

been effected in the appearance of the lecture room and chemical laboratory that would astonish the "old-timers." A steam pump that had outlived its usefulness, and had given way to one of more modern design, was transformed into an engine for working a pump to condense oxygen and hydrogen. It stands at the right of the door at the entrance to the lecture room. By its use, these gases are packed into cylinders and are always "on tap," to run the excellent lantern that has been added to this department of the school. The utility of this apparatus becomes apparent in many ways, especially in the study of anatomy and botany. Near the engine stands a three-story case, filled with beautiful and ingenious appliances for class use. At the back of the room is a commodious herbarium case, furnished with a large collection of plants for the botany classes. Large twenty-four-cell batteries illustrate the work in electricity, while the chemistry classes are assigned places at tables in the adjoining room, where the study is pursued by objective work on the part of the pupils themselves. A Bunsen filter pump adorns the south wall of the laboratory, and a lathe for wood and metal, a furnace, a bench and vise, numerous wash-bowls supplied with water from the cisterns in the roof, and many other conveniences are close at hand.

The work in physics has also changed its character to conform to modern ideas of teaching. A large case is filled with excellent apparatus from the establishment of James W. Queen and other manufacturers, and the pupils constantly use it in their work. This collection is increased from time to time by the liberality of the Board of Education. About a year ago, a four-inch glass was obtained from the celebrated house of Alvin Clark & Sons, and the astronomy classes are enabled to form a more intimate acquaintance with our celestial neighbors.

The room formerly used as the boys' play-room was remodeled about two years ago and is now used by Miss Rosalie Miller, the teacher of drawing. During the summer vacation of 1882, the dressing room in the southwest corner was converted into a class room for the observation classes, and the adjoining dressing room was furnished with cases and will henceforth be used as the library room. The part of the basement formerly occupied by the janitor was fitted up for the gentlemen's dressing rooms.

WORK OF THE UNDER-GRADUATES.

In Dr. Hewett's paper will be found certain statements respecting the attendance of pupils, and the reasons for the small percentage of graduates. The work of the under-graduates, however, is worthy of a large place in this volume. As has been stated, the reputation of the school must probably rest chiefly with them.

It was often charged by members of the Legislature, who were hostile to the institution, that students do not redeem their pledge to teach, but that, after receiving instruction at State expense, they enter other professions or other lines of business. The only way to reach just conclusions is to secure the facts in the case. To this end an attempt was made in 1878 to settle the question. Correspondence was opened with students, addresses were ascertained, and, by one device and another, reports were received from over nine hundred undergraduates who during the year 1878 were teaching.

It should be remembered that the canvass was necessarily imperfect, but it was demonstrated that more than one thousand of the pupils were actually teaching in the State at that time. This number is now undoubtedly increased very materially. When it is shown that one fifth of all the students that have attended the school are in the schools of the State twenty years after the establishment of the institution, it ought to settle the question forever as to whether or not the school is accomplishing its work.

J. W. COOK.

[The following poem was written by H. B. Norton, and read by Lucy Curtis at the dedication of the Wrightonian Society Hall in 1861.]

ABSALOM'S PILLAR.

(2D SAM'L, xviii-18)

Young Absalom sat on the palace stairs,
 Sucking a julep through a straw,
 And musing over his own affairs
 With a thoughtful visage as e'er you saw.
 Absalom was a handsome fellow
 As human being could wish to view;
 His hair was silken and long and yellow,
 Tied in a most miraculous cue.
 Let no mortal ever aspire
 In beauty to equal the dye of Tyre,
 Ophir gold, and Damascus blade,
 In which Prince Absalom sat arrayed.
 But the truth must be told at last—
 He was very decidedly fast.
 And yet, on account of his silken curls,
 His golden bracelets and glimmering pearls,
 His handsome face and his shining sword,
 By all young ladies was quite adored—
 Although Jerusalem's solid men
 Warned them against him with tongue and pen.

But Absalom never yet had married;
 Year on year he had patiently tarried
 To step into the Governor's shoes
 As lawful monarch of all the Jews;
 Then some Princess as bride to win,
 Nobly endowed with the needful "tin."