

SAGE MAIDENS OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

IN the hill rising in the eastern part of the city of Ithaca is situated the University whose fame is now so widespread, whose name figures so prominently among the colleges of the land, that there is in the word "Cornell" something which at once arrests the attention

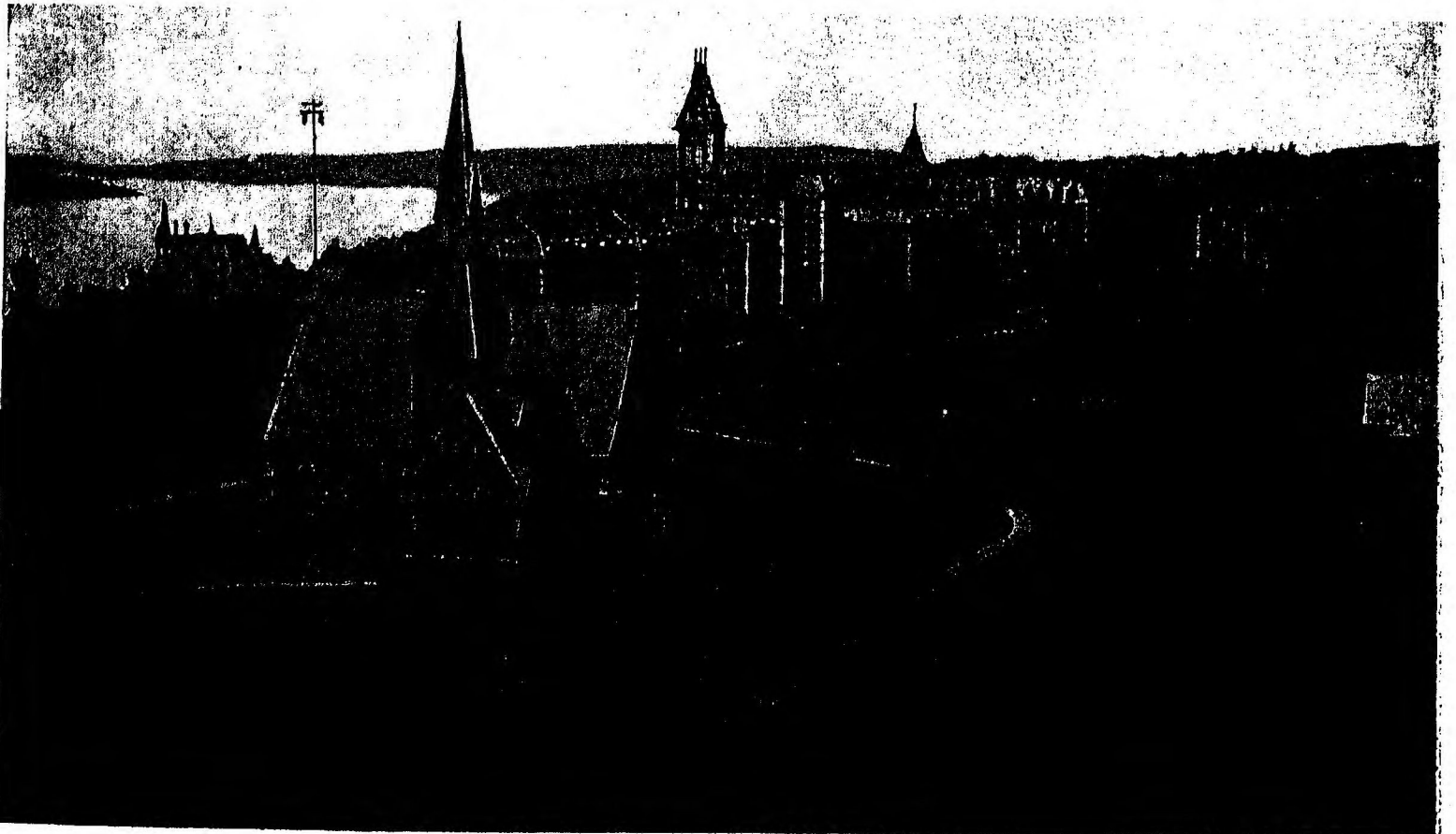
charm which lingers about that word "Cornell" appeals, not alone to the student body, nor to the alumni, nor alumnae of that institution, but to all whose interests are in any way enlisted in that which connects itself with the educational world.



