

# The College Times.

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The Stellenbosch College and the institutions in connection with it have on their rolls about 300 boys, a number that shows very well on paper and should show very well everywhere else. Unfortunately this is not the case. At the Athletic Sports last year there were about thirty competitors in all. What does this number look like when we place 300 below it as a denominator? One out of every ten entered the lists, and two hundred and seventy lads preferred 'looking on', just as if the sports had been got up for the elect and the οἰκονομοί were supposed to stand by and see their equals pass. We vouch for the fact that, at the sports of the Athletic Club of a public school elsewhere, sixty out of a hundred pupils not only entered their names for the sports but turned up to date and every one of them went in for one or more of the events.

If the fellows would only be enthusiastic about the sports our 'meet' on the 6th. must be a great success. The students of the Theological Seminary are, or ought to be, fond of a little itinerant preaching. If they would take in hand to explain to the youngsters what a handicap means, and how they could have equal chances

of beating, and the pleasure of competing with the bigger fellows, and to exult upon the benefits of training upon both mind and body maintaining the famous old adage "mens sana in corpore sano." Of course permission is granted to "wander from the subject as much as possible as a matter of course."

The Theologians would, by their 'able and interesting lectures', and by the keen appreciation of the value of the opportunities now before them, do far more good by assisting us than by keeping aloof. We will have something more to say about the sports in future issues, but in the meantime our advice to the fellows is get into trim as soon as possible.

We cannot sufficiently dwell upon the importance of training for the several events; each and every one requires a particular kind of exertion. Practise and compete with your friends daily; strive to surpass former performances and do not trust too much to the skill which procured laurels last half.

So at it lads, and let your performances in March next be such as will bear favourable comparison with those of other Colleges.

THE COLLEGE TIMES.

By permission we publish the following extracts from a contribution to the College Web. S. Journal. These are two out of ten events which the Chronicle was charged with not mentioning.

"His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to recognise the long and continued services of Mr. James Whitehall to the youth of Stellenbosch and has appointed him member of the College Council. A valuable co-operator has thus been added to the list of the 'pomm that be' and the College and School boys are delighted to think that they will get holidays more easily now. . . ."

"Professor Charles Murray has cabled to his friend Bismarck as to the advisability of accepting the captainship in the S.C.C., and has received the following: "Dear Charlie, I congratulate you old Chunkie, why, stick to the Corps, of course, and let the Athletic Club go home. You'll now be able to render me valuable aid when the time is ripe for my invasion of the Cape Colony. Hurrah! The eagle will still some day surmount the Union Jack. Mind you keep 'mum' though, don't let any Johnny hear of our plan. I should so like to pay off on that 'Isrand Old Monkey' yonder. He has played the devil with my ear. My only consolation is beer tobacco. Thank Paul Kruger for the last supply he sent. Tell him to send more. Get some ostrich feathers for Mrs. Bismarck who is much better thanks; the twins are also doing well. Give my love to

Freddie Cuts, Kupperburgie, Krause, and Ferdie Weber. Pray salute my dear friends Fischer and Biersch each with a hearty kiss. Adieu."

At the end of his lecture on Friday evening Professor Marais declared himself a very loyal subject of Her Majesty the Queen. It was a great pity that some of his audience should so emphatically have shown dissimilar sentiments by remaining seated while 'God save the Queen' was being played by the band.

It would be advisable for the Dutch Consul to consult the powers in Holland as to the advisability of establishing a cordon round the bases of the Stellenbosch mountains. It would be in the interests of humanity, and a service to the College and School by preventing the loss of many valuable teachers.

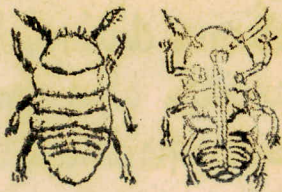
We sigh when we think how often we have to remind our Municipality of its duty. Hardly a day passes but complaints are heard from persons in different parts of the village about nuisances caused by the existence of pigstyes. The odours are described as awful, abominable, unendurable. Surely it is unhumanlike to let the present state of matters exist. The pigstyes are public nuisances and is it not your duty, commissioners, to do away with such? Prosecute the owners, or compensate them, but for heavens sake make our air pure.

# THE PHYLOXERA VASTATRIX

[Written for the 'College Times' by  
Mr Blesch, Assistant Laboratory Professor.]

