

MICHIGAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

By FRED L. KEELER
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

From "Michigan—The Land of Plenty," in a comparative study of the 48 states by the Russell Sage Foundation, Michigan, considered from the various educational standpoints, is accorded a place above the average. The educational conditions are such as to be worthy of considerable pride to the citizens. There is no other public interest in the state to be compared to that of the public schools. President Emeritus Angell of the University of Michigan declares that the people of Michigan have a "veritable passion for education."

From the very beginning of our state life public education has been recognized as a state function. The ordinance of 1837 set forth the principle: "Religion, morality and civility being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." From this principle there has been developed a tradition. Each successive constitution has reaffirmed it. The provisions have been worked out by educational laws. No state has better provided for her children in the matter of school funds. The primary school field, provided for in the early history of the territory, has been kept intact for the past century. The fund yields an income annually of over five million dollars. About seven cents per capita are appropriated of about seven dollars is distributed annually to school districts.

There are over 520,000 boys and girls enrolled in the schools of Michigan. The total expenditures for the past year are estimated at \$18,000,000. The number of pupils in the eighth grade, exclusive of graded schools, has increased 10 per cent and the number of eighth grade districts a corresponding amount. The number of teachers has increased 15 per cent and the salaries have doubled. The estimated value of school property in ungraded and graded districts is estimated at \$1,000,000,000. The average cost of the schoolhouses built last year was \$12,000. There are 1,500 rural school houses, 2,000 city school houses and 10,000 more volunteers with \$10,000,000 added to their support.

Michigan is justly proud of her university, normal school system, technical institutions and colleges. The city school systems are second to none. The tendency toward a school system which shall exist for the majority. High grade and high schools are tending toward more practical training. In an department there has been a greater recent improvement than in rural education. A county normal system was established by law in 1902, the sole purpose of which is the training of teachers for the rural schools. There are this year training classes in 45 counties in the state. More than 5,000 teachers have been graduated from these classes and today nearly 60 per cent of the rural teachers in this state have had some normal training.

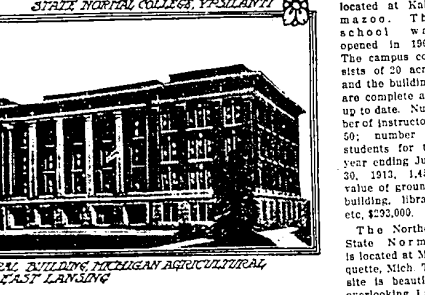
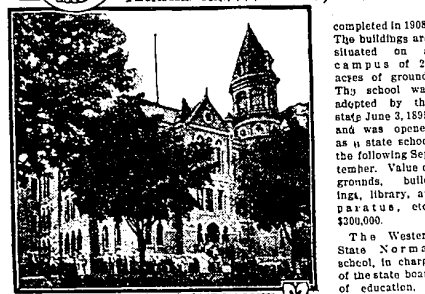
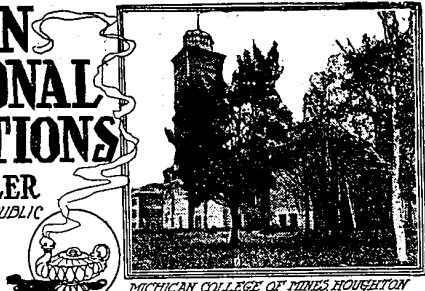
A system of standard schools has this year been established, the object of which is to assist in the improvement of the one-room rural school. The requirements concerning buildings, grounds, equipment, organization and teachers have been fixed. A school meeting these requirements is awarded a diploma and designated a standard school. The Michigan schoolhouse, a type of a one-room building, is recommended by the state superintendent. With the advocated establishment of a larger administrative unit the Michigan rural school system will be unexcelled.

The State university is located at the city of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw county. Its present organization dates from 1837, although several acts were passed prior to that year for the establishment of a university. It comprises the department of literature, science and the arts, the department of engineering, the department of medicine and surgery, the department of law, the school of pharmacy, the homeopathic medical college, the college of dental surgery and the college of agriculture. Its government is vested in a board of regents elected by the people for a term of eight years. The present valuation of its property is \$4,672,717.41.

