



THE INSTITUTE  
MONTHLY



FOR APRIL 1919

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# The Institute Monthly

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## EDITORIALS



It was officially announced in the afternoon papers of the city of Charleston, April the 24, that Professor J. W. Robinson, teacher and preacher of MacDowell County and Mr. Frank Jackson, a business man of Fairmont, had been appointed two members of the Advisory Board, by Governor Cornwell.

Mr. C. H. James, head of the James and Son, Wholesale and Produce Co. of Charleston, had been offered one of the positions, but was unable to accept from conscientious scruples.

Messrs Robinson and Jackson, together with the prospective Su-

pervisor for Colored Schools, will be a factor in guiding the destiny of education as concerns Colored people.

We believe that nothing radical will be attempted in any future policy in reference to our schools. Some measures of progress are necessary; but the inauguration of progressive or corrective measures must follow careful study and understanding of conditions.

From the sagacious and harmonious deliberation of the new Board of Education, and the Advisory Board for Colored Schools, we anticipate a new and better era for the Colored Schools of the State.

### THE SMITH-LEVER STATE VOCATIONAL BOARD MEETS HERE

Messrs T. Y. McGoveran, Kanawha County agent, D. R. Dodd, Mason County agent, Erwin Dorsey, Braxton County agent, C. Claude Anderson Nicholas County vocational teacher, P. C. Rouser,

Assistant Director of Vocational Agriculture in Monongalia County; A. K. Carroll, Clay County vocational teacher; J. A. Linke, Regional agent of Federal Board, over Vocational Education, Indianapolis, Indiana; George W. Hawkins, Lincoln County vocational teacher, and C. H. Winkler of Morgantown, State Director

of Vocational Agriculture, constituting the State Smith-Lever Vocational Board, and Hon. J. A. Linke, vocational agent for the Federal Board, met in conference at the West Va. Collegiate Institute the afternoon of April the 9th.

President Prillerman, Professors A. W. Curtis and R. W. James of the school's agricultural department attended the sessions of the board here.

Methods and plans for securing on behalf of the State, the best results from the Smith-Lever Funds were discussed.

After an examination of the local plant, it was adjudged by the regional director, that the West Virginia Collegiate Institute without further modifications of its courses, could share in the benefits of the Smith-Lever Fund.

At the present, it was decided that such help would only apply to the agricultural department.

The friends of the school feel highly gratified over the wider field of usefulness that is now made possible.

### SECOND RECITAL OF THE MUSICAL DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Elizabeth Murray Mitchell presented her vocal and piano students in a second recital the night of March 7.

Hazelwood Hall was well filled

with an appreciative audience. The program, while not so lengthy as previous ones, was well balanced, and each performer showed the result of systematic drill.

Each vocal or instrumental number represented a composition of excellence, even tho it was filled with the weird minor melodies that told of the past sorrows of a distressed people.

The playing of the upper class students bore evidence of ability beyond the average. "Barcarolle" and "Hark to the Mandolin" are former friends of ours, but the young ladies—Misses Rice and Gregory and Misses Whittico and Gregory—sang these as duet numbers with a tunefulness that made these classics "as welcome as the flowers in May".

### VIOLIN AND PIANO RECITAL

The school management presented C. Cameron White, of Boston and T. Theodore Taylor of Chicago in a violin and piano recital Tuesday evening April 8.

Mr. White is recognized as the foremost Negro violinist of the States and has high rank among the violin artists of the world. His native ability has been greatly developed under the best teachers of Europe and America. His repertoire ranges thru every variety of



violin compositions, and to all he imparts a technique and coloring that even excites admiration in the tyro for the most tuneless classic.

Vitali's "Chaconne," a medium for technique, and colorature, and White's "Bandanna Sketches," media for lilting expression and characteristic melody, were among Mr. White's best numbers.

Mr. Taylor a product of Chicago Conservatory of Music, is one of the leading concert pianists of the race.

Liszt's Rhapsodie furnished a medium for Mr. Taylor to prove his status as a pianist. The rippling sweetness of its melody offset by its barbaric chords of weird harmony were so well brought out under the skillful touch of Mr. Taylor, that his critical audience generously accorded him an encore.

The return of the gentlemen will be gladly welcomed.

