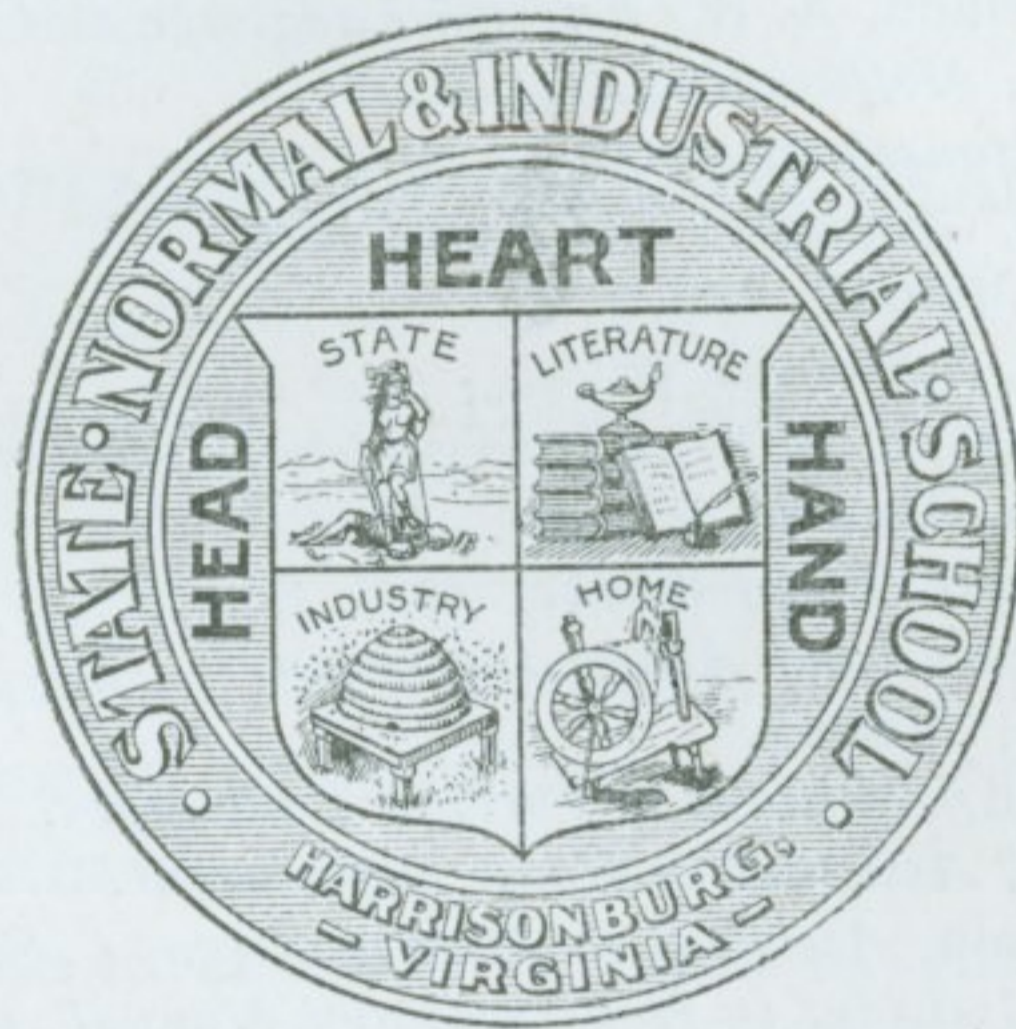


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# The Normal Bulletin



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## THE NORMAL BULLETIN

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### OPENING OF SECOND YEAR.

The second session of the Normal School at Harrisonburg began September 27, 1910, under the most favorable auspices. The enrollment on the first day exceeded the previous year by about fifty per cent. Since the opening a number of others have enrolled, bringing the present attendance close to two hundred. Basing the estimate on last year's figures the total enrollment for the year should nearly reach the three hundred mark by June.

Increase in numbers is not, however, the chief aim of the school, and a much more important fact should be noted concerning this year's students. The entrance requirements for the school were raised by two years for this session, consequently the students in attendance at present are very much better prepared for the work of the Normal School than they were last session. It is true that a number of applicants had to be denied admittance, but these entered high schools, or other schools where the entrance requirements are not so high as here; and a majority of them will perhaps come to the Normal School later, after being better prepared for this grade of work. It would seem that this is the only fair course to pursue toward the high schools of the state; and it is believed that this school will

not be injured by it, but on the other hand greatly improved, as what may possibly be sacrificed in numbers will be more than made up in quality of work done, and in the satisfaction of knowing that the high schools are not being robbed of students to supply the Normal School.

The representation is much more widely distributed this term, and about two-thirds of the counties and cities of Virginia are included, together with six other states. This fact indicates that the school is becoming more widely known throughout our state, due largely to those who have been in attendance. During its short existence of little more than one year, the school has registered 470 different persons, from all over the state, and these are its best advertisement.

Class-work began regularly on the second day of the term and the students are working faithfully. The session promises to be successful in every way. Almost without exception our students have come with the purpose of preparing themselves to teach in the schools of the state, and they do not waste time. A peep into the crowded library will convince one of this fact. The special courses in Household and Manual Arts have received a good number of additions this term; and the Kindergarten Training Course has been a great favorite. This school makes a special effort to provide facilities in the industrial branches and these classes are always full.

