

# BARNARD BULLETIN

VOL. XV. No. 13

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11, 1911.

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## The December Number of the "Bear"

The Sophomores have been learning to write stories. That is the most gratifying thing about the December number of "The Bear," for they have been learning their lesson well. Now let them take their lesson to heart, and go on writing us stories. The practice and inspiration they will get from publishing in "The Bear" will be more valuable to them than the points they will accumulate from handing in themes to an instructor. Incidentally, I hope that these new contributors will not involve themselves to such an extent in running class teas, undergraduate associations and the college generally that they will have no time to write.

After the excellence of the stories in this number, the scantiness of verse is most notable. It is strange that Barnard students do not take to verse-writing. There is considerable poetic feeling, and a marked control over language and imagery in Win Willet's story "The Spirit of the Place." Why not turn such impulse into poetry for a change, instead of poetic verse? Miss Straiton's lonely attempt is much to be commended, and it would be pleasant to commend the execution in all details. The last of her "Three Songs" does attain something of the rush movement which seems appropriate, but rhymes like "scorn" and "storm," a phrase like "sky!" and a line like "Where at noon-day bright, smiles the sun on my flight" ought to have been labored over before being consigned to print.

The stories all show deftness in handling the significant details of character and action, and the conversation is usually well done. Miss Morris's "One Foot in the Grave," after an excellent beginning, uses the humor of her situation to good advantage. The reader may regret, perhaps, that Farmer Jonathan makes such a long speech about himself in just the way that he does at the end. It is a little too like pointing the moral. Miss Craddock's "The Mysterious End of Rex" reproduces quite cleverly the gossip of a talkative, tale-bearing woman, but is just a shade too realistically long-winded. So far as the outcome of the story is concerned, the author's cat is let out of the bag so soon that the reader is almost bored before the end just as Mrs. Gray's listener may have been. Miss Salzman's "Only Three Blocks" is slightly more successful in its humor than in its tragedy. Mrs. Cohen yanking her Abie from under the feet of truck-horses and sympathetic Mrs. Donovan are well sketched. A little more constraint, less composing of limbs and stiffening of fingers, would have made the conclusion more effective by reducing the melodrama. The most practised hand in the number is shown by Miss Minor in "The

## Philosophy Club Meets

On Friday afternoon Dr. E. E. Slosson, one of the editors of the "Independent," talked for an hour informally and very delightfully, before the Philosophy Club and its friends. It is Dr. Slosson's belief that our understanding of any philosophical system is greatly increased by a personal knowledge of its maker; and in accordance with this theory, he spent last summer in Europe for the purpose of meeting the more conspicuous of the contemporary foreign philosophers. It was hence the personalities of these men rather than their doctrines that Dr. Slosson discussed in detail.

He visited Maeterlinck at his stately villa in Normandy which has been constructed from the ruins of an ancient abbey. He met Madame Maeterlinck, whose historic ability is questioned by theatrical managers, and is nevertheless displayed in this romantic setting, where she takes the part of the heroine in private production of her husband's plays.

Dr. Slosson spoke with sympathy of the mystic in Maeterlinck, the ascription of spirit to material objects. Like his own Tytyl and Mytyl, Maeterlinck has all his life been "letting out the souls of things," and as Dr. Slosson added, "They never get back."

There is more than a trace of mysticism in Henri Bergson, the French philosopher, who, perhaps more than any man of the present time, is shaping philosophical thought in Europe and America. Bergson is a Hebrew, though unorthodox, and he has something of the Semitic gift of prophecy. His personality is impressive, and it is his direct influence, exerted in the classrooms of French normal schools which has done most to spread his philosophy.

Bergson regards himself as in many respects a disciple of the late Professor James. He is impressed with the importance of relating philosophy more intimately to practical life, for it is events as they happen, present events, which constitute reality. The process of evolution is continuous and at all times in operation, so that we of to-day are co-workers with it.

Less of a mystic and more of a pragmatist is Henri Poincaré, the French astronomer and mathematician. Poincaré entered philosophy through the channel of science, and his philosophical system bears distinctly the impress of its origin. He regards his own theories as tools for practical use and is thus as far as possible removed from the typical speculative philosopher. His personality is not particularly impressive; he is small, stoop-shouldered and absent-minded, but his genius in his sphere is unquestioned, and he is considered by mathematicians to be their most brilliant representative.

Another scientist, William Ostwald, the famous German chemist, developed his philosophical system relatively late in

years. Professor Ostwald is a typical Teuton, broad-faced and red-bearded. His home is called "Landhaus Energie," in commemoration of the main concept of his chemistry and his philosophy. Under energy, Ostwald includes all forms of thought as well as all chemical, physical and philosophical changes. Energy is the measure of wealth, and its conservation together with the elimination of friction is the aim of life. This concept Professor Ostwald has expressed in a neat formula:  $G = E^2 - W^2$ , where  $G = \text{Glück}$ ,  $E = \text{Energie}$  and  $W = \text{Widerstand}$ , or resistance to energie. He claims to have applied this formula to his own life and solved many dilemmas by its aid. Professor Ostwald acted as exchange professor at Columbia some years ago.