#### CLASS OF 1921 HEARD IN RHETORICALS

Under the supervision of Mrs. Jessie Glover, of the English department, the class of 1921, presented a very interesting program the evening of April fourteenth. It was the anniversary of the late Senator Justin Smith Morrill, and a part of the program eulogised the life and character of this founder of the land grant colleges

of the United States.

This program was the second of its kind rendered by the English department this scholastic year.

The friendly rivalry shown by each participant made the program very interesting.

The numbers rendered were familiar literary classics, but they were listened to with eagerness.

Mrs. Glover was the recipient of many kinds words for the success of the program.

Miss Ednora Prillerman and a male octette enlivened the program with instrumental and vocal music.

#### PIG CLUB ORGANIZED

Prof. A. W. Curtis visited the village school the 16th of April, and organized a Pig and Corn Club for the boys, and a Tomato and Potato Club for the girls.

Mr. Curtis explained at length the purposes of the Clubs, and his proposition to have the state furnish pigs and tomato plants to the respective clubs, and to assist in the canning of the products of the tomato club, met with a hearty response from the prospective club members.

The boys of the Pig Club range in age from eleven to fifteen, and already have been supplied with a number of pigs.

The Pig Club elected the following officers: Theodore James, pres-

ident; Maurice Jones, secretary; Stephen Brown, treasurer, and Crawford Willis sergeant-at-arms.

The girls club has not been officered yet, but all look forward to the local and Kanawha County Fair for an opportunity to show the excellence of their products.

#### SAMUEL GORDON, CLASS OF 1902, CITED FOR BRAVERY

EXTRAIT DE L'ORDRE DE CITATIONS  
NO. 62

Le 14 Novembre 1918.

59th Division, Infanterie

Le General Rondeau Commandant l'Infanterie de la 59th Division Cite a l'Ordre de la Brigade:

Le 1er Lieutenant Samuel S. Gordon, du 370th R. I. U. S.

"Sous un dur bombardment et le feu des mitrailleuses a montre du sang-froid, du courage et de la bravoure en commandant sa Section avec la plus complet mepris de sa surete personelle.

#### TRANSLATION IN ENGLISH

"Under a heavy bombardment and machine gun fire, showed cold bloodness of courage and bravery in commanding his section with the most complete disregard of his personal safety".

#### A LETTER FROM MR. A. C. ELLIS, CLASS OF 1911

Richmond, Va.,  
March 21, 1919.

Mr. A. G. Brown,  
Institute West Va.

My Dear Mr. Brown:

I am sure the Alumni number of The Institute Monthly which is now in preparation will be very helpful to the institution. It will be interesting and encouraging to know of the good work our graduates are doing in various sections of the state and country.

The West Virginia Institute is yver well known here in Richmond. The graduates from our Commercial Department are considered unusually efficient and their services are in great demand in all colored business organizations in Richmond.

I came here in June, 1918, to take charge of the Bookkeeping Department of The Southern Aid Society of Virginia, Inc. This corporation does more business than any other negro insurance company in this country that confines its activities to one state. Several of our graduates have been employed here in recent years, among them D. C. Deans, Jr., J. B. Deans, James Washington, and Fdward Eulks, and all have made good. Leslie F. Byrd, class of 1917, is Assistant Bookkeeper. The officers of the Com-



pany are pleased with the work we are doing and have increased our salaries twice within ten months.

We are trying to live up to the standard set by our predecessors in the work here and will convince Richmond that the Commercial Department of The West Virginia Collegiate Institute has other graduates just as competent as those employed before we came.

With best wishes for the Association, I am

Sincerely yours,

A. C. Ellis, Class of 1911.

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**WORK OF MRS. KATHRYN  
MCROBERTS RICHARDSON,  
CLASS OF 1903**

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It is really a valued privilege to submit this brief report of the work of Mrs. E. R. Richardson for the year of 1918, especially that in canning which has been a practical and material benefit to our community, which like many others was seriously hard pressed for such products throughout the dark dismal period of warfare, having canned during the summer of this year.

1080 quarts of fruits and vegetables which were sold from \$1 a quart for white asparagus to squash at 25 cents a quart; 400 glasses of jelly sold at \$4 a dozen; 350 quarts of vegetables were put up for Miss Alice Carter's private

school; 300 quarts of fruit and vegetables; 135 glasses of jelly for Mrs. Henry Van Dyke; 100 quarts for Mrs. John G. Hibben; 35 quarts for Colonel Libbey; the rest of the products were sold during the winter, clearing \$190.

