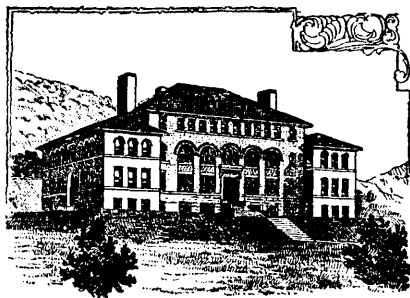


V. 2

# THE NORMAL MESSENGER



New Whatcom, Washington  
Quarterly  
December, 1900

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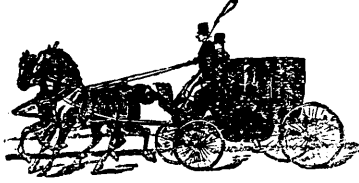
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*The Normal Messenger*

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# THE NORMAL MESSENGER

DECEMBER, 1900

## ABSTRACT AND CONCRETE

W. WILSON

THE terms concrete and abstract are very often in use in educational speech and literature, and in common with many other words may be used with opposite meanings. This may lead to confusion or downright error. Popularly, concrete is a term whose use refers to sense,—that is, a thing is concrete if it appeals to sense perception,—can be touched, seen, or heard. The material world is the concrete world under such usage. President Hall uses the word in this sense when speaking of the improvement of modern education over that of earlier times. Popular usage makes the abstract the opposite of all this. That which does not appeal to the senses, that which eludes the immediate grasp, the difficult of apprehension,—the theoretical, the impractical, as these two latter terms are ordinarily used, are the abstract. Under such thought and such usage, the concrete easily gets credit for being the real, while the abstract is regarded as the empty, the impractical, the unreal.

Again, in popular psychology the concrete is that which can be imagined in terms of some of the senses. Pictures, illustrations, drawings, graphic representations, models, are used to satisfy this mode of thinking. On the other hand, the abstract is that which is inadequately expressed in imagery, or not so expressible at all, or the merely difficult of apprehension. Such psychology is convinced too, of the greater reality of the concrete

because the abstract is that which is "drawn from" the concrete,—extracted, as it were, from it, and could not therefore be but less,—certainly nothing more.

There is however, another view of the matter. Certainly, the motive of the popular mind in seeking the most real and clinging to it, is right, but that it finds the most real in the concrete as above expressed, may well be questioned. That sense knowledge has reality in it cannot be doubted,—nor can it be doubted that the real becomes known to us in one of its forms, in sense knowledge. The animal mind, clearly, is possessed of sense knowledge. Its system of such knowledge, in many cases, is probably very perfect. In some regions of such knowledge, the eye-region, for example, among some birds,—the olfactory region among dogs, is of high quality, surpassing our own in accuracy and range. That such knowledge contains some phases of the real world seems evident, for by means of it the animal succeeds in maintaining an existence,—of playing out his life within its sphere. Primitive and savage men who have not risen far out of sense knowledge, live nearest the stage of animal life,—are in the lower ranges of human civilization. Such advances as they have made upon sense knowledge, has given them a mastery over the world not possessed by the animal,—and the animal himself succumbs to it. Within the sphere of sense knowledge possessed by animals, those in the lower ranges are constrained to a narrower range of activities than these in upper ranges, while micro-organisms whose sense knowledge is near, or at the minimum, are confined to the narrowest ranges. The higher animals seem to have exhausted the possibilities of such knowledge. They have triumphed over their fellows less fortunate than themselves in such knowledge only to be surpassed by man, even though they possess keener sense knowledge than

man himself. And this is true among men. Lower races of men give way to higher ones though possessing more accurate sense knowledge than their more fortunate fellows.

The scientific knowledge of highly civilized man affords such tremendous sweep of power and control while his power of sensation has remained so nearly stationary, if it has not in some phases actually receded, that we are forced to conclude that his power is due to a higher form of activity than that concerned in sense knowledge, though he continues still to use that form. Scientific thought is everywhere concerned with relations, for it is through such knowledge that new mastery is found. For example, the thinking of quantitative relations between forces enables us to estimate them and thus to contrive means whereby we set at work one to overcome another, as in the case of the estimation of the power of engine necessary to drive a given saw in doing a given kind of work. Through such thinking, principles and laws are discovered and by means of these life is all but totally changed in character and kind from that of the animal,—a new world appears,—the world of civilization with its politics, art, science, philosophy, religion.

