

The Hilltop

"Plain Living and High Thinking"

Published by the Students of Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, North Carolina

Entered as second-class matter February 20, 1926, at the postoffice at Mars Hill, North Carolina, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Issued semi-monthly during the college year.

Subscription Rate: Year, \$1; Issue, 5c.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS
DISTRIBUTOR OF COLLEGIATE DIGEST

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Vol. XV. March 29, 1941. No. 12.

Precious Time

If you live an average lifetime you will have slept twenty years. Allowing ten years for fooling around, five years for starting, and five years for stopping, you have very little time to look around and see what should be done.

We have not much time left to consider the whence and wherefore of existence and grasp the explanations as they are presented to us. Certainly we do not have time to "figure things out for ourselves." With this short period left in which to work we surely realize the extreme importance of grasping every opportunity and taking advantage of every minute at our command.

There was once a sailor who waited until his ship was putting out to sea. He intended to jump aboard but he turned to wave to the girl in the port one last time. When he turned around again the ship had moved out of his reach. If you wait until your ship is out of reach, you will end up with the rest of the driftwood flung on the foamy waves of misfortune. Use every second as a firefly to light your way. —J.F.W.

Springitis

"The bright eyes of song sparrows, sitting on spotted eggs
Peer restlessly through the light and shadow
Of all Springs."

When Amy Lowell wrote these lines in her poem "Lilacs" she exemplified perfectly the feelings most of us have after our recent holidays. Here we sit, like a sparrow on its nest, waiting for something to hatch.

Well, why sit any longer? Spring is here. Let's hatch something ourselves and get out of this winter rut. The woods around here give forth a song as seductive as that of any siren of the past.

Let's go out for more strolls to shake some of the fog from our befuddled minds. I haven't seen any signs of picnics or mountain trips about our campus since last fall.

Come now. Let's show more enthusiasm, some of the proverbial "get up and go." I assure you that dividends will be received by all. —W.J.C.

A Sleeping Beauty

God and nature have woven a web of loveliness—physical and spiritual—that surrounds the human race. All of us have thrilled to the beauties of nature—to sunrises, sunsets, twilights, storms. We have trembled with fear and ecstasy in the presence of majesty beauty. Yet there is a human power of supreme beauty. It is the power of speech. Beauty of all kinds is often disregarded, and perhaps the beauty of speech suffers more serious lack of appreciation than all the other forms. In this power lies the root of all happiness and all evil. In this power lies the might to change the life and character of separate individuals, to change the destinies of whole nations. Such a potent force should be taken seriously and handled with care; yet do we handle it cautiously? Rarely. We talk continually, but we say very little. We talk so much that when we do say something it isn't heard because of the noise. Yes, talk is cheap, but not if you have a real (perhaps original) idea.

This gift of gifts can be used to lift our fellowman and at the same time to help ourselves. If you feel like saying "Tommyrot—just a lot of idealistic talk," you aren't to be blamed. You think you are facing reality, but the idealist is too. Can we make the ideal become reality? Our speech can help us make this change. "This too shall pass away"—Yes, but the people who use this gift as it should be used will be remembered. —G.D.

Director



Miss Elizabeth Ellison is director of the college choir. She is voice teacher in the music department and takes an active part in many of the campus activities. This is her third year as a faculty member of Mars Hill college.

Open Forum

Is a third literary society inevitable?

Certain campus leaders, both society and non-society students, and faculty members have expressed their desire for a third literary society on this campus.

They believe this improvement is inevitable and, after examining both sides of the question, present facts as they find them.

There are 305 non-society students on the campus. Both existing societies, considering the brother and sister societies as one, have expressed their desire that every student become a member of one or the other of the societies. The faculty have expressed the same desire. Now this would be fine; but the truth is that if all the present members attended one meeting in either of the societies, the halls would not hold them. Where would the other 305 find room or obtain their training?

There are plenty of brains and talents among the non-society members. Thinking that certain leaders involve the societies in politics without the societies being responsible, these people will never join either of the existing societies.

One of the main purposes for the existence of society is that of giving its members experience in forensic presentation on the floor. With the present enrollment as large as it is, a member, by the law of averages, appears on a program less than twice a year, just enough to increase his dread for public speaking. Those more aggressive or talented do appear more often, but they really do not need the experience as much as the others. With an increase in enrollment the number of times one member appeared on the program would be decreased.

