

THE IOWA ALUMNUS

VOLUME XIX

JANUARY, 1922

NUMBER 4

GRACE PARTRIDGE SMITH, '91, *Editor* JOHN S. GRASSFIELD, Jr., '22, *Business Manager*

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Published monthly during the academic year by the University of Iowa Association, at Iowa City, Iowa. Subscription price \$1.50 a year; single copies 20 cents. Entered at the post office at Iowa City, Iowa, as second class matter.

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versity's Museum of Art and Archaeology; the owner has intimated that the collection will not be removed.

Mr. Coast is wedded only to his art, and painting has been a congenial mis-



THE PATH OF THE VALKYRIE

Foreground of dark green and brown, a far-off mountain of purple, and whirling storm-clouds of slaty white.

tress. He is the most modest and unassuming of beings, a mild, cordial, friendly, loving gentleman. Few men are more

charming conversationalists. He has been all over the world, has been a familiar of the greatest of men, and remembers quite minutely the scenes and persons of his travels. Everywhere he has been, he has picked up interesting bits of art and antiquities. The collection above mentioned contains so diverse objects as the front of a carved Florentine trousseau chest, a number of engraved Japanese sword hilts, fragments of cloth from Egyptian mummy cases, Greek coins, Byzantine paintings, Swiss carvings, etchings of Rembrandt, first editions, and an unexploded shell from the German bombardment of Paris in 1870. His interests are far from narrow.

A delicate constitution is responsible for the transformation of a prospective business man into an artist. The young Oscar was a frail lad. In his teens his very life hung by a slender thread. His first voyage to Europe was undertaken for the benefit of his health, and to his friends it was intimated that he might never come back. But he did come back. Europe made him an artist, and he has often visited it again, but only to develop a genuine American style all his own.

9-Y-A

By ARTHUR H. FORD

SHOULD the reader be unacquainted with radio-telegraph nomenclature he might assume that the caption of this article denotes a new fraternity. To the initiated it signifies a radio-telegraph station in the ninth district of the United States, operated as a training school and experimental station,—the last letter standing for the University of Iowa. These letters follow every call for another station, so are well known to all operators in the Middle West; under normal condi-

tions the sending range is 500 miles. A "Q S T" (everybody listen) of university and general news is sent every night at 9:30 o'clock, using a wave-length of 425 meters. These messages are sent at slow speed, so that even the novice may have no difficulty in receiving them.

The radio-antennae stretched between the dome of Old Capitol and a mast on the Physics building has been a familiar sight to all persons on the campus for some years. It attracts as little attention now as any of the other appurtenances of the build-

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ings; but when passing the window of the laboratory in the basement of the Physics Building one cannot avoid hearing the crash of the sparks when messages are being sent.

The sending set consists of a two-kilowatt, 60-cycle, 30,000-volt transformer coupled to a rotary spark-gap, a condenser and oscillation-transformer. The secondary of the oscillation-transformer is connected to the antennae mentioned above.

This set has been in use since 1913 and is about to be displaced for regular operation by a continuous-wave set which can be used for sending by telephone as well as by telegraph.

The new sending-set, which it is hoped to have in operation within the next two months, will make use of four-fifty-watt vacuum-tube oscillators having a plate potential of one thousand volts. When sending telegraph messages this will be used with a "chopper" in the grid circuit. The transmitting range should be equal to that of the present spark set, with the advantages that it is silent in operation and can be more sharply tuned, thus interfering less with other stations. Telephone messages will be sent from this set by the use of a magnetic modulator, which is similar to the ones used on the most powerful sets.

The receiving apparatus of 9-Y-A has been changed several times since the original installation. Radio-telegraph messages are sent at various wave lengths from 150 to 10,000 meters, and it is impossible to build a single receiver which will be efficient throughout this extreme range. Two receivers are therefore installed, one having a range of from 150 to 750 meters and the other from this up to 10,000 meters. Both of these are of the regenerative type equipped with two stage-amplifiers. This makes possible the reception of extremely weak signals of any wave-length. The wave-lengths commonly

used are 200 meters, by amateur stations, 600 meters by ship and other short distance commercial stations, and 4,000 meters by air mail stations, and 8,000 meters by trans-Atlantic stations. A loud-speaking telephone receiver, which has just been installed, enables a room full of people to hear the messages at one time. During a recent test, speech and music transmitted by radio from Rock Island, Ill., were plainly audible to an audience of 200 persons.

