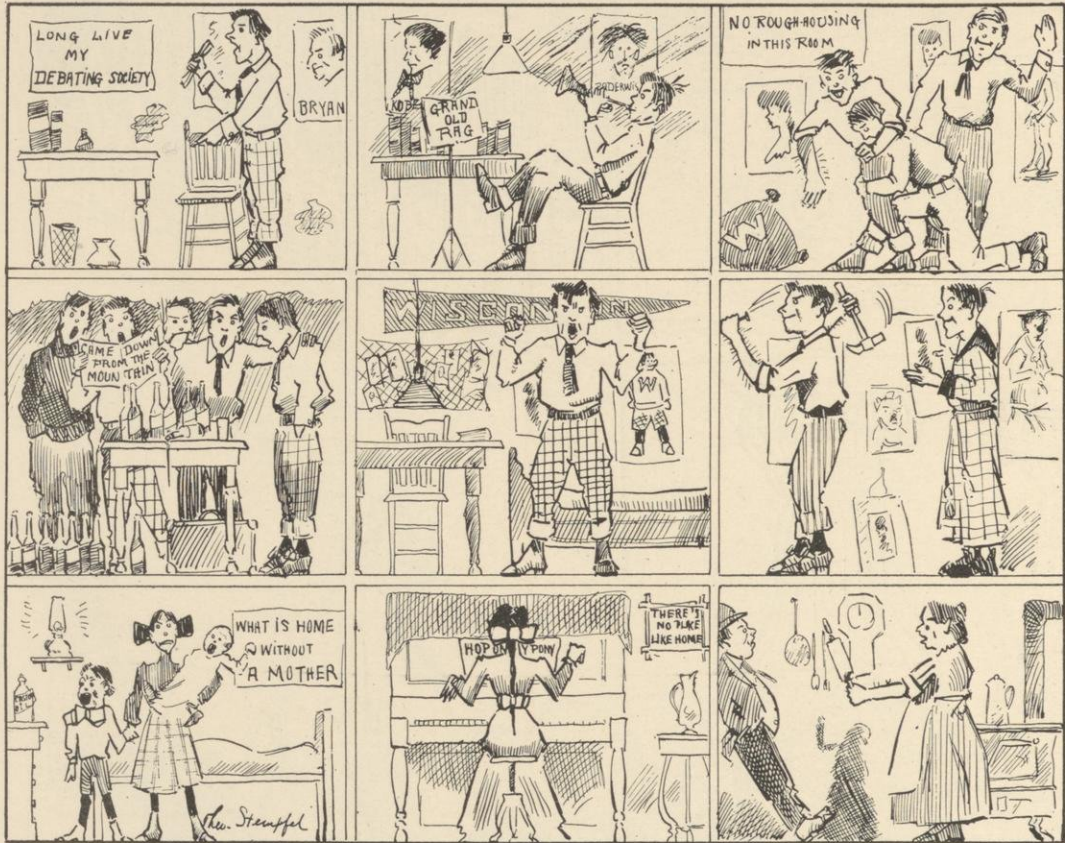
Mendota's Bad Break

A geologist bold, named Van Hise,
Went down out of sight thru the ice.
When asked to explain
He said: "Why, it's plain
I thought 'twas not ice but nice gneiss."

Still More

The president, walking out brisk—
Ly, went in the lake to his whisk—
Ers, which made him remark
That if it were dark
He'd like a hot bumper of whisk—

(y)



The bothered looking geezer
In the middle room is me.
I'm bucking my goldarndest
For the Little Golden Key.

I see Phi Beta's finish
In the joint that I am stuck in.
An able-bodied earthquake
Is a better place to buck in.

I'd like to meet my former friend
Who said this place was quiet;
Perhaps I couldn't kill him
But I sure would like to try it.

From the Cardinal, Jan. 12

"The Junior play committee met yesterday afternoon at the Kappa Kappa Gamma or the Delta Gamma or maybe the Alpha Phi house. It was proposed to have the ushering done by representatives of prominent female organizations; the Y. W. C. A. will sell soft drinks and the Junior girls' basket-ball team will act as scene shifters. The question of the disposal of possible proceeds was discussed under suspension of the rules, and correspondence is solicited."

