

# The M. A. C. Record.

VOL. 7.

LANSING, MICHIGAN, TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1902.

No. 19

## A Rare Bird for the Museum.

During the winter vacation Prof. Barrows secured for the Museum a fine specimen of the Barn Owl, *Strix pratincolaa*, a bird which is far from common in this State, though three or four specimens have been recorded previously. Our museum had no specimen of this species and we were fortunate in obtaining this one. The barn owl is so called from the fact that it commonly nests in unused barn-lofts, towers, steeples, and similar places, and less often in hollow trees or even in holes in sand banks. In southern cities its harsh scream is often heard during the night, but the bird itself is seldom seen, being strictly nocturnal.

Its general color is pale fawn with some dark gray on the wings and back, and a few black dots on the breast and under parts. The darker color of the back is also dotted more or less thickly with small silvery white spots. The owl has very long legs which are almost bare of feathers below the "knee," and its face is so elongated and peculiar that it is often called the "monkey-faced owl" and the "old-man owl." It belongs to a remarkable family of owls, other members of which are found in widely separated parts of the world, but America has but a single species, which ranges from Florida to California, and from Minnesota and Michigan to Argentina. The specimen in question was picked up dead by Geo. D. Kittle, of Oneida, near Grand Ledge, about Dec. 21, and appeared to have frozen to death. Its stomach contained two plump meadow mice nearly entire.

Of the eleven species of owls known to occur in Michigan our museum now contains specimens of ten, and in every case the species is represented by one or more individuals actually taken in the State. The single species not represented is the Great Gray Owl, a northern bird which may be looked for in Michigan only in winter and among the evergreen forests of the north.

WALTER B. BARROWS.

## Musical Program.

The M. A. C. Chorus will give a musical program in the armory on Friday evening of this week at 8 o'clock. There will be no admission fee. The following program will be given:

1. A Farmer Boy Am I, Chorus.
2. March,  
Misses Taylor, Butterfield, and Taft.
3. Over the Hills at Break of Day,  
Messrs. Stevens, Forbes, Sevey, Hesse.
4. National Anthem }  
Yachting Glee } Chorus.
5. Three Spanish Dames,  
Mrs. Marshall and Miss Bach.
6. Give Me the Dear Old Homestead,  
Quintette and Chorus.
7. Come Out, 'Tis Witching Moonlight,  
Chorus.
8. Gavotte,  
Misses Crossman, Barton, and Barrows.

The western lambs purchased by the college, have been put in pens and placed under the care of seniors who are doing thesis work in feeding.

## Prof. J. D. Towar Offered Professorship of Agriculture in South Australia.

It will possibly be remembered that in the M. A. C. RECORD of Oct. 1, 1901, there appeared a request for applications for the Government Professorship of Agriculture in South Australia. The duties as described were (1) to superintend agricultural college and experimental farm and teach classes thereat; (2) to advise the Government on all points relating to agriculture;



(3) to lecture to agriculturists when required.

Prof. J. D. Towar, of this College, noticed the item and went to work to secure the "plum." On Saturday, the following cablegram arrived at the College from London, England: "Agricultural College, Lansing, Mich. Appointed professor of agriculture. Wire me acceptance. Date arrival Adelaide, Icarian, London." Mr. Bird soon discovered that the telegram was intended for Prof. Towar, and accordingly delivered it. Prof. Towar replied yesterday morning: "I accept. Arrive June 1."

Prof. Towar was supported by very strong recommendations; among others were letters from Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Brigham, Senators McMillan and Burrows, Gov. Bliss and Congressman Smith.

We shall regret to lose Prof. Towar from among us, but the opening is a magnificent one, and we heartily rejoice in the good fortune of our colleague. He will carry with him the best wishes of a large circle of friends.