In the year 1865 a marked retrogression of the vineyards in some places in the South of France was observed. After some investigation innumerable, small insects were found on the roots. The name Phylloxera Vastatrix ( $\phi\upsilon\lambda\lambda\omicron\nu$  (leaf)  $\xi\pi\omicron\varsigma$  (dry)), was given them. It is supposed that this frightfully destructive insect was brought into Europe from America.

The Phylloxera is scarcely visible to the naked eye. In the state of infancy it is of a light yellow colour, which changes into a darker hue as the insect becomes older. The body



is oval-shaped and near its head are two strong feelers, and a thick proboscis. It has six short legs.

The insects increase in number at an enormous rate. The progeny of a single female being estimated at a few million per year. It is because of their immense number that the Phylloxera are such formidable antagonists.

Different stages of development

are known, but I shall here distinguish only between the winged and wingless insect. The winged are less numerous and live on the leaves of the vine; but are dangerous, because they spread the pest. The wingless insects are far superior in number, live on the roots and are the real destroyers of the vine.

On entering an infected vineyard it is at once observed how the growth of some vines have been retarded. As a matter of fact the destruction proceeds in direct proportion from the centre.

A sure sign of the presence of the insect is however the swellings visible on the youngest shoots of the roots.

The assistance of a microscope removes all doubt.

Every conceivable remedy has been tried against this formidable insect. A complete destruction of the insect is impossible without the total destruction of the vines, and is attained then by burning the vine and disinfecting the ground with Carbon Di-sulphide. To battle successfully against the disease, and to preserve the wine industry of the Colony, it is not sufficient to destroy the infected vines and take measures against its spread, but the American vines, which are said to be proof against the attacks of the phylloxera, should as soon as possible be planted and the Cape vine ingrafted on the root.

Professor Marais' lecture on the subject of "Types and Phases of Boer life and character" on Friday evening was very much enjoyed by the audience assembled in the Hall of the Y. M. C. A. As usual on such occasions by far the greater part of the audience was young people, very many of the boys, being sons of farmers found a peculiar interest in hearing the speaker tell of ancestors and friends. The story of the journey through the Karoo no doubt brought up recollections of personal experience; and the description of the South African Boer the image of familiar features. The names of Com Karel and Com Villiers were to most names "familiar as household words"; the tales of adventure and peril the repetition of stories told at the home fireside. However none of the old stories suffered in any way by repetition, and the appreciation of the essay was more than once shown by enthusiastic cheering as each successive familiar scene or face was described by the lecturer in eloquent language.

Presentation of a sword to Capt. Muller  
After the lecture Mr. Malan mounted the platform and made an imposing speech (this our reporter took down verbatim but we regret the value of space prevents us from publishing.) Suffice it is to say that the speaker extolled the virtues of Mr Muller, and buttered the Corps. At the close of the burst of oratory Mr Malan handed the sword to Mr J. Krige. That gentleman in reply warmly

thanked the Corps on behalf of Mr Muller. After some remarks by Professor Walker the distribution of Prizes took place. Mrs. Bright kindly presented the prizes (books), and spoke a congratulatory word to the successful cadets.

The following were the prize-takers:-  
1. J. F. Marais (Band) 2. Sgt Botha, and Private M. de Beer. Aeq. 3. M. Botte (Band) and Corp. Wammenburg. 4. Lieut. Baartman and Sgt. Maj. Schuurman Aeq. 5. Ex-Captain Grobbelaar. 6. Private Soose.

Capt. Marchand then made a few remarks expressing himself pleased with the spirit prevailing between officers and men. Colonel Southey had not long ago expressed himself highly satisfied with the Corps and has been heard to remark elsewhere that the Stellenbosch Cadet Corps was the best drilled Corps in the Western Province.

The Band of the Cadet Corps played several selections during the evening, and Miss Melville also contributed a piano-forte solo, for which she was heartily thanked by Junior Captain Murray. Professor Walker having thanked Mrs. Bright for so kindly appearing to present the prizes, and a vote accorded to the lecturer of the evening the proceedings terminated by the singing of the National Anthem.

The only difference there is between the Gymnasium and the College is that while the latter sadly requires drafts, the teachers of the former complain of the many draughts.