An entirely different type of philosopher is the idealist, Rudolf Eucken. Although he has written for many years on the history of philosophy, it is only recently that Professor Eucken has become popularly known. Like Bergson, his widest influence is exerted in his lecture-room, which is always crowded. Professor Eucken is a Christian philosopher inspired with earnest zeal for the spiritual life and his ideal for philosophy is not contemplation but "activism."

Also at Jena is the dogmatist, Ernest Haeckel, who has grown old in the forefront of the Darwinian school. Professor Haeckel fought so long for the recognition due his doctrines that now, when they are popularly accepted, the polemical spirit is too strong upon him to be exercised and he even now quarrels hotly with a clergy far from hostile to his views. Professor Haeckel is still a robust man of commanding presence, with a beautiful voice and pleasant manner.

All these philosophers, Dr. Slosson says, are interested in each other, but as we might expect, each regards the theories of the other with curiosity rather than conviction.

## Press Club Meeting

There will be an extremely important meeting of the Press Club on Thursday, Jan. 12, at half-past twelve, in the Alumnae room. As some very important business must be transacted, the members are urged to attend in full force.

## Socialist Meeting

A Socialist meeting was held on Tuesday, Dec. 20th, at noon. Delegates were chosen for the Inter-Collegiate Convention, to be held on Dec. 29. Miss Naumberg and Miss Ingemann were chosen. For a Socialist dinner to be given on Dec. 30, there were about twelve representatives from Barnard. The dinner was at Kalil's, and many eminent Socialists spoke.

## BARNARD BULLETIN

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BARNARD BULLETIN

Barnard College, Columbia University, N. Y.  
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NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11th, 1911

"Music hath charms," but only when heard. Depending, of course, on the quantity and quality of the music. But when that music is the soul-inspiring harmonies of the Barnard Chorus, and when that music does not or cannot reach the ear of the waiting Faculty, janitorial force and students on occasions when it should, something has gone wrong. We pause in our toil at five minutes of twelve, either in the classroom or in the arduous satisfaction of plying the knife and fork; we crook our heads in a welcome attitude as if listening to some "surge and thunder" from afar. But nothing occurs, and we are left to plod on uncheered.

Why do we not hear the chimes? If it is a case of too few flatteries, we will start a subscription fund. If it is a case of lack of muscle at the keyboard, we will bring some of our strong to lend their aid. Besides the shame of not being able to enjoy a generous gift to the fullest, there is a greater loss at stake. Surely we all remember that we must build up some traditions for posterity, and though, as everybody says, posterity has done nothing for us, here is an opportunity too great to be lost. Barnard would be greatly enhanced by the atmos-

phere of chimes and their golden tones echoing up and down the marble stairs at sunset, and incidentally by having done so for centuries. The only trouble is that they may be hallowed with tradition not only of swinging for years but incidentally of never being heard. There is wisdom in thinking, in thinking of posterity.

## Alumnae Notes

The regular mid-term luncheon of the Alumnae Association of Barnard was held on Saturday last at Brooks Hall. There was a large gathering of Alumnae from the various classes, the number from each growing smaller according to the age of the class in the Association. At the guest table was Provost and Mrs. Brewster, Dean Gildersleeve, Miss Weeks of Brooks Hall, Mr. Plimpton, Mrs. Talcott and Mrs. Annie Nathan Meyer from the Trustees. The guest of the day was the Rev. Hugh Black, D.D., of Union Theological Seminary, who addressed the Association. Addresses were also made by Mr. Plimpton and Dean Gildersleeve.

The engagement is announced of Florence Cheesman (Barnard 1903) to John Ware Remer, Beta Delta Theta Chi.

Born—To Mrs. L. Anathon (Lilian Heine, 1908) a daughter, December, 1910.

Died—On Tuesday, Dec. 27, 1910, Mrs. B. T. Weil (Irene Cohen, 1907).

To the Editor of the BULLETIN:

Dear Madam: May I offer the following authoritative, though unfortunate, explanation, to whom it may concern.

The 1910 trees are not, as your "Junior" correspondent seems to think, still in the seedling stage, waiting for spring winds to entice them, to the Barnard Campus. They are tall, if slim, Norway maples, some half hundred of them, carefully selected, ordered—nay, almost paid for—and since September, waiting resignedly in the sheltering care of an indignant nurseryman till the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, the architect of Barnard College, and divers other powers that be finally utter the magic word "Plant!"