Prof. Towar was born September 26, 1863, in Meridian township, one and one-half miles north of the College. He attended the country schools, as he says, "off and on, most of the time off" until 15 years of age, when he entered the Lansing high school, spending two years and one term there. In the spring of 1882 he entered the Michigan Agricultural College, graduating in 1885. The long vacations of the College year were spent in teaching, and liking this work he continued it for some time after his graduation. In

1891 he accepted a position tendered him as assistant agriculturist of the Rhode Island Experiment Station. Here his good work and qualifications gained him a promotion to the position of associate professor of agriculture. This position he held until June, 1898, when he tendered his resignation to accept the position of agriculturist of the experiment station here.

## The Periodical Cicada in Michigan.

The summer of 1902 will witness the reappearance of the periodical cicada or seventeen year locust scattered throughout much of the southern half of the lower peninsula. The periodical cicada is an insect closely related to the harvest-fly, sometimes called the dog-day harvest-fly. It is smaller than that insect however, and requires a period of seventeen years in which to complete its growth from the egg to the adult condition. As they congregate in definite broods and as these broods do not overlap in time, we come to look for their advent at regular intervals of seventeen years, just as an astronomer looks for the reappearance of a comet which has previously been studied and whose period is known. This interesting creature is about one and one-half inch long and less than half an inch broad, with four gauzy wings and a long beak. Its song is a shrill stridulation long continued and piercing in quality.

The adolescent stages are passed under ground in small cells of earth where the insect sits and sucks from the rootlet of a tree. Its growth is very gradual and slow, the small amount of sap extracted amounting to so little that the damage is not perceptible. Here hidden away from prying eyes and dangerous parasites, the little nymph sits, steadily increasing in size until the allotted time is passed, when on some warm evening in late May or early June, together with millions of its kind it digs its way upward to the upper world, climbs upon some eminence, tree, fence, building or what not, and sheds its underground coat of horny skin. The insect is at this time in the adult condition.

Now this is all very curious, but it becomes more so when we consider the fact that not one, but millions of the insects seem to be moved by a common impulse to come to the upper world at one time. During their aerial existence, little if any food is taken, the principal occupation being that of egg-laying. The eggs are laid in gasnes cut in twigs of trees, and usually in long rows. The eggs hatch and the larvæ that come from them fall to the ground where they soon burrow out of sight.

When the insects are very numerous, the eggs are of course laid in great quantities and as the twigs in which they are laid are usually killed, damage is often done. In the forest, the damage amounts, at most, to a severe pruning but in orchards, especially of young trees, the damage may be very serious. The brood usually disappears by the

first part of July. For these reasons, it is well not to set out any young trees till fall, in places where they were known to occur in 1885, especially if the orchard stands on ground which was at that time, wooded.

There are twenty-two known broods of this insect scattered over the United States. Each brood with a definite area for operations and a fixed time for appearing. Some of these broods further south mature in thirteen years. The brood due in 1902 works also in Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York and some other states. There are three other broods working in Michigan. One of these is due in 1905, in the lower tier of counties; one in 1911, found at Kalamazoo, and a doubtful one in 1915 found in Cass county.

The insect prefers wooded districts for its operation and is becoming less and less common with the destruction of the forest. Many birds are said to eat it. It is likely to visit us in large numbers but a few times more.

R. H. PETTIT.

## Athletics.

Thirty-five men responded for baseball and fifty-six for the track-team. Time is very limited and the men have to practice whenever recitations will permit. The candidates are a fairly good lot, but there are no stars. Good teams can be made if proper time is allowed for their development. A great deal of the material is "green."

M. A. C. beat the faculty in basket-ball Saturday afternoon by a score of 48 to 7. The playing of M. A. C. was fast and fierce from the beginning and they had little difficulty in keeping the ball in their opponent's territory most of the time.

The game was witnessed by a fair-sized audience, many of whom were ladies. As no formal announcement of the game had been made, the number present indicates the interest in the game just now.

