

## Late Gossip and News From O. A. C.

Corvallis Students "Make Good" at New York—Views and Reviews From All Departments of College.

A GROUP of boys from the electrical Engineering courses of O. A. C. are finding instruction, practice and employment in the great electrical works of New York, the largest of the kind in the world. Several other former students from the Oregon college are in the employ of the company, stationed at various parts of the United States and other countries. These boys are meeting the competition of the best product of most all leading colleges and universities of the country, and what is most important, they are meeting it successfully.

The students now at the central plant of the general electrical work in Schenectady, on the Mohawk River, are members of the graduating classes of 1910, '11, '12 and '13. They have formed an Oregonian club and live together at beautiful Lake Ballston, eight miles out from the works on a car line. They have named their cottage the "Oregonian," and were first of all the students who make their homes at the lake to organize and maintain an alumni club for its members.

The company for which these college men are working has maintained student training courses for many years. Every year a limited number of students especially qualified in their college work and adequately recommended by the college officers, are accepted for training, practice and service, if competent. All that are accepted for training are admitted on positively equal terms and assigned to the course technically known as the Students' Engineering course. In order to receive advancement students must do a minimum of one year's work in this course, and can do much more, depending upon the nature of the specialization they undertake. The chief value of this preliminary course is disciplinary, although a good living wage is paid from the time the student enters upon his work. At the end of each six-month period students who remain are given a stated increase in salary.

When this preparatory work is finished by any student he is assigned either to the industrial or to the commercial end of the practical engineering business with the company. Both phases of the practical business as carried on by the company are highly specialized. The student who has won his position in either of these fields selects his specialty and goes into further training. He never quits it until he is complete master of all its complicated details, after which he is regularly employed by the company and may consider that his position is permanent.

Qualifications for salesmanship are equally exacting with those for operation. Should the employe elect to handle switch-boards as his specialty he must master all the technique of the operator in order to act profitably as a demonstrator. He must know the sources and nature of material going

### VIEWS AND REVIEWS.

ELF-FEEDERS for either fowls or swine are easily and cheaply made and give excellent satisfaction when properly constructed. Aside from decreasing the cost of labor, they are a great saving of time and of worry over the fact that hand-tended animals must be fed regularly two or more times a day. The use of self-feeders also saves feed by giving the animals a chance to balance their own rations, by providing it regularly, and by saving all the scraps that usually result from hand-feeding. Methods of constructing home-made self-feeders, accompanied by drawings and photographs, will be published from time to time in this journal.

Apple scab is reported to be greatly on the increase in some of the fruit districts of Oregon. While this seems to indicate that orchardists are losing ground in their fight against this pest, the conclusion is not at all inevitable. The season seems to have been unusually favorable to it in some parts of the state, and control measures were applied too late, if at all. Growers are more thoroughly aroused over this enemy than formerly and doubtless make fuller use of the damage. At the same

time it is gratifying to hear that the most systematic attempt ever made in the Northwest to ascertain the most successful control measure for apple scab are now being carried on in a field test conducted jointly by the Lane County Horticultural Society and Professor H. S. Jackson, plant pathologist of the Agricultural College. The experiment is designed to test the effectiveness of the standard sprays and the most effective means of applying them. When the information acquired in these experiments is brought to bear upon the pest under favorable conditions, it may be seen which way the battle is going.

The establishing of vocational courses at the Agricultural College will open the doors of the institution to the people of Oregon. These courses are designed primarily to give opportunities for college training to those persons of the state who feel the need of this training and are not in a position to get it by the usual degree courses. If they are desirous of entering degree courses, they can ordinarily find means of preparing to do so in the local high schools and other institutions of learning. If they merely wish to secure the benefit of the training and study at college without reference to college degrees, the vocational courses are open doors through which they may enter. The

cost of manufacture and handling, and available market territory. He must likewise inform himself of supply conditions, the goods of competitors, and all other practical branches of this complicated business of selling switch-boards. It takes a great deal of time and effort to accomplish all the company requires, but the remuneration is both liberal and certain.

