

# Summer Session News

Published every Friday during the Summer Session by students of the Pennsylvania State College in the interest of the College, the students, alumni, faculty, and friends.

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## HEREDITY VS. ENVIRONMENT

Side by side in Philadelphia the other day a newspaper make-up man placed two court stories. Although one came from quarter sessions and the other from a magistrate's bench, both bore point of similarity. Without knowing it, two reporters had given the make-up man an excellent opportunity to indulge in a fantastic joke at the expense of psychologists and their heredity-environment theories.

Because her 31-year-old son, allegedly an habitual drunkard, had beaten her, thrown her from her home, and then spat upon her, a poverty-stricken mother 77 years old brought testimony against the child she had spanked, kissed, and then as he grew, feared with a fear brought about by conditions as unnatural as human mind can conceive. Between sobs the woman whispered her story as the son sullenly sat waiting the sentence of three months in the House of Correction that the magistrate gave him.

In quarter sessions the same day a judge sentenced to serve from four to ten years in jail a 30-year-old lawyer whose family the judge had known for three generations. The lawyer was convicted of fleeing among others a widow, aged 72, who had lost \$13,000 left by her husband. Reading the sentence to the prisoner before him the judge declared that it was one of the most difficult tasks of his life. The family, said the judge, was of the highest type, the lawyer as a boy had been given wholesome home life and the best advantages to prepare him for a successful and happy career.

But all journeys do not end at the spot marked "X" on the map by the traveler. The fatalism of the Arab may be caused in no small degree by a lack of interest in the pushing of destiny, or it may be motivated by a philosophy of resignation beginning in the illegible first pages of history when the tribes first began to think.

What parts the unavoidable heredity and environment play in the world-wide drama provide an unending and unflinching source of argument. And when on Judgment Day Saint Peter yawns, stretches, and then vents the blast that will rock the universe, maybe an open forum on the front steps of Heaven may decide the problem. Until then rival pedagogues and lesser fry will argue in peace and the happy knowledge that no one can refute their arguments.

## WATER AND TOOTHPICKS, PLEASE

Shylock was no simple child of Shakespeare's brilliant imagination. There is such force in the delineation of the gaunt Merchant of Venice that it is patent the author had some sort of model before him when he wrote.

Such a conclusion arrived at there are inevitable opinions that occur. It is a well-known fact that authors frequently do their best work when under the pressure of hardship and hunger. This, by the directest of routes, leads to the belief that Shakespeare must have attended some sort of a Summer School there in London.

The hand was soft, however, for he had Shylock exact only one pound of flesh. Perhaps in the days of trenchermen one could shift his boarding-house with some degree of success. Using Penn State for a background for his Jew, Shakespeare might have created a truly worthy Shylock, for in this luxuriant the boarders tender not one but many pounds of flesh.

Some come to Summer session to have a good time, some to gain a rest, and some to get knowledge, but no one enters in the hope of gaining weight. Perish the thought—with the canned sliced lamb.

Of course, the Shylocks have their side of the argument. If they can not clear sixty or seventy per cent on each boarder there is little use of running a dining room. And after the boarders get loathed they seldom move. It avails little to eat wind instead of water.

Is it the fault of the house manager if the cook forgot how many there were in the dining room and sent in only one slice of meat apiece? Or if the waiter comes back from the kitchen and says he is "sorry, but that dish of vegetables is all there is, there ain't no more?" No, in fact, no nothing.

Shakespeare belonged to the wrong age, it must be admitted. Shylock is away out of date now that all the modern improvements have come along.

## OUT OF THE SEA

Plaint that the world in its swift pace has distanced romance received a smart squelching Wednesday when M. F. Bramley, a contractor, returned to California from a cruise on the Pacific ocean and declared that he was going to build an island on a sunken reef, thereby creating for himself a kingdom.

The visionary explorer already has surveyed his tentative stronghold, which is known to mariners as Cortez Reef. It is part of the sunken continent of Mu from which inhabitants are supposed to have escaped finally to found the Gautemalan white Indian legends.

Only thirty feet of green water now separates the top of the ocean from the bottom at this point and Bramley believes that a breakway plus pumped-in sand would be the feasible plan for constructing his Spanish castle above the surging waves of the Pacific.

# SUMMER ALLIES

## Tunnels'

"It is!"  
 "It ain't."  
 "It is!"  
 "You're a liar!"  
 "O-o-o-h! Shame!"

The two slender figures dressed in sports costume passed on down College avenue toward co-op. Vehement argument boiled and eddied in their wake as the pseudo-brimstone was flung in handfuls.