Aside from this special work in which Mrs. Richardson has received the highest commendation, notably those of Mrs. Van Dyke, the wife of Dr. Henry Van Dyke, a former U. S. Ambassador to Holland, and Mrs. Hibben, the wife of Dr. John G. Hibben, the president of Princeton University, she also takes an active part in other phases of the community Civic and Religious work, having served as Secretary of the recent United War Work Campaign, a member of the Y. M. C. A. Auxilliary committee, the Soldiers Comfort Club and the Red Cross.

Edward Richardson the third, a bright three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Richardson, is attending the Kindergarden Dept. of the Witherspoon School of which his father is the principal, but who is now on a leave of absence as an Educational Secretary in the Y. M. C. A. work in France.

It would not be justifiable to submit this report of Mrs. Kathryn McRoberts Richardson without mentioning these members of her immediate family as well as her dear mother, Mrs. McRoberts who helps and encourages her in every effort for the best and largest ser-

vice to our community.

H. H. Cain,

Sec'y Witherspoon Y. M. C. A.

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**INTERCLASS AND INTER-  
SCHOLASTIC CONTESTS**

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Frances Jones, Class of 1918

One of the vital questions confronting our school officials to-day is the problem of school contests. Since the aim of most of our institutions is to produce citizenship in its highest form, these should be much consideration given to the contests that exist in the various schools.

Contest is not only a factor in the making of citizenship, but a benefactor; contests of some sort, are therefore, indispensable to a healthy school, and should exist in some form if the school intends to perform the function for which it was organized.

There are two great systems of contests now being advocated, the one inter-class, the other interscholastic. Naturally, as in all things, there exists some strong and some weak points in each.

First interscholastic contests, as one knows perhaps, evolves the competition of different schools. This is that to be, by some narrow-minded people, a bad thing; they claim that an unnecessary amount of money is spent, and a lot of time wasted on the part of both the contestants, teachers and managers.

It is that some times, by teachers that the students look forward too much to the contest, thus, becoming inefficient in their school work. This may be true to some extent, but if the students are kept busy and the work made interesting on the part of the teacher, this will probably not be. Then, there is another thing brought up, that only a few boys participate in the interscholastic contest, and perhaps these boys are the ones who need less training. I should think that this would show that a school could send not only her best, and it rests with the students left behind to be the best another year. Then many say there is a strenuous strain on the physical well-being; this in some instances is true, but it should be made mild, and can be if the manager is the right person. Then there is a tendency on the part of the opponent to cripple a stronger opponent. This should not be, for if such a thing should happen the true spirit of the game is lost, only true clean-hearted contestants, should participate in contests.

The interclass contest eliminates most of the weak points in the interscholastic contest; but there are some strong and some weak points that exist in it. The inter-class contest, however, is very good in some respects; for instance, it would be good in an institution where there are a number of classes able to compete with one



another; but in some schools it would be detrimental.

In a school the type of the West Virginia Collegiate Institute interclass contest is good, if it is done for sport's sake and sport alone.

This should be the motto of interclass contests; then and only then, will undue hero worship be done away with; the ethical standard of the school raised, and the school wrought up to a feverish excitement.

Now that I have discussed the different systems of contests, I do not advocate which should be used, for it depends upon the school in which it is to exist. I merely suggest that they both be weighed on all sides and given much consideration; for some of the evil that exists in each did not come from the use of the system but the abuse of it.

But, in order to produce citizenship in a broad sense, there must be that spirit of unity, a spirit to arouse the community interest, and that spirit of cooperation. To be a good citizen in other words is to stand up for high ideals, develop the spirit of benevolence, obtain the confidence of the community, and above all be competent. These things just mentioned are embodied in both the interclass and interscholastic contests.

### UNDER-GRADUATE LIFE BY POST-GRADUATE LIFE

Willa A. Robinson, Class of 1918

Life is taken by the undergraduate as a matter-of-course. In many cases the boys and girls enter school with absolutely no idea of the great responsibility that awaits them. They are in school because they are sent by their parents and when asked what they intend to do in life, in most cases the answer is, "I have not decided." In my own opinion, when any boy or girl enters school, he or she should have clearly fixed in mind just what he or she wants to be and work to that end. It is possible, however, that even before a boy or girl enters school, they could have formed a very clear conception of what he or she wants to be if they have been reared in the proper environments.

