

THE STATION NEWS

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Geneva, N. Y.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Periodically we have considerable comment regarding arrival on specified scheduled time for work of the various members of the Station force. The NEWS has been interested for some time in the promptness with which the members of the Staff and others arrive in the morning and also the feeling that 8 o'clock during the winter months appears much earlier than a similar time thru the summer. The NEWS Staff decided that it may be of interest to the Station workers to know who had the best record for continued promptness with reference to arriving on specified time for work. The honors must go to Mr. Witter. Mr. Witter for 24 years reported for work by 4:30 A. M., winter and summer, to assist in the early morning care of the herd. The NEWS compliments Mr. Witter on his unique service and offers his record as an example for various members of the Station force.

The Station was grieved to learn of the death of Mr. Ballantyne on Thursday morning (Dec. 20). Mr. Ballantyne had been in charge of the Station greenhouses for a number of years and was known locally for his success in raising certain varieties of flowers, particularly chrysanthemums and roses. He was largely responsible for the development of various new types of roses, especially the "Lady Jordan". Mr. Ballantyne thru his years of service won many friends at the Station who will grieve the loss of a congenial friend and efficient workman.

In remodeling the Biochemistry laboratory, the plumbing was seriously damaged causing a flooding of the Analytical laboratories on the floor beneath. Considerable damage to books, bulletin files, etc., in the latter department was due largely to the fact that the water had run for several hours before being discovered.

Mr. Beattie has sufficiently recovered from "chicken-pox" to return to his regular duties.

Prof. Atwood of Cornell informs the NEWS that the announcements of the regular meetings of Sigma Xi will be forwarded for publication sufficiently in advance of the various lectures to allow eligible members of the Station to make plans for attending. Many of the meetings will be led by interesting speakers and members of the Staff will be repaid for the effort of attending.

The Custodian of Buildings has requested that extreme care be taken in preventing the possibility of fires in and around the Station buildings. Special attention is called to the discarding of matches, turning off gas jets, allowing oily waste and clothes to collect in dark corners, etc. An inspection trip recently disclosed seven partially burned cigarette stubs within a radius of eight feet of a large pile of excelsior. Let's reduce the fire hazard to a minimum.

Word has been received from W. H. Kitney of the death of his wife.

Mr. Kitney was in charge of the Station greenhouse for nearly twenty years, leaving about ten years ago for his home in England.

A culm burner has been recently installed, in the Chemistry building, on approval. Its operation is based upon a forced draft using hard coal screenings which are said to produce a greater amount of steam from a smaller investment in fuel, as the anthracite screenings are usually marketed at approximately one-third the cost of that of the ordinary grades.

Mr. Hall assisted Sunday (Dec. 23.) in a bird census, the results of which are compiled by Prof. Eaton to be used for the annual reports of BIRD LORE. Mr. Hall reports among other species the following were seen: Cooper's Hawk, Screech Owl, Song Sparrow, Robin, Winter Wren, etc. Two parties were on the survey and it is reported that 23 different species of land birds and 13 species of water birds were noted during the day.

Mr. Ulmer, who is at present assistant Herdsman at the Station, plans to resign in the near future and matriculate at Cornell for work in Animal Husbandry. Mr. Ulmer is a graduate of Morrisville School of Agriculture and since coming to the Station has established a reputation of efficiency and reliability. The NEWS extends best wishes for a successful as well as profitable course in Cornell.

Mr. McLeod, who is spending a major portion of his time at Cornell, has returned home for the Xmas vacation.

The Biochemistry Laboratory is having new tables and desks to replace those which have withstood years of service. It is understood that the new fixtures will allow more convenient and modern apparatus to be installed and add greatly to the scientific comfort of the biochemists.

The clerical force was granted a holiday Monday (Dec. 24th) to prepare for Christmas.

In looking over the official activities of the Station, we find many interesting notes regarding the "term of office" of many of the Station employees. The oldest member in the Station service is Mr. Newton who began work as "Station Clerk" on Jan. 1, 1884. (40 years ago). Mr. Churchill joined the Staff on April 1 of the same year. Other members on the honor roll of service who have worked for the Station more than twenty-five years are: Mr. O'Neill, 1887; Mr. Wheeler, 1888; Mr. Witter, 1890; Dr. Van Slyke, 1890; Mr. Hadlow, 1892; Mr. Phillips, 1893; Mr. Murray, 1894; Mr. Stewart, 1894; Mr. Taylor, 1896; Mr. John Connolly, 1896; and Mr. Casler, 1898. The NEWS extends congratulations.

Miss Alice Breed returned home from Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., last Friday for the Xmas recess.

The NEWS constantly hears comments regarding the ease and speed with which many of the present departments of the Station are issuing bulletins. It may be of interest to know that the Station was started on March 1, 1882, and on July 24 (less than 5 months later) the first official bulletin of the Station was sent out. Its title was "Tests of Small Fruits and Vegetables; Culture Experiments with Wheat, Corn and Potatoes; Description of Lysimeter."

Mr. Ralph Stewart is home from Buffalo for the holiday season. Mr. Stewart is interested in Landscape architecture and reports that this field is proving profitable as well as interesting.

Twenty-five years ago this spring and summer, the Stewarts spent in Europe.

Word from Mrs. Schoene states that her husband is now attending Ohio State University taking advanced work in Entomology. Mr. Schoene for some time was associated with Prof. Parrott.

The Dairy Building is now in its 25th year of service. Martin Duffy, the local restaurant keeper was selected as the first janitor.

Mr. Harlan Stewart plans to spend a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Stewart during the Xmas holiday. Mr. (H) Stewart is connected with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and is at present located in Philadelphia, Pa.

D. W. Lynch, who is being suggested as President of the Board of Public Works, is a former employee of the Station.

Mr. and Mrs. Hartzell have left for Fredonia, N. Y., where they plan to spend Christmas with relatives.

Mr. Tooke of Cornell is spending the Xmas holiday season in Geneva.

Twenty-five years ago this Xmas, Castle Street presented a far different picture than at present. Buggies and wagons were mired in two feet of mud.

The January meeting of the Station Staff will be held on Friday, January 4th, at 4 P. M. Several members will not return from the A. A. A. S. meetings until Wednesday, which necessitates a postponement.

"Bud" Hedrick is home from Kent (Conn.) for the Xmas recess.

When attempting to look into the future for possible important and practical applications of the results of the Station work, we only see "thru a glass darkly". Miss Jones was asked to appear in Waterloo at the recent murder trial to present certain meteorological observations that are daily recorded at the Station.

The general exodus for the annual scientific meetings will begin today (Dec. 26) at noon and continue until tomorrow morning. The men attending the A. A. A. S. meetings will return on Tuesday and Wednesday, while those going to New Haven (Bacteriological Society) will arrive home Sunday morning.

Judging from the parties, family gatherings, dinners, etc., the NEWS feels safe in stating that a "Merry Xmas was had by all".