THE SPHINX has received the following communications. While her columns are open, etc., she takes no responsibility, etc.:

Dear Madame: I would like to say a few words on behalf of the girls. At present, they are forced to run the gamut of either the law school or the engineers in ascending or descending the hill; that is, they are between the devil and the deep C. E. I would suggest as a compromise that the Junior Wad be devoted to building a path up the median line of the hill, on which the girls could be less "the connoisseur of neighboring eyes," as Milton says, and could slip with a jar only to their digestive and not to their nervous systems.

P. S. A tunnel would be still better.

EDGAR E. ROBINSON, Chairman.

Sphinx Board, Come in at the usual time about yet, and we will things talk over.
FERDINAND VON A. KAESTNER.

Sir, we beg you to have this fund turned over to a very worthy case of indigence: the university. It can then clean itself up and re-erect the tennis wire and buy another pint of sand for its walks. REGENTS.

Sphinx, Why can't the male members of the play committee use it to take the co-ed members to my Prom? Tickets at Sumner's. Do it now. W. A. REHM.

My Dear Sphinx:

Give it to the crew. Wisconsin aquatics is the noblest of our sports; it is a fine ad; it must and shall be preserved. Help send the crew east.

I enclose a check for thirty (30) cents for the same cause, on behalf of the *Alumni Magazine*. MAX LOEB.

Dear Sphinx:

Please give it to us to furnish our new room in Main Hall. We would like to make it both ducky and artistic; there will be four cozy corners, and Rescue Mission furniture; also a statuette of Dick Remp as the Dying Gladiator. The color scheme will be cardinal and pink, with baby-blue curtains and a mauve goboon. We would like to put in a fudge machine and a public pen-wiper, as we do not think a girl of culture and refinement should wipe her pen on her stockings.

THE S. G. A.

Diversions in Higher Mathematics



A prof elucidating upon a cone with great difficulty.

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Through all the land the breath of June
was blowing,

The skies were fair, the earth was good
to see,

To meet the Winsome Girl I went not
knowing—

Not even dreaming, of the grief to be.

The gloaming sky was one red blaze of
splendor,

The evening star glared like a baleful
eye

At eerie shadows, weird as she of Endor,
When through the night—hailed by my
anguished cry—

Bright as some demon meteor swiftly
blazing

Athwart the Dark that, spritelike,
seemed to flirt

Its shroud across the stars, my shoulder
grazing

Her "Dearest Poppa" heaved a hunk
of dirt.
—W. A. B.

More Knocks

As given by a student during a regent's exam.—Definition of cramming—a process of intellectual feeding preceded by hunger and followed by indigestion.

We wouldn't blame old General Kearney one bit for taking it out on the coffin lid if he could see his local freshman namesake sporting a derby almost like a man.

The Senior Swing Out wouldn't swing very well—somewhat stiff it was—like a rusty hinge. Sounded that way from the outside.

When listening to our Canadian Cousins the "menace of mechanical music" is brought home to us with fearful force.

Why doesn't some generous spirited individual put Charlie Frohman or Belasco wise to the fact that "all star casts" lurk in the uncut herbage of the U. of W. That the status of the acted drama today in this country is deplorable, no sane man or English instructor disputes. Yet here in this

university, is an impressario who, by a few dabs into grease paint as it were, could change the complexion of the whole dramatic world. No man should lie, as Lyman lies, dormant when the acting art is gasping its feeble last before our very noses.

The mills of Miller (the Physics Lab. Egyptian Deity) grind slowly but they grind—the life out of the victims.

When cribbing, apply the advice of Solomon: "Avoid the appearance of evil."

Delicatessen

The Utter Idiot went ice-boating. So he came back without his front teeth. He hied him to the dental smithy, and a fair girl came to him saying: "Here is our assortment of high quality false teeth. Make your selection."

"Please to withdraw first, Mamie," pleaded the Idiot, modestly. For he had read in the *Ladies' Home Journal* that no gent should pick his teeth before a lady.

