

**PEDAGOGICAL PAGE.**

Devoted to the Interests of Teaching.  
Thomas C. Amick, Ph. D., Editor.

**THE HISTORY OF OUR ACADEMIC COSTUME.**

How often have we wondered when attending a commencement occasion why it is that the graduating class wear the cap and the gown. So little has been written and said about this that even many of the graduates who don their robes to deliver their orations and receive their diplomas do not know when and how the custom originated. In Europe and America, in far off Australia and in India the same custom is followed.

This costume is very closely related to the professional costume used by members of the bench and bar in many countries, by the clergy and choirs in many churches, by various fraternal orders in ceremonial exercises, and has many features in common with the mediaeval dress still used by ancient guilds.

In the history of the Universities of the Middle Ages we find that practically all the members of the different faculties were clerics. Most of the students of the Universities of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries were preparing to take holy orders. At this time the dress of the friars and nuns became fixed. Flowing robes were the dignified dress of the times, and special forms of these robes were set aside for the use of the various parts of the university body, and these, with certain modifications have persisted down to the present.

**The Origin of the Hood.**

The buildings of these mediaeval times were very cold. That they might keep warm, students and professors provided themselves with capes and hoods. In the course of time the cap replaced the hood for the head, and the cape with hood was modified into the present hood. This with its various colors in trimmings and linings is one of the most noticeable and significant parts of the costume of European and American universities.

**The Gowns. What they Represent.**

It is a noticeable fact that it has never been customary to use the gown for any degree except the baccalaureate degree and those degrees of higher rank than the baccalaureate degree. The main point that distinguishes one gown from the others is the shape of the sleeve.

The bachelor's gown is a long flowing robe with wide sleeves, the back part of the sleeves is nearly as long as the gown itself and runs off to a point at the lower end. The sleeve and gown are made of the same material which may be of any kind of black plaid or silk.

The master's gown differs from the bachelor's in that the sleeve is a little longer and is square at the bottom. The indentation in the back and near the bottom of the master's sleeve is also a noticeable feature.

In the doctor's gown the sleeves are wide at the bottom and they are but a little longer than the arm. Instead of being pointed, they are cut off square at the bottom. There are three horizontal bands of the same material as that from which the gown is made, placed about two to three inches apart on the outside of the sleeve near the bottom. The doctor's gown is generally made of silk, al-

though it may be made of any black plaid.

**The Caps.**

The caps are the plain Oxford caps that are so common among college students. They may be made of any black material. There is but little variation in the caps as they do not represent any special degrees. However a doctor may wear a gold tassel and his cap may be made of velvet.

**Hoods.**

Hoods are generally made of the same material as the gowns and are of distinctive shapes for Bachelor, Master, and Doctor. They may be lined with silks of the official colors of the institution conferring the degree, and are trimmed with velvet of the color distinctive of the degree, thus:

Arts and letters, white; Theology, scarlet; Laws, purple; Philosophy, blue; Science, gold-yellow; Medicine, green; Dentistry, lilac; and Pedagogy, light blue; etc.

**Origin of the word "Bachelor" in College Degrees.**

In the middle ages, the church conferred holy orders on no married man. And none but single men were allowed to graduate from the universities in those days. The term "bachelor" was applied to all apprentices for a degree in those early times. So when the student had completed a course in arts, he was a bachelor in arts or a bachelor of arts; if he had completed a course in philosophy, he was made a bachelor of philosophy, etc. And the term "bachelor" has clung to all graduates from that day to this.

In the case of medicine, the man is made a doctor of medicine instead of a bachelor. Perhaps it would have been wiser had he been required to take the bachelor's degree first.

**FOR THE QUESTION CORNER.**

At the ends of a line 50 feet long two perpendiculars to the line are erected, one thirty and the other fifty-five feet in length. Find the point on the original line where the sum of the two lines reaching to the farther end of the perpendicular lines will be a minimum.

A man on being asked the time of day was told that it was between 7 and 8 o'clock, and that the minute hand of the clock was as far behind the 7 on the dial plate as the hour hand was in advance of it, what was the correct time?

A man borrowed \$500 at 5 per cent agreeing to pay principal and interest in 4 equal annual payments; how much must he pay each year?

Rule for squaring numbers: Subtract the number to be squared from the ten above it. Square the difference, subtract the difference from the number to be squared and multiply the remainder by the ten above and add.

Example. To square 17.

1st step, 20 minus 17 equals 3.

2nd step, 3 squared equals 9.

3rd step, 19 minus 3 equals 14.

4th step, 14x20 equals 280.

5th step, 280 plus 9 equals 289.

This rule can be applied mentally to advantage.

2. Ex. Square 456.

162536

4060

48

207936

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Square each digit writing the squares in succession beginning at the left; twice the first digit multiplied by the second written under the second and third places, twice second multiplied by the third writ-

ten under the fourth and fifth places and twice the first multiplied by the third written under the third and fourth places; add the partial products.