The Polytechnic Journal

San Luis Obispo, California

November, 1908
"I'm going to smoke the first half," declared Jack Best to Dutch Likens as he half proudly, half fearfully pulled a big brown cigar from his pocket.

"Won't you let me have one teeny puff right away?" asked Dutch.

"All right, if you only take one," said Jack, eyeing the other distrustfully.

They sat down in the shade of a large locust tree and Jack put the cigar between his lips and looked around proudly.

"Good see-gar, that," he said, while Dutch looked on with wide-open mouth and staring eyes.

"See if anyone's lookin'," said Jack as he lit the cigar, and Dutch cautiously peered around the corner of the shed.

"No one in sight," was his report.

Jack took a few puffs and then held out the cigar for Dutch.

"Just one, remember," he said.

Dutch kept his eyes on Jack's face as he took a big pull at the cigar.

"What if paw saw us?" he said after rubbing the smoke out of his eyes and glancing around the corner of the shed.

"Aw, pooh! I wouldn't run. You can't scare me," said Jack pompously, taking another puff.

There was silence for a few minutes, and the puffs came slower and slower. The younger boy watched every move.

Finally Jack handed the cigar to Dutch, saying: "Paw calls them there good see-gars!"

He put his head between his hands while Dutch blew out one cloud of smoke after another. His face looked very pale in contrast with his fingers. He looked at the cigar, which had not yet burned to the paper band, and shuddered.

The puffs from Dutch became fewer and fewer. He paused and put his hand to his head, and looked to see if Jack was watching. Then he said:

"You smoke the rest of it."

"Oh, no, you promised to smoke half."

"Are you sick?" asked Dutch, as he heard a smothered groan, while at the same time the tears stood in his own eyes.

"No, you can't make me sick on half a cigar," said Jack faintly, then added as an after thought: "Let's go home."
DECIMAL SEPARATRIXES.

Oughtred in 1631 in his Clavis Mathematicae (1), used the mark L for a decimal separatrix. In his Arithmetic (2), published in 1585, Stevinus had used a figure in a circle over or under each decimal place to indicate the order of that decimal place. Of the other decimal separatrixes, four are in common use today.

1. The period—As early as 1612 the period is used for a decimal point. This occurs in the trigonometric tables of Pitiscus (3). Napier, in the Rabdologia (4) (1617) speaks of using the period or comma. The period has always been the usual form of the decimal point in America.

2. The Greek colon (dot above the line). Newton advocated placing the point in this position “to prevent it from being confounded with the period used as a mark of punctuation.” In England it is usually written so now.

3. A vertical line, i.e., the line separating cents from dollars in ledgers, bills and other commercial forms. Napier used the line in his Rabdologia. It was also used temporarily in a work by Richard Witt (1613). This is a very common separatrix in all civilized countries today.

4. The comma. The introduction of the comma as a decimal point is to be assigned to Kepler (5) (1616), although the first known instance of its use as a decimal separatrix is said to be in the Italian trigonometry of Pitiscus (1608). It is used by Briggs in his table of logarithms (1624). Early English writers almost always employed the comma. Eventually English usage changed to the Greek colon. On the continent of Europe, however, the comma is still the usual form of the decimal point.

In that very interesting work, Scrap Book of Elementary Mathematics, Dr. White says ((p. 49): “The usage as to the decimal point is not absolutely uniform in any of the countries named, but in general one expects to see 1 25·100 written decimally in the form of 1.25 in America, 1·25 in England, and 1,25 in Germany, France or Italy. A mere space to indicate the separation may also be mentioned as common in print. The vertical line (for a column of decimals) and the space should doubtless persist, and one form of the ‘point.’”

The adoption of the comma as the one form of the “point” is strongly urged by a number of American writers. Prof. G. A. Miller, a leading American mathematician, says (6): “As the comma was in general use as a decimal point long before the period (7) and is now used for this purpose by a majority of the leading mathematicians, it would appear that the English-speaking people had considerable reason for considering the desirability of adopting the comma as the decimal point. In fact, this would only be re-adoption, since the early English writers, such as Briggs, were among the earliest to employ the comma as a decimal point. . . . . As mathematics is pre-eminently cosmopolitan and eternal it is very important that its symbols should be world symbols. All national distinctions
along this line should be obliterated as rapidly as possible."