M. A. C. excelled in team work, Haftencamp and Balbach being the star players. Cooper's throwing of baskets from fouls was also a feature. For the faculty, Parrot played the strongest game.

The following is the line-up:

M. A. C.		FACULTY.
Balbach	c	Michels
Cooper	r. f.	Reynolds
Haftencamp	l. f.	White
Blanchard	r. b.	Parrott
Towar	l. b.	Severance

Baskets thrown, Haftencamp, 7; Balbach, 4; Cooper, 3; Tower, 1; Reynolds, 2. Baskets from fouls: Cooper, 3; Reynolds, 1. Score M. A. C. 48, Faculty 7. Umpire and referee: First half, Johnson; second half, Locke.

The Misses Waterman and Van Loo have for their thesis work, experiments with girdling plants to see if it has any effect on the flowering qualities, viz., larger flowers or flowers remaining on the plants longer. They are working with the carnation, hydrangea and euphorbia pulcherrima. Their results will be published later.

# THE M. A. C. RECORD.

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Communications and other matter pertaining to the contents of the RECORD should be sent to Howard Edwards, Editor of the RECORD.

## Record Staff.

HOWARD EDWARDS.

P. H. STEVENS.

H. N. Hornbeck, of the Adelpic Society.  
G. S. Pratt, of the Columbian Society.  
T. G. Phillips, of the Eclectic Society.  
Miss Grace Lundy, of the Feronian Society.  
A. A. Rosenberry, of the Hesperian Society.  
W. R. Wright, of the Olympic Society.  
Homer Eaton, of the Phi Delta Society.  
Miss Dora Skeels, of the Thelma Society.  
Jos. P. Haftencamp, of the Union Literary Society.  
H. N. Hornbeck, of the Y. M. C. A.

The first series of debates among the eight societies on the Philippine question was, on the whole, eminently satisfactory. The debaters showed good preparation, a strong grasp of the question at issue, a fair range and readiness of expression, courtesy, ingenuity, and readiness. The most important criticism we would make at this point, a criticism intended, of course, to be helpful for future debates, concerns itself with a certain lack of imaginative power and feeling. It is true that emotional appeal is not argument and that the debater must not allow emotion to usurp the place of argument. He must, in fact, keep a rigid rein upon his feelings, and preserve the clear, keen-eyed intellectual calm that will enable him to seize favorable openings and to meet unexpected attack. Yet, all this is compatible with great earnestness and intensity of conviction, and this earnestness is absolutely requisite for successful debating. No man can hope to convince another of what he himself holds doubtfully. There must be in the very voice the clear ring of sincerity and absolute conviction.

And here comes in the imaginative power of which mention was previously made. One cannot feel strongly and reason earnestly about that which to him is a mere abstraction, about that which has no serious bearing on life. There must be behind the general proposition a strong and vivid realization of the concrete relations affected and the conditions brought about. To the unimaginative man the Philippine question is of slight import and no interest. To him who loves his country and vividly realizes that the final decision of this question means peace and happiness or war and rumor of war, means an attack upon the very basal principles of our government, means the triumph of the most sordid commercialism; the difficulty is to restrain feeling and to try to accord to his opponents the same integrity of principle that he claims for himself.

In this connection it may be remarked that a good help to the

control of indignation is confidence in the ultimate triumph of right, and this confidence may be won by even a cursory glance over the past history of our nation. Thank Heaven the controlling influence in making the policy of this nation at great crises in its history has not been even the better form of commercialism. The glorious chapters in our history were not written by commercialism. Commercialism did not control in the counsels of Washington and his advisers. Commercialism did not fight and win the battles of the civil war. Commercialism did not hurl our battle-ships against the navies of Spain. The great nation feels rightly when once she is aroused to feeling. It is only when her attention is lax, her imagination dormant that, as now, commercialism becomes rampant and beyond measure presuming.

