FLETCHER NEWS LETTER

ASHEVILLE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL AND MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM

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SPRING ALWAYS COMES

According to the almanac spring came yesterday. That was the vernal equinox when night and day were of equal length the world over. But spring is not merely a fact in science. Scientifically the sun is almost the same as it was day before yesterday. But there is something different,—some stirring in the heart of things, and man and beast have recognized the promise that has never been broken. None of the direful things that are shaking the earth can hold spring back and after the darkest winter in our history Spring has come. The smoke of battle cannot black it out. We rejoice to see the bloom of life returning. It is no more than we expected. When the long nights came, we knew that the long days would return with the same rythm, for the world of nature corrects itself.

The world in which we live will not correct itself without sacrifice and infinite faith. Spring will release armies as well as sweet wild flowers this year. and the tempo of destruction will step up.

But the return of spring is merciful assurance that life is immortal and creation is beautiful and abundant.

--Adapted from New York Times Magazine

OUR BOARD MEETS

Each month, as the seasons bring them to us, has some particular significance. March, as far off as we look at it, means board meeting to us. This year we gathered our resident members and workers to meet with the visitors who came on March 11. From Madison College came our old friends, Dr. E. A. Sutherland and Mrs. Lida F. Scott, with Mrs. Scott's secretary, Miss Florence Fellemende. They have come to our board meeting ever since we can remember. At first, we couldn't have board meeting without them. They had to teach us how it should be done. Now we have grown up and learned to walk alone, but we certainly would not want to have our meeting without them. We value their counsel and appreciate the interest that bringsthem. From the Union Conference came Elder J. K. Jones and Professor C. A. Russell, our veteran educational secretary. Elder H. E. Lysinger came from the local Conference.

One member of our board was missed. Mrs. M. E. Rumbough, who originally purchased the place, and had been a member of the legal board since its incorporation in 1920, was this year called in death. Her absence was noted by a resolution of respect for her memory and regret at her passing.

Listening in at the reports given by Dr. Brownsberger, Mr. Jasperson, and others, we were able to summarize a number of interesting facts concerning the work of the institution during the past year. The sanitarium has had the best year of its history. The 1,177 patients admitted during the year were an increase of 150 over the previous year. The 15,381 patient days were an increase of 450. 3,296 different patients visited the out-patient department during the year. 400 operations, major and minor, were performed and 97 babies were born in the hospital. Daily patient average for the year was 42.12. Approximately 7,500 tests were performed in the laboratory by Professor Jorgenson and Mr. Chauncey Smith, who joined our staff this past year. During the summer months the sanitarium was pressed to provide room, and patients were turned away. Even during the past winter our capacity has been taxed.

The educational work of the place has made progress. The School of Nursing is now adequately housed in their new dormitory which provides ample class rooms as well as rooming space. The library is growing, and other teaching equipment has been added. The present enrollment is thirty-two, nine of whom are in affiliation at the University of Virginia Hospital. Present world conditions are a strong impetus to the training of nurses, and the School of Nursing is forging ahead.

The High School has had an enrollment of ninety-two. A strong teaching program has been maintained. A class of twenty-one was graduated last spring. There are twenty-three preparing for graduation this spring. Our alumni are giving a good account of themselves. Checking over the one hurdred and twenty six students who hold our diploma, we find among them at the present time sixteen graduate nurses, twenty college students, twelve nurses in training and six young men in military service. There are teachers, stenographers, home-makers and others doing worth-while things.

The industrial departments of the institution show good leadership. Anticipating a check in the output of machinery, forethought was given to our needs. The equipment of the various departments is in good shape and with care should tide us over some space of time. It was possible, after the government began taking the entire output of the company, to secure a slightly used large Hobart dough-mixer for the bakery. The sanitarium also has a new Hobart vegetable peeler. The school boarding department has a Hobart food mixer and a new Majestic range. The shop has purchased this year a high speed planer and jointer.

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The farm is showing gratifying results of the soil improvement program over a period of years. The past year the department has added a hay loader and rake, and a thresher. 1,100 bushels of corn were grown the past year and more than 1,000 bushels of grain.

