How is a Wireless Message Received?

EVERY incandescent lamp has a filament. Mount a metal plate on a wire in the lamp near the filament. A current leaps the space between the filament and the plate when the filament glows.

Edison first observed this phenomenon in 1883. Hence it was called the “Edison effect.”

Scientists long studied the “effect” but they could not explain it satisfactorily. Now, after years of experimenting with Crookes tubes, X-ray tubes and radium, it is known that the current that leaps across is a stream of “electrons”—exceedingly minute particles negatively charged with electricity.

These electrons play an important part in wireless communication. When a wire grid is interposed between the filament and the plate and charged positively, the plate is aided in drawing electrons across; but when the grid is charged negatively it drives back the electrons. A very small charge applied to the grid, as small as that received from a feeble wireless wave, is enough to vary the current stream.

So the grid in the tube enables a faint wireless impulse to control the very much greater amount of energy in the flow of electrons, and so radio signals too weak to be perceived by other means become perceptible by the effects that they produce. Just as the movement of a throttle controls a great locomotive in motion, so a wireless wave, by means of the grid, affects the powerful electron stream.

All this followed from studying the mysterious “Edison effect”—a purely scientific discovery.

No one can foresee what results will follow from research in pure science. Sooner or later the world must benefit practically from the discovery of new facts.

For this reason the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company are concerned as much with investigations in pure science as they are with the improvement of industrial processes and products. They, too, have studied the “Edison effect” scientifically.

The result has been a new form of electron tube, known as the “pilotron,” a type of X-ray tube free from the vagaries of the old tube; and the “kinesotron,” which is called by electrical engineers a “rectifier” because it has the property of changing an alternating into a direct current.

All these improvements followed because the Research Laboratories try to discover the “how” of things. Pure science always justifies itself.


dated 2/1/22

South Wind

From some old dream of Motherhood,
South Wind, you learned your winsomeness;
Some dream-song dimly understood,
Elusive in its loveliness.

Where did she stand? Beside what shore
Slow-pacing sang she to her child?
Your secret this, yet o'er and o'er
Her music has the world beguiled.

So now,—snows melt, streams fill with song;
Wings flash, blithe bird-notes sound anew;
Hope, winter-weary, rises strong,—
Love laughs,—and all because of you!

John Mills Gilbert.

The “Messenger”

Come one and all St. Stephen's men
Your thinking caps now don,
And for the sake of “Messenger”
The learned sock put on.
You may not be a writer great,
But wake up Freshman silly-pate!
For even now 'tis not too late
To add a trifle to your fate.
And to the "Messenger".

Come one and all wise Sophomores!
Why do you bear the name
If for St. Stephen's "Messenger"
You can't a word proclaim?
Be spy something to contribute;
We know your minds not destitute,
You are not void of mental fruit,
So quickly, quickly institute
A real "Messenger."

(Continued on page 4.)

As a Man Thinketh

I had built me a wonderful castle, in the land of "Make-Believe."
Where dreamers are always building and fashioning symphonies,
Building them story on story, gilding them 'till they gleam,
Till at last they awake to reason, and remember only the dream.

Gold was the castle I builded, gold and silver and brass—
Decked the wonderful hallways, where I dreamed would pass
Lovable dream companions, friends of my hopes and joys.
Little I dreamed of sorrow, I pictured my happiness, toys.

This was a phantom creation, yet I had hoped to see,
Buildings of fame and my future, not dreams, but a certainty.
Things that I dreamed of would happen, gained by work and strife,
Things that I won would mean only ways for a nobler life.

Not all I dreamed of has happened, perhaps there hasn't been time,
Perhaps God wills that some things I want shall never be mine,
But one thing I know that is certain, we either are great or small,
For "As a Man Thinketh, so is he", it's true for us one and for all.

A. Richey, '23.
Dedication of the Gymnasium

ON Sunday morning, January 9th, the Memorial Gymnasium was formally dedicated as a memorial of the students and alumni of St. Stephen’s College who served their country in the World War, and especially as a memorial of the following men who gave their lives: Lieutenant Wallace Kerro (Croix de Guerre), Sergeant Arthur Paul Kelley, Corporal Walter Raymond Whitmore, and Privates Henry P. Seymour, Leroy Abraham Wyant, and Leo William Vincent (Croix de Guerre).

At the close of the Chapel service the President, Faculty, Student Body, and Guests were conducted to the gymnasium in formal procession. There, after the singing of appropriate hymns, the Right Reverend Doctor Gailor, Presiding Bishop of the Executive Council of the Church, offered dedicatory prayers. President Bell, in a short address, remembered the men who lost their lives in the war, and called upon the Reverend Lawrence T. Cole, former warden of the College, and Halley Fisk for short speeches. The ceremony was concluded by the singing of “The Star Spangled Banner.”