Improvements in the science of radio-telegraphy have been made with such rapidity during the past ten years that it is difficult to keep equipment up to date. Just now there seems to be a slight pause in major improvements, so the equipment at the University is being remodeled to conform with the most recent practice. A first-class wave-meter and other measuring instruments have been added to the equipment so as to permit of quantitative measurements. One common measurement is the checking up of the wave-length of amateur stations so that they may be sure that they are adjusted to comply with the law limiting them to the use of wave-lengths of 200 meters or less. We also calibrate wave-meters for amateurs.

Radio-telegraphy has become so common that it has been deemed advisable to give some instruction in this subject to all electrical engineering students. Several of our graduates are now working in this field. A graduate student is now carrying out an investigation on the design of a commonly used piece of apparatus which, if successful, should greatly increase the efficiency of receiving sets.

One of the regular duties of the person in charge of the station is the reception of time signals from Washington, D. C., and their transmission to the town and the surrounding country by means of flashes from a lamp on the top of the Old Capitol flag-staff. On any evening when the atmos-

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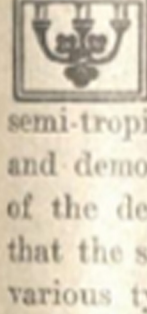
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pheric disturbances "static" are not too severe, one can sit in our radio-laboratory and listen to an opera being presented in

Chicago,—an orchestra performing in Pittsburgh,—or commercial messages from Europe.

A NEW GREENHOUSE

By CLIFFORD H. FARR, '11, '12 M. S.



WITH the development of the department of botany at the University during the past few years there has come an increasing demand for greenhouse space. Tropical and semi-tropical plants are needed for study and demonstrations in the various courses of the department in which it is desired that the students become familiar with the various types of plants. It is especially important that such plants be available for use in the work in pharmaceutical botany which the department gives for the College of Pharmacy. In addition, greenhouses are needed for purposes of investigation upon the growth and various processes and activities of plants. Furthermore it is highly desirable that the University maintain a collection of plants, especially of plants of economic importance, from all parts of the world for the general interest and enlightenment of the student body and the citizens of the state who visit the campus from time to time but perchance have never had the opportunities of an extended trip to distant lands.

Up to two years ago the only space available for this purpose was the small greenhouse which stood between the Women's Gymnasium and Old Science Hall and on the south side of the little building known as the Plant House Laboratory. This little building had served for several years to house through the winter various cultivated plants of the campus; it met in a very limited manner the needs of the department of botany. In 1919 there was erected a small greenhouse at the south-

west corner of Old Science Hall for purposes of demonstration and experiments in the work of general botany.

During the past summer the University has replaced the old greenhouse with a structure covering about twice its area and having a basement for use in the research work of the department. The site is found to be an excellent location for a botany greenhouse for several reasons. The neighboring buildings afford excellent protection against the cold winds from the north. They also shade the new greenhouse in such a way that proper illumination may be secured for almost all plants, whether they come from deep forests or from desert regions. As one passes from north to south in the greenhouse one comes to areas which are illuminated by direct sunlight for longer and longer periods during each day. Another advantage of this location is that it is in direct connection with the laboratory for plant physiology to the north. This permits the experimental work in this subject to be carried on with the greatest convenience. It is to be noted that at both Chicago and Columbia Universities the plant physiology laboratories are several blocks distant from the greenhouses used in that work.

Our new greenhouse is so planned that an underground passage may readily be constructed connecting this building with Old Science Hall, so that the new greenhouse may be freely accessible to all work of the department. As it is at present, many days in winter prevent the transfer of large plants from one building to another.

Special rooms for research have been