A worried student turned to the man next to him. "Do you think we should call the police?" he asked. The man turned slowly and then spat in the direction of the Power plant across the street.

"Now," he said, "those girls was only arguin' whether that steam shovel was making a railway road bed or a tunnel so the students wouldn't get cold gon' from building to building in the winter."

"Well?"  
 "Again the man spat.  
 "It ain't neither. They're diggin' it to lay steam pipes in."

## Sonnet

(After Richepin)

Stars above

Find a way

For the fay

That is Love

Trouble to slough

So I may

Find a way

You to love.

E'en the moon—

Fled too soon—

Lends its aides

To my love,

'Fore it fades,

You to love.

## Dollars to Doughnuts

There is a young lady at the Chi Phi house who wants to know why autists have to pay the legislature's gas tax.

## Danger: Women at Work

The dangers of this Modern Age cannot be emphasized enough. It must have been the Devil himself who invented that horrific form of evil, the Dance. Witness the revenge Providence took on a fair member (collegiate terminology, but accurate, nevertheless) of the Summer Session.

Class assembled and teacher called encouragingly. "Now we will study that interesting advertisement, the folk-dance." The pupils, anxious to please and wanting to get the full value for the credits-for-dollars offered, flung themselves wholeheartedly into the day's routine. Suddenly a little girl slumped to the ground. A tendon in her left ankle was wrenched and relations between various muscles of her right foot were considerably strained. Providence, you see, had slipped up behind her and had placed a couple of heavenly banana peels where they would do the most good.

## Chit-Chat

So! Once you hated me.

Child.

Then you were seventeen,

Child.

Now you are eighteen,

Woman.

How do you answer now,

Oh woman?

What! A year's endeavor fled

And you haven't used your head?

Child.

## New Additions to our

# Rental Library

Fish Preferred, by P. G. Wodehouse

Love Changes, by Ruby M. Ayres

Visitors to Hugo, by Alice Grant Bosman

The Black Camel, by Earl Derr Biggers

The Doctor Who Held Hands, by Hulbert Footner

The Matheson Formula, by J. S. Fletcher

Hunky, by Thames Williamson

The Wave, by Evelyn Scott

All Quiet on the Western Front, by Erich M. Remarque

Scarlet Sister Mary, by Julia Peterkin

Loose Ladies, Vina Delmar

A Wild Bird, by Maud Diver

Little Caesar, by W. R. Burnett

# KEELER'S

Cathaum Theatre Building

## Thoughts of Others

### ELECTIVES VS. REQUIRED

There is so much speculation as to the value of a college education by teachers and educators and so little by the undergraduate that one may well wonder why the latter bothered to come to college at all. Whatever else may be said about education, it is an obvious fact that unless a student comprehends its nature and purpose, he will never feel towards it that interest and curiosity which alone lead to true knowledge and understanding. A questionnaire recently given by Dr. Crawford at Yale brought out a fact which is no less significant because apparent to anyone acquainted with the undergraduate mind. By this questionnaire it was shown that students do less effective and less valuable work in required courses than they do in electives.

From this investigation Dr. Crawford concluded quite correctly that "purpose appreciable by the student strongly influences his academic motivations, and thereby, his accomplishments." This led him to further conclude, and this time not as correctiv, that those colleges which have very few or no required courses are best suited to undergraduate needs. The average college student is neither sufficiently experienced nor sufficiently wise to be allowed to flounder unaided among a maze of purely elective courses. Furthermore, there are certain fields of knowledge with which every man who wishes to call himself liberally educated must be acquainted. Opposite the extreme of a purely elective system there is another still more impractical and unsound. It involves a condition much more prevalent among American colleges today.

The freshman who does not know why he is taking a certain required course nor what it has to do with his education, but is taking it simply because the catalogue says he must do so in order to get a degree is a typical example of this extreme.

But to expect every freshman to see clearly into the underlying relationships of each of his studies and how they affect one another is logical. At present it is the custom of the faculty to plunge right into the heart of their subject without explanatory remarks as to why the course is required or what relationship it has to the education of the student. Perhaps these details seem so obvious to the average teacher that he does not deem such an interpretation necessary. Until such a need is realized, however, the most noxious and injurious of college evils—that of memorizing without comprehending—will continue to flourish.

—Amherst Student

## Some Novels too Good to Miss . . .

### 1 THE GREAT HUNGER by Johan Bojer

—Intensely human study of a Norwegian engineer, from his peasant boyhood through his triumphs and disasters to the great spiritual victory which leaves him with a well-defined philosophy and faith.