Below are given the names of contestants and the winners in the four sets of debates:

I. Eclectic, affirmative; Hesperian, negative; the negative winning. For the Eclectic, Messrs. G. M. Bradford, E. S. Good, and O. D. Dales; for the Hesperian, Messrs. N. B. Horton, G. D. Francisco, and W. R. Shedd. The winners were Messrs. Horton, Dales, and Bradford. Judges, Superintendent Hull, of the School for the Blind, Judge Porter, and Mr. P. H. Stevens.

II. Union Literary, affirmative; Olympic, negative; the affirmative winning. For the Union Literary, Messrs. L. J. Carrier, A. D. Peters, F. J. Phillips; for the Olympic, Messrs. W. R. Wright, G. F. Ransome, L. C. Thomas. The winners were Messrs. Carrier, Peters, and Phillips. Judges, Mr. G. W. Bement, Mr. C. F. Hammond, Prof. C. D. Smith.

III. Phi Delta, affirmative; Feronian, negative; the negative winning. For the Phi Delta, Messrs. F. D. Stevens, D. H. Stacks, and J. H. Prost; for the Feronians, Misses E. M. Bowerman, Mary J. Ross, and M. Van Orden. The winners were Misses Van Orden, Bowerman and Ross. Judges—Rev. E. B. Andrews, Dr. Waterman and Miss Blunt.

IV. Columbian, affirmative; Adelpic, negative; the affirmative winning. For the Columbian, Messrs. L. D. Rudolph, D. S. Bullock and B. Wermuth; for the Adelpic, Messrs. B. S. Brown, W. Krieger and A. B. Rogers. The winners were Messrs. Wermuth, Bullock and Rogers. Judges, Rev. W. H. Pound, Mr. A. R. Hardy, Mr. H. M. Goss.

HOWARD EDWARDS.

## The Natural History Society.

At the meeting of the Natural History Society last Wednesday night Mr. R. T. Stevens gave a very interesting and instructive paper on "A Visit to Muir Glacier in Alaska." The paper will appear in full later. Mr. F. J. Phillips then gave a talk on "The Indians and Mounds of Kent County."

There are in all about 100 mounds. Eight groups of tumuli containing forty-six mounds fourteen of which have been excavated comprise the best known mounds. The most typical group composed of seventeen mounds is located on the Norton farm about three miles from Grand Rapids. These are from 2 to 15½ feet high and from 10 to 102 feet in diameter. All are somewhat conical shaped flattened at the

top and each with a broad talus at the base. Material for them seems to be gathered from the surface about the base over such an extent as to leave no appreciable depression. These mounds are very old; as trees are growing on them equal in size to some of the same species on the same kind of soil which had 260 rings of growth, while the remains of still larger trees were found lying at their base. Human bones are often decomposed beyond recognition and only in favorable cases will they bear their own weight. The materials found in these mounds may be classified as organic remains, fabrics, pottery, and implements of bone, stone and copper. All are found intimately associated, and in the mounds where human remains are found none of these materials are found.

Kent county has been the scene of many bloody battles between different tribes. It is also noted as having been a gathering place for Indian chiefs. Pontiac, at the time of his famous uprising, met all the chiefs of the Grand river valley at this place twice, and at the second meeting in 1762 delivered a speech to the braves which is still spoken of by members of his race. Chief Okemos (from whom the village of Okemos is named), of the Pottawatomie tribe, was a nephew of Pontiac, and visited Kent county with him at that time. There are now practically no Indians in Kent county, all having removed to Bass river, Ottawa county. It may be of interest to know that the Indians call a burying place a Pagigendamowinaki.

D. S. B.

## In Memory of Arthur Gibson.

Arthur, our beloved neighbor, was called from us, to go to his eternal resting place, Jan. 3, 1902. The funeral was held at his home, at which his many friends and relatives were present. His death occurred after an illness of only a few days. He was loved and respected by all who knew him, and will be greatly missed by his large circle of friends.