The State Agricultural college is situated on a farm of 654 acres at East Lansing, three miles east of the city of Lansing, Ingham county. It was established in 1865 and is designed to afford thorough instruction in agriculture, forestry, veterinary science, home economics and mechanic arts, and the natural sciences connected therewith. The control of the institution is vested in the state board of agriculture, the members of which are elected from the state at large for a term of six years.

The Michigan College of Mines is a state institution, located at Houghton. The object of the college is to educate men to assist in the development of the mineral wealth of the country. Its graduates holding prominent positions. It is situated among active mines, mills and smelters, to all of which it has access for the training of its students, and of which it makes constant use. The course of study is eminently practical. For this reason many mature men come to it for instruction. It has ten large and well equipped buildings for use in its technical work. The Michigan College of Mines is under charge of a board of control consisting of six members appointed by the governor. Each of the present members of the board is prominent in the mining industry of the state. Its course of instruction cover mathematics, physics, chemistry, assaying, metallurgy, drafting, civil, mining, mechanical and electrical engineering, hydraulics, geology, etc.

The State Normal college, located at Ypsilanti, Washtenaw county, was established in 1849. Its first cost was \$25,000, and the present valuation of the building was \$550,000. The school is under the control of the state board of education, the members of which are elected by the people for a term of five years. Its sole purpose is to furnish competent teachers for the several grades of the state's public schools. Its enrollment is made up chiefly of Mount Pleasant, Ingham county, and consists of a commodious building capable of accommodating 700 students. In 1901, a new training school building and a large addition to the original building were erected. The legislature of 1905 appropriated \$25,000 for a central heating and lighting plant. This plant is in operation and has a capacity sufficient to heat and light the present buildings and any building that may be subsequently erected on the campus. In 1907 the legislature appropriated \$50,000 for a physical training building which was



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The Married Life of Helen and Warren

By MABEL HERBERT URNER
Originator of "Their Married Life," Author of "The Journal of a Neglected Wife," "The Woman Alone," etc.

Helen by a Subterfuge Wins Her Point and Avoids a Quarrel With Warren

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It was a faint, furtive knock—the knock of the maid from across the hall, Emma closed the lexbox noisily and pretended not to hear.

"Isn't that door at the same?" Helen was dropping into another place. Helen brought the oil, and Mrs. Stevens, ripping off her long, white gloves, rubbed it gently over Emma's soot-streaked face.

Because of her aversion for the girl, and the feeling that she was not overclean, Helen had shrunk from touching her. And now with a tinge of competition she watched Mrs. Stevens' unconscious solicitude.

"If you'll give me a brush, I'll brush out this staged hair!" Under Mrs. Stevens' kindness and tact, Emma was fast recovering from the shock. Her hair brushed, they persuaded her to lie down.

In the bathroom, Helen gave Mrs. Stevens a hand-brush and a fresh cake of guest soap. But, lacking the oversweetness that was with Helen almost an affliction, she merely rinsed her hands under the faucet.

"How is she?" asked Warren. "How about our dinner?" "Nonsense!" laughed Mrs. Stevens. "You and Henry stay there—we'll serve the dinner in no time."

"They found the kitchen freskly cool from the open window, but the smoke had all blown out. Except for broiling the chicken and the sauce for the cauliflower, everything was ready."

"I'll be there in half an hour they had dinner on the table." "Wonder there's not more accidents with these gas stoves?" commented Mrs. Stevens as they sat down. "Lucky it didn't burn her face."

"She must have turned on the oven before she lit the match," frowned Warren. "Mighty dangerous thing to do." "You warned her about that repeatedly!" Helen was serving the soup. "But her mind's not on her work—she's thinking of those elevator boys."

ORCHARD TOPICS

CULTIVATION IN AN ORCHARD

Ground Should Be Gone Over Every Week or Ten Days to Secure Plant Food and Save Moisture.

As the principal objects of summer cultivation are to liberate plant food and conserve soil moisture, the ground should be gone over once every week or ten days according to the frequency of rains. The cultivation should be discontinued about the middle of July as the trees are no longer in a state of vigorous growth.

The fruit buds for the next year are at this time fully matured and the care of the trees can now be ended by the sowing of a cover crop of some kind. When plowed under the next spring this crop supplies the necessary amount of humus, stores up nitrogen and prevents the soil from being washed by heavy rains.

