STATE ORATION CONTEST.

The annual oration contest between the nine colleges of the state took place at Kalamazoo on Friday, March 11h. In this contest the Agricultural College was represented by Prof. May Gardner and C. J. Oviatt. The ladies' contest was held in the afternoon, and was won by the representative of Hillsdale College with an oration entitled "The Octopus of Greed." That judges may differ is indicated by the fact that the representatives of our faculty, who were present, placed this oration next to the last, our own contestant being disregarded by them in making up their conclusions.

The men's contest was so great a success that its continuation becomes assured by this year's event. Many of the students were spoken of as "brilliant" by one of the Kalamazoo papers. She certainly was a worthy representative of our college. Considering the fact that six weeks before the contest she had not thought of the title of her oration, not knowing that she was to contest, her performance was little short of wonderful.

The men's contest in the evening was magnificent. The audience numbering five hundred was in rapt attention to the oratory of all college spirit in yells, roars, cheers, and unanimous support was almost unanimous. The college orations were the best ever given at a Michigan contest. This contest was won by Albion, which college won both men's and women's contests last year. Their orator was elected one of the three or four who stood at the top, and whether he was to win or some other of this number was largely a matter of the type of mind dominant in the judges. The audience agreed heartily with the decision. In this instance the decision was a representative of whom this college should be proud. At the conclusion of his oration Professor Woolcott, who trained the Albion winner, passed the judgment "That sounded like a real message, not like a mere biography." That was the conclusion of the audience. No orator held the audience better—perhaps no other commanded such rapt attention. His subject was "A Champion of the American idea," and this theme the work of Beecher in England during the civil war. He spoke like a mature speaker; but the few months our system enabled him to put on his oration could not give him to the depth of thought which two years had given to the Albion orator's discussion of "The Upward Trend."

The luncheon given to six visitors by Kalamazoo faculty and students was one of the pleasant features of the day. The general attitude of the visitors was that Kalamazoo had nobly entertained the contest. Our visitors will do a good job next year to surpass them.

The exact rank of our contestants has not been officially received.

Dr. W. J. Beal, whose likeness appears above, and whose face is familiar to every graduate and student of the college since 1870, celebrated, on Thursday, March 11th, his 76th birthday, and will soon enter upon his fortieth year's service for the college.

Dr. Beal was born at Adrian, Michigan, March 11, 1834. His boyhood was, for the most part, spent on a farm. When seventeen years of age he entered the opening of the Kalamazoo high school, four miles northeast of Adrian, afforded him an opportunity for advanced study, and in 1855 he spent some months in completing preparation for college at Lodi Academy, Lodi, Michigan. On October 1, 1857, he entered the classical course in the University of Michigan, where he was graduated in 1859 with the degree of A. B. At once he became teacher of Natural Science in Friends' Academy, Union Springs, Cayuga county, New York. He remained there until March, 1861, when he entered the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard University for one and one-half years, studying botany, zoology and comparative anatomy, under Gray, Agassiz and Wiman. In 1863 he became teacher of natural science in Howland School at Union Springs, New York, remaining until the summer of 1868, with the exception of one term of the spring of 1865, when he was spent at Harvard, where in that year he graduated with the degree of Sc. B. In 1869 he was elected to the professorship of natural history at the University of Michigan, coming to M. A. C. in May, 1870, as lecturer in botany. He was professor of both botany and horticulture from 1871 to 1881, when the growth of the departments made necessary their separation. Since that time he has been given his attention to botany, and, until the forestry course was established, taught the forestry given in the agricultural course.

In 1862 he received the degree of A. M. in course and in 1880 the degree of Ph. D. (honorary) from the University of Michigan, and in 1875 Sc. M. (honorary) from the University of Chicago, and in 1905 D. Sc. from this college.

In the various societies with which he has united he has always been recognized as a leader. While in the University of Michigan he was a charter member of XI Chapter of Zeta Psi fraternity and its first president during his senior year. He is a fellow of the A. A. A. S., and was president of Section F in 1888, was the first president of the Botanical Club of the Society, organized in 1887; first president of the Association of Botanists of the United States Experiment Station, 1888; first president of the Michigan State Academy of Science, 1891; one of the organizers of the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science in 1884, and served as the first president for two years, 1888-90, and again in 1899-1901; Secretary of the Pomological Society for two terms four years, 1881-85; president of the State Teachers Association in 1883, and of the college section, 1893; director of the State Forestry Commission, 1888-91; member of the Botanical Society of America, and of various other organizations.

He is the author of reports, lectures and accounts of experiments in Michigan Agricultural Reports from 1870 to 1898, amounting in all to two large volumes, and his reports and lectures prepared for the Michigan Pomological and Horticultural Society from 1870 to 1898 make a fair sized volume. He has also prepared several papers for the reports of the American Pomological and also edited two volumes, 1883 and 1886.

The M. A. C. RECORD.

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY DURING THE COLLEGE TERM BY THE STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

W. J. WRIGHT, '04, MANAGING EDITOR

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The M. A. C. RECORD.

WILLIAM JAMES BEAL, Ph. D., D. Sc.