GRADUATES OF 1890.

and awakens the interest of all. To those whose privilege it is to frequent her classic halls, and to those who enjoy the proud distinction of looking to that institution as their Alma Mater, there is a rich music in the name; but the

While the story of Cornell's vast resources, of her splendid equipment for diffusing knowledge in every department of learning—literary, scientific, and technical—is well known, while her successes in contests, both for physical and intel-



VIEW OF CORNELL CAMPUS.

lectual supremacy, are published far and near, there are some features of the life at this great institution of learning which, while being of special and peculiar interest, are not so widely discussed nor so generally understood; and it is particularly to the life of the female element among the students that this statement may be said to apply.

What are some of the joys and sorrows, the trials and pleasures, the failures and triumphs, that come within the

How prevalent may be the misconception which has been found to exist, namely, that Sage College is a department of the University by itself, that its fair occupants are isolated in work, at least, from that other element which goes to make up the student body,—how prevalent this misconception may be, it is impossible to say; but anyone laboring under the impression that Sage College is of the same nature as the Harvard Annex, would have this delusion



CLASS OF '00.

experience of the Cornell girl? "Cornell girl." By what better term can we designate the young lady of this University? One must not be led into the mistake her brother-student has been prone to make, that of calling her a "Co-ed," for he himself has sometimes learned, by bitter experience, to regret his blunder. "Sage maiden" is pretty, but many of the lady students are not domiciled within the brick structure that occupies a conspicuous place upon the campus and bears the name of "The Sage." Those whose homes are in the University city are spared the necessity of accustoming themselves to a new boarding and lodging place, and the somewhat limited accommodations of the Sage building make it necessary that a considerable number of others take advantage of the opportunity given to dwell among professors' families, among relatives or friends; but in the event of the accomplishment of the project for converting the botanical department at Sage into apartments for student boarders, it will doubtless be expected that all the young ladies whose homes are without the city shall domicile within the building intended for that purpose.

quickly dispelled were he suddenly to enter a recitation-room in Morrill, White, or Franklin Hall, or, indeed, in almost any of the buildings that adorn the college grounds. He would find ladies and gentlemen together, listening to the same lectures, or prepared for the same recitation work; and were he to enter any of the various laboratories, he would find them there, performing similar experiments, or engaged in like microscopic study. Thus it will be understood that Sage College is simply what may be termed the home of the lady students, or of a considerable part of them, during their course at Cornell; and while it is apparent that the social and scholastic life of those who dwell within and without the building corresponds in almost every detail, one may gain the broadest conception of the life of the typical Cornell girl by considering, in particular, the fortunes of those whom destiny has placed for a period of four years within the protection of much-sung, much-idealized Sage.

It is with something of curiosity that the new student finds herself for the first time before the stone steps leading

to the entrance of the Sage building, for then it is she feels her college life has truly begun. She is soon after ushered into the long corridor, off which are the parlors, the rooms of the matron, the clock-room, the dining-hall, and from which passages lead to the ladies' gymnasium and the botanical department, the latter terminating in the flower-conservatory. As the new-comer is conducted to her room, she will discover that on the other floors are corridors corresponding to the one already mentioned, and that along the sides of these are ranged the dormitories intended for the lady students. Happy may she be if she is not obliged to ascend to the fourth floor to find her own room; for after climbing one hundred steps it is not pleasant to reflect that the process must be repeated innumerable times each day. As for the much-needed elevator at Sage, it exists, as yet, only as a product of the imagination.

Possibly the new student has chosen one of the large single, and more expensive, rooms, intended for the use of one person, or it may be that she and a chum have preferred to occupy together a room in which a low partition separates the sleeping-apartment from the parlor; at any rate, she will scarcely enter the room which she, from choice or

she informed that when the University clock has pealed forth that self-same hour, quiet is supposed to reign throughout the halls, and all students then within the building are expected to be comfortably established in their own rooms.

