The Institute Monthly

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CONTENTS

Editorials
President Prillerman Attends Education Association
Tuskegee's New Executive
Back to the Farm
Seven Years of Progress Among Colored Schools in West Virginia
Important Information to Small Gardeners
School Spirit
Tuberculosis Survey
Second Recital of the Music Students
Progressive Farmers Club
Around the Institute

N. B. Communications for publication should be given or sent to the Editor, or Managing Editor. All news will reach these columns through the Editors

Editor
Managing Editor
Business Manager

Byrd Prillerman
S. H. Guss
C. E. Mitchell

In view of the fact that we recognize the decline of the ability to spell correctly the English words of general usage, an added effort is being made here to raise the standard. It is regrettable that linguistic oddities prevent the same uniformity or smoothness, the same agreement of sound to letter, the same stability of orthographic principles in Uncle Sam's American division of the English language, as we find in some of the foreign languages that are studied in our schools. The mad desire to quickly acquire the rudiments of a wage earner, combined with more or less indulgence—too often hurtful—on the part of the teacher, has greatly aided in establishing the present decadent condition. The introduction of fads has weakened, in some degree, the grasp upon this literary fundamental. We would not banish some of these fads; but we want to be the apostles of a stricter adherence to those English fundamentals that make better spellers, better readers, better English students, and hence more thorough scholarship. The high schools, grammar schools, primary schools, all adjuncts of the higher system of Education in the state, can do much to assist. The Monthly asks for your support.

It is our purpose to open an Agricultural Information page to our little periodical, over which Mr. A. W. Curtis, director of Agriculture, will preside. It is earnestly desired that those who are interested in gardening, stock raising or farming will feel free to ask for any information from him through these columns, that may be desired. All letters may be sent either to the Editor or managing Editor. Let the letters be clear and pointed and designed to secure information of practical value.
PRESIDENT PRILLERMAN ATTENDS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

President Byrd Prillerman attended the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association in Detroit, Michigan, February 22-25, 1916.

He says that the attendance was the largest in the history of the Association, there being more than four thousand present. President Shawkey, the efficient State Superintendent of West Virginia, deserves great credit for bringing so many able educators together and for giving those in attendance such a well balanced program. Mr. Prillerman says he met only two other Negro teachers. They were Prof. Frank Williams, Principal of the Summer High School, St. Louis, Mo., and Prof. J. W. Hughes, Principal of the school in East St. Louis, Ill. It is rather remarkable that such few persons especially interested in Negro education attend these national gatherings, where the ablest educators of the country discuss subjects of such vital interest to the welfare of the nation. It is generally conceded that the National Education Association is largely the molder of educational sentiment in this country.

While in Detroit, Mr. Prillerman was the guest of Messrs. John and Cornelius Curtis. In company with these gentlemen, he visited the Ford automobile factory, where he was greatly impressed with Mr. Ford's system of education.

From Detroit, Mr. Prillerman went to Ann Arbor, Mich., to visit the State University. Here found about fifty Negro students in attendance. Among them was Miss Phyllis Waters, of Charleston, West Va., who is a member of the Junior class. He visited the Michigan Agricultural College at Lansing, where his son, Delbert McCullough, is a Junior in the Agricultural course. There were three other Negro students in attendance, but none from the state of Michigan. He was treated with every courtesy by the President and Professors of the Institution, and by invitation of the President, spoke at a banquet given by the Agricultural students.

On his return, he stopped over a few days in Columbus, where he visited the Champion Avenue public school, of which Miss Maude Baker is Principal. It will be remembered that this is the only school in Columbus especially for the education of Negro youth. It is an experiment in the Negro district of Columbus. Miss Baker is doing very efficient work as the Principal of this school. Mr. Prillerman visited the Ohio State University, where he found some fifty Negro students in attendance. Among these were eight from West Virginia. Four of the eight are graduates from the West Virginia Collegiate Institute—D. L. Ferguson of Institute, O. A. Pierce of Fayetteville, Emmett Saunders of Eagle, and John Johnson of Montgomery. It will be remembered that Ferguson holds the mile record at the Ohio State University, and has been selected as class-orator for the commencement next June. Mr. Prillerman spoke to the Negro students in a body, at their special request. He also visited the Ohio University, at Athens, where he found nine Negro students in attendance. While in Athens, he was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Berry of the Berry Hotel.

It should be more widely known that the Berry Hotel, is owned and operated by E. C. Berry, a Negro who has risen from the ranks. This hotel is regarded one of the best in Southeastern Ohio. In operating this hotel, Mr. Berry has proved two things that cause him to deserve national fame as a constructive and patriotic citizen. He has built his hotel without a saloon attached, and without discriminating against the members of his own race. There is probably no other Negro in America who has done more single-handed than has Mr. Berry in establishing and maintaining his hotel on the high principle he has.