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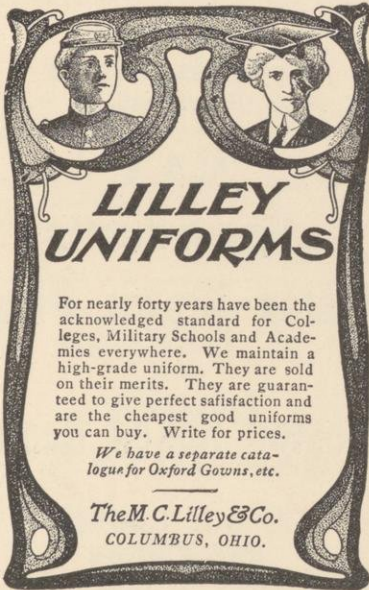
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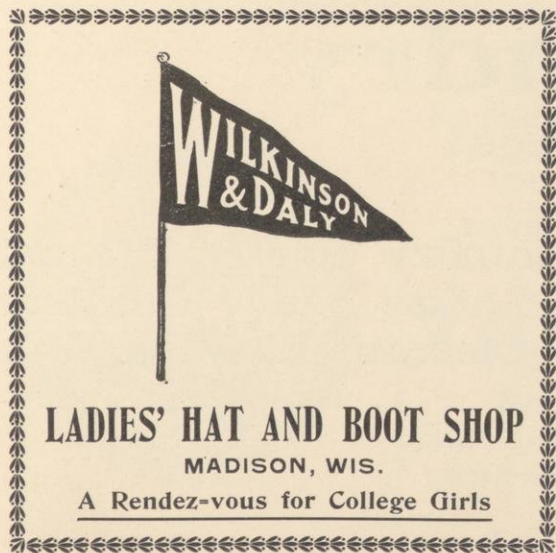
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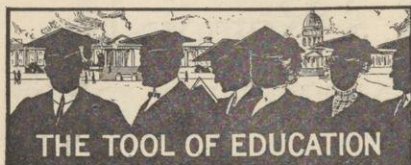
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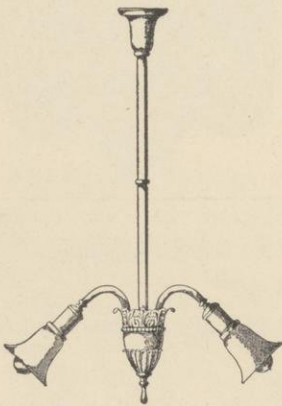
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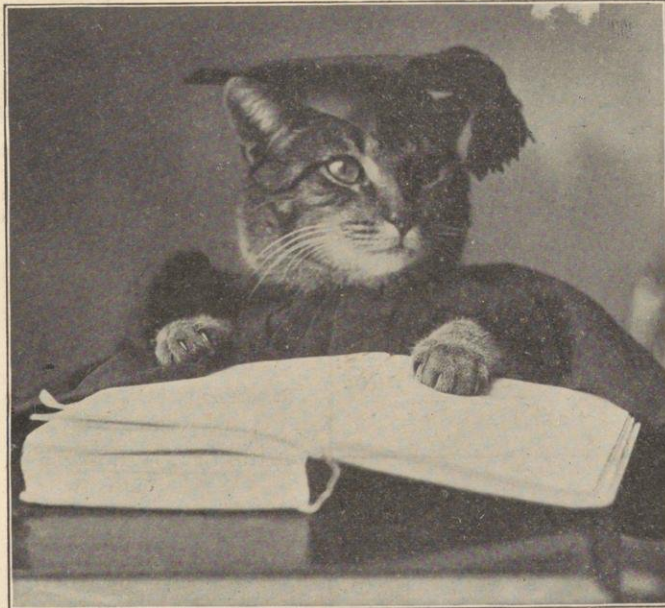
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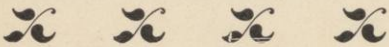
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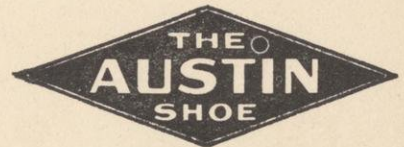
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