It is difficult to see how this almost infinitely greater world of man has, by any process, been “abstracted” from the smaller world of the animal. In truth it has not and it is a mistaken psychology that regards it so. Neither is the sense world of the animal the more real world of the two. In truth, it is quite the reverse. Sense knowledge, whether in the animal or among men, is prodigiously less real than scientific, reflective knowledge. The difference of degree in reality of the two kinds of knowledge is the difference between the mighty civilization of the western nations, and untutored savages or fierce animals,—a difference almost too great to be estimated,—the result of centuries of labor.

Relations, principles, laws, are of such nature that they cannot be imaged. The individual objects, between or among which relations or principles obtain are imageable. These facts mark the boundary between sense knowledge and scientific knowledge. Sense organs may be stimulated by forces persisting in material objects, but relations and principles are not material objects,—they are incapable of stimulating nerve ends and cannot give rise to any system of images,—they are the work of Intelligence. It is true that both images and relations issue from an Intelligence which is everywhere alike in kind, while the latter almost infinitely transcends the former. Intelligence in its higher form of relational thinking returns upon its lower forms, the senses, and corrects their faults or extends the field of their operation, as in the making of telescopes and microscopes. Imagine a dog and a scientific engineer standing beside a locomotive. Upon the plane of sense knowledge the dog is strikingly near the engineer, his eye image being very accurate. The principles in the engineer's mind made the locomotive a possibility while to the sense knowledge of the animal it is forever impossible.

Thus the terms concrete and abstract have changed places. If the real is concrete, then the term cannot refer to sense knowledge merely—it should refer to scientific knowledge. Though such knowledge transcends sense knowledge, it is the greater reality and in the larger sense of the term, concrete.

The older education made the mistake of neglecting sense knowledge. We should take care that we do not overestimate it.

---

Tutor—You know, of course, that in Christian countries such as ours a man is only allowed one wife. Now, what is that state of things called?

Pupil—I know. Monotony!

# THE NORMAL MESSENGER

Published Quarterly by the Students of

**THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,  
NEW WHATCOM, WASH.**

TERMS: FORTY CENTS A YEAR.

Entered as mail matter of the second class at the New Whatcom,  
Wash., P. O.

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MR. HARRY SHEPHERD, - - - - -	Philomathian

EDSON & IRISH, Business Managers.

*VOL. II.*

*DECEMBER, 1900*

*No. 1*

The Normal Messenger begins its second volume under new management, but no radical changes are contemplated in the character of the magazine. Each issue will contain an able article upon some literary or scientific subject, and such other items as illustrate the growth, character, and every-day life of the institution.

One commendable feature of the Normal School is everywhere manifest. In every department the standard of work is steadily being raised, and a thorough mastery of the subject matter as well as knowledge of method, is demanded of every student. This is true not only in the more advanced subjects, but an equal thoroughness in the common branches is also required. Several special classes in these fundamental subjects have been organized to enable students to strengthen themselves along necessary lines.

The New Whatcom State Normal School has opened its second year with increased life and vigor. While the past year was full of surprises in many ways, the present year is in every sense a greater surprise to the friends of the school. The prophecies that the large

attendance of last year was of a mushroom character and would soon decrease, have not proven true. On the contrary the attendance is larger this year than last year, and the students are much better distributed over the courses of study than was possible the first year. That a high grade of scholarship has sought the advantages of the school is evidenced by the fact that the senior class of the second year contains twenty-nine members. Of these, three are graduates of a state normal school, eighteen are graduates of accredited high schools, while all others have attended reputable Colleges in this or other States.

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### OUR NEEDS.