(1). History of Math., Ball, p. 245.
(2). History of Math., Ball, p. 252.
(5). History of Math., Fink, p. 50.
(7). Geschichte der Elementar-Mathematik, Frapfke, II., p. 158.

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Favorite Songs of the Students.

Geo. T.—"I Wonder Why They Don't Love Me."
Hazel G.—"Won't You Be My Honey Boy?"
Mooney—"I'm Afraid to Go Home in the Dark."
Hertha S.—"You Can Hang Around If You've Got the Dough."
Rachael G.—"I Once Loved a Sailor, Oh, My."
Bessie H.—"Lonesome."
Rachael R.—"My Wild Irish Rose."
Levila S.—"True to Eyes of Blue."
McDowell—Two Blue Eyes or in Sunny South."

Murphy—"I Will Go to My Lonely Glenn."
Alma M.—"He is My Awl and Only."
Romeo—"Please Go Way and Let Me Sleep."
Jessie M.—"I Can't Seem to Understand."
Geo. B.—"Kiss Once More and Then Good-bye."
Glenn P.—"The Birds All Sing Elmer."
Edgar D.—"Only a Daisy From the Wildwood."

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He Changed His Mind.

"Oh! Oh! how you scared me!" said Mabel to a young strapping fellow who had sneaked up behind her and thrown his arms around her. "I didn't think you were anywhere near," she continued, gently releasing herself from his arms.

After a few minutes of desultory talk, during which Mabel deftly filled the crate with rich, juicy apricots, she asked: "Going to the dance Saturday night, Allan?"

"No," he replied slowly, his hand instinctively seeking his pocket. He had just a dollar, and it was three weeks before payday. "I don't think I will," he continued.

The girl gazed absently across the yard and a tear rolled down her cheek and splashed in her lap.

He saw it. There was a long silence, broken only by the rustling leaves overhead. Allan noticed the silence and thought hard, then said: "I believe I will go, providing you'll go with me."

Mabel turned her head and with a look of pretended surprise, and said: "It is so good of you to propose it, Allan."
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TERMS
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One impressive feature about the recent political campaign in San Luis Obispo county was the fact that the county platforms and the political speakers and candidates of all parties very heartily endorsed the Polytechnic School and pledged it their loyalty and legislative support.

We have already made a good record in athletics this year, and the future is bright. We need athletics not only for the physical exercise and individual discipline, but also to awaken and maintain our school loyalty and spirit of unity.

The team is chosen for the approaching debate, but there are other debates to follow. The time to begin training for future debates is right now. We ought to have a great many practice debates during the next few weeks. Fellows and girls, get busy!

The subscription manager says that not all the students have subscribed for the Journal, but the faculty are older and, consequently, wiser. In future years, if not now, you will highly value the record of school activities which this paper provides. Your name is likely to be printed in connection with social affairs, athletics, debating, school notes or joshes, and you will want to preserve a copy. Subscribe!

The cut on the first page of this issue of the Journal is a view in San Luis Obispo county where the regulars and State militia held joint maneuvers last month. We are indebted to Mr. Frank Aston, the photographer, for the pictures from which this and other cuts were made.

The trees and shrubs about the
school grounds are beginning to make a good showing. When we consider how few the years have been since the whole place was merely a worn-out grain field, and how few have been the dollars available for the work, we cannot but feel that the gardener, also, has made a good showing.

**BASKETBALL.**

On Saturday, Nov. 14, our basketball girls met defeat at the hands of the Arroyo Grande girls, 13 to 9. It was a well played game and good hard playing prevailed throughout. Our team was somewhat weakened by the absence of Miss Storni. Miss Watson played forward in Miss Storni's place in the first half, and Miss Swerdfeger in the second half of the game. The girls were in no way discouraged over their defeat, for they are confident of victory in the next game.