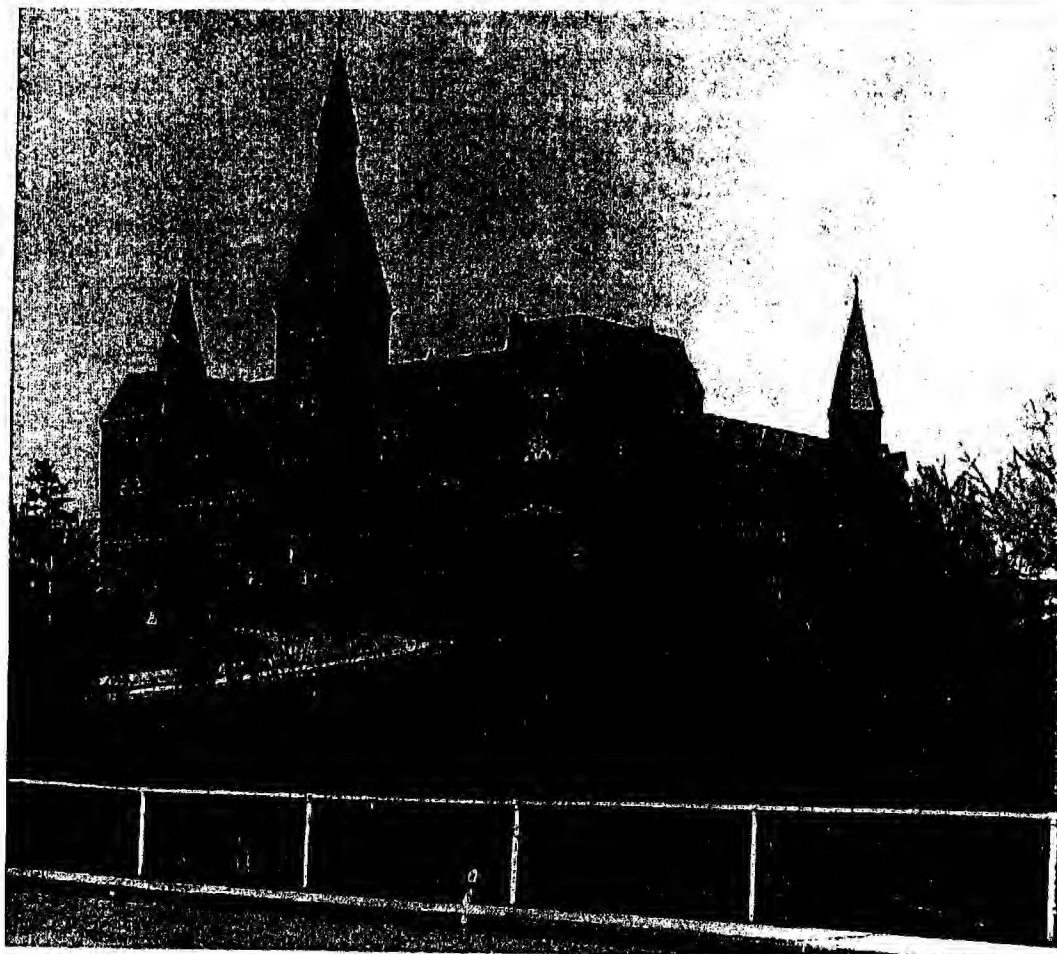
After this first introduction at Sage, the student finds herself quickly initiated into the separate features of Cornell life. Oh, those early days of freshman existence! With what amusement the Cornell girls afterward look back to them, in what a humorous light they subsequently view the things which at the time appeared serious enough! Many will recall their first registration-day, and remember the perplexity with which they explored the mysteries of that little volume entitled "Course of Instruction," when, with vain endeavor, they attempted to trace the connection existing between its contents and the headings on their registration-cards. Some will probably see again, in imagination, a morning in the past, when, breathless and panting, they reached White Hall, knowing that the chimes had already ceased to ring, that the bell had struck, and that their "eight o'clock," as it is termed, would soon begin. They will doubtless recall a desperate resolution, made at the time, to reach a recitation-room, at the other end of three



THE LIBRARY.

necessity, has been pleased to accept, before a bit of card-board, conspicuously placed upon her door, has attracted her attention. Ah! "Rules for Observation." That is what meets her eye; and she will need to read but once, that certain important rules may make their indelible impression upon her memory. Thus, early in her college life does the Sage maiden become aware that she may receive callers on but two evenings in the week, and that these callers must depart before the hour of ten; and thus, without delay, is

flights of stairs, and to reach it before the expiration of that five minutes' grace always given at the beginning of the hour; and they will remember, with exasperating distinctness, the mock satisfaction occasioned, some few minutes later, by the knowledge that they were right as to the story, though they had discovered, to their unutterable astonishment and dismay, that they had made a mistake as to the entrance, or, worse still, as to the building itself!



SAGE COLLEGE BUILDING.