(Continued from first page.)

Dispersal," published in 1858. These books have enjoyed a wide popularity and have been extensively quoted both in this country and in Europe.

Dr. Beal's work at this college has been characterized by an unfailing devotion to the upbuilding of the college and its work. To him and his contemporaries, the late Dr. Kedzie, belong the credit of contributing in a large extent to the excellent reputation which the college has attained in scientific lines. He has always stood for advancement and was the pioneer advocate of "The New Botany," as it was called, which held that a minute inquiry, in the laboratory, into the functions of the various organs of the plant is of more importance than identification or classification, and under his direction this college was one of the first to use compound microscopes in the hands of students. The botanic garden, of which there are only three older in this country, was started and has been constantly under his direction. He was also one of the first in the county to become interested in forestry, and the arboretum, started in 1877, the pine walks of which, and the Swan Lake are the oldest and best examples of artificial planting to be found in the State.

Dr. Beal was appointed to carry out the provisions of the act, and in this capacity he made the first bulletin on forestry subjects published in this state. * * * The writer of this work is under the greatest obligations to him for inspiration and assistance, and when Michigan forestry shall have attained the measure of success which is worthy of the cause, and which is bound to come, Dr. Beal's name will occupy the greatest historical prominence. * * *

Visitors at the campus remark upon his unusual vigor. Always accessible, his ready hand is there to help in any task. In his interest in the care of the botanic garden, the executive work of the department and a heavy correspondence.

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PIANO RECITAL

A piano recital will be given in the parlor of the Women's Building Friday evening, March 12, by Miss Edna Hopson, assistant in music at the college. The work of Miss Mahl Aiken Ferry, violinist, and Miss Louise Freyling, pianist. The recital will be preceded by a gathering and refreshments will be served. Time 7:30.

Sunset Op. 27, No. 5 (Moonlight Sonata). Beethoven.

Bypss Melodies. Sarasate.

Etude Melodique. Raff.

Gypsy Melodies. Sarasate.

Dispersal. Berio, violinist.

Alden Ferry, violinist, and Miss Mable S. Valentine is with the American Student Association with the American Student Association at the college.

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The Gender failed to appear last week, as promised. In the meantime it has changed its name and is prepared for tomorrow. Military hop March 12, '09, college armory. The only military hop this term, so don't miss it. All cadets are required to wear their uniforms. Price $1 to all.

The trustees of Wesleyan University, having decided to abolish co-education in that institution after the next entering class, a college for women will be established in connection with the university.

Dr. E. Fortier, Chief of Irrigation Investigations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, will give an illustrated lecture in the armory this evening under the auspices of the Foresters' Club. His subject will be "Methods of Irrigation." Everybody invited.

There was little tardy because of unforeseen delays the centenary of the birth of Charles Darwin was celebrated at the college chapel Thursday evening. The speaker of the evening was Dr. R. M. Wenley, professor of philosophy at the University of Michigan, who took for his subject, Darwin's Influence on Thought. Though brief Dr. Wenley presented the subject in a logical and somewhat original manner, Dr. Beal and Prof. Barrows each gave a short talk preceding Dr. Wenley. Through the courtesy of Dr. Beal we reproduce on another page a letter written by Charles Darwin in 1858, together with his autograph.

John D. Rockefeller's gifts to the University of Chicago amount to more than $25,000,000.

The Delphic Society have been granted permission and will occupy the suite of society rooms in Ward A. Wells Hall.

Prof. King sustained a painful injury to his arse last week which kept him at his home for several days. He is now able to meet his classes again.

"Ernie" Vaughn, star halfback on the football team in '06 and '07, bas been definitely decided upon and the football team in '06 and '07, bas been definitely decided upon and the University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin and for which M. A. C. and the University of Minnesota were at one time mentioned, has been definitely decided upon and will go to Wisconsin. The reason given for the choice is, that in the opinion of the forest service, Wisconsin is nearer the center of the branch in which the experts in that branch of the government are operating.

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Honor the spirits, etc.
ATHLETICS

Those who read the prosperity of the college in her athletic pros-
pects find occasion to rejoice in the lay meet to be held under the aus-
fact that in classifying the college pices of the Ohio State University
placed M. A. C. in class A. along
sin, etc. What is more there seems
pany. With three of the men who
women, etc. What is more there seems
sity of Michigan, Chicago, Wiscon-
Wingert of that institution has
will make good in this fast com-
pance. On the other hand there

BASKETBALL RECORD GOOD.
The basketball season which ends
this week has been the most satisfac-
tory in the history of the college. The schedule for the season
with that for any preceding season for

THE CARRIEG Foundation.
The Carnegie Foundation has with a

NEW ORGANIZATION

The new literary society held a meeting last Saturday evening and completed their organization. A constitution was adopted and officers were elected, and committees ap-
pointed. Much enthusiasm was shown by each of the thirty-nine
members already enrolled, and all eagerly look forward to the work of a good season in which to hold their meetings.

THE TECHNICAL CLUBS

Brief Reviews of the Meetings

ENGINEERING SOCIETY

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