**THE AGRICULTURAL CLUB.**

About two years ago, Nov. 26, 1906, there was a meeting of the horticultural students in Mr. Roadhouse's room for the purpose of starting a Horticultural Club. At this meeting Mr. Roadhouse was elected temporary chairman and Earl Campbell temporary secretary. A constitution, which had been drawn up by an appointed committee, was read and accepted. There were sixteen charter members who signed the constitution. Meetings were continued throughout the year and were found full of pleasure and profit.

The next year the society was organized and conducted as an Agricultural Club, and it is on this basis that the organization is working this year. On Oct. 15 last, a meeting was called by Mr. Rubel. A temporary secretary was appointed by the chair and a short program followed. This program consisted of a very interesting talk on the California State Fair at Sacramento by Mr. Watson. He told of his experience while there, and pointed out some of the good and bad things at the Fair.

Another meeting was held on Oct. 19 for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year. The results of this election were: Mr. Rubel, President; Mr. Beck, Vice-President; Mr. McDowell, Secretary, and Mr. Manning, Treasurer.

The chair also appointed two standing committees; one on finance, and one on program.

This program committee will see to the arrangement for topics to be discussed at the meetings which are held twice a month. These topics are sometimes assigned to the members of the club, but often leading agricultural men of the State are secured to give talks on the lines of work in which they are interested.

Another interesting feature of this Club is the social department. Frequently, besides the regular program, there are musical and literary numbers or a feed.

Any member of the agricultural faculty or student body may be a member of the organization.
BASKETBALL.

On Saturday morning, Oct. 24, the girls' basketball team met and defeated the local High School girls at the High School grounds, 27 to 7.

On Saturday, Nov. 7, the boys' basketball team added another victory to their list when they defeated the Arroyo Grande team at Arroyo Grande, 27 to 6.

FOOTBALL.

On Friday afternoon, Oct. 30, the first football game of the season was played between the faculty and the students. It was an exciting game from start to finish, the students winning: 11 to 2. The ball had been in play only a few minutes when Cox, the halfback for the students, broke through the faculty's line with the ball and made a touchdown. Then the faculty, after much punting, made a safety. In the last part of the second half the faculty gave way, Tognazzini made a line buck for a touchdown and a goal was kicked, making the score 11 to 2. The feature of the day was the party of Red Cross nurses impersonated by four of the female members of the faculty, who appeared on the field to attend the crippled, but no one was in any way injured save for a few scratches and bruises.

The faculty showed good taste for football suits. They ranged all the way from overalls to real suits. Quilt and gunny sack padding was also in evidence. As much enthusiasm was shown over the game as if it had been a championship game in the league. The lineup was as follows:

Faculty. Regulars.

Griffith ........Center....... Knudsen
Joplin ........R. Guard....... Feldler
McDowell ......L. Guard...... Reilly
Gunn ...........R. Tackle....... Buck
Edwards ........L. Tackle....... Pezzoni
Condit ........R. End........... Judd
Duffy ...........L. End......... Awl
Johnston ......Quarter........ Beck
Waters ......Fullback... Tognazzini
Coleman ......R. Half......... Cox
Rubel ........L. Half......... Yates

A good deal of work is being done on the track in order to have it in shape for the coming season. The high places are being cut down and the low places filled in with sand. It will be a great improvement over the track of last year.

Owing to the interest shown on the football field during noon hours and evenings, little interest has been taken in the gymnasium work to which Mr. Condit has so willingly given his services.
Saturday evening, Oct. 24, occurred one of the many pleasant social entertainments that are to be given during the winter months at the Polytechnic. The basketball teams, both girls' and boys', of the San Luis High and Polytechnic Schools, were given a reception and dance by the dance committee of the Polytechnic School. The number of couples present was greater than at any previous time this year. There were several of our High School friends present, including those of the team.

The evening was spent in dancing, music for which was furnished by St. Clair's orchestra. The "old-time Junior punch" was served to the thirsty ones between dances. Lights went out at 11 o'clock, everyone present declaring the evening a success and wishing for another as pleasant in the near future.

