

...The...
Union Lit

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Union Literary Society
Michigan State Agricultural College
East Lansing, Michigan

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Vol. VI

East Lansing, Mich., March 25, 1911

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The Remodeled House

When the builders of the original Lit House raced across the campus to see who could throw the first shovelful of dirt, they thought that they were beginning a house that would meet the needs of the Society for all time. But now the U. L. S. finds itself quite in the predicament of wondering how it ever got along in the old building—just as it doubtless wondered twenty years ago how it ever got along in the basement of Wells Hall.

On returning to college last fall after the summer vacation, we had to accustom ourselves to the new quarters. But it did not take long to become accustomed to the additional space. Few nights now pass but that a group gathers in the den after supper, and continually the fellows drop in throughout the day to spend a few moments, or a spare hour, studying, visiting, or reading the magazines. We subscribe regularly to McClure's, The World's Work, Life, and the Saturday Evening Post.

On Sunday afternoons quite often guests are entertained, and on Sunday evenings it has become the custom for as many fellows as can to meet in the den, and enjoy a supper which has been prepared by a committee. In this way, great use is made of the house, and the fellowship of the society is promoted. Our fall term party was held in the building, and it proved the need and utility of the alterations, for it was by far the most delightful dance held in recent years. The assembly room was lighted by real pumpkin jack-o'-lanterns on the walls, and the ceiling lights were hung with clusters of autumn leaves. Upstairs in the library were more such lanterns and leaves, and a wigwam of corn stalks made a cosy-corner in one end of the room. The den was left untouched—it seems that no decorations could improve that home-like room.

The value of the literary and business meetings is greatly enhanced. The assembly room is large and airy, and it has fine acoustic properties. Such meetings as Faculty night, Alumni night, and open meetings fill it to the limit, but the crowding so often met with on similar occasions formerly is not felt in the least now. The parlor makes an attractive re-

The Remodeled House

ception room, as does also the library upstairs. The latter has also been used several times for business meetings.

Another improvement is the installation of an electric pressing iron in the basement in place of the smoky, dusty charcoal ones that used to litter up most of the basement. The fellows now can do all their pressing at a most reasonable expense, and with but little time and trouble. The basement, too, contains remnants of boards, etc., from the operations last spring, that keep the fireplace in the den well supplied with fuel.

On the whole, we feel that the house now more fully meets the needs of the Society, and that the changes were without doubt warranted by the spirit of growth which is pervading the college. Many Alumni have visited us, and their expressions have been only those of approval and commendation. It is hoped that the cuts found elsewhere in this issue will convey to those who have not seen it, an idea of the interior of the house as it now is.

Mr. Gunson's host of friends in the society will regret to learn of his impaired health. For the past several weeks he has been feeling very miserable. He is now spending a couple of weeks in North Carolina to get a rest from his many duties here. If good wishes avail anything, he will return to us soon, his old self again.

One of the saddest blows which the Society has sustained in many years came in the news that Frank J. Phillips, '03, had ended his own life in Nebraska where he was head of the Forestry Department in the University. Failing health is supposed to be the cause. The deepest sympathy of every Lit brother goes out to Mrs. Phillips and her son, Frank, Jr.

A U. L. S. Christmas party was held the first week after the winter vacation. By lottery, each member was assigned some other member to purchase a present for, same not to exceed twenty-five cents in cost. Mr. Gunson, as Santa, handed them out from a miniature tree, and the jokes that were sprung made much merriment. The classes got together and made presents to the house, too. The Seniors gave two wall brackets with tungsten lamps and shades; the Juniors, a punch bowl, glasses and engraved silver ladle; the Sophomores, a table for the parlor; and the Freshmen, a stand lamp for the library table.

The Union Lit

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The proposition devised by the Finance Committee, which appears in this issue, is in a measure responsible for the non-appearance of our fall term issue. We wanted to have a clear cut program outlined, and it took time to consider and perfect it. Another reason which aided its postponement was the financial one. But E. E. Nies, '08, came to the rescue, and donated the services of his printing establishment for three issues, as his pledge towards the building fund, and the result of this courtesy you have before you. We were gratified, however, at the number of inquiries about our fall term issue.