Aside from the dozen students now at the leading works of the company many older men from O. A. C. have gone out into one of these specialized fields of electrical business. The following men have reported their present places of labor, according to H. I. Smith, of the class of 1912, who has recently returned to Schenectady from a visit to his parents at Marshfield and to the '14 commencement exercises at the college:

H. R. Zimmerman, '09, of The Dalles, at Kansas City; H. N. Probst, '10, of Albany, in Montana; J. C. Plankington, '10, of The Dalles, at San Francisco, and J. D. Carnegie, '11, at Minneapolis.

The students now in the shops of the general company are the following: J. Gordon, '10, of Portland; F. E. Ewert, '10, of Portland; J. D. Carnegie (assigned); H. Pfandoefer, '11, of Salem; H. P. Cady, '11, of Corvallis; F. O. McMillan, '12, of Salem; H. E. McLean, '12, of Wallawa; H. I. Smith, '12, of Marshfield; W. DuMolia, '12, of Corvallis; G. W. Morris, '13, of Corvallis; R. R. McKenzie, '13, Lostine, and S. R. Cohen, '13, of Portland.

"Students train at these great electrical works from most of the leading colleges of the country," said Mr. Smith. "Several other schools of the West, among them the University of Oregon, University of Washington, Washington State College and the University of California are represented. The latter in particular has a large delegation, although the O. A. C. is most largely represented of the Coast schools.

"We find, too, that our students are as well trained for the work as those of any other school. When students are first received it is on recommendations alone that the officers of the company must rely for information about the fitness of the students, and during the first year there is no distinction made. After that, however, students are advanced on their own merits, and here as elsewhere in life, the personal equation is the important factor.

"The Oregon group was recommended for the work by Professor Hillbrand, who supplied us with application forms, and by other officers of the college. Our company is very liberal and broad in its policy toward us, and students who show the qualifications may consider their employment permanent with good prospects for advancement. It seems to me that this is the best practical work open to graduates."

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## Mole Skins Are Valuable, Say Experts

Experiments by Department of Agriculture Demonstrate Domestic Variety as Good as European for Skins.

OWING to the gradually decreasing number of wild fur bearing animals, mole skins have found a ready market and are valuable commercially according to Farmers' Bulletin 583, Department of Agriculture. It is significant to the lack of attention to small business matters, however, that American moleskins are not quoted or offered on the markets. All the skins used by American furriers are imported from Europe.

Auction lists of fur dealers in London show that more than 3,000,000 mole-skins were sold in 1911, 1912 and 1913. A small lot of American moleskins secured by the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, was prepared and made up by an expert furrier who pronounced them in every respect equal or superior to European skins. It seems likely, therefore, that a new industry amounting to many thousands of dollars annually might be developed in this country.

### Five Recognized Groups.

In this country there are five recognized groups of true moles, two of which are confined to the Pacific Coast and the other three are distributed over the section east of the one hundredth meridian, extending from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. In the latter districts and in the greater part of Pennsylvania, New York and New England the common mole occurs with the star-nosed mole and Brewer's mole.

The mole is so seldom seen, even by those who are familiar with its work, that it is often confused with other small creatures, particularly the shrew, the mole or meadow mouse, and the pocket gopher. However, it can be readily distinguished by its stout, short, front limbs ending in broad, rounded hands with palms turned outward. It has a rather elongated body, close plush-like fur, a pointed snout, and a short tail. Neither eyes nor ears are in evidence. It is a creature of strictly subterranean habits.

### Moles Are Disliked.

It is believed commonly that the mole works only at regular periods each day, but direct observation taken in later summer and fall fail to substantiate the theory. The moles are distasteful and seldom eaten by domestic cats and dogs which have learned to catch them. Hawks and owls take small

toll from the mole tribe, as an examination of the stomach contents of over 2,000 of these birds disclosed the remains of but 13 moles, 5 of which had been eaten by the red-tailed hawk, 4 by the red-shouldered hawk and one each by the broad-winged hawk, the barred owl, the great gray owl and the screech owl.