The institution now employs eighty full time workers. Student enrollment of the School of Nursing, High School and Grades aggregates one hundred and fifty.

Improvements for the present year include six miles of private telephone line to Hendersonville. This, with our leased wire to Asheville, will give us direct lines to the county seats of Henderson and Buncombe counties. We have our own private switchboard with fifty telephones on the place. A reservoir of 100,000 gallons is to be constructed this summer to complete the water system. The dairy is to be enlarged and modernized.

Each year the problems of our institution become heavier and heavier. We must this year expand our food production and use our hospital and staff to the fullest extent to shoulder the new burdens forced upon our country by war. It is our purpose to use our resources, strength and ability in any possible way we can serve this national emergency.

BOYS' RECEPTION 1942

It was supper time, the time that some one has called the best time of the day because it is then that we not only get supper, but our mail, too. Just as I stepped into the dining room I heard a shrill little voice cry, "Ooh! I can hardly wait!" When I turned to look, my eyes fell upon a group where one girl sat with a letter pressed against her bosom, her hair twisted high on top and rows of curls tightly pinned around her head. All the girls were simply bubbling over with joy, talking excitedly about tomorrow night.

"I need a ribbon, a Velvet Ribbon, A WHITE VELVET RIBBON, for my hair," was one of the many cries heard above the chatter of that glittering hour which brought to Everyone the attractive booklet which read, "You are cordially invited to be present at the Boys' Reception to be held in the school auditorium at seven forty-five five, Monday evening, February 9, 1942.

The night of the big event the girls arrived promptly and without coaxing, beautifully arrayed in their special dresses and hair-do, to walk proudly with their partners whom they so successfully drew from behind the scenes.

The program began with David Jasperson, resplendent in formal evening attire, as Master of Ceremonies, presenting veritable scenes from childhood to adulthood in the life of a boy.

At the close of this well-presented program, David announced the changing of partners, if so desired, and then everyone marched to the boys' dormitory to get a fragmentary view of their domestic side of life. The mournful sounds which brought the crowd pushing into a certain room, were decidedly excusable when Miss Beck was revealed investigating the room "behind the scenes". Congratulations, boys, on your well-kept and attractively arranged rooms. We greatly enjoyed the privilege of visiting them.

Back in the auditorium once more, Charles Arnold, John Hoyt, Carter Woolsey, Charles Casteen, and Carlton Hunt appeared wearing white coats and carrying trays from which they served us our fill of delicious doughnuts, ice cream and punch.

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Boys, you may be sure a "Reception" is a success when even the sick rise and shake off their fever for good. It was a happy lot of girls that tumbled into bed that night. Girls, Barbara Brownsberger wasn't fooling when she announced that you would have to put your thinking caps on to entertain the boys as royally as they have us.

Odille Livingston

CALLED TO THE COLORS

On Tuesday, March 10th, Robert A. Jasperson, older son of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Jasperson, left with a large group of Henderson County men for Fort Bragg, where he was sworn into the service. He is the first son of our faculty to enter the service.

Robert, better known on the campus and to his host of friends as "Bob", grew up on our school campus. He came here with his parents when a very little boy, and has spent twenty or more years in the institution. Here he spent his early child-hood days; here he began his education in the old historic school house which burned a year or two ago, later attending the little brick school house on the hill. Here he took his entire high school course, graduating in the class of 1937, as president of his class. Bob later attended Madison College and Cecil's Business College in Asheville, and during the past winter was employed at the institution, assisting his father, our business manager, in his office,

On Sunday evening, the night before Bob was scheduled to leave, friends called during the evening at the Jasperson home to great him and bid him God speed. We miss him a lot, for Bob is a genial fellow - always kind and thoughtful of others. We know he will give his best for his country. Our prayers and good wishes go with him. Bob is now located at Camp Polk, Louisiana.