The needs of the New Whatcom State Normal School are especially urgent along four different lines. The school needs more room, more equipment, more teachers, and a ladies' dormitory. The present building has been over-crowded since the opening day in September, 1899. There is no room in the building large enough to seat the school when all members are present. There are not as many large class rooms as there are teachers to occupy them, and as a result large classes must recite in rooms too small to accommodate them comfortably with seating capacity, or blackboard space or proper ventilation. The assembly hall also must constantly be used for recitation purposes. The building does not contain a gymnasium and the museum room is now used for physical culture work. As a result of this arrangement, the large and valuable museum, donated to the school by the bay cities, is packed away in barrels and boxes, awaiting the time when it may be classified and arranged for use. Although contrary to the laws of health, most of the work of the training school at present must be carried on in the basement. Both the chemical and physical laboratories are too



small and should be duplicated in size and equipment. There is no reception or committee room, and consequently the office must serve as a place for committee meetings, for the reception of friends, for the storage of supplies, as well as for the public and private uses of the Principal. Altho' one hundred and seventy-five students bring their lunches daily no adequate lunch room is provided in the building. It may therefore fairly be stated that the school needs an auditorium, laboratory room, five or six large class rooms, and an equal unnumber of smaller rooms, and lastly one large lunch and play-room for the children of the Training School. It may also be stated that these additional accommodations can all be provided for by the construction of a large wing to the present building. This wing was included in the original plan of the building, but owing to the limited appropriation could not be constructed when the main portion of the building was erected.

The equipment which the school possesses is substantial and serviceable, but is inadequate to accommodate the numbers in attendance daily. For example, the physical science laboratory contains equipment and accommodations for twelve students to do individual work, while the class at present numbers thirty. There are also twelve desks in the chemical laboratory for individual work while the class in chemistry numbers nearly forty.

The same conditions exist in the biological laboratory, and it is sufficient to say that the science department needs its entire equipment more than duplicated. The less expensive equipment, such as blackboards, bookcases, chairs, maps, globes, and charts, also needs to be greatly increased.

Much could be said of the need of additional teaching force. There are at present ten classes in science with but one science teacher. An assistant is therefore needed in this department. The department of higher English and

Latin also has ten regular classes each semester, and an assistant is needed in this department. There is also urgent need of an assistant critic teacher in the training school.

The location of the school upon a hillside, in one corner of the city, renders a ladies' dormitory one of the necessities of the institution. There are at present about ninety students boarding in various parts of the two cities, and not less than sixty of them board more than six blocks from the Normal School building.

Blame attaches to none for this crowded condition. The founders of the school have provided exceptionally well with the funds at their command, and the situation is concisely stated when it is said that the public demand for the institution has far exceeded the expectations of its most sanguine friends, but as the State of Washington has always provided well for her educational interests there is little doubt but that she will make ample provision in the future for the work of this her youngest educational child. The school asks nothing for show or ornamentation, it simply desires plain, substantial quarters and a practical working equipment.

---

#### FROM THE OFFICE.

There are at present sixty students doing practice work as teachers. In addition to the practice-teachers, fifty students are doing work in observation.

The records of the librarian show that more than four hundred volumes are drawn out by the students every month.

Among the students there are thirty young ladies who work for their board. There are also several young men who pay their way by working evenings and Saturdays.

The records show that fifty students board themselves, while about ninety pay for their

board. Of the ninety who board, not to exceed ten pay more than \$3.50 per week, while about twenty get their board for \$3.00 per week.

In a general census of the school, taken in September, 52 students expressed a preference for the Methodist Episcopal Church; 43 for the Presbyterian; 19 for the Congregational; 16 for the Roman Catholic; 12 for the Christian, while the remaining 60 who were present represented about a dozen other denominations.

Referring to the question of native state it was ascertained that 28 were born in the State of Washington; 19 in Kansas; 18 in Iowa; 13 in Minnesota and Illinois, each; 12 in Nebraska; 10 in Wisconsin; 9 in Missouri; 6 in California and Michigan, each; 5 in Pennsylvania, Indiana, and North Dakota, each; 4 in Colorado; 3 in Oregon, while in the list remaining, almost every state in the Union was represented. Six were born in England, 4 in Norway, 2 in Sweden, 2 in Canada, 1 in Germany and 1 in Austria.

Referring to the occupations of the students' parents it was ascertained that 59 are farmers; 11 merchants; 11 machinists; 9 lumbermen; 16 carpenters; 5 ministers; 20 laborers, while the remainder of the list represent almost every other ordinary vocation.

Sixty of the students hold teachers' certificates, and three are graduates of other State Normal schools.