Arthur was born near Wayne, Michigan, the twenty-third of December, 1879, but lived the greater part of his life in his home near Northville. He was only twenty-two years of age at the time of his death. He spent his school days in Northville and the Agricultural College at Lansing. His plans were to start to school again some time in January as he had not attended school this last school year.

If death were death then might we sigh  
O'er beauty hidden from our sight,  
But nothing dies that seems to die  
And sleep is only for a night.

So let us, then the morn await,  
In peaceful patience as we may;  
For bud or being soon or late  
Will find its Resurrection Day.

E. S.

## Correspondence.

CHICAGO, Jan. 16, 1902.

TO THE EDITOR:

The predominant character in the faculty of the College from 1860 to 1864 was Theophilus C. Abbot. He was professor of engineering and English literature and president, and was always able to take up any class which was in need of a teacher.

He was a student of the finest grain. His talent was versatile and broad in its nature. He was class-

ical in all of his methods, gentle and refined. He possessed a personal magnetism which was a power with the students. I never knew of a man so generally respected and loved as President Abbot. It was a common saying among the students, that if President Abbot desired any certain thing done, his wishes would be complied with. His long connection with the College had more to do with its policy and in shaping its course to a success than any one man connected therewith, and it is the pleasantest recollection of a large majority of the graduates that they personally knew him and came under the influence of his lovely character.

To illustrate his modesty—a student at one time expressed surprise in hearing of the president that he should understand Greek, Latin, French and other languages. The president modestly remarked, "I do not understand them. I do not understand the English language." His classes in Shakespeare and Milton were most delightful. I never shall forget the great light, beauty and learning he brought to bear upon Lycidas, and Paradise Lost of Milton, The Tempest and other Shakespearean plays.

To illustrate his influence over students—on one occasion some young men had assembled in a room and were enjoying themselves contrary to the rules and regulations of the College. The disturbance brought the steward with President Abbot to the room. Entrance was demanded and granted; when the president entered the room, feet were seen protruding from under the bed and in various other attitudes. Among them two feet were observed standing—all above the feet was covered by numerous garments hanging in wardrobe style. On parting the garments the face of a well-known student was revealed. President Abbot merely remarked, "Mr. D—," and left the room, without further comment. The next day Mr. D— personally sought out the president and apologized for his misdemeanor the night before.

The College had its enemies. Great influence was brought to bear upon the powers that were to belittle and prevent its objects and work. There is no doubt but the University of the State desired the appropriation for the College to be attached to its school, and the State Board of Education was in full sympathy with this desire. The legislature of the State realized this condition, and changed the control of the College in 1861 to the State Board of Agriculture, since which time the College has continued to thrive and has become the pet of the agricultural community.

Wise indeed have been the legislative acts and the growing influences which have fostered a college for the farmer, the mechanic and the horticulturist. Modern thought demands scientific aids to modern methods. Education finds its most fruitful fields in the industrial pursuits. The Nation has recognized the necessity of a Secretary of Agriculture to represent its agricultural element. A Secretary of Commerce will soon follow. Expansion has come to stay and expand still more. The people are coming to recognize the importance of all the elements which enter into practical life, and more of the people are beginning to realize the equal importance of all of the elements of

social and practical life as "useless each without the other."

President Abbot was among the first to realize the future fields of college work and steadily he aimed to direct the work of the College to this broad result. Today no radical change exists from his policy. To his aids and co-workers be all honor and praise awarded. Every alumnus is proud of his alma mater and loves to dwell on the memories of college life.

Yours truly,  
S. M. MILLARD, 1864.

**Y. M. C. A.**

Thursday evening prayer meeting was led by C. M. Marshall. Theme, *Why we should pray*. If Christ needed to pray often, how much more the christian needs to pray! Prayer is the secret of the christian's strength.

Sunday morning chapel services were conducted by Rev. R. C. Dodds, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, Lansing. He chose for his theme, 1st Corinthians 10, 31. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do it all to the glory God." The sermon was very interesting.

