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# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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THE ASSOCIATE ALUMNÆ, NORMAL COLLEGE,  
PARK AVE. AND SIXTY-EIGHTH ST.

IV. There will be unlimited opportunity for the Entertainment Committee to furnish pleasure evenings for the girls of the club and their parents when the club is in running order.

Well may the Alumnæ cherish this tree of their own planting. "In the children is the seed corn of the nation." Deeper than this we may not strike. In these little ones lie the possibilities of the great future, and it behooves us rightly to appreciate the fact. We must remember what Lowell says of the trees :

"'Tis good to set them early, for our faith  
Pines as we age, and after wrinkles come  
Few plants, but water dead ones with their tears."

No theorists we, sprinkling in vain conceit of our deeds the arid deserts of social evil with a few drops of water. We are tending a tiny plant, a veritable rose of the desert, in the full assurance that in its upward growth it will appeal unto high heaven for nourishment and support, until the running sands be changed to corn. It shall be one

"Whom the rain and the wind purgeth,  
Whom the dawn and the daystar urgeth."

Gracious influence shall go forth from it, as gracious influence shall be drawn to it from sun and sky and cloud.

"In the wide thaw and ooze of wrong  
Adhere to this foundation strong,  
The insanity of towns to stem,  
With simpleness for stratagem."

ELIZABETH JARRETT, M.D.

**Prof. Edward S. Burgess.**

The Department of Natural Science in the College is fortunate in obtaining Prof. Edward S. Burgess to succeed the late Prof. Day.

Prof. Burgess has been in charge of the Department of Natural Science in the High School at Washington since 1882. His work in the Summer School at Martha's Vineyard, where he has had charge of the Botanical Department since 1881, is well known to many of our Alumnæ, who have enjoyed the rare privilege of studying under his leadership.

Prof. Burgess was graduated from the State Normal School at Fredonia, N. Y., in 1875. In 1879 he was graduated from Hamilton College, N. Y., and three years later received his M. A. from the same institution. In 1881-2 he was made Fellow in Johns

Hopkins University, and was Instructor in Botany there in 1885.

Prof. Burgess is the author of several works on botany, and to him was assigned the work of writing up botanical definitions for the "Century Dictionary," letters M to Z.

Prof. Burgess was chosen for the work in the Normal College because of his peculiar genius in teaching teachers, and in inspiring them with enthusiasm for, and power to impart, the natural sciences.

Those of us who know Prof. Burgess and his work extend to him a cordial welcome and best wishes for his success in this newly chosen sphere.

ELIZABETH JARRETT, M.D.

Graduates of the College who desire to join the Associate Alumnae may do so by paying an initiation fee of one dollar and the regular yearly dues of one dollar. No back dues need be paid. Communicate with the Treasurer, Mrs. Chas. Stuart Douglas, No. 101 West Ninetieth street.

#### Bird Notes.

During all the cold weather and hard times of the past winter, how many, I wonder, have given a thought to our feathered friends in Central Park? Some few have not neglected to call frequently on the birdies, and of their abundance spread a feast for those who stayed to defy the traditional enemy of the little folk of the air — the cold.

January and February seem unpromising months for the study of birds, and yet that is the best time for a beginner to get his first clear ideas. The few birds that are then about become as familiar to him as old friends, before the great bird wave starts in with the coming of spring.

During the coldest weather of winter, a visitor in the Ramble might any day have seen a cheery little fluff of gray, with black cap and throat, and white cheeks, darting among the branches, swinging by his dear little toes and telling the passers-by all the while that his name was "chick-a-dee-dee-dee." Emerson says of one :

"Piped a tiny voice hard by,  
Gay and polite, a cheerful cry,  
Chick-chick-a-dee-dee ! saucy note  
Out of sound heart and merry throat,  
As if it said, ' Good day, good sir !  
Fine afternoon, old passenger !  
Happy to meet you in these places,  
Where January brings few faces.' "