### Stomachs Are Examined.

From an examination of the stomach contents of 200 moles taken in all months of the year it was found that earthworms and white grubs constitute the bulk of the food. Beetles and their larvae, spiders, centipedes, cocoons and puparia also form a part of the diet. Seed coats of corn, wheat, oats and peanuts have been seldom found in stomachs of the moles.

Complaints of damage or depredations by moles are frequent and insistent. However, in very many cases a thorough investigation would show that the smaller rodents which follow the mole's runways are responsible for the damage to corn and other cultivated seed products that grow under ground.

### Trap Efficient Destroyer.

When it is desirable to destroy the mole the trap will be found to be the most efficient means. So far all experiments undertaken with the object of finding an acceptable poison bait have given negative results, as the very nature of the animal's food makes it difficult to secure a satisfactory substitute of live worms, grubs, and insects. Moreover, the little animal seems to be shrewd and quick to sense the danger in poisonous substances.

There are a number of excellent mole traps on the market, most of which will give good results if properly set. There are the harpoon, the scissor-jaw and the choker types. Harpooning traps are designed to impale the mole in the ground by spring-driven spikes. The scissor-jaw traps are intended to be set astride the runway to grasp the mole firmly when he attempts to pass in either direction, and the choker trap has a set of wire loops that encircle the burrow when the trap is set. All three types are designed to be sprung by the same sort of mechanism, a trigger pan resting on a depressed portion of the mole ridge in such a way as to be lifted when the animal passes beneath.

EXPRESSING the view that it is easy to dispose of first class products, but that the profit of the fruit and vegetable business depends very largely upon a utilization of the second and third class products, Professors C. I. Lewis and W. S. Brown have issued a new college bulletin called "Fruit and Vegetable By-Products," in which they explain the conditions and processes of organizing and running by-products factories.

The highly important questions of the amount of money necessary, the quantity of products raised within the proposed by-products territory, and what kinds of plants to establish, are treated intimately from the point of view of the grower.

"The question of what kind of plant should be put in—cannery, vinegar works, evaporator, or jelly factory—cannot be answered off hand," says Professor Lewis. "There is undoubtedly a splendid field for all these manufacturing plants. It would be unwise, however, to try working all our low grades into any one of these forms. If we were to attempt to work all valuable produce into vinegar we should easily overstock the market. We must remember that there are only certain types of products that are adapted to each of the special uses. The ideal to which every association should work is first to handle as large a percentage of

the product as is feasible in the fresh state, to establish a canning factory that can handle large quantities of both vegetables and fruits, and to install an evaporator for the handling of all classes. Finally the vinegar works should be added. In other words we should aim to have a plant so organized that nothing would go to waste, each plant supplementing the others."

As an example of this method it is shown how peelings and cores from the cannery could be used in the vinegar works, or if more profitable, how the peelings could be dried to excellent advantage and later worked into jams and jellies. By a combination of plants losses in all lines would be reduced to a minimum.

Because the success of the association for handling these products would depend very largely upon the character of the contract entered into by the growers this question is treated quite fully in the new bulletin and sample contracts are presented in the appendix. Methods of organization are also treated quite fully so that the bulletin is of the greatest practical value to all producers who must face the profit and loss situation in their industry. Those desiring copies may secure them by writing to R. D. Hetzel, director, Corvallis, Oregon, for Extension Series 2, No. 21.

courses provide for one year of college work in agriculture, one in dairying, one in home-making, three years in industrial arts, five months in forestry and two years in business short course. What a wonderful opportunity this offers to people of Oregon who desire to fit themselves for doing their chosen work in the most efficient manner. O. A. C. may justly be called a college of the people, by the people and for the people, and its open doors invite all

who find the time and the means to enter. The foregoing course begins September 22, 1914.

Students of the Oregon Agricultural College are working at the forest nursery on the Siuslaw forest. The arrangement is said to be mutually satisfactory, since the students gain experience in forest nursery practice and their assistance lowers the cost of nursery work.