PATRIOTIC RALLY

Our institution participated in a patriotic rally held in Hendersonville in February. Our nurses, graduates and students, were present in uniform with other nurses of the city. Our Boys' Glee Club gave two numbers, "Soldiers' Chorus," from Faust and "White Cliffs of Dover". Mr. D. Hiden Ramsey of the Asheville Citizen—Times gave a very forceful, sobering address.

SENIORS ORGANIZE

Once more we have a senior class with us. Our twenty-three seniors organized last week with the following officers: David Jasperson, president; Genella Lowder, vice-president; Paul Pusey, treasurer; Katherine Acker, secretary; Sanford Graves was chosen class chaplain. Other members of the class are-Marthine Bliss, Anne 'Hutchinson, Helen' Self, Louise Dalton, Mable Jensen, Marvis Adkins, James Shepard, Charles Mattingly, Hazel Morgan, Ruth Padgett, Ada Noble, Odille Livingston, Joy Caldwell, Beryl Linderman, Virginia Webb, McKinley Cheshire, Irene Abston, Dora Brown.

WITH OUR BOYS

From Sumter, South Carolina, we have an interesting letter from Jack Williams, (class of '36). Jack entered the service last September. He is now in the office of the Flight Surgeon at Shaw Field. Minor injuries are treated and full physical examinations are given there. He says there are many cases of eye, ear, nose, and throat trouble. Writing of his leisure activities, Jack says, "I spend most of my spare time reading. Shaw Field is comparatively new and we do not have much of a library here yet. I took a correspondence course in Business Management and Salesmanship, completing it two weeks ago. I wanted to know more about my own church history so I got a copy of Origin and Progress of Seventh-day Adventists. It contains about eight hundred pages and is very interesting. "Jack says he is coming up when he can get a long enough furlough. There will always be a welcome for you, Jack.

Address:

Private Benjamin Jackson Williams, Station Hospital, Shaw Field, Sumter, South Carolina

GLAD I MET THEM

This morning out on the campus I met a very little boy, five years old. Enroute to the store on an errand for his mother, he stopped and called out, "Mrs. Jasperson, I know what I am going to do when I get big."

"What are you going to do, Merlynd?"

"Not school work. I'm going to drive a truck and haul coal and cement blocks and things like that man going there."

Now what will his professor Daddy think of that?!!

Then I met another, a dear little lad on a bicycle, who called out, "I've got nearly two dollars worth of defense stamps;"

"How did you get the money to buy them, Wilton?"

"Well, I sold my Christmas watch, and then I've saved the dime that Daddy gives me every week!"

Of course, we're going to win the war!

"Those who toil bravely are strongest;
The humble and poor become great;
And so, from these brown-handed children
Shall grow mighty rulers of state.
The pen of the author and statesman,—
The noble and wise of the land,—
The sword, and the chisel and palette,
Shall be held in the little brown hand."

Mary H. Krout

SNOWBOUND

Sometimes we go without snow two or three years in North Carolina - so long that students wonder how that line, "In winter we go coasting down Potato Hill"ever got into our school song.

Then, we'll probably have a snow storm. Last month we really had snow. When eight inches fell one day, everyone got excited. Fearful that we might never see any more, young folks coasted, waged snow fights, and had a grand time. We need not have worried. The snow was scarcely gone when another fall of sixteen inches broke the record for this vicinity since the establishment of the Asheville Weather Bureau in 1906. All day it snowed hard. Night brought a wind that drifted and next morning, like Whittier in his boyhood,
"We looked upon a world unknown

On nothing we could call our own."

Cars were stuck in the drifts on the road. One party from the sanitarium had to seek shelter at the home of a neighbor and did not get home until the next day. Several days passed before the mail could come in over the mountain. School busses were stuck in the snow. Near us school children were carried home. In Asheville school children were lodged in the town and unable to get home for two or three days.

Whittier could go into rhapsodies over a wilderness of sky and snow. Twentieth century Americans are more practical than poetic when all the tires we have or expect to have are stuck in snowdrifts on the highways. In fact, we found the whole experience quite overwhelming. Campus folks, used to darting hither and you all over the place, we found our style considerably cramped. But we shovelled out paths, Mr. Lewis got out a snow plow and opened up the roads. We got our cars all home, no tires missing, and in due time the earth was bare again. But we'll never forget itit was "so unusual". And, incidentally, we are set up with tall tales for the rest of our lives. "Speaking of snow-storms; there was that one in '42", and we'll be off, hard to stop.