With a new building, and a debt, it seemed necessary to have the constitution of the Society revised, in order that new officers be created, duties be definitely outlined, and obsolete parts be eliminated. The revised constitution was drafted, debated, approved, typewritten, and bound—the old one being included for the sake of preservation. The original constitution, dated 1876, in faded ink on yellowed paper, is with us yet.

About seventy-five couples gathered at the Commencement meeting last June, and the Hall—barely completed and with varnish hardly even dried—was overtaxed. The banquet was the largest since the Semi-Centennial, but at the Alumni business meeting not as many attended as was hoped for. Some 18 men gathered together, five of whom were charter members. \$289 was raised, of which \$119 was in cash.

Our Financial Status

It is always a source of great satisfaction for one who is contributing to any sort of a financial enterprise to know that the money given has been judiciously expended and careful record kept of all the transactions.

The Society has been very careful in all the building operations to see that it realized full value for the money spent and that accounts were carefully kept. Without exception, every alumnus who has had a chance to see the remodeled house, has been more than enthusiastic over the work and pleased at the outcome. Not one adverse criticism has been heard on the plans that were carried out or the price paid.

The financial system used has also been complete and well handled by first the finance committee and then the registrar. A card index system of all pledges and payments is used and prompt notification given when pledges are due.

It is our purpose in each issue of the **Union Lit** to give the alumni a financial report of the building fund not especially as a reminder to those who are behind in payments, but to show all who are interested just what moneys are taken in and disbursed.

Mr. E. C. Sanford, the present registrar, has prepared the following report which will doubtless be of interest:

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

		Receipts				
From Alumni	-	-	-	-	-	\$1434 10
From Active Members	-	-	-	-	-	356 60
From Initiation fees	-	-	-	-	-	35 00
From Alumni dues	-	-	-	-	-	15 00
From Mortgage, American Savings Bank	-	-	-	-	-	2000 00
From Note, W. K. Prudden	-	-	-	-	-	361 00
Surplus from old building fund	-	-	-	-	-	103 23
Sinking fund '09-'10	-	-	-	-	-	61 90
Total	-	-	-	-	-	<hr/> \$4368 83

		Disbursements				
To J. C. Hagameir, materials and labor	-	-	-	-	-	\$3290 39
To E. A. Bowd, plans and specifications	-	-	-	-	-	111 30
To Ed Gibbons, plumbing and supplies	-	-	-	-	-	230 63
To W. M. Ball, furniture	-	-	-	-	-	227 25
To Silver Lead Paint Co., supplies	-	-	-	-	-	100 60
To Mich. Agricultural College, supplies	-	-	-	-	-	150 27

The New Proposition

For some time to come the active Lit will be faced with the fact that there is a good wholesome debt on the Society's hands. This fact has both a stimulating and depressing effect. It prompts action, but it also gets on the nerves like any other debt. Hence we have, with the Alumni Advisory Committee, had much discussion as to just the best way to make that \$2,400 mortgage naturally shrivel up and die. To be sure the new system of alumni dues together with the \$5 initiation fee which is now charged new members, will in time make an impression, but it will take lots of time—somewhere around fifteen years. Here is what grinds, though. In that time the society will have paid out of the pockets of the active members some ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN INTEREST. Now don't think that the active members are not willing to dig down for the approximate \$125 a year. What we dislike is that this amount of money cannot be applied on the principal. If some scheme could be worked out whereby there would be no interest to pay, then the payment of the debt would be comparatively simple. The active members could pledge—say \$100 a year out of the treasury, and this together with the initiation fees and Alumni dues would take care of the principal in from seven to ten years.

It was E. W. Ranney of Greenville who first suggested the following proposition which we are going to submit to our Alumni. Mr. Ranney is a 1900 Lit who now makes refrigerators, but he hasn't grown cold. He is one of the most enthusiastic supporters of old U. L. S. Mr. Ranney was here the other day and we quote his own words: "Why shouldn't I be loyal? I put in four of the greatest years of my life here and won an M. A. C. wife."

