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WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY.

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The industrial development of West Virginia is attracting the attention of the whole country. After years of waiting, the State is at last taking the important position in the sisterhood of States that it deserves. Equally great during the past few years has been our educational progress. The material growth has been more conspicuous, but it has not been any more important or any more pronounced. Movements are now at work in the entire school system of the State which are sure to result in great educational advancement. Longer terms for the public schools are being provided; better trained teachers are being demanded; more modern county supervision is called for; more advanced methods in county and district institutes are being used; better buildings are being erected all over the State. As the State becomes richer it is better able to provide for the educational needs of its people. With enormous wealth in coal lands, oil lands, timber lands and railroads, the people are no longer content with a school term of only five months. The fact is coming to be recognized that the most important question that can engage the attention of the people of West Virginia is not how to build more coke ovens and more railroads, or open up more gas fields, but how to provide better educational opportunities for the young people of the State.

In this great educational progress of the past few years, the State University has properly taken the lead, as might have been expected. An old educational axiom is that educational progress goes from the top down and not from the bottom up. It is a historical fact that there are never any good common schools until after there are good academies, colleges and universities. Schools are fed from above and not from below. The University has been awake to the astonishing progress of the State and has kept pace with it. A few figures will illustrate this.

REMARKABLE GROWTH.

Since the year 1896 the number of students in attendance has grown from 283 to nearly 1,000.

The number of instructors has been increased from 24 to about 70. Three handsome new buildings have been erected, and a wing of twenty rooms has been added to another; new athletic grounds have been provided; the laboratory equipment in chemistry, botany, physics, anatomy and physiology has been practically doubled; the important new zoological laboratory has been created.

The very successful departments of music and fine arts have been established and thoroughly equipped, the great pipe organ in Commencement Hall being a part of the equipment of the School of Music.

A new experiment farm of 100 acres has been bought and put into good condition.

A small but satisfactory astronomical observatory has been constructed on Observatory Hill.

As might have been expected, these splendid new equipments have made it possible to raise the standard of the institution in many departments. This is particularly noticeable in the requirements for admission to the freshman class. Thirty-nine "courses" are now required for admission, the standard now being as high as those of the old eastern colleges and universities, and higher than any other educational institution in the south, with possibly one exception. The standing of a college depends as much upon its requirements for admission as any one thing, and West Virginia University stands in the front rank, a fact of which all West Virginians ought to be proud.

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT.

The internal development and expansion of the University has been even more important and notable than its external growth. For example, a few years ago, one professor did all of the teaching that was done in the modern languages; now this work is divided into the department of Romance Languages and Literatures, and the department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, with a head of each department, and an assistant in each department.

A few years ago all of the work in English language and Literature was done by one man; now there are five, including the English instructor in the Preparatory School. A few years ago there was no department of History at all, and the instruction in History was the most meagre imaginable. Now there are two professors of History; a professor of European History and a professor of American History and Political Science. In Chemistry there are two professors and a laboratory assistant; three or four years ago there was only one teacher in this department. In Mechanical Engineering there are five instructors; a short time ago there were only two. Similar progress has been made in other departments. Nowhere has there been greater improvement than in the Library. Miss Skinner deserves the thanks and appreciation of the State for the great work she has done with the University Library. Modern scientific methods are used in all departments, laboratories and libraries having largely taken the place of the old time text-book.

THE FACULTY.