CAMPUS NEWS

Friends of Dan Goddard, who was graduated with last year's class, were glad to see him on our campus with his mother two weeks ago. Dan came down from Berrien Springs, where he is in college, to spend a few days with his parents when news reached them that his brother, Warren Goddard, was reported lost at sea following the sinking of the Jacob Jones . Our deep and sincere sympathy goes to Dan and his parents in their bereavement.

Dr. J. F. Brownsberger and Mr. A. A. Jaspers on attended an all day meeting of the State Hospital Association at Durham Monday of this week.

Three members of our family recently completed the instructor's course in First Aid in Asheville - Mr. Coy Lowder, Robert Jasperson, and Joe Caldwell. Bob was fortunate in having opportunity to take the course immediately prior to his induction into service, and we hope it will be of value to him. Mr. Lowder is teaching a standard and advanced course in First Aid to a group of our graduate nurses, also Mr. Nestell and Carl Mundy, some of whom plan to take the instructors' course which will be offered in Hendersonville in April.

Recent visitors to the institution were Dr. and Mrs. Harold Hebard and two daughters who had just returned from Ma laya where they have spent a number of years in medical missionary work. Doctor Hebard and family witnessed the first bombing of Penang by the Japs, and providentially were able to escape and make a safe return to the states. Dr. and Mrs. Hebard both addressed our group at Sabbath School and church. Doctor Hebard is a former classmate of Dr. Brownsberger, graduating in the

class of 1925 from the College of Medical Evangelists.

We were glad to see on the campus recently two of our graduates of the school of nursing - Mrs. Ruth Ray - Payne, Class of 1939, of Staunton, Virginia, who spent ten days visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Ray, whose home adjoins our campus. Another visitor was Mrs. Kato Hutchinsón-Crowder, Class of 1941, who came here from Cocoa, Florida, where she has been nursing. Mrs. Crowder's home is also in this neighborhood, adjoining our farm, under the shadow of old Couch Mountain. Mrs. Crowder was enroute to Camp Lee, Virginia, to visit her husband, Mr. Amos Crowder, who is in the service.

This day as the News Letter goes to press there has come to us from the school office an unbelievable bit of news. It would seem that yesterday we reached the high water of attendance. Not a student was absent from any study period, class, music assembly, or any school activity: (Time for applause.)

Coincident! Last year J. D. Butler brought back the measles from his Christmas vacation. This year his sister, Lola Mae, did likewise. A regular epidemic followed, bringing low the following: Bob and David Jasperson, Robert Marquis, Ada Noble, Ruth Peterson, and Dora Brown.

The boys suffered a small fire in their dormitory on a recent Sabbath morning. Fortunately little damage was sustained.

Mrs. Witt was made very happy recently by a visit from her daughter, Mrs. Lester Harris of New Jersey.

Mrs. J. B. Gordon recently visited her daughter Imogene, here on our campus.

Joyce Small recently entertained her mother who made a surprise visit here.

A new tool shed is being erected to care for our garden needs.

We have been favored with many educational pictures this last month. "This Amazing America", a travel sketch on the United States was shown in chapel. Among others were; "The House-fly; Our Common Enemy", "Winged Death" on mosquitees, "Recalled to Life", the story of Sonotone. Our sound projector is certainly proving its value.

The American History Class is giving a series of talks on world problems. They are most interesting and cover the causes and effects of this and the first world war. They also cover the topic ,"What We Are Doing Today".

"What about the News Letter?", wrote Mrs. Paul Evers. "Has it been discontinued or have we been dropped?" Neither. Inspired by motives of defense and self-preservation, we skipped the February number. In view of the rising costs of paper, we may leave out a number occasionally. By no means do we intend to discontinue our school paper.

Spring is here now and so is baseball.