The Proposition

Mr. Ranney wants to be the first of twenty-five Alumni Lits to lend the Society \$100 for not to exceed ten years, without interest. This would enable the Society to pay off the interest-bearing mortgage while the donations of those who made the loans would consist of the interest—they getting the principal back proportionally each year or in a lump sum at the end of a specified time. Now surely among nearly five hundred Alumni Lits this is not an unreasonable proposition. Maybe such a loan would brighten up your interest in old U. L. S. and freshen the memories of old days. Why not present that boy with the Society's note for \$100 so that he will have a nice little start when he gets ready for college? Think it over, talk it up with your old classmates and then help us to make this movement a success.

The New Proposition

To be sure, many have already made cash donations. We are mightily thankful for these, but if you have a hundred to spare don't let that previous contribution balk a good intention. Moreover, there is about 85 per cent. of our Alumni membership which has not responded at all as yet. If you are among this number give this proposition unusual consideration. U. L. S. must certainly prompt a "responsive interest" in the hearts of more than fifteen per cent. of its old members.

This scheme has the hearty approval of the Alumni Advisory Committee—Messrs. W. K. Prudden, O. C. Howe and Thomas Gunson—so don't feel that it has not been well considered. If it meets your approval let us know immediately. You will hear more in detail later.

The State Oratorical Contest

Few events in the history of the Society have been the cause of so much congratulation as the winning of second place in the State Oratorical Contest by K. D. Van Wagenen. Heavily handicapped by being last on a three and one-half hour program and addressing a tired, nervous audience, he gave his oration, "The Newer Justice," in a manner that placed M. A. C. in the highest position it has ever attained oratorically. Mr. Harry Young of Albion won first place although it was in delivery only, for Mr. Van Wagenen secured the highest mark in thought, style and composition.

It is needless to dwell upon the honor which comes to both the Society and its representative from this achievement. Every Lit deeply appreciates the efforts of our orator, which have extended over a period of two years and have formed one of the most admirable examples of unselfish perseverance and sacrifice for the college and U. L. S.

To evidence this appreciation in a more stable way a royal banquet was held on the Monday following the contest, at which forty Lits were present. The closing toast was given by Mr. Gunson and it was the greatest tribute to the old Society that any of the present active members have been privileged to hear. Mr. Gunson has given us many inspiring talks before, but never did he touch the hearts of the Lit Brotherhood as on this night. In closing he presented Mr. Van Wagenen with a beautiful silver and gold loving cup, which was given by the Society as a small token of their appreciation for his work.

Our Financial Status

To Bohnet Electric Co., fixtures	-	-	-	-	71 65
To miscellaneous small bills	-	-	-	-	169 93
To Bal. on deposit	-	-	-	-	16 81
Total	-	-	-	-	\$4368 83

Outstanding Obligations

Mortgage on house to American Savings Bank...	\$2000 00
Note to W. K. Prudden	361 00
Note to Thos. Gunson, debt on porch	300 00
Total	\$2661 00

Pledges

Below is a list of those, excepting active members, who pledged money to the Building Fund. Those having pledges now due are urged to pay them as soon as possible.

NAME	Class	Amount Pledged	Amount Paid	Amount Now Due	Amount Due in Future
Baldwin, R. C.	'04	\$ 10 00	\$ 10 00	.....	.....
Baker, Hugh P.	'01	50 00	.....	.....	50 00
Ball, Waldo M.	'99	25 00	15 00	5 00	5 00
Berry, J. T.	'96	25 00	25 00	.....	.....
Carr, R. G.	'08	15 00	10 00	5 00	.....
Chapin, H. L.	'87	10 00	10 00	.....	.....
Cleland, R. J.	'89	10 00	10 00	.....	.....
Clark, Wright.	'10	25 00	25 00	.....	.....
Crosby, D. J.	'93	15 00	15 00	.....	.....
Dey, H. W.	'03	5 00	5 00	.....	.....
Emmons, H. E.	'78	100 00	.....	100 00	.....
Edwards, S. F.	'99	15 00	15 00	.....	.....
Emery, A. M.	'83	20 00	.....	20 00	.....
Gallup, E. E.	'96	25 00	25 00	.....	.....
Gunson, Thos.		10 00	10 00	.....	.....
Glazier, H. L.	'07	50 00	50 00	.....	.....
Gordon, A. F.	'91	20 00	20 00	.....	.....
Goodwin, C. L.	'77	5 00	5 00	.....	.....
Haftenkamp, J. P.	'05	20 00	.....	20 00	.....
Howe, O. C.	'83	25 00	25 00	.....	.....
Hicks, C. S.	'06	5 00	.....	5 00	.....
Hinebaugh, T. D.	'85	10 00	10 00	.....	.....
Hunt, H. S.	'05	25 00	25 00	.....	.....
Johnson, M. F.	'07	25 00	25 00	.....	.....
Jones, M. A.	'84	10 00	.....	10 00	.....
Kocher, A. E.	'02	20 00	20 00	.....	.....
Latta, W. C.	'77	25 00	25 00	.....	.....
Lambert, J. R.	'06	20 00	20 00	.....	.....
Lawson, G. E.	'82	25 00	25 00	.....	.....
Lapham, M. H.	'99	10 00	10 00	.....	.....
Landon, Mrs.		10 00	10 00	.....	.....
McArdle, H. W.	'87	20 00	20 00	.....	.....
Masselink, G.	'95	25 00	17 50	.....	7 50
McElroy, E. M.	'93	5 00	5 00	.....	.....
Meek, H. C.	'05	10 00	10 00	.....	.....
Meek, Mrs. H. C.	'05	10 00	10 00	.....	.....
Nies, J. D.	'94	15 00	15 00	.....	.....