As stated before, the faculty has been increased until it now numbers nearly seventy members, and a careful examination shows that nearly all of them were trained in the very best schools either in this country or in Europe. The following names will serve to illustrate: A. R. Whitehill, (chemistry), Princeton University, University of Leipzig and Freiberg School of Mines, Germany; F. L. Kortright, (chemistry), Cornell University, Polytechnium, Switzerland and Carlsruhe, Germany; A. J. Hare, (Latin), West Virginia University and Harvard; J. N. Deahl, (Pedagogy), Nashville, West Virginia University, Harvard, Columbia; F. W. Truscott, (German), Indiana University, Harvard, Berlin, Germany; Charles Chollet, (French), Harvard and Columbia; C. H. Patterson, (Rhetoric and Elocution), Tufts College, Comedie Francaise, Paris, University of Chicago; K. C. Davis, (Botany and Horticulture), Cornell University; Waitman Barbe, (English Literature), West Virginia University and Harvard; F. L. Emory (Mechanics and Applied Mathematics), Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Cornell; J. B. Johnston, (Zoology), University of Michigan; C. R. Jones, (Mechanical Engineering), West Virginia University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Cornell; L. C. Daniels, (European History), University of Wisconsin, University of Chicago; R. E. Fast, (American History), West Virginia University, Harvard; H. B. Clark, (Dean of Women), Smith College and University of Chicago; Russell McMurphy, (Piano), New England Conservatory of Music and Berlin, Germany; Henry S. Green, (Greek), Yale; W. J. Leonard, (Fine Arts), The Cowles Art School, Boston, and Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris.

These names are representative of the entire faculty list. The standing and value of a school depends more upon its faculty than upon all other things combined. The University's corps of instructors know what the best methods are in the most famous institutions, and they have been so trained that they can apply these methods in their various departments at Morgantown.

Among the most experienced teachers in the University are such well known and influential men as President Purinton, Dr. P. B. Reynolds, Dr. St. George Tucker Brooke, Professor W. P. Willey, Professor J. L. Johnston, Professor S. B. Brown, Judge Okey Johnson, Professor Thos. E. Hodges, Professor

J. S. Stewart, and Dr. R. W. Douthat, men whose lives are intimately associated with the educational development of West Virginia, and who have left their influence on many of the most promising young men and young women of the commonwealth.

THE PROFESSIONAL DEPARTMENTS.

The professional departments of the University are the College of Engineering, the College of Law, and the College of Agriculture. There are about 135 students in the College of Engineering, 100 in the College of Law, and about 35 in the College of Agriculture. The large and fine new building for the College of Engineering makes it possible for that department to do the work which is demanded of it by the rapid progress of the State. Civil, Mechanical, Mining and Electrical Engineers are in great demand. Every engineering graduate of the University has a good position, and places are waiting for as many more as can be thoroughly prepared. In the Engineering College there are seven instructors, namely, John L. Johnston, R. L. Morris, C. R. Jones, F. L. Emory, Rufus West, Thos. Cather, and A. Fairchild.

The College of Law was started many years ago by Professor St. George Tucker Brooke, who was for a number of years the only law teacher in the faculty. He is still connected with the Law College, and his name is held in the highest esteem by nearly every young lawyer in West Virginia. He has been a member of the University faculty for nearly twenty-five years. The other two members of the Law faculty are Judge Okey Johnson, for twelve years President of the Supreme Court of West Virginia, and Wm. P. Willey, who has been in the University since 1883. The Law faculty is an exceptionally strong one, and the requirements for the Law degree are higher than those of any other school in the country, with three or four exceptions. The requirements for admission to the LL. B. course are the same as for admission to the freshman class in the A. B. course, and the work for the degree covers four years. It will be seen that this standard is very high. There is a less exacting course for those who want to take the Law diploma simply and not the Law degree.

Professor T. C. Atkeson is at the head of the department of Agriculture, which includes Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Veterinary Science, Entomology, and Agricultural Chemistry. One of the most popular and practical branches of the work is the instruction in Veterinary Science by Dr. Ruhl. This is given only during the winter term. Professor Atkeson has made the Agricultural Department very useful and practical to all who avail themselves of the opportunities offered.

MUSIC AND ART.

The School of Music has had a phenomenal growth, and is considered to be already one of the strongest music schools in the country. The music faculty consists of six members, as follows: Miss Russell McMurphy, Mrs. Grace Martin Snee, Miss Julia Aileen Clark, Miss Ada Virginia Houston, Ross Spence and T. G. Hill. There are about 135 students in that department.

In the Fine Arts Department there are two instructors, namely, Mrs. E. E. Hubbard and W. J. Leonard. All of the engineering students are required to take drawing, and this gives a great amount of work to the drawing teachers in addition to more advanced work in the history of art and in painting, etc.