The “Mummers”

A NEW club has put in its appearance at “St. Stephen’s,” which has for its purpose organized dramatics, and is called the “Mummers.” The club has the hearty support of every student and member of the faculty. There are many reasons for this. In the first place, the college needs organized dramatics just as much as it needs teams in athletics; just as much as it needs a glee club. Organized dramatics not only benefit those taking part in them, but they also benefit those who attend the plays. Dramatics during the dull winter months are such a college as St. Stephen’s would put some “pep” into the place. These organized dramatics would give and will give men who have any talent in the line of acting and who may not have athletic talent, a chance to do something for the college and for themselves. Nearly every college of any size has a dramatic club and such a club here would, so speak, “put our college on the map.” Help make the new club a success, and if you have any talent or think you have, speak up! Give the “Mummers” your hearty support.

THE MESSENGER

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Dr. Percy Stickey Grant proclaimed that a bishop should be elected in the same way as a political leader is elected. Whether or not this method of campaigning with a definite platform view or will ever be countenanced in the election of a bishop is at present hard to ascertain.

The bishop of New York was elected as anyone might imagine, purely from the honest opinions of the voters. Dr. William T. Manning was the Bishop-elect of New York by majority which, upon the face of it, bespeaks his popularity and fitness for the position. Whether or not political wires were pulled to their best advantage matters not, for, with all due respect to the other candidates—none of whom would undoubtedly have made a very good head of the Diocese—Dr. Manning—if he be allowed to prophesy—will make one of the best bishops New York has ever had. He will, we believe, keep the New York diocese up to the position it has held for many years, that of the foremost and leading diocese in the United States.

If business ability is a necessary requisite of a bishop, surely Dr. Manning possesses an ability in business to be envied by many men who are already bishops. His work and success as head of the Trinity Parish Corporation brands him as a successful and dignified business man, and his personality has kept his negotiations full of sparkling personality instead of cold mechanical transaction. Dr. Manning in all his work wavers his spiritual life. While heretofore he has been the successful spiritual leader of one of the largest parishes in the world, now he is to be the great guiding head and spiritual influence of a diocese consisting of many parishes and churches.

The diocese of New York will benefit greatly by having such a man at its head; it is certainly fortunate that Dr. Manning was elected.

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We are now passing through the hardest time of the year at the college—the one hard stage of our life on the campus—midwinter. To some of us, Annendale, unmasked of its bright autumn coloring and not yet ready for its spring cloaks of green, seems a bit lonely, and out of the way of the cares and the thoughts of the rest of the world. Perhaps we have failed in a few of our examinations and have had various other troubles. Our misery is sure to be shared by the company and soon we begin to feel that there must be something wrong with the college or its location, forgetting that our life here is exactly as we choose to make it. If we regard the classrooms, the gymnasium, and the chapel as places of mental, physical, and spiritual torments, certainly the winter months are going to foster discontent and unhappiness.

This condition is by no means a new one at St. Stephen’s. In previous years the midwinter “blues” were attributed to the absence of a gymnasium. The gymnasium is this year a poor substitute, but a gymnasium alone cannot alleviate this condition; a complete change of attitude on our part is necessary. Let us enter heartily into the activities of the campus and regard them as privileges and pleasures instead of painful duties and obligations. Let us live more the traditional carefree life of the undergraduate instead of serving a sentence of several months. After we leave St. Stephen’s all of us will have to pass through periods when we shall feel a thousand times more lonely and deserted than we did in the college. Then we will realize that it is much easier to make a big part of a little world than a very little part of a big world. If St. Stephen’s ever tests us, it is during this time of the year. The ability to be happy and enthusiastic and to make others the same when external things are somewhat gloomy and depressing is going to be of much greater value in the world that we are about to enter than it is in college days. It is a requisite quality for our future success. The place to begin its cultivation is St. Stephen’s; the time is the present.

EXAMINATION week is over. The results of the dread struggle have been posted, causing various emotions in the undergraduate breast. It seems that now we might indulge ourselves in one of our favorite complaints, not that we expect our learned faculty to take any more than the passive interest they show towards the grumble of that perniciously discontented mass, the student body, but we will again go on record with a protest against what we think is an intolerable system. In the first place, semesterly examinations fall in the purpose for which they were intended. They do not give the instructor a fair knowledge of the student’s understanding of the subject. It is a difficult thing, if not an impossible one, to select a few questions that will cover the course. It often happens that the student who has put little work on the subject can answer the specific questions asked by the professor better than one who really has a sound knowledge of the course in general. Then some professors mark a paper with mathematical nicety and think their examination a great success! But the examination system has an even more serious fault. A week of concentrated, brain-fagging work leaves the student in a serious physical and nervous state. It is impossible for many students to finish the examiner ones to do their best on examinations falling near the end of the week. They aren’t given a fair chance. In former times it was the custom in our sister institutions, and to a degree here, for general frankness to prevail after examinations. We do not condone this practice in the least, but such a reaction is easily understood. The health of their charges should certainly be of some interest to a true educator. Then consider the sorrow that failure brings to some, some who have been conscientious and have done their best according to their lights. Failure in examinations has changed the course of many a student’s life, and has brought light upon his college life. Not that men will not fail in any system, but surely something better could be devised.