### **SPRING AND SUMMER TERMS,**

The Spring Quarter, which begins about the first of April, was very well attended last year, many teachers from various sections of the state taking advantage of it after their schools closed. The Summer Quarter, which begins about the middle of June and continues to September first, surpassed all expectations in point of attendance and work accomplished last year. During the first term, of six weeks, ending with the state examinations at the end of July, there were over two hundred teachers in attendance. The work was unusually thorough and was

hardly surpassed in any summer school. The instructors in the summer school are regular members of the faculty of this institution, with few exceptions, and those who are not are chosen with great care and are of recognized reputation in the state.

The summer school work being credited as a part of the Normal School, many of the regular students remaining for work in the summer to count on their courses here, it is necessary to maintain high standards. It can be said with confidence that the summer work here was more like the regular session of a Normal School than that of a summer school, and the term continuing six weeks enabled much more to be accomplished than could have been done in the ordinary four weeks normal. The second term, continuing through August, was attended by about forty faithful and earnest students, and the results accomplished prove the wisdom of the experiment.

Plans are now being made for a greater and better Summer Session next summer; and it is believed that the advantages offered here will be equal to those at any of the summer schools of the south, and superior to most of them on account of the length of term, character of work, location and low cost. Prospective students are even now writing to the school about the spring and summer work, many having already signified their intention of coming. Last summer there were representatives from forty-six different counties and cities in Virginia and from six other states; and present indications point to a splendid attendance from all over the state the coming summer.

### **THE NEW BUILDING.**

The new dormitory building, which will accommodate seventy-four students, two in a room, will be ready for occupancy at the opening of the Winter Quarter; and this handsome building, larger than either of the other buildings, will be a magnificent addition to the school plant.

The new building will contain an excellent gymnasium, with unobstructed floor and high ceiling. This will be

equipped with serviceable apparatus, a bowling-alley, shower-baths and steel lockers. There will also be a small visitors' gallery for those who desire to witness the gymnastic exercises and match games.

The central heating-plant of the school will be placed in a perfectly fire-proof room, of concrete and steel construction.

### **THE TRAINING SCHOOL.**

Already one of the best schools in the state, the Harrisonburg High and Graded School, which is used for the observation and practice-teaching of the Normal School, has been greatly strengthened and its work expanded this session. In the High School department a Commercial Course has been added, and there are two additions to the faculty. In the Elementary School another room has been added and three new teachers have been appointed. These teachers were carefully selected and are ladies of splendid training, wide experience and established reputation in their chosen work. Two of them were called from the training school of a Normal School in another state, and one has held a similar position in the practice school of Teachers College, New York.

With a High School enrollment of over one hundred, an enrollment in the eight grades and kindergarten of about seven hundred, a splendid new building, a strong corps of teachers and the same efficient management that had charge of the schools last session, Harrisonburg is not behind any city in the state, and the advantage to the Normal School is very great. The two schools are co-operating in every way and the outlook is most encouraging. A new graded school building is to be erected in another part of the town, a three-acre lot, worth about \$5,000, having been donated for this purpose. The building will cost not less than \$10,000 and will be ready for occupancy next session.

### **RURAL SCHOOL WORK.**

A recent valuable addition to the faculty, made possible through the generosity of the Peabody Education Fund,

is Miss Rhea C. Scott, formerly Supervisor of Rural Schools in Albemarle County, whose work there was crowned with success. Miss Scott will work in the rural schools, helping wherever she can and giving instruction to the Normal School students in methods of rural school work. From the reception given her in the schools of this section it is safe to predict gratifying results.

### **THE LIBRARY.**

In the additions to equipment this year the library has not been forgotten. Many valuable additions have been made, especially in the departments of Education, English and History. The library now includes about two thousand bound volumes, exclusive of government reports and pamphlets. Additions are being made constantly. All of the books have been carefully selected with a view to their practical value, hence the collection represents as much in real worth as many libraries of much greater size. A large number of carefully selected periodicals are regularly received, together with several of the daily newspapers of the state. The library room is kept open every day and evening and is nearly always crowded with readers.

### **ENTERTAINMENTS.**

There will be no lack of first-class entertainments this session. The following list of attractions has been arranged, and others will be added later.

Nov. 14, Bostonia Sextette Concert.

Nov. 30, Lecture, Senator Bob Taylor.

Jan. 18, Lecture, Bruce Amsbary.

Feb. 18, Metropolitan Grand Concert Co.

Mar. 25, The Scotch Singers.

May, The Coburn Players.

In addition to these the weekly meetings of the Literary Societies, various receptions, recitals and athletic events enliven the student life and give the necessary relief from hard work. The students have shown great initiative and ingenuity in planning entertainments, and these are

much enjoyed. All of the student organizations are in good condition and are doing active work.

### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.**

The next number of the Bulletin, to be issued in January, will contain announcements of the **spring** and **summer** work. This will be of special interest to the large number of teachers in the state whose schools close early in the spring. Attention is called to the fact that by entering at the opening of the Spring Quarter, March 28th, it is possible for teachers to complete about six months of school work before their school terms begin in the fall; and also to the fact that **any three quarters at this school will count as a full year's work**, whether they are consecutive or not, thus enabling teachers to earn one of the diplomas of the school by residence in spring or summer terms only.

As we are already receiving letters requesting information, and in some cases reservation of rooms, for the Spring and Summer quarters, teachers who are contemplating attendance are urged to write us to this effect as soon as possible.

We desire to add the names of all who may be interested in the school and its work to our mailing list, so that we may forward to them from time to time (free of charge) the publications of the school. Our friends will confer a favor by sending us the names and addresses of such persons of their acquaintance. Previous numbers of the Normal Bulletin, **including the annual catalog**, will be cheerfully sent to all who request them.