The union meeting of the Y. M. and Y. W. C. A. was conducted by Dr. J. L. Snyder. His subject was, *The Two Books*. One—the book of Nature, the other the Bible. Dr. Snyder showed that the Bible and Nature do not conflict, both are by the same author and corroborate each other. In studying either or both of these books we should seek to become acquainted with the great author.

Next Sunday evening Charles J. Ewald, general secretary, will have charge of the union meeting.

T. N. H.

**Botanical Club.**

At the Botanical club last Tuesday evening, Mr. Brown opened the program with the winter characteristics of our three common elms. With the aid of drawings of the buds of these elms, Mr. Brown very plainly brought out the distinguishing points, so that even the casual observer could identify these common trees.

Following Mr. Brown, Dr. Beal gave a short talk on the need of an Industrial Museum at this College, where each department could have separate rooms for displaying the work of the departments and other collections in the interest of the College. The Doctor said, "Such a museum would be of interest to the visitors the year around, and it also would be a means of advertising the work of the College."

Mr. Thomas closed the program by giving a short talk upon the winter condition of the sycamore. He mentioned the seed balls that hang to the tree nearly all winter and a characteristic way in which seeds are distributed. He will finish his talk at the next meeting.

T. G. P.

**The Debating Club.**

The meeting of the Debating Club, Thursday evening, was probably the most interesting of any in the history of the club. The question for debate was:

*Resolved*, That the policy of the United States would be injured by attempting to govern dependent peoples.

Mr. Bullock, the first affirmative speaker, spent some time in giving an exposition of the question, laying particular stress on the meaning of the words government, dependent, and people. He treated of our constitutional policy and the meaning of the phrase "consent of the governed."

Mr. Dai', for the negative, cited authority from the Supreme Court to prove that the United States has the right to acquire and rule territory. He contended further that the United States has a moral obligation to perform in governing dependent peoples.

Mr. Dunford on the affirmative took exception to the arguments of the first negative speaker, citing slavery as an instance where the governing of a dependent people worked injury to our national policy.

Mr. Gunson, for the negative, treated the financial phase of the question showing at some length our duty and opportunity in the Orient.

The debate was heard with the closest attention, many from the regular literary societies being present. The affirmative got the decision by a vote of two to one.

P. H. S.

Prof. Jeffery discussed last week before the Miller's Convention, "Improvement in Wheat." Dr. Beal showed cross sections of wheat and rye under the microscope. The convention complimented the College very highly on the work done in the past looking toward the improvement of grains in Michigan.

**Furniture...**

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Now reduced to Two ninety-five to close.

**C. D. Woodbury,**

—Hollister Block.

### Old Students.

R. W. Blake, '90, is with a hardware firm at Lewiston, Montana.

Bert Q. Hazlewood, with '98, and Miss Lotta M. Niblack were married Jan. 8th. They will reside at 416 Scribner St., Grand Rapids, Mich.

Mr. Ray Sessions, '79, has just removed with his family from Man-celona, Mich., to Grand Rapids, Mich. His address is 467 S. Union St.

Vesta Woodbury, '01, has gone to Glenwood, Iowa, where she has been made head instructor in the domestic science department of the college at that place.

J. L. Kendrick, '97-'00, after spending the summer as a mining prospector in the mountains of Idaho, is now in St. Paul, Minnesota, for the winter.

L. G. Michael, '98-'01, is at Horr, Montana, with the Montana Coal & Coke Co. "I am doing well here," says he, "but shall stay in this class of work only long enough to be sure my body will stand the laboratory."

Rev. C. J. Strang, '78, spent the day in Lansing with his brother. Mr. Strang has just resigned a pastorate at Springport, and is on his way to Springfield, Ill., where he will have charge of Hope Congregational church.