The school is building new dormitories and other buildings and extensions. The enrollment will probably be increased to 1,000 at Mars Hill college. Taking the 458 present society members as an average there would be left 542 non-society students out of the 1,000. What would you do with the other students during the time the societies were in session, especially?

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OPINE

On this campus is a building named as a tribute to the man who helped largely in making its erection possible. Perhaps none of us ever knew W. C. McConnell, a man who believed in the development of the body as well as of the mind.

Recently I encountered the son of our benefactor. The character and beliefs of the father belong also to the son. As he told how his father had looked forward to the completion of the swimming pool—he wondered why this vital part of the college gymnasium is not being used. There are many people on the campus who do not even know that the McConnell Gym has a pool. There may be a good reason for the closing of the pool for an indefinite period of time; but we realize that swimming and swimming contests form a highlight in the athletic activities of other schools. Many of our students would enjoy participation in these contests more than in any others on the campus, and we ask why Mars Hill does not initiate—even if in a very small way—a program of contests for the development of water sports. Even if this idea seems far-fetched and impractical, the swimming pool could at least be opened for the pleasure and benefit of the boys and girls who want to swim. Why isn't the pool open to us?

Bits by a Bookworm



By Wm. J. Clark, Jr.

When Ralph Ingersoll left his offices on 14 West 49th Street in New York City, he went to Europe—not as a busy-body verb monger, but as the Editor of PM—to see what he could see on his own.

After a stay of less than two weeks in a war-ridden England, he dashed madly back to the relatively peaceful continent from whence he came to publish a series of editorials on Great Britain, its plight and the morals of its people. This book reproduces those articles. There has been some change of sequence in order to integrate the individual articles into a full-length book—the first of its kind.

When this book was put on the shelves of the bookstores of America, it was another tribute to the versatile Ralph McAlister Ingersoll. He has been dancing for some time to the music of thousands of admirers because he has progressed upward from miner via the ranks of free-lance writer, reporter and managing editor for the *New Yorker*, associate and managing editor of *Fortune*, general manager of *Time, Inc.*, and sponsor of radio and cinema productions of "The March of Time." Now, as an author of a full-length book, he has done a verbal jete into the center of the contemporary stage where he pirouettes in the spotlight of American approval.

Report on England is different. It made its way to America from England as did the Cotton Mill, via the mind of a man. Thank God that thoughts can't

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Business Manager



Mr. H. R. Walker, Jr is professor of chemistry at Mars Hill college, this being his year as member of that college choir. He is business manager of college choir.

Hope-Hall Attend National Assembly

C. C. Hope and James E. are attending the National Student Legislative Assembly in Lexington, Kentucky, which began on March 26 and continues through March 29.

The National Student Legislative Assembly is similar to the student legislature which was held in Raleigh earlier in the year. Mr. J. B. Huff, co-chairman of the forensic team, said he considers this invitation to the National Assembly the greatest honor that has ever come to the forensic team.

In previous years only several colleges and universities have attended, but this year Mars Hill received a special invitation. Dr. Keith, of Wake Forest College, who is considered to be the most prominent forensic figure in the United States, personally asked Mr. Huff to send two speakers to the assembly.

The assembly is carried out in the exact manner as is the Senate in Washington, and includes campaigning, lobbying, rolling, filibustering, and political activities. Upon arrival at the assembly, each person registers in one of three groups—Democrats, Republicans, or New Dealers. During the last few years, the president has come from Kansas; but last year with the slogan, "Bust Kansas," the Forensic team of Wake Forest emerged victorious and elected president.

C. C. Hope is presenting a bill "which will appropriate \$500,000 to make a study of the possibilities of a union between the two English speaking democracies, the United States and Great Britain.

Again, the forensic team will be honored by debating Wake Forest on April 12 in Asheville. This debate will be broadcast over station WWNC from 10:15 until 11:15. In their series of radio debates, Wake Forest has included Mars Hill along with Rutgers, the Citadel, Brown University, and Swarthmore. C. C. Hope and Frank Verity will represent Mars Hill in the debate.

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