There is a wide variety of suitable cover crops, but legumes are the most suitable. Duckwheat is one of the best non-nitrogen gathering crops and may be sown late in the summer. Vetches are very good cover crops. Winter rye is less suitable but may be used when the earlier sown crops fail.

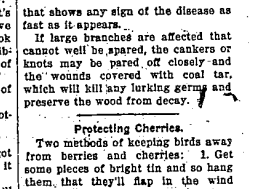
For soil protection and promotion of fertility are the objects in view, these crops should be sown thick enough to closely cover the ground. These crops supply the required amount of nitrogen in most cases. If not, the trees will suffer by light colored, unhealthy looking foliage and stunted growth. Nitrate of soda, in quantities of from 50 to 100 pounds per acre, sown early in the spring is the best method of supplying nitrogen when it is needed.

Many growers contend that late cultivation and fertilization promotes a strong growth of new wood, which being frozen in the winter will injure the trees, while others claim the contrary, and mention the results of experiments to prove their argument.

BLACK KNOT OF PLUM TREES

Very Prevalent Disease and Also Affects Wild Cherry—Cut Off Branches Showing Affection.

Black knot is a very prevalent disease on plum trees and it also affects the wild cherry, often causing it to spread to cultivated trees. The way to keep it in control is to cut off and burn every small branch



Black Knot on Plum Twig.

that shows any sign of the disease as fast as it appears. If large branches are affected that cannot well be spared, the cankers or knots may be pared off closely and the wounds covered with coal tar, which will kill any lurking germ and preserve the wood from decay.

Protecting Cherries. Two methods of keeping birds away from berries and cherries: 1. Get some pieces of bright tin or so hang them, that they'll flap in the wind against a pole 10 by 12 inches is a good size; punch a hole near the edge for the string. 2. Tie a cord to a potato, stick it full of large feathers, and hang it where it will swing in the wind over the fruit to be protected; make a number of these if one is not sufficient.



Mabel Herbert Urner.

ORIGINAL "HAROLD SKIMPLOE"

Newly Discovered Letter on Old Literary Enigma Reveals Some Light.

Was Harold Skimploe, in "Black Hunt," a caricature of Leigh Hunt? The old literary enigma has received attention again by the discovery of a hitherto unpublished letter to Charles Dickens by "C. K. S.," which is reproduced in his literary columns in the Sphere.

This new letter is probably an answer to the last appeal of Leigh Hunt made to the novelist to give assurance in a public manner that the wretched creature Skimploe was not a portrait of himself. Zealous Dickensians have done their utmost to clear the novelist's name in respect of this charge of cruelly caricaturing a noble man, but they receive little if any support from Dickens' own works.

And the new letter is only one more evasion. "My dear Leigh Hunt," he writes from God's Hill, in June, 1859, "believe me, I have not forgotten that matter; nor will I forget it. To alter the book itself would be to revive a forgotten absurdity, and to establish the very association that is to be denied and discarded."

"But, as 'C. K. S.' points out in his comment on this literary find, there is ample evidence that Dickens was sorry for the portrait and vowed 'never to do so any more.'"

Not a Movie Maniac. "Jay Green isn't much of a sport," said Pip Mauldin of Skeedee. "The last time me and him was in Kansas City we went to see one of them movies about that hegin at eleven o'clock in the mornin' and run till eleven at night. And, by thunder, we hadn't been in there more than three or four hours till he began to yawn that he was gittin' bored enough of it."—Kansas City Star.

Bathers Properly Warned. On the wall in a barber shop in a Carbon county (Colo.) town used to be a sign that read: "Those wanting baths, take notice: Ten cents extra will be charged if water is splashed over the partition. Don't get too enthusiastic."

"Then she'll have to lie down, She'll in no condition to serve dinner. We'll take the Stevenses out."

"Oh, dear, that isn't necessary! The Emma has it all ready; we can serve it ourselves. There they are now!" as the bell rang.

"You stay here with her, I'll go," and Warren strode to the door. Mrs. Stevens in any emergency was always most capable, and now she came hurrying out, anxious to help.

"What're you doing—cold cream? I think olive oil's much better." Helen brought the oil, and Mrs. Stevens, ripping off her long, white gloves, rubbed it gently over Emma's soot-streaked face.

"Because of her aversion for the girl, and the feeling that she was not overclean, Helen had shrunk from touching her. And now with a tinge of competition she watched Mrs. Stevens' unconscious solicitude."

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