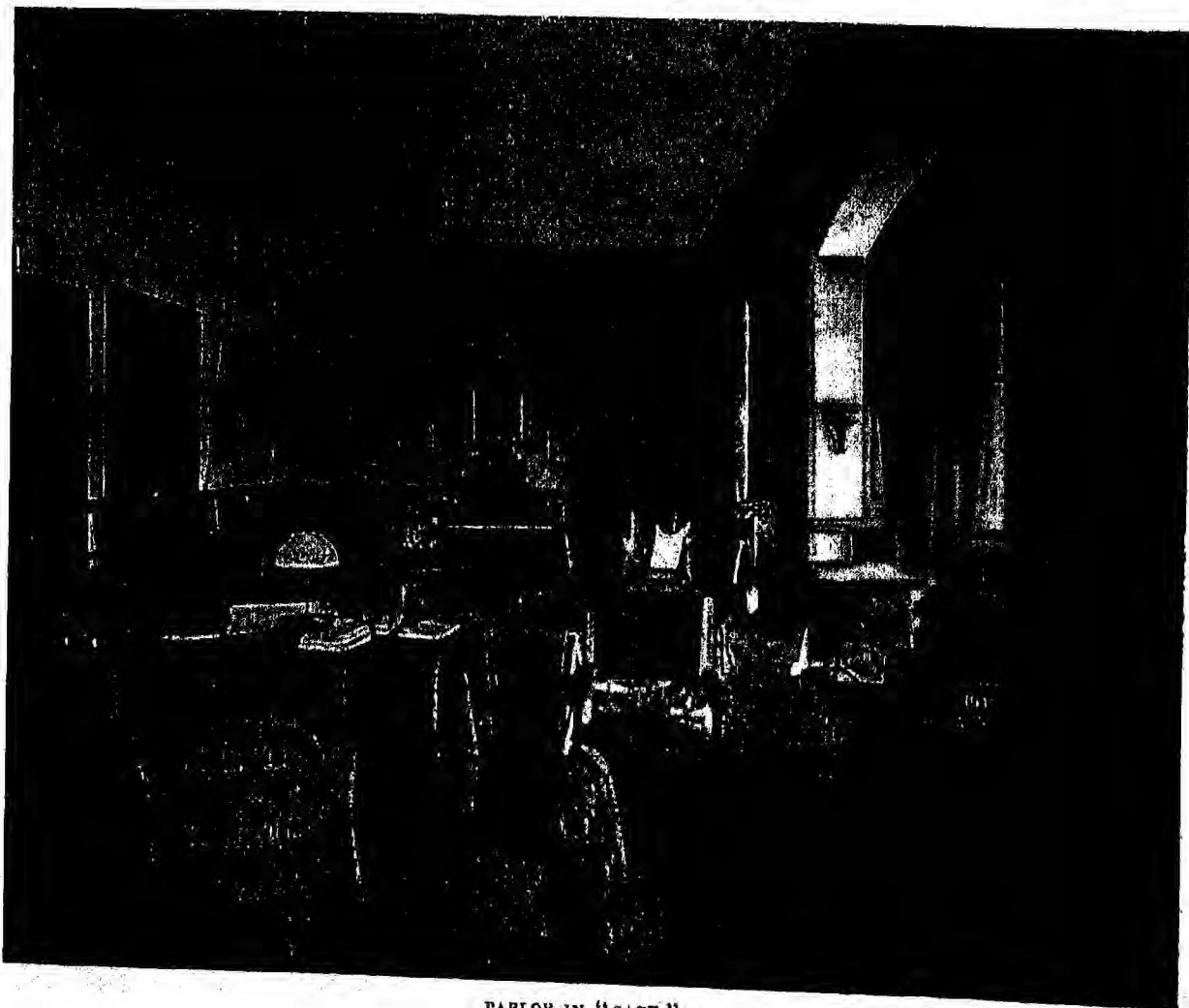
The many buildings, the several entrances, the different floors, the various recitation-rooms on each of these, must all be borne in mind; and notwithstanding that by names and numbering, the confusion which would otherwise ensue is largely obviated, yet, amid the hurry of rapidly passing classes, the new student often finds herself in a most unhappy state of bewilderment.

But these are not the only trials the Cornell girl must meet and overcome. It is with blushing confusion that the verdant maiden of the freshman class sees her hat flying across the campus, with two or three gallant young men following in close pursuit; and though she, at the moment, vows vengeance on that article of head-gear, her wrath will be calmed, her feelings soothed, when she comes to know that such scenes are not of infrequent occurrence, that it is by such playful diversions those energetic breezes from Cayuga's waters, sweeping past "the high castle by the sea,"—the McGraw-Fiske

mansion,—often manifest their presence upon the Cornell college grounds. And it is the freshman girl who feels, with special keenness, the humiliation of that most embarrassing of situations to which an ivy campus can give rise; but not all her sophomore experience, bringing with it her considerable knowledge of the science of physics, has been sufficient to teach the Cornell girl the secret by which she may, at all times, be capable of maintaining her equilibrium. The girl of the freshman class, too, has the disagreeable satisfaction of learning, just a little later than she would have desired to, that during college hours it is not customary for students of the opposite sexes to recognize each other upon the campus.