Pledges

NAME	Class	Amount Pledged	Amount Paid	Amount Now Due	Amount Due in Future
Nies, E. E.....	'08	15 00	15 00	.....	.....
Newman, C.....	'97	20 00	.....	.....	20 00
Oviatt, C. J.....	'09	15 00	15 00	.....	.....
Norton, H. W.....	'03	25 00	25 00	.....	.....
Palmer, H. F.....	'93	25 00	25 00	.....	.....
Potts, R. G.....	'06	20 00	20 00	.....	.....
Potts, R. C.....	'06	10 00	10 00	.....	.....
Prudden, W. K.....	'78	429 60	429 60	.....	.....
Pagelsen, O. H.....	'93	25 00	25 00	.....	.....
Rogers, F. F.....	'83	10 00	10 00	.....	.....
Rogers, F. S.....	'86	10 00	10 00	.....	.....
Robinson, F. S.....	'90	50 00	35 00	15 00	.....
Robinson, C. H.....	'95	15 00	.....	15 00	.....
Ranney, E. W.....	'00	50 00	50 00	.....	.....
Robb, R. J.....	'98	5 00	.....	5 00	.....
Robinson, F. W.....	'98	15 00	15 00	.....	.....
Skeels, Dorr.....	'03	10 00	10 00	.....	.....
Spencer, L. M.....	'06	15 00	15 00	.....	.....
Stevens, K. B.....	'06	20 00	20 00	.....	.....
Tower, R. R.....	'03	50 00	50 00	.....	.....
Troop, J.....	'78	10 00	10 00	.....	.....
Taylor, C. C.....	'09	20 00	20 00	.....	.....
Tuttle, H. F.....	'05	50 00	50 00	.....	.....
Willson, E. A.....	'07	30 00	30 00	.....	.....
Waldron, H. D.....	'93	1 00	1 00	.....	.....
White, O. K.....	'07	20 00	15 00	5 00	.....
Woodbury, C. C.....	'04	5 00	5 00	.....	.....
Welles, J. S.....	'09	15 00	15 00	.....	.....
Younge, H. E.....	'02	5 00	5 00	.....	.....
Total.....		1740 60	1453 10	205 00	82 50

The annual Faculty night was held on February 17, 1911, and was said to be the most enjoyable ever given by the Society.

On February 3, 1911, the Society entertained the Alumni of the Society that reside in Lansing and East Lansing. A supper followed the literary program, and several were called on for short talks.

Among the Alumni that have visited us recently are: C. H. Hilton, '00; H. D. Waldron, '93; H. F. Buskirk, '78 (charter member); C. I. Goodwin, '77 (charter member); H. L. Chapin, '87; E. W. Ranney, '00.

The Freshman Declamation Contest this year was of unusual merit. On account of a membership of thirty-two at the beginning of the fall term, we took in only nine men, and hence this contest was not of the usual length. E. E. Sarvene took first place and Richards second. The other contestants were Taylor, Richardson, Hall, Hulse. The judges were Mrs. Landon, M. F. Johnson and O. K. White.

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