When the undergraduate becomes a Senior he begins to realize the realness and earnestness of life. These questions arise: Have I gotten the full value of my school years? What of to-morrow with its unknown problems? It seems to me that it would bring a considerable amount of pleasure to one's own heart if in looking back, one could be able to say in answer to the first question, "my years in school have been well spent." Then undergraduates, such a

dream can be a reality. Begin now, to-day through your own efforts it can be brought to pass. Use your time. Remember that "Lost Time is never Found Again."

To the post-graduate, life is viewed from a more serious point of view. Many great and serious problems confront one. One must look forward to making one's way in the world and must think seriously on choosing a life's work. These problems require considerable forethought.

After one has chosen a life's work, certainly one wishes to be successful in that work, and I believe the secret of any one's success lies in the service one can give to others. Then young men and young women let our purpose be to serve humanity. As teachers, let us go to the poor, ignorant in a community as servants and as co-workers with God.

Booker Washington, for example labored in the wilderness of Alabama for the good of the masses. His success emanated from the service he rendered to others. He forgot himself entirely in helping others, but the world will never forget him. Theodore Roosevelt labored unceasingly for the welfare of mankind. The lives of these two great Americans should be an incentive to us for pursuing our work with more vigor and more determination.

Life, at all times serious enough, is making unusual demands upon

us at this present crisis in the world's history, and will you, graduates of the West Virginia Collegiate Institute, do something worth while, something that will ever reflect honor and credit on our dear Alma Mater?

### QUALITY STREET PRESENTED BY THE CLASS OF 1919

The Senior Class of the Secondary Department, presented Quality Street to a large and appreciative audience Friday night March 28.

The comedy is clean, airy and sparkling in its dialogue, and admits of real acting in the climaxes.

The costumes were beautiful, and the dramatis personæ were well adapted to their parts.

Under the guidance of Mrs. E. Murray Mitchell, the amateur cast was creditably drilled and the final results was one that compared favorably with some stock companies.

Space will not permit a lengthy comment on individual performers, for each one deserves creditable mention.

Following was the cast: Georgia Hill, Lucille Craighead, Lucy Boling, Cleopatra Whittico, Thelma Brown, Ednora Prillerman, Cleola Gray, Ada Washington, Christopher Scott, Abner Campbell, Max Westerband, James Coleman,



Charles Penn, and William Saddler.

### CLASS PROGRAM

The class of the Normal Department have their class meetings twice a month and much benefit is being derived from them.

The following programs were rendered during the month of April.

#### PROGRAM FOR APRIL 13

Singing America  
Opening Remarks  
Mrs. Spurlock Honorary Presided  
Paper—"How to obtain the Teachers Certificate and Renew it."  
Miss Willa Robinson  
Round table discussion—"Rural School problems and how to deal with them."  
Opened by Mrs. Sarah Wilson  
Singing Class Song  
Talk by Prof. Johnson  
Remarks Pres. Prillerman  
Miss Amy Walker, first vice president presided.

#### POGRAMME FOR APRIL 27

Singing "Steal Away"  
"Review of the Life of Sojourner Truth"  
Miss Bernice Fountain  
"John Brown, as a friend to the Negro"  
Miss Amy Walker  
"Review of the Life of Phillis Wheatley"  
Miss Maud Rice  
Singing "Nobody knows De Trouble I see"  
"Review of the Lives of some of the Foremost Negro Educators"  
The Class

Miss Edna Rosser, second vice-president presided.

—Amy Walker

### THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Ruth E. Leftwich, Class of 1918

We are on the threshold of a determining year. What we do in 1919 will say much.

Already, our records show that the Young Women's Christian Association has progressed this year in a manner and to an extent that is not yet fully realized.

The work has been carried on in an entirely voluntary way and not under compulsion. The closeness of this organization has created within its members a high regard for the fellow's right; and taught that the great fact of human relation is based on service rendered to each other.

Although we have enrolled about 55 members only 20 per cent of these seem to show any active interest. This lack of interest is one of our great problems; but we cannot afford to stop on this account.