### 2 LORD JIM by Joseph Conrad

—The tale of a cashiered officer of the British mercantile navy as he strives to rebuild his shattered life.

### 3 TONO-BUNGAY by H. G. Wells

—A worthless patent medicine makes and loses a fortune for a young man whose life and character are greatly modified thereby.

### 4 JAVA HEAD by Joseph Hergesheimer

—Sale in the 40's. One of a ship-owning family returns with an exquisite Chinese wife, who becomes the dominating interest of the story.

### 5 PENROD by Booth Tarkington

—Amusing story of a very human boy in the twelfth year of his misunderrated young life.

### 6 PARNASSUS ON WHEELS by Christopher Morley

—Deliciously strange adventures accompany a book wagon on its journey through the country side selling books to grateful farmers.

### 7 THE MOONSTONE by Wilkie Collins

—Excellent mystery plot, concerning the theft of a jewel from an idol's forehead, its quest and restitution.

### 8 ANDIVIVUS HEDULIO by Edward L. White

—Bold, exciting and rapid narrative of the adventures of a Roman gentleman of the time of Commodus.

### 9 THE VIRGINIAN by Owen Wister

—Capital study of the best type of Western cowboy. Scene is laid in Wyoming in the early 80's.

### 10 TALE OF TWO CITIES by Charles Dickens

—Powerful and dramatic story of the Reign of Terror leading up to Sydney Carton's self-immolation at the guillotine.

## MUSICIAN GIVES RECITAL AT MONDAY'S ASSEMBLY

A feature recital by E. W. Newton will mark the weekly assembly and community sing to be held in the auditorium at 7 o'clock Monday night under the direction of Prof. Richard W. Grant, head of the Music Institute. "Music: A Paying Investment" will be the subject of Mr. Newton's lecture. He will be accompanied at the piano by Miss Helen S. Leavitt.

## NATURE CAMPERS CONTINUE STUDIES

Mrs. Anna B. Comstock, "Mother of Nature Study," Gives Talks And Frequent Readings

Mrs. Anna B. Comstock, known as the "Mother of Nature Study," is giving two lectures on nature readings each day next week at the Nature Study camp.

Forty teachers were enrolled for the first session filling the camp to capacity, while a correspondingly large number have registered for the second camp. The camp is located in the State forest about sixteen miles from State College.

Prof. George R. Green of the nature department is director of the camp. In addition to Mrs. Comstock, Ernest Thompson Seton, naturalist, lecturer, and author, and Albert F. Garner, naturalist and ornithologist, will be visiting lecturers.

Mrs. Comstock is emeritus professor of nature study at Cornell university, as well as a nature study writer of note. She is also a wood engraver, having exhibited her work at exhibitions in Paris, Chicago, and elsewhere.

She is a graduate of Chamberlain institute and Cornell university. She has been a lecturer at Leland Stanford, but since 1913 has largely spent her time at Cornell. For the past several years she has attended the nature camp here.

## GUIDE EXPERT TO SPEAK TUESDAY

(Continued from first page)

one of the State College service clubs, and has lectured here at various other times.

Holbrook is co-author with Miss A. Laura McGregor of a new book recently issued entitled "Our Junior High School." He also has edited and written many pamphlets dealing with guidance for the State Department.

In addition to his educational work, the speaker is an authority on guns and small arms. He has had a varied experience in hunting both here and abroad. He has done considerable big game hunting.

## PROF. DICKSON CONTINUES LECTURE COURSE ON ART

Continuing his lecture course on "Art and Culture of the Middle Ages in France," Prof. Harold E. Dickson, of the College department of fine arts, will speak at 7 o'clock Wednesday night at Schwab auditorium.

"Means and Methods of Church-Building" will be the subject of this week's talk instead of last week's as was previously announced.



## FRIDAY—

Return Showing of William Haines, Joan Crawford in "THE DUKE STEPS OUT" Music and Dialogue

## SATURDAY—

Josephine Dunn, Henry B. Walthall in "BLACK MAGIC" Synchronized Picture—Music only

## MONDAY AND TUESDAY—

Alice Joyce, Myrna Loy in "THE SQUALL" 100 Per Cent Talking Picture

## WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY—

Clara Bow, Richard Arlen in "DANGEROUS CURVES" All-Talking Picture

## NEXT FRIDAY AND SATURDAY—

Richard Barthelme in "DEAC" Talking and Singing

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