Perhaps the following, quoted from a letter of Provost Brewster's will most lucidly explain the delay: "The trees, in order for the college and the class of 1910 to get the full benefit of them, will have to be planted in accordance with the scheme of buildings, and, since the college architect and the Committee on Buildings and Grounds are not yet sure of one or two details, the tree planting cannot at present go ahead."

We trust that curiosity, apprehension and criticism are herewith allayed, and that balmy skies and welcoming smiles will greet the newcomers on their arrival.

1910.

## Student Council

A meeting of Student Council was held on Friday, Jan. 6. As this was the first meeting after the holidays, there was very little business to transact. There was some discussion of the increased noise in the halls, and also of the advisability of having the president read the constitution of the Undergraduate Association to all new students, to give them a slightly less hazy idea of the principles of student government. Several dates were granted for basket ball games, and, there being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

## Basket Ball

The first inter-class basket ball game was played on Monday between the Freshmen and Sophomores. Judging from the wild shrieks and war cries of the bystanders, and the delapidated appearance of the players, this game must have been as exciting an event as has ever occurred at Barnard, not excepting the welcome accorded to the new dean. At the end of the second half the score was 7-7, so an extra third was added. No goals were made, however, so the game ended in a tie, to be played off after the holidays. It is to be hoped that when it is played off, the fouling on both sides will be a little less conspicuous than on Monday.

## News Item

The Trustees of the Columbia University Press have appointed Messrs. Lemcke & Buechner, 30-32 West 27th st., New York (also the managers of the University Bookstore, West Hall) sales agents for the publications of the Columbia University Press, formerly handled by the Macmillan Co.

To the Juniors and the rest of the College, care of the Editor of the BULLETIN:

"Yes, turn your hopeful young faces to the dim past," but also do not forget to turn them in the direction of the Provost's office. "Where are the trees of yesterday?" Let me answer, oh dear and solicitous Junior. Indeed they are of yesterday, or last week, or month, and pretty soon they'll be of last year—and yet for all 1910 can say they may be "of next century." Since the end of last May, the date of class day, all during the summer, and regularly bi-weekly since the opening of college, a big fat 1910 envelope had made its way to the Provost, urging, imploring, cajoling, threatening; but all in vain! The trees are waiting in the nursery, the nurseryman sends frantic epistles daily urging their planting, but—"we are waiting, sisters, waiting"—for permission to plant!

Go on hoping—if you choose, or better yet—join your protests to ours, and standing before the door of the Provost's office, once more quote, or misquote, "How long, oh Trustees, how long?"

1910.

## Around College

To the Editor of the BULLETIN:

While not desirous of contributing to the undergrad play controversy as to whether Shakspeare shall be given this year I have yet a suggestion to make which I think might be useful in helping the committee to a decision.

If we were to give a revival of some old standard play which has been a decided success in its day, but which has not been seen in New York for a good many years, several advantages would accrue. We would be pretty sure of its being well received; it would have especial interest as a revival, and there would be no royalty.

A play of this kind which is suitable for presentation on the Barnard stage is "Money," by Bulwer Lytton, a satire upon society's homage of wealth, and somewhat on the order of the "School for Scandal." The staging is easy (all interior scenes), and there is an abundance both of effective action and of exquisite wit and humor. The characters, sufficient in number to afford good opportunities for all our stars and near-stars, not to mention the parts for the supes, are all distinctive, interesting and many of them striking. The machinery upon which the play turns is hackneyed enough, but that, I think, would be lost sight of in the interest in the characters and the fascination of the theme which is certainly as great to-day as in 1840.

I can foresee two objections which would be raised at once to this particular play. First, its comparative dearth of female parts. Shakspeare, however, and a good many other dramatists are often no better in this respect. Second, its setting, London, which is identical with the settings of both the Sophomore and Junior shows; and its time, which is intermediate between that of the Sophomore and those of the Junior shows. More of a change in these last respects might be desirable though perhaps not essential.

Some one else, however, better read than myself in the field of dramatic literature and inspired by this article, may be able to suggest a play which has for our purposes all advantages and no disadvantages! If not, I advise the committee to take a peep into "Money," and I do this in the belief that, unless already acquainted with it, they will be surprised to find what a good thing it is, since I fear I have succeeded in conveying only a very inadequate notion of its many excellent qualities.

THESPIAN.

To the Editor of the BULLETIN:

May I be permitted to say a few words, based on actual fact and personal experience, in answer to our "Chronic Complainant." It is the class, as far as I am aware, which elects its show chairman, and you, who are raising the objections, to various methods of play managing, why did you not get up in class meeting and say "as the nominee for chairman is very likely to go in for the play herself, I suggest that she be not burdened with

running the committee as well?" I feel sure that the said nominee would not have felt hurt, had the matter been tactfully brought up!