Mr. Prillerman says that the Negro students have made a fine record in scholarship at all the institutions he visited, but he was impressed with the great lack of opportunity for moral and social training for Negro youth at these great universities. He is of the opinion that a Negro student would do well to take his college course in an institution provided with dormitories and a Negro faculty. Then, after passing through such a course of training, take a post-graduate course in one of the great Northern Universities, if possible.

TUSKEGEE'S NEW EXECUTIVE

[From W. Anthony Aery's article on R. R. Moton—Ed.]

On Monday afternoon of December 1915, a select committee of five from the trustees of Tuskegee Institute, met in the city of New York, and chose Robert Russa Moton to succeed the late Dr. Booker T. Wash-
Eli Whitney as president of the Tuskegee Institute.

The personnel of the committee was Scott Low chairman of the trustee board; Frank Trumbull chairman of the directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad; Edgar A. Bancroft, a Chicago attorney; W. W. Campbell, of Tuskegee; and Victor H. Tulane.

The friends of Emmet J. Scott were hopeful that his intimate acquaintance with the work of the institution, his thorough understanding of the business, and his sane view of the conditions in the southland, his great service for Tuskegee, would favorably influence the Board in its selection of a successor to Mr. Washington.

Tuskegee's new executive was born in 1867 in Amelia County, Va. and spent his early years on the Vaughn plantation at Pleasant Shade, Prince Edwards County, Va.

As a house servant on the Vaughn plantation, he had the opportunity to observe the customs, manners, and language of an aristocratic southern family.

In October 1885, he entered Hampton Institute, where his willingness to work won for him favors, and encouragement.

He was inclined to choose law for a profession, but was dissuaded from this choice by most of his teachers.

Dr. Washington, said of him, “It has been thru contact of men like Major Moton, that I have received a kind of education no books could impart. If more of our southern white people could see him, so calm, so unostentatious, so unpresuming and yet so thorough and efficient, they would never say again that the Negro race could not produce a pure blood leader”

“BACK TO THE FARM”

The rural melodrama, “Back to the Farm” was presented by a select company of students Friday night of March the third in chapel. The play was under the management of Professor N. A. Murray, and the proceeds from admission fees were donated to the Young Men's Christian Association.

A respectable crowd braved the inclement weather to witness the performance. While it was enjoyed, the pleasure was not as keen as that experienced at its first presentation, about one year ago.

An added feature to the play was the vocal numbers of the Clef Club, a mixed student glee club. “It's All Your Fault” introduced by Walter Hodge, called forth the greatest applause.

Master Laurence Prillerman, composed the music and words of the appropriate song, “Back to the Farm.”

Following is the program:

CAST

Charles Merrill—a farmer of the old school
Merton Merrill—his son
Mrs. Merrill—the farmer's thrifty wife
Rose Meade—the school ma'am
Gus Anderson—the hired man
Reuben Allen—a neighbor
Mr. Ashley—a lawyer and real estate man
Robert Powell—a senior-in-law
Marguerie Langdon—a society debutante
Hulda—the maid
I'm a Lonesome Melody, introduced by
Back to the Farm, original

ACT I.
The Merrill Farm—Mid-autumn 1916—Morning
When you Kiss your Mother Good-by, introduced by
It's All Your Fault, introduced by

ACT II.
The University of Minnesota—Five years later—At the fraternity Ball
Mother, introduced by
To Lou, introduced by

ACT III.
Merton's Study at the Merrill Farm—Two years later—Morning
When I leave the World Behind, introduced by

SEVEN YEARS OF PROGRESS AMONG COLORED SCHOOLS IN WEST VIRGINIA
1908 to 1915

Number of schools increased from 250 to 308
Number of teachers increased from 369 to 456
Salary of teachers increased from $93,000 to $151,000
Enumeration of pupils increased from 15,650 to 18,625
Enrollment of pupils increased from 9,830 to 14,290
Average daily attendance increased from . . . . . . . 6,745 to 9,880
Per cent of attendance based on enrollment increased from . 68 to 69
Per cent of attendance based on enumeration increased from . 43 to 53
Annual salary of teachers increased from . . . . . . . . . . . $254 to $332
Of the 456 teachers 306 of them or 67 per cent hold first grade certificates. Only 47 per cent of the white teachers hold first grade certificates.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO SMALL GARDENERS
From United States Department of Agriculture

