

Ball; speakers are secured for the various occasions, and every little detail is looked after that all may be in perfect readiness.

Then one bright day in June, June days are proverbially bright, the guests begin to arrive, the proud relatives and happy alumni. Baccalaureate Sunday, in most places the opening event of Commencement week, follows. In dignified file the gowned seniors march into the college hall to hear the wise advice which the baccalaureate minister gives to them out of his years of experience and study. It is a beautiful and long-to-be-remembered service, quiet and stately, and usually supplemented by music, sometimes with the accompaniment of the solemn, deep-toned organ. The seniors go out from this address feeling much nearer to the great field of life from which they have hitherto been shut off, almost as in a world of their own.

Another custom usually followed in American colleges is the observance of Class Day, given over entirely to the graduating class. Many and varied are the sacred rites kept on this day in different places. Usually there is a program, consisting, as has already been intimated, of an oration, a poem, class history and prophecy. Frequently the class plants a tree or ivy, and sometimes a picture, or other memento of the college career, is presented with much ceremony to their beloved alma mater. There are other out-door performances, picnics, a baseball game at Harvard, a daisy chain procession as Vassar, an ivy chain at Smith. Class breakfasts and banquets, Senior "Proms" and Senior Dramatics, and all manner of dances and receptions fill this most eventful day full to a very late hour.

The remaining days of Commencement week are variously spent, so variously that it is almost impossible to give more than a glimpse of them. In many places house parties are held at the fraternity houses, which are turned over to the guests while the occupants seek rooms elsewhere. At Bryn Mawr a garden party, given on the campus by the seniors, figures in the social events; at Wellesley a part of one day is devoted to a review of the boats; at Mount Holyoke a unique feature is "Senior Mountain Day;" some colleges have an "Ivy Day" and everywhere there are observances of one kind or another which have become traditional.

One of the happiest things about Commencement, however, is the gathering together of the alumni. Old men and young meet here upon a common footing, upon the campus of their alma mater.