The enrollment of the Normal School on Nov. 15th was 248, divided among the classes as follows: seniors 29; juniors 35; third year 42; second year 52; first year 56; review year 32. The enrollment last year on Nov. 15th was 234.

About four hundred volumes have been added to the general library since the opening of school in September.

## SECOND SEMESTER.

The second semester of this school year will open, Monday morning, January 28, 1901. At this time a new program of about sixty classes will be arranged. Twenty of these classes will be continued from the first semester through to the end of the year. While the remaining forty classes will be newly organized and will include the subjects of arithmetic, grammar, American history, state and national governments, penmanship, orthography, school law, school economy, and the theory of teaching, as well as all subjects announced for the second semester in the various courses of study. Any person desiring catalogues or other information concerning the work of the school may secure the same by addressing the office of the institution.

## LITERARY SOCIETIES.

## ALCOTT SOCIETY.

The fable of the "Tortoise and the Hare" is brought to mind when one reviews the history of the Alcott Society, for this band of active, earnest workers, is quietly plodding along and is sure of reaching the goal not far in the future. The society has worked so diligently that she ranks second in point of membership.

Each week the Alcotts gather in their club-room to enjoy a social meeting of a musical and literary nature. Many come to visit them, for the latch-string is always out and a hearty welcome is given to all. The "Society" as well as "The Nation" have just had an election and predict good times and full dinner pails.

## AURORA SOCIETY.

The Aurora is the largest literary society in the normal school. They have fifty (50) active members, and as a literary society are in splendid working order.

Four members from the society constitute a program committee, and they with the aid of the faculty critic, Prof. Forrest, have outlined the following programs for the present term: "Whittier" program, November 26; "Thanksgiving," November 23; "The American Indian," December 7; "Travel," December 14; "Christmas," December 21; "Woman," January 4; "Humorists," January 11; "Song of the Ages," January 18; "Mexico," January 25.

#### THE CHILICS.

The Chilic Tribe met this fall with but twelve members out of their large membership of last year. But they were not discouraged even tho' they were few in number and their critic, whom they had loved and trusted, did not return to them. Another critic was provided, Miss Myers, who is fast winning the affections of the Tribe.

At the beginning of the school year each member considered herself a committee on getting new members, and at the second meeting of the society their number had greatly increased. They now number thirty, including much talent in the way of musicians, orators, wits, and poets.

The interest and zeal of the members are increasing and the Tribe promises fair to do some good work this year.

In the way of public entertainments they are preparing to give Dickens', "Christmas Carol," some time in December.

#### KULSHAN SOCIETY.

The Kulshan Literary Society has begun this year with an enrollment of thirteen last year's students and thirty new members. The outline of the year's work shows a tendency towards making debating a specialty, though studies of modern writers and their works will also appear on the programs.

The society critic, Mr. Eply has recently ascended and descended Mt. Baker, and he

promises some interesting talks to the members and their friends in the future. At present the efforts of the society are bent toward preparing a play which they intend to give before the public next month. It is interesting to know that this play was translated from German by one of the members.

#### THE PHILOMATHIAN SOCIETY.

The Philomathian Debating Club has a membership of forty; twenty-two of these being new members. We feel honored in having three seniors.

In addition to the regular literary work, the club is pursuing the study of parliamentary law which is of great value to the members.

Professor Robt. B. Vaile, the faculty critic of the club has done much for the good of the members and seems deeply interested in all their undertakings.

The regular programs of the club include orations, essays, declamations, original stories, music and debates, besides the frequent exercises in parliamentary law.

#### THE UTOPIAN LITERARY CLUB.

The Utopian Literary Club was organized last year with forty-three charter members. Many of the old members have left, but there are now enrolled thirty active members. No definite line of work for the year has as yet been mapped out, but a committee is now at work on a program for the year. The society has given one open meeting in the assembly hall and a very interesting program was presented. The Utopians have the great satisfaction and honor of having given the first social function of this school year at the normal. The rooms were beautifully decorated, especially the art room and with the addition of an excellent program a very enjoyable evening was spent. Under the efficient supervision of its critic, Miss Harper, the society expects to accomplish much good work this year.

THE Y. W. C. A. SOCIETY.