But the college—and we have tried the examination system for centuries—and, we believe, have found it a failure from the start. Then why do we keep on with it? Almost any professor will agree with what has been said above. In fact, most of the above views have come straight from lecture chairs in St. Stephen’s. Some professors whose courses are largely lectures, give tests which have practically the same value as the half-year examinations at comparatively close intervals. This is an attempt, and we hope that this practice will spread. Since this system is almost universally condemned by faculty as well as students, then the only excuses for its stupid existence are inability after hundreds of years to devise better ways or disinterestedness.

Athletics

UPON the completion of the Memorial Gymnasium, Coach Major Prince issued a call for basketball candidates. Approximately thirty-five answered the call and practice was begun immediately. After the first two weeks Major Prince cut the squad to twenty men, whom he has been drilling daily.

As was the case in football, it is necessary to build up an entirely new team. However, many of the men have played on last “prep” school aggregations and show experience. There is considerable good material in the squad, and it is expected that the coach will turn out a well-balanced “five.”

Dragon Club Notes

ON Wednesday evening, January 12, Dr. Henry N. MacCracken, President of Vassar College, lectured in Preston Hall under the auspices of the Dragon Club on certain phases of international policy. Dr. MacCracken based his lecture on personal experience gained while engaged in Red Cross work in Middle Europe, and presented many things which would be impossible for us to know through reading. He is the third lecturer we have had from our neighboring college, all of whom have afforded us very pleasant experiences, which, we hope, will continue.

She—You have such affectionate eyes, George.
George—Dearest, do you really mean that?
She—Yes, they are always looking at each other—Campus.
Alumni Notes

On January the 19th the Reverend Robert Herbert Mize, '94, was consecrated Bishop of Salina at Grace Cathedral, Topeka, Kansas. It is interesting to note that among the clergy participating in the consecration service was the Right Reverend Harry S. Longley, D.D., Bishop-Coadjutor of Iowa, also an alumnus of St. Stephen's.

On January the 2nd, in the Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour, Faribault, Minn., Harold B. Adams, '38, was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Minnesota.

The Reverend Leopold Kroll, '97, is in charge of St. Bartholomew's Church, White Plains, N. Y., during the absence of the Rector, Bishop Lloyd.

The Reverend George Dudley Barr has become assistant at Grace Church, Lockport, N. Y.

1909—Prof. Antoon F. Blomberg, former classmate, fraternity brother, and college chums to send all communications to his new address: c/o The Government Academy, Sassyama, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan.

The Mail Box

Madras, India,

To the Editor of The Messenger,

Dear Sir:

May I, through the columns of "The Messenger", wish all my old college friends a Happy New Year? I should like to write to each and every one of you, and I may eventually. In far off India, I miss dear old Annandale and I should appreciate letters from you all. I shall answer them faithfully. Good luck and happiness to you all.

Faithfully in S. S. C.,
(Signed) NEL ELY.

C/o Standard Oil Company, of New York,
Madras, India.

S. A. E. Notes

On Thursday evening, February 3rd, the following men were initiated into Sigma Alpha Epsilon: Wilber E. Law, David F. K. Stedman, Harvey A. Simmonds, Edwin H. Wilmeth, and Francis B. White, Jr. After the initiation there was a banquet in St. John's Parish House, Barrytown. The following alumni were back for the affair: Kroll, '97; Treden, '01; Curtis, Simmonds, '07; Gardner, '97; Hart- zell, '15; Stretch, '19; Sinsabaugh, ex-'19; Hoffman, '20, and Pfaffko, '23.

Kappa Gamma Chi

At the annual initiation, held in the fraternity house on Wednesday, February 2nd, 1921, the following men were "kapped": Bouton, '24; Kolb, '24; Richey, '24, and Shirley, '24. Several alumni were present. A bus took the members of the fraternity to and from a banquet held at the Nelson House, in Poughkeepsie.

The Right Reverend Charles Fiske, D.D., Bishop-Coadjutor of Central New York, was unable to carry out his purposed plan to visit the college, where he was to preach on February 6th, on account of illness.

A mid-winter reunion of the Fraternity of Kappa Gamma Chi was held in New York City on the evening of February 4th. There was a very large number of alumni present. The revere- end Henry N. Wayne, one of the founders of the fraternity, was the guest of honor.

Psychology.

Professor—"Now I put the number seven on the board. What number immediately comes into your mind?"

Class (in unison)—"Eleven"—Burr.

Splint—Do you want a cuff on the trousers?

Brinton—Do you want a slap on the wrist?

Jack—Say Billy, does your car always make as much noise as this?

Mac Michaels—No, only when it's running.

Lorna—Did you call her up this morning?

Doone—Yes, but she wasn't down.

Lorna—Why didn't you call her down?

Doone—Because she wasn't up.

Lorna—Then call her up now and call her down for not being down when you called her up.

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