DEBATING

On Dec. 4th the first regular debate of the season is to be held between the Poly debating team and the San Luis Obispo High School team. A great deal of interest is being aroused as to the result. If Polytechnic wins we have another chance of winning the cup, which has been won by us two seasons now; but if we lose, then the cup will not be ours for another year at least. Polytechnic has not been idle since the two questions were submitted. First a meeting of the society was held and the question and side was chosen. Poly will support the negative side of the question: "Resolved, That the United States Government should guarantee the bank deposits."

After the question and side was decided upon, teams got busy and worked up the material on both the affirmative and negative sides for the try-outs. First there was a preliminary debate and the best six of these took part in the final try-outs for the regular team.

This last debate was held in the assembly hall during the fourth period on Tuesday, Nov. 10. The speakers were as follows: Affirmative, Curl, Kendall and Bianchi; negative, Watson, Joplin and McDowell.

The negative side won and the team chosen was: Bianchi, Kendall and Watson.

It is now up to these three, with the help of the school, to win the debate.
Needed: A chaperon by two (too) young Poly students who nightly take mooney meanders through Cupid's pleasure grounds. (Ask F. M. and S. about it.)

Mr. Edwards in Chem.: "How does hydrogen taste?"
James W.: "It tastes sour."

"Have you heard Relley tell how he won the student-faculty football game?"

Notice to Senior Girls: "On cooking days don't offer Feldler any pie, because he will have to refuse."

For the Senior girls:

SKIDOO PUDDING.
"Twenty-three lemons, 1 egg and beat it. On trial this is found most delicious."

Wanted to Know: What is the difference between Rachael R. and a duck?
Answer: A duck says, "Quack, quack," and Rachael says, "Mac, Mac."

Tilton in Trig.: "Sine ali a equals—"
Mr. Ewing: "Who did you say equaled what?"

Bessie H., in Chem Lab.: "Roland, Roland, don't you hear me calling you?"

Mr. Johnston to F. S.: "Can't you shingle and spit tobacco juice at the same time?"

Mr. Condit to Freshy Smith: "What do we mean by respiration?"
Freshy Smith: "We lay down."

Found: A new dance, known as the "Sidewalk Shuffle."

Hazel G. says boys' faces are always so smooth after they shave. Oh, my!

Alma M. the day of the student-faculty football game: "Oh, say! but I'm proud of my Teddy B.!

"L. Watson has lately been seen coming from Shackleford's chicken ranch early in the morning. An explanation is necessary on his part."

Luminous student in Entomology: "I can't pronounce the botanical name of this bug."
A.: "Why do people use the expression, 'Not on your tin-type'?"

B.: "I suppose because it is a decided answer in the negative."

"Quickly made friendships are apt to fade the first time they go to the wash."—Ex.

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**SCHOOL NOTES**

At the assembly hour, Nov. 4th, the faculty and students had the privilege of listening a few minutes to Mr. John Whicher, who was one of the earliest advocates of our Polytechnic School.

Prof. E. E. Chamberlain, dean of the faculty of Throop Polytechnic Institute in Pasadena, addressed the school from 11:30 to 12 Thursday morning, Nov. 5th.

Early in the month Mr. Rubel was "loaned" for about a week to the State University Farm at Davis for the purpose of assisting Prof. Major in one of the short courses of the school. During his absence Mr. Coleman took charge of some of his classes.

Messrs. Condit and Sinclair, plant industry instructor and school gardener, respectively, spent several days in Santa Barbara securing new ornamental plants for the school.

A brother of Mr. Coleman, from New York, has lately been his guest at the dormitory.

On Nov. 4th, in Pasadena, George A. Lisk, a former Polytechnic student was married to Miss Lora May Pittman.

As collaborator for the Pacific Coast, Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Mr. Condit spent last summer in special investigations throughout the State.

Miss Secrest's father is spending the winter with her.

Valenti Doleci, '08, is taking a special course in dairying at the State University Farm.

Avery Kennedy, '08, and Henry Wade, '06, are working in the sugar beet factory at Betteravia.

Gus Wade, '06, is attending Stanford University.

Mrs. R. Gardner, nee Annie W. Schneider, '07, is residing in Morro and is occasionally seen in San Luis Obispo.

Hunter Stringfield, '07, is a drug clerk in San Luis Obispo.

Henry E. Pezzoni, '07, is working in a bank in Santa Maria.

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