There are yet other and somewhat less fleeting sources of annoyance that come to disturb the serenity of the Cornell girl's existence. It is usually with something of trepidation that

the student launches upon a college career; and it is not without some fears that the students of this University find themselves initiated into the stern realities of Cornell work: but, however great may be the anxiety which the young lady once experiences at thoughts of "prelims." (preliminary examinations) on the morrow, or of term examinations in the future, these things will, doubtless, come to



PARLOR IN "SAGE."

lose much of their power to arouse fears and dreadful apprehensions, for the work of the "co-eds"—as those co-eds of the masculine gender have persisted in designating the lady students—is, on the whole, of a very satisfactory nature, and it is seldom that one of them experiences the unpleasant sensation of knowing that those visions of "busts" and conditions, which have haunted her nightly slumbers and disturbed her waking hours, are no dreams, but indeed realities.

"Bust," that word of home-made application and of so much convenience in a college vocabulary,—the aim of which is in every possible instance to avoid

such circumlocution as, "Failure in a subject," for which this term is substituted,—this, and other words of college phraseology, which have such a paralyzing effect upon people outside a university-town, are used by Cornell girls with apparent relish, despite all due respect which they would show to freshman rhetoric and its laws of "purity, propriety, and precision."



A STUDENT'S ROOM IN "FAIR."

endeavor to shed some ray of light upon that dark mystery, the algebra, and many a young lady well knows that in one corner of her bookcase is a black-bound volume upon whose carmine edges are traces of suspicious-appearing water-drops, all suggestive of that time gone by; while in the minds of nearly all, will be associated with the Oliver, Walt, and Jones' Algebra,—known among students as the

"O. W. J."—thoughts not wholly complimentary to its dreadful combinations and permutations, to its endless numbers of examples, theorems, corollaries, and notes. It was the girl of '98 who felt that a special providence must be watching over her, when she learned that that dread book—the occasion still of sophomore groans—had, for all except technical students, been supplanted by another; yet the appellation of "all night," under which that other book, by Hall and Knight, became known, suggests that this itself is not of such an easily digested nature that it might properly be classed with those subjects known, in student's parlance, as the "snaps."

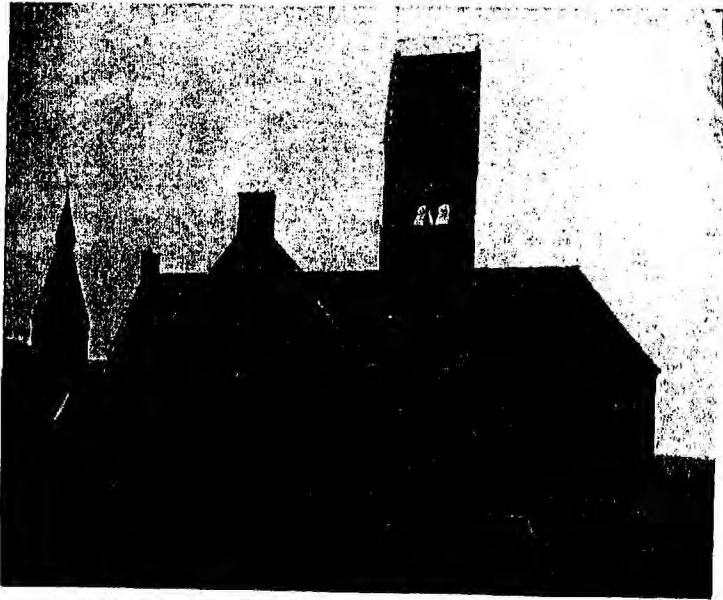
But, on the whole, the Cornell girl's existence is an extremely delightful one; and without neglecting her University work to any considerable extent, she manages to enjoy much of that pleasant social life for which a co-educational institution of learning naturally gives opportunity. After their first appearance at the University, the girls rapidly extend their lists



THE MCGRAW-PISKE MANSION.

In reflecting upon the trials that their college course has brought with it, the thoughts of seniors instinctively turn to a time, long past,—to those nights when, with freshman perseverance, they burned the midnight oil in their fruitless

of acquaintances. The lady students of the sophomore, junior, and senior classes call upon and welcome them, and the members of the four fraternities, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Delta Gamma, and Alpha Phi, are



BARNES HALL, THE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION BUILDING.