The Young Woman's Christian Association commenced its good work this year with a membership of seventy. Weekly meetings are held in the chapel where prayer and song service is conducted. Monthly services are also conducted in the various churches of the Bay.

A prominent feature of this society is its foreign mission work. They adopted a child in India, and are raising money to support it. Later they hope to provide for its education.

There has recently been organized a Bible class which will be under the leadership of Prof. Wilson, our teacher of psychology. Under the leadership of Miss Maud Woodin a line of work has been mapped out, which will be followed throughout the year. The week beginning November 11th was opened as a "week of prayer."

---

### WHY SHE LIKED SPELLING.

Orthography is commonly reckoned a pretty dry subject, but there is no branch of knowledge but may be brightened by a skillful teacher. A visitor was chatting with the little daughter of the family,

"What do you study at school?" he asked.

"Readin' an' writin', 'rithmetic an' spellin'."

"Well, well! What a bright little girl you are! And which study do you like best?"

"Spellin'."

"Indeed! Most children do not. Why do you like spelling?"

"Cause everytime I spell a word the teacher laughs."

---

Governess—Why, you naughty boy, I never heard such language since the day I was born.

Small Boy—Yes, mum; I s'pose dere was a good deal of cussin' de day you wuz born.

## GENERAL ITEMS.

The student-body felt greatly repaid for listening to Rev. C. A. Owen's lecture on Siberia. Many interesting incidents were told, all of which proved to be most instructive as well as entertaining.

A McKinley club consisting of fifteen young ladies of the normal have held enthusiastic meetings throughout the campaign. A lively ratification meeting was held Friday evening, Nov. 26, at the home of Miss Gertrude Bell.

Rev. F. A. Agar gave us one of his excellent lectures on his life and experiences in Africa, before leaving this city for his pastoral duties in Oregon.

The teacher's examination was held in the Normal building on Nov. 8th and 9th. About 30 students wrote for grades.

At the opening of the school year the faculty and trustees of the normal school were entertained at the home of the President, Dr. Mathes.

On the evening of Sept. 21st the faculty and students of the normal school were delightfully entertained by the Epworth League of the Trinity Methodist Church in the church parlors; also on the evening of Oct. 5th a most pleasant "at home" was tendered them by the Endeavor Society of the Presbyterian Church.

The young ladies of the senior class are laboring diligently to attain perfection in the art of graceful word drills. They will soon make their appearance before the public, and will be accompanied by their finely trained orchestra.

The state legislators of this county, Representatives Fairchild, Earles and Merrill, and Senator Moultray, accompanied by the trustees and Land Commissioner Callvert and members of the city press, visited the normal school, Nov. 15th, to investigate its needs for additional equipment as well as maintenance for the coming two years. The many needs of the institution were everywhere apparent, and these gentleman pledged their united support to the institution.

We wonder if the youngman's star which went down some time ago has yet risen?

Prof. J. T. Forrest is a good hunter as well as a good mathematical teacher. On a recent Saturday he shot a fine large deer on Chuckanut mountain south of the city.

Special classes have recently been organized in algebra, arithmetic, grammar and school law.

On November 16th the entire school took an examination in spelling. Based upon the results of that examination a division of the school into eight spelling classes was made. Twenty minutes daily are devoted to the work of spelling and many students have expressed their deep appreciation of the opportunity to pursue this work.



There has recently been organized two glee clubs under the supervision of Miss Ida Baker, musical instructor. The club expects to accompany Dr. Mathes on some of his trips throughout the state.

The private dormitory built during the summer months by Mrs. R. B. Morrison, on High street is crowded to its utmost capacity, and is greatly appreciated by the students.

Call on the editor to view snap-shots of bloomer girls in the gymnasium. These pictures can be obtained only at exorbitant prices.

The Kulshans have recently contributed an amount of money toward the piano fund, it being the proceeds of their candy sale, in October. The arrangement of the room for the sale was very dainty and attractive.

Misses Edna and Helen Whitney are at present both teaching in Skagit Co., but will return to the normal school for the second semester.

A committee of the faculty has arranged for a series of contests among the several literary societies. These contests will be along the lines of orations, debates and declamations. The two receiving the highest marks in a preliminary contest will participate in a final contest, each in his class, for highest honors. These contests will be held during the spring months.