PRESIDENT PURINTON.

For the first time in the history of the University one of its own graduates is now at its head. President Purinton is not only a man of profound scholarship and wide experience in educational affairs, but he is thoroughly acquainted with West Virginia conditions. He not only knows what a great university ought to be, but he knows how to make it out of West Virginia stuff. It is probable that no other man in the country could fill the place under existing conditions quite as well as President Purinton. He is proud of his native State and proud of his alma mater, but he is not blind to the possibilities of improvement and growth. He is thoroughly acquainted with the best American universities and has spent considerable time abroad. He knows what the best things in the educational world are, and he knows how to get them for West Virginia.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

In order to accommodate teachers and others who cannot attend college

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during the regular session, a summer term of six weeks will be held at Morgantown beginning June 23. Dr. Emerson E. White, of Ohio, Dr. A. E. Winship, of Boston, and other eminent educators will assist the University faculty in furnishing instruction of the very highest character. There are no State funds to pay for the summer school, but the regular instructors who will remain for the summer will do the work for such fees as may come in. The outside instruction will be paid for with money raised by the resident member of the Board of Regents, Hon. E. M. Grant, from citizens of Morgantown.

NEEDS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

The most pressing need of the University is a Woman's Hall or dormitory for the young lady students. The number of young women students during the year reaches about 200. The Baptist Hall accommodates twenty-five. The remainder live in private houses in the town. The best homes are open to them, but the need of a hall is recognized by everybody who is acquainted with the situation. The increased opportunities in music and art, besides the regular college courses, are drawing a great many young lady students to Morgantown, and the State owes it to them to provide for their comfort and accommodation. The boys can get along in the private houses, the "forts," the Episcopal Hall, and elsewhere, but the young lady students ought to have a comfortable, attractive and well managed dormitory.

Everybody admits also that the President of a State University ought not to be required to live in rented quarters, and put up with such accommodations as an overcrowded town can supply. The State ought to own a house for its University President to live in.

Governor White is deserving of the hearty thanks of the people of West Virginia for his admirable judgment in the selection of regents for the University. The board is composed of high-minded, honorable men, who are in the utmost harmony for the success of the institution. Many of them were educated at Morgantown and are well acquainted with the needs of the University, and all of them, I believe, are men of collegiate training. The appointment of Hon. E. M. Grant as resident regent has given the greatest satisfaction, and there is no member of the board who has the interests of the institution more at heart than this active, energetic, tactful man.

PROFESSOR BARBE'S WORK.

This article would be incomplete without reference to the special work that has been done for the University by a gentleman who is well known to the people of Parkersburg, and who enjoys their highest esteem. In the summer of 1894 the Board of Regents decided to employ a field agent in connection with the institution, and Mr. Waitman Barbe, at that time managing editor of the State Journal, was tendered and accepted the position. The selection was made wholly on account of Mr. Barbe's eminent fitness for the work. He had graduated at the University several years previously and was one of its most loyal and honored children. He had achieved a marked degree of success in editorial work and had made contributions to our literature that had won for him a highly creditable place among the younger writers of the country. Possessed of a broad, liberal, highly cultivated and well balanced mind, coupled with a pleasing personality, he was just the man to go into the field and lay before the people of the State the claims and merits of their leading institution of learning. Mr. Barbe entered upon the duties of his position a few weeks after his appointment. He visited every county in the State in search of young women and young men who were likely to become candidates for admission to some collegiate institution and impressed upon them the advantages offered by the University. He attended teachers' institutes and other public gatherings and delivered scholarly addresses upon the necessity for university training, arousing an interest in the institution he represented that was simply phenomenal. For several years he has kept up that work in connection with his other work at the University, and the result of his labors is shown in the largely increased attendance at the University. It is more than three times what it was when he entered the field, and I have it from high authority that at least two-thirds of the increase in attendance can be attributed to Mr. Barbe's earnest, conscientious work.

Parkersburg, W. Va., January 11, 1902.