Mrs. A. G. Gulley, of Storrs, Conn., visited at M. A. C. recently, meeting many of her old friends at an afternoon party given by Dr. and Mrs. Beal. Mrs. Gulley will make an extended visit with Chicago and Kansas City relatives and with a sister in Texas. Prof. Gulley, '68, was foreman in the horticultural department, M. A. C., '90 to '93, and since that time has been professor of horticulture in Storrs Agricultural College, Conn.

Thorn Smith, '95a, head chemist for the Ducktown Sulphur, Copper & Iron Co., of Ducktown, Tenn., reports that another injunction has been granted against his company on account of sulphur fumes. He adds that it is said that the president of the company has notified Randolph Adams, general manager of the company, that when the injunction is served he is to shut down the entire works, and pay off and discharge every man. This would be a terrible calamity to the people of Ducktown. It would be a repetition of the days of '78, when the Union Consolidated Mining Co. suspended operations.

A. C. Burnham, '93, a director and stockholder of the Powers, Higley & Co. corporation, and manager of their eastern territory, paid us a delightful visit some days ago. Mr. Burnham's company are dealers in "specialties for home culture," with offices at 230-232 East 25th St. New York; Toronto, Ontario; and 378-388 Wabash Ave., Chicago. At a recent convocation of the workers for this firm, Mr. Burnham was presented with a beautiful watch on the inner case of which was the inscription, "A. C. Burnham with compliments of Chautauqua Co-Workers, Eastern Field, Jan. 1902." On the outer case was a handsome monogram, "A. C. B."

Several of our senior agricultural students are doing thesis work in dairy bacteriology.

### Notes Gathered Here and There.

Prof. Frank Kedzie missed classes on Thursday of last week owing to illness.

Dr. Beal attended the meetings of the State Academy of Science, which were held at Detroit Saturday.

The junior agricultural students, numbering twenty-one, are studying the history of the growth of the agricultural department at Washington.

The Horticultural department is gathering some very fine asparagus and rhubarb from the roots placed in the basement of the horticultural laboratory several weeks ago.

Richard Harrison, the College herdsman, has purchased of the College two Shorthorn cows: College Victoria C, and College Mysie 3d. He expects to build up a Shorthorn herd on his farm at Washington, Macomb county.

Prof. Taft has received from the American Pomological Society two bronze medals awarded at the time of the meeting of the society at Buffalo in September for exhibits of fruit. One medal was for a collection of pears sent by the College; the other for a general fruit exhibit from the South Haven station.

The botanical department has bought sixty-eight microscopic sections of different varieties of wood grown in Michigan. There are three mounted sections on each slide. The botanical department has also bought one hundred lantern slides for use in plant ecology. The term ecology, it may be explained, is a recent term, meaning the relation plants have to each other and to their environment. Besides these additions for botanical study, Dr. Beal has just received for use in forestry twelve photographs that were taken last summer in Southern Michigan. These photographs of trees will be placed on slides.

### Gardening on the Yukon.

A report has been received at the Department of Agriculture from Professor C. C. Georgeson, '78, officer in charge of the Alaska experiment stations, on the outlook for gardening and agriculture in the cold interior region of Alaska along the Yukon. Its general tone is decidedly encouraging. Professor Georgeson spent the summer in the interior and visited the experiment station established a year ago at Rampart, which is just outside the arctic circle, and such other places as were selected for department experiments. In spite of an unusually late season there were ready by the middle of August new potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, beets and other vegetables, while lettuce, radishes and turnips, grown in the open air, had been in use some weeks. Flower seed furnished last year had bloomed in a large variety of annuals. Rye, seeded the previous fall at Rampart, had wintered perfectly and was fully ripe in July. Spring-seeded barley had ripened about the middle of August. The prospect for oats and wheat to mature was most favorable. On the lower Yukon extensive areas of excellent land were found, where there was an abundant and often luxuriant growth of grasses over six feet in height. Abundant moisture and long summer days account for the surprising vegetable growth in that section of the far North.—Star.

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