Miss Calla Monlux and Messrs. Thomas and Martin Korstad, all graduates of the Idaho State Normal school, have entered our senior class. Prior to entering the Idaho State Normal school, Miss Monlux was a student for several years in the Washington Agricultural College, and the Messrs. Korstad were formerly students at the Cheney State Normal school.

The people of Bellingham Bay believe in education. The public schools of New Whatcom have an enrollment of 1800 pupils of whom 180 are in the high school. Since September, ten school rooms have been added to the four ward buildings. The Fairhaven schools have an enrollment of nearly 1000, with about 80 in the high school. Sixty teachers are employed in the two cities. The Northwest Business College of New Whatcom is also enjoying a prosperous year with an attendance of about fifty students.

Seven young ladies expect to complete the elementary course in February, next, and receive five-year certificates. Two of them will return to enter the senior class next year.

Miss Jessie Havens is teaching a primary grade in the Florence schools.

Miss Kate White has returned from Paris, and is now working in Denver, Colorado.

More than thirty of the students who were here last year are now teaching in various parts of the state. The whereabouts of most of them can be found in the September Messenger.

Seven of our last year's students are teaching at present in the city schools of Everett. Good reports are given of their work.

Misses Nina Silsby and Lottie Smith, and Messrs. John Kerchen, Ben F. Hovies and Theodore Myer are teaching in Lewis county. They will return to the normal school later.

Miss Estella Garl is teaching this year near Burlington.

The normal school has something novel in the way of a colored quartet, composed of Misses Shockey, Pillman, Klockstead and Galliher. These charming young ladies have entertained their friends very acceptably upon several occasions with their classical selections.

At the noon hour appetizing odors issue from the lunch room in the basement of the normal building. Great pots of soups and chocolate are prepared daily and dispensed at slight expense, and they form a very acceptable complement to the usual cold lunch.

Hon. James Hamilton Lewis, with his inimitable grace and eloquence, addressed the students of the normal school recently upon the subject of education and character building.

Just as we expected, Miss Sarah J. Rogers is meeting with much success in her new position as superintendent of grade work in the city schools of Helena, Montana.

Mrs. Jane Connell Hellier is now residing in Camp Hill, Ala., where her husband, Dr. F. O. Hellier, has a good position in an industrial school.

We are glad to welcome back to our city, if not to our institution, our former beloved teacher, "Miss Millet" who returns as Mrs. Norman Tucker, and who we feel is still interested in us, if not directing us in our work.

The pleasurable excitement of watching the flirtations of our elder members last year has been denied us so far this year as there has been nothing but hard prosaic work.

Miss Anna Iverson who has been teaching in Island county, Wash., has returned to join the senior class and complete the year's work.

The name of "The Nock-will-wit Society," which interpreted means "the guardian angel of the Indian," was at one time the name given one of the members of the society. She is the little daughter of the former Indian Agent on the Lummi reservation. The society is composed of the primary pupils and is doing splendid work in the literary line.

Councilman F. M. Muldoon of Seattle visited his daughter recently, and spent considerable time becoming acquainted with the work of the normal school.

The excellent character of our students is shown in many ways. Never has a student been called before the faculty for misconduct and never has it been necessary to suspend a student from classes on account of insubor-

dination. The usual activity and seeming commotion are the result of a spirit of earnestness rather than a reckless and willful disregard for order and system. The students are not bound down by arbitrary and abstract regulations but each student is urged to exercise such personal control over his daily conduct that it may be worthy of emulation rather than censure and rebuke. There are three hundred and fifty people in the building daily, yet unnecessary noise or useless traveling through the halls is seldom seen, and visitors invariably comment favorably upon the business spirit and earnestness of the student-body.

The pupils of the training school very pleasantly entertained the normal school at general assembly on Wednesday morning, Nov. 28th.

Principal E. T. Mathes and Prof. Washington Wilson of our faculty are upon the program of the state teachers' association which meets in Ellensburg, December 26 to 28, 1900.

It is a source of much regret to our students that the crowded condition of the normal building renders it impossible to arrange for a proper display of the large museum which has been donated to the school.