But that is not the main point of my answer. I must venture to assert that certain of the statements made are exceedingly sweeping, and in some ways not true to the facts. The very fact that our friend acknowledges the successful "technical" management of the plays, shows that they did not suffer in these concrete cases, because the heroine was likewise chairman of the committee. And what could be a more petty, or, in view of the facts, a more ignorant criticism, than to say that the committee in charge has come to "portray the good parts." There may be some injustice in Barnard—but when it comes to plays, as far as possible—each girl stands upon her own merits! Each girl chooses the part she intends to try for, and proceeds to try for it. When trials are over, the coach selects the cast, with, perhaps some suggestion from the committee as to minor parts, good, bad or indifferent. How is it then to be prevented that committee members should take part, if they are considered to fill the roles assigned them better than any one else who has tried? And that is the only basis of selection.

It is natural, too, that the people with some dramatic ability should be chosen to make up the committee. They are the ones vitally interested in the choice and in the running of the plays. Perhaps you would suggest that the captain of the basket ball team should not have anything to do with arranging games, or practice. It might be "unfair to the team."

Let me add that there is no one, in any class, whose "services are unnecessary." We are always glad and anxious to have them take an active interest in supporting the play—we of both cast and committee. But, unfortunately, there must always be some one left out. That is the essence of the meaning of selection! Why, then, is it not fair to those who do not get parts? Surely, you would not be petty enough to insinuate that the chairman placed herself at the top, and gave to her friends and fellow committee members the best that was left over!

The only true or reasonable argument in the entire article, it seems to me, is that it is hard on the girl who tries to, and does perform both duties. But I must strenuously object to the statement that all the heavy work falls on the few committee members not of the cast. The work is divided among five or six girls, and each one does only her share. I speak from my experience with the Junior show, and I have no doubt that the Sophomore show committee could second my statements.

Moreover, the trials for parts do not come in the first week of the committee's work, but rather when half the time, or more, is over. How convenient and easy it would be for the chairman and several members to resign, and drop everything which had just begun to run smoothly! And as for hardship on the girls who do

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double duty (in cast and committee) it is up to them to decide whether their physical condition, as well as their college standard will permit the strain.  
MILDRED HAMBURGER, 1912.

## Chapel Speaker for Thursday

On Thursday, Jan. 12, the Chapel address will be made by Col. G. O. Shields, president of the League of American Sportsmen, who will discuss a subject of somewhat unique interest and great importance, the economic value to the people at large of insect-eating birds. There is possibly no subject before the American people at the present time which has aroused more interest than that of conservation of our national resources, of which the topic to be discussed by Colonel Shields forms a very important part. It is hoped that there may be a very large attendance.

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To the Editor of the BULLETIN:

At the last meeting of the Junior class the chairman of the Ball Committee announced that tax of \$1.00 is to be levied on all Juniors who do not attend the ball, "as it is a class affair, and all former Junior classes have levied this tax." A mild form of consternation reigned for a few minutes until the girls who are going to the ball made sure it was not to be levied on them as well, in addition to their \$5.00 fee, then there was no further protest.

Can it be that all the members of the class think this a just arrangement, or is the fact of its being a sort of tradition among Junior classes sufficient to squelch all discussion? We sometimes hear it urged that there should not be so many clubs at college, because the more there are the more a student is apt to join, and her expenses are often thus increased out of proportion to the good she gets in return. But it is a purely optional matter as to how many clubs a student joins, yet here is the Junior class serenely imposing a tax upon certain of its members who get absolutely nothing in return, and who in many cases are the ones least able to afford it.

Perhaps my logic is wrong, but it does seem to me that the girls who go to the ball ought to bear all the expense beyond what is covered by the general class fund. If these girls should kick at the increased expense, then reduce the cost of the ball. This would involve giving it at a hotel lacking to some extent the splendor or reputation of the Plaza, but—and this raises an interesting question—is a Plaza hotel entirely necessary to give tone to the Junior ball of Barnard College? Are there no less expensive hotels in the city equally well suited to the purpose, if not so renowned? I wonder!

A. LAMB.

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**The December Number of the "Bear"**

(Continued on Page 1, Column 1)

"Man of the House." The pathos here is adroitly restrained and intermingled delicately with humor. This is excellent work, and Miss Minor should do more like it. Miss Mumford's "Grandpa's Mishap" shows the fun that can be derived from a farcical situation made up of somewhat commonplace people and incidents by clever conversation.

The tone of all these stories is decidedly refreshing. They show humor, good observation of life, rapid movement, often convincing conversation. There is no sophomoric high tragedy, no painful psychologizing, and by the younger contributors, there is an excellent beginning which should be an earnest of more work to come.

WILLIAM HALLER.

**DR. HERMAN SPITZ**

**DENTIST**

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