There are many reasons why we should not. The streams of human life do not back up they flow on and forward. And to go farther, we should help, because if each does her part well we shall surely succeed.

### ATHLETICS

Institute was successful in its

first game against the Huntington team Saturday, April 19. Since there are only two veterans on this year's nine, the lack of evidence to establish the youngster's baseball ability under fire, did not destroy our faith in our success, but prevented us from being as boastful as we have been, when we knew the ability of every player to stand the gaff when the tide of victory momentarily ebbed.

As usual, in the opening of the game, Institute showed nervousness that caused errors from which the Huntingtonians scored twice before they were stopped. After that Davis for Institute had them feeding out of his hands. He breezed along for seven innings and allowed only one more score and three hits in all the time that he tramped the mound.

Davis was relieved in the eighth inning by young Clark a coming south paw, who in spite of a little wildness, allowed only one score. The final count was, Huntington 4, Institute 9.

Goodloe and Gibbs, for Huntington, Davis, Clark and Drewery for Institute were the batteries.

Sec. Scott and Prof. Spurlock were diamond and field umpires respectively.

Manager Brown has arranged games with Montgomery May 3, two with Frankfort Ky., and two May 26 and 27 with Wilberforce University.

By E. D. Saunders

Under the management of S. W. Peters and Capt. Goode, the Junior Class of 1920 won 10 and lost 2 games this season, thus winning the championship by a large margin.

Their total points amassed were 339 to their opponents 170.

Goode and Ed. Dickerson at forward, have offset any that have opposed them. This combination, with Dickerson running the floor, and Goode, playing the stationery forward, has excelled as a team any that the school has developed. They are both dead shots from all angles of the court, and their floor work stands out as an important feature of the game.

Fairfax, in all the very important position of center, has kept his team in lead, and was a tower of strength.

At guard we have Paris and Wilson two of the best men that ever played on the W. V. C. I. court. They are aggressive and fast and know the game from a scientific standpoint. Paris is given the running guard on account of his splendid shooting ability and speed. He is powerful on the defense and has often prevented the opponents from scoring at critical times. Wilson, the bulwark of the fast Junior aggregation, is one of the greatest guards in the game. He can be called on at any time to play any position, especially that of roving



guard.

George Lorenzo Adams and A. J. Dickerson have also been a great help during the series. Both are fine players.

Appended are the final averages.

TEAMS	WON	LOST	AVERAGE
Juniors	10	2	833
Seniors	7	5	583
Sophomores	7	5	583
College	6	6	500
First Yr.	0	12	000

### LOCALS AND PERSONALS

The Easter exercises at the West Virginia Collegiate Institute were conducted Sunday morning, April 20th, at 11:00 o'clock. The sermon was preached by Rev. C. F. Jenkins, of Montgomery. The music was for the usual high standard. Among the many visitors present were Mrs. R. P. Scott, wife of Secretary Scott, of Detroit, Michigan; Mrs. John H. Purnell, wife of Capt. Purnell, of Atlanta, Georgia; Mrs. H. M. C. Reed, of Carbon; Mrs. William Houston and Delbert Prillerman, of Huntington; Mr. and Mrs. John Glover, of Piqua Ohio; Mrs. B. B. Dalton, of Smithers; and Mr. and Mrs. William Jefferson, of Charleston.

The outfit for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps has been completed. All the young men are in uniform, and the institution has been supplied with 100 new Springfield rifles. The corps is divided into two companies, and it

is expected that they will make a good showing by commencement, May 28th. All former student soldiers of the institution are requested to appear at the school in their military uniform on Commencement day.

On April 10th President Prillerman attended the conference of County Superintendents in Charleston. Upon the invitation of Supt. Shawkey, he spoke briefly to the conference in the afternoon.

On April 7 Mr. Jas. S. Lakin of the State Board of Control, accompanied by Mr. Rus Warren, State Architect, visited the institution with the view of having a new boiler house built and new heating equipment installed. While here, he took under consideration also the rebuilding of Dawson Hall.

Lieut. Walter R. St. Clair Quartermaster in the Student Army Training Corps of the institution has been detailed to Chicago, Illinois.

On April 15 the institution was visited by Mr. C. W. Craver, International Student Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association and Miss Mary E. Jackson, Industrial and International Secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association. Mr. Craver met the teachers and students in the chapel at the morning exercises and delivered a most excellent address.