Our principal, Dr. E. T. Mathes, is spending the month of December in the east visiting some of the best state normal schools in the country. It is the united purpose of our trustees, principal and faculty that this institution shall stand for that which is best in the academic and professional training for teachers.

The students who reside in the east end of Fairhaven are rejoicing because the authorities of that city have constructed a good substantial sidewalk from the north end of Twenty-first street through "Happy Valley" to the normal school. This brings a large number of the homes of Fairhaven within a twenty-minute walk of the normal building, and materially increases the boarding and rooming facilities within walking distance of the school.

It is seldom that any institution enjoys a more faithful business management than is given our school by the Board of Trustees. Their administration has not only been economical and fair, but it has extended to a solicitude for the comfort and success of every individual teacher and student. Much time has also been given during the past few months to a careful consideration of the needs of the school in the future. These have been reviewed on another page of this issue of the MESSENGER.

Miss Malene Nelson who attended the normal school last year is now Mrs. Richard Downey, and resides in Ballard, Washington.

We are proud of the literary societies of our training school. The "Acorn" and Four-leaf Clover" societies are under the leadership of Misses Tromanhauser and Bratton. Weekly programs are given which are always edifying and commendable.

Martin Korstad was elected sergeant-at-arms of the normal senate at a recent election.

That large pile of observation note-books, seen in the south hall every other Friday, means much work for someone. The work is well repaid however by the discipline received in their preparation.

The constructive work as carried on in the primary grades of the training school is proving not only interesting but instructive as well, and the excellent work done by the smallest pupils is remarkable evidence of the adaptability of the course to the child's capabilities.

Great volumes of eloquence are heard rolling through the halls every Friday afternoon. There certainly is a Young Men's Debating Club around somewhere near.

## GOSSIP.

“Said Gossip One to Gossip Two,  
While stoppin in the town,—  
'One Mrs. Pry to me remarked,  
Smith bought his goods of Brown.’

“Said Gossip Two to Gossip Three,  
Who cast her eyelids down,—  
'I've heard it said today, my friend,  
Smith got his goods from Brown.’

“Said Gossip Three to Gossip Four,  
With something of a frown,—  
'I've heard it said—what do you think?  
Smith took his goods from Brown.’

“Said Gossip Four to Gossip Five,  
Who blazed it around the town,—  
'I've heard today such shocking news,  
Smith stole his goods from Brown.’”  
—The Pilgrim.

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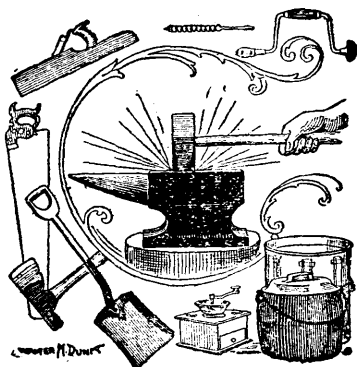
*Elementary Certificates.*

From everywhere comes most urgent demands for higher scholarship among teachers just as from everywhere comes a similar demand for better trained workers along all lines. More than ever is it becoming certainly true that only the best shall survive. The poorer workers are eliminated or find it necessary to take stations much lower in the ranks. Accordingly, the wise ones will take zealous care that their preparation shall be thorough, and these will welcome such raising of standards as shall, when fully met, put them beyond question, in the matter of trained efficiency.

The State of Washington, in common with other coast states, feels the strong impulse for better things in education, and will accordingly raise her standards among her teachers. Already, in a neighboring state, owing to the exceeding demand for nothing less than university graduates in high schools, examinations for high school certificates are all but thoroughly obsolete, and will be hereafter discontinued at the request of the teachers themselves. Not only has this condition, which is a remarkable one, obtained, but another more remarkable still is in the process of obtaining. It is that the public are demanding University graduates for grammar schools and are securing them for all better positions in grammar schools. It will soon be true that no certificates will be granted upon examination at all,—only upon credentials representing the most thorough training.

Realizing the oncoming conditions the Whatcom Normal School seeks to raise her standards. It feels that anything less than a well won diploma is inadequate,—that the student who stops short of this is but temporizing, is really taking the first step out of the ranks. It is with these feelings that the taking of Elementary Certificates is strongly discouraged.

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been used on a book-plate belonging to a New  
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