KEEP YOUR GARDEN SOIL BUSY ALL SEASON

Where two or three crops are grown, a space 25 x 70 feet will produce enough vegetables for a small family. Even the small back yard may be made to yield a supply of fresh vegetables for the family table at but slight expense if two or three crops are successively grown to keep the area occupied all the time, according to garden specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. People who would discharge a clerk if he did not work the year round will often cultivate a garden at no little trouble and expense and then allow the soil to lie idle from the time the first crop matures until the end of the season. Where a two or three crop system is used in connection with vegetables adapted to small areas, a space no larger than 25 by 70 feet will produce enough fresh vegetables for a small family. Corn, melons, cucumbers and potatoes and other crops which require a large area should not be grown in a garden of this size. Half an acre properly cultivated with a careful crop rotation may easily produce $100 worth of various garden crops in a year.

WHEN TO WORK SOIL

If the garden was not broken in the fall it should be plowed in the spring as soon as the frost is out of the ground. Small areas may be worked with a spade, pushing the blades into its full depth and turning the soil to break up the clods. Heavy soil should never be worked when wet. Overzealous gardeners, ready to seize the first warm spell as a favorable opportunity to go out and work the heavy clay soil before it is dry, are not only wasting their energy, but are doing a dam-
On many soils it is advisable to apply commercial fertilizer, especially phosphate, in addition to the manure. An application of 300 to 600 pounds of acid phosphate to the acre is usually sufficient. If additional potash is needed, which is often the case with sandy soils, this may be economically supplied in the form of wood ashes. If the wood ashes are unleached they should be distributed over the garden, using 1,000 pounds to the acre. If they have been wet, or leached, 2,000 pounds should be used. An application of 100 pounds to the acre of nitrate of soda may be used in the spring to start the plants before the nitrogen in the manure has become available. It should be borne in mind that commercial fertilizers will not yield good results unless the soil is well supplied with humus. Sod or other vegetation which has overgrown a garden spot may be used to advantage. It should be turned under with a plow or a spade and will aid in lightening the soil and providing humus.

SCHOOL SPIRIT

School spirit is an almost indescribable something of which many schools boast and of which few can justly claim the proper brand. It is evidently something that energizes and inspires to greater things. It is something which serves as a tonic to the weak and as a sedative to the restless. It is not limited to time or place.

"School spirit is lacking there" is a sad commentary on the state of any group of students. It is equivalent to saying that all work is toil to them, that their natures are dead and listless to the touch of interest, or per chance that they have waited too long to feel that invigorating touch. What a contrast to this condition would be presented in the school where all are grateful for opportunity to engage enthusiastically in work and play and where all show loyalty to the purpose that guides, and confidence in the future that will be!

School spirit is sometimes subsidiary to class spirit, but it should always be first. We should suggest that every class in a school study the nature of its class spirit, and the method of development, and if it is found in full measure and of the proper kind, may that class not seek to join all others to elevate school spirit to the first rank by the same means. A school should at all times present a united front and to visitors we believe that the school as a whole should appear bigger than any class. To this end it would be well to consider the relative importance of class and school yells, songs, insignia and general activities. Rivalry is a great thing but union of effort is greater.

Visitors frequently judge the spirit and progressiveness of a school by the amount of yelling the students can do in a set time. This may be a poor criterion. Of course, if students love a school, are interested in its activities, and rejoice in its success, they will frequently become so exuberant with joy that a lusty yell is a good thing for them. There are, however, other evidences of school spirit, and these may be sought not only on the athletic field or in the gymnasium, but they may be observed in the class room; in the program of a literary society, in the pages of a school publication, in the detail work of a student reception, in the united effort of chapel singing, in the respect for school property, order and rights of others, or in the fellowship of the whole student body. —Shepherd College Picket.

TUBERCULOSIS SURVEY

of Fayette County, West Virginia.

In the Negro schools a high percentage of diseased tonsils and enlarged glands were found, but a low percentage of Tuberculosis, as will be seen from Table No. 1. The teeth of the Negro children, as a whole, graded better than those of the white children. As a rule, the Negro child was cleaner, better clothed, and better nourished than the white child of the same locality. The Negro schools, with few exceptions, were clean, well ventilated, and attractive.

—Dr. Juanita McFarland.

SECOND RECITAL OF MUSIC STUDENTS

At The West Virginia Collegiate Institute

The second recital this season of music students was given in Fleming Hall, W. V. C. I., Tuesday evening of February 29. The hall contained a capacity audience, not one of whom but felt well pleased with the evening's entertainment. The program was made up principally of the juvenile students, ranging in age from five to twelve years. Mrs. C. E. Mitchell, head of the music department, to whose training the success of the evening was due, used the opening chorus, and a few of the most pleasing gems of the Japanese operatta, "Ohanusan," as a vehicle to introduce the several numbers of the
program. The flower bedecked stage, Japanese swinging lanterns, together with the quaint costumes of the chorus and band of sixteen maidens created a veritable Japanese garden, rich with oriental color and teeming with the life of the land of the cheery blossoms.

Much merriment was caused by the shuffling gait of the Japanese sons and daughters. Another enjoyable feature was the recitation and college yell by little Clara Vernelle Spurlock, aged four.

The program is as follows:

**Sing, O hayo Vincent**

Girls’ Chorus

**Whatever Shall I Do**

Miss Clara Hill

Sayonara (Good Bye)

(a) Slumber Song
(b) Tip Toe Chorus

Girls’ Chorus

Busy Bee—Piano Duet

Eunice Pack, Leonade Pack

Silver Bells

Ruth Bolcher

Raise Your Hands if They Are Clean

Old German Melody

Eunice Pack

Happy Country Girl

Eula Jones, Myrtle Prillerman, and Imogene Johnson

Climbing Blossoms

Bessie Lovette

Follow Me Full of Glee

Lawson

The Clock (Recitation)

Clara Vernelle Spurlock

In Old Japan

Gaynor

Jesse Johnson, Madeline Johnson, Eunice Pack, Grace Canty, Alice Curtis

Dolly’s Lullaby

Williams

Sonatina

Eula Jones

Arlean Hicks

In Chinatown

Jesse Johnson and Chorus of Maidens

Bear Dance

Kathleen Woody

Engleman

Gathering Wild Flowers

Alice Curtis

Spaulding

At Dancing School

Leonade Pack

Arnold

Andante

Larvena Meadows

Hayden

Dolly’s Delight

Imogene Johnson

Ruth Canty

Japanese Love Song

Clayton Thomas

Rosetta Miller

Recitation

Clara Vernelle Spurlock

(a) I Can Make More Noise Than My Daddy

(b) The Little Sprite

Recitation

Dream Fancies

Gardner

Myrtle Prillerman

(a) Peasant’s Song
(b) Rondo

Horthan

Burgmiller

I Want to Go to Tokio

Kathleen Woody and Chorus of Japanese Maidens

Diligence is the mother of good luck.—Franklin

**PROGRESSIVE FARMERS CLUB**

W. A. Brown, Secretary

At the call of Professor A. W. Curtis, Director of the Agricultural Department of the West Virginia Collegiate Institute for all citizens who are interested in better farms, better gardens, and better homes, the district school of Institute on Monday night, March 6th, was well filled with people of the community.

There were informal addresses made by those present. Out of the many helpful suggestions it was decided that in order to make Institute the synonym of all that is good in citizenship, farms, gardens, livestock, homes and children it was necessary to co-operate.

Therefore a club was organized to be known as the “Progressive Farmers Club”. The following officers were elected, A. W. Curtis, President, W. A. Brown, secretary.

The Club started with a membership of twenty-five. The motto is “Progress”. The address delivered by A. W. Curtis, “Live Stock on the Farm”, was very helpful to all.

Eight boys joined the Corn Club and fifteen boys and girls joined the Potato and Tomato Clubs.

The Club will meet the first Monday in each month.

**AROUND THE INSTITUTE**

Dr. L. G. Jordan, Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Association, and Reverend Daniel Stratton of St. Albans were visitors at the school February the 29th.

In honor of Dr. Jordan’s visit the school convened in the chapel at 3:45 p.m., and listened to a very instructive address by Dr. Jordan on the necessity for aiding foreign missions. Several specimens of native African handiwork in cloth weaving, fiber weaving and iron work was shown.

Mr. John Branch was called home to Hilltop, February sixteen on account of the serious illness of his mother. She survived eight days after her son reached her bedside.

She died the 29th day of February.

Mr. Samuel Burke of the Normal Class of 1916, an intimate friend of Mr. Branch and his family, attended the last sad rites.

The public discussions of the Senior Normal class which are held fortnightly on Thursdays in room number three, Fleming Hall, are attracting much attention.

This is a part of the seminar work in the professional reading course of the class. Some of the
members of the class are showing ability in their reviews and research. The meetings of February 24 and March ninth were especially interesting.

Dr. I. Garland Penn, secretary of the Southern Education Board of the M. E. Church and Reverend J. S. Carrol, resident pastor of Simpson M. E. Church of Charleston were visitors at the Institute, Tuesday morning, March 7.

Dr. Penn was fresh from a lecture delivered in Simpson Chapel, and, in the address given to the faculty and student body Tuesday morning, much of the spirit and force of his previous lecture entered. His remarks were instructive and entertaining.

Rev. Carroll spoke briefly afterwards.

Prof. A. W. Curtis, called a meeting of the citizens in the village school, Monday night of March the 7th. The object of the call was the organization of a Farmers’, or Rural Progressive Club. The object is the advancement of everything that stands for community uplift. Mr. Curtis and Mr. W. A. Brown were elected chairman and secretary respectively.

The following students have been granted temporary leave of absence: Hazel Taylor, Mary Smith, Sallie Reynolds, Alletha Woods, and Edward Mills.

Mr. Don W. Jones, our efficient teacher of printing has been invited to take part on the program of the International Association of Teachers of Printing, which will meet in New York City April 17th and 18th, 1916.

The Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations will hold its next meeting November 15-17, 1916, at the New Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C.

Mr. A. W. Curtis gave a lecture on progressive rural conditions at the village schoolhouse Friday night of the 11th inst. The lecture was enhanced by the exhibition of pictures thrown on a large canvas by an up to date projection lantern which the Collegiate Institute has recently purchased.

The effect of the lecture was partially marred by chalk throwing.

Mr. A. Elvin Howard, an alumnus of the school is erecting a store room on one of his lots at the corner of Washington Avenue and the County road in Institute City.

Mr. Dewitte Meadows, teaching at Nutallburg was a flying weekend visitor in the village the 11th inst. Mr. Meadows was looking after important business.

The faculty passed a vote of greetings and congratulations to be extended to Dr. W. H. Lowry, in tribute to his graduation from the Dental department of Iowa State University, the fifth inst. It is pleasantly recalled that Dr. Lowry is an alumnus of this school, and was for years, teacher in mathematics and military science here.

Mrs. C. E. Mitchell, instructress in music, attended grand opera in Cincinnati, January 31, and February 1 and 2. She also attended the lectures of several famed travelers.

Pres. Prillerman lectured for Rev. D. S. Slaughter Sunday night February 6, at St. Albans. He had an appreciative audience.

Mr. William Colbert, an ex-student, visited the school the 11th inst., and spent the time pleasantly among his former classmates.

The Relax O Club, composed of young ladies, gave a valentine party in the parlors of MacCorkle Hall, the night of February 14.

President and Mrs. Prillerman, were among the invited guests.

Mrs. W. W. Jackson, wife of Prof. W. W. Jackson, is visiting the professor. Mrs. Jackson, by her pleasant manner, has made many friends here. She expresses herself as well pleased with the West Virginia hills.

Miss Skipwith Campbell underwent a minor operation for nasal trouble February 3. It has resulted in much relief to her.

A review course is in preparation, and is expected to be started the first of the spring term.

Mr. C. E. Jones supervised an examination of aspirants for the Teacher Training Course Diploma, February 14.

Efforts are being made to enroll each student of the school in the Bible Classes. At the present, the student body and teachers are spiritedly engaged in Bible study.

CLASS AND SOCIETY OFFICERS

SENIOR CLASS

President..........Leonard Hughes
Vice Pres..............Walter Watkins
Secretary............Cornelia Gray
Treasurer............Myrtle Jones

JUNIOR CLASS

President.........Lawrence Pillerman
Vice Pres..........Joseph Peters
Secretary.........Alphonse Simpson
Treasurer.........Lorena Claytor

FRESHMAN CLASS

President..........Florence Edwards
Vice Pres...........Ernest B. Ndazi
Secretary............Ethel Wade
Treasurer............Grace Harris
Y. W. C. A.
President Gertrude Cain
Vice Pres. Bessie Foster
Secretary Dora Stevens
Treasurer Vietta Briggs

Y. M. C. A.
President James Washington
Vice Pres. Bernard Brown
Secretary Russel Carpenter
Treasurer Lee Scott

PHYLIS WHEATLEY LITERARY SOCIETY
President Mabel Sinkford
Vice Pres. Ida Morgan
Secretary Lessie Simson
Critic Ardonia Price

DOUGLAS LITERARY SOCIETY
President Christopher Scott
Vice Pres. James Harris
Secretary Ada Peters
Critic Ethel Peters

BULL MOOSE LITERARY SOCIETY
President Erskine Jackson
Vice Pres. Maceo Simpson
Secretary Clyde Hardy
Critic Philip Johnson

COLLEGE DEPARTMENT
FRESHMAN CLASS
President Emma Wade
Vice Pres. Vada Terry
Secretary Myrtle Irving
Treasurer John Branch

LITERARY SOCIETY
President D. W. Jones
Vice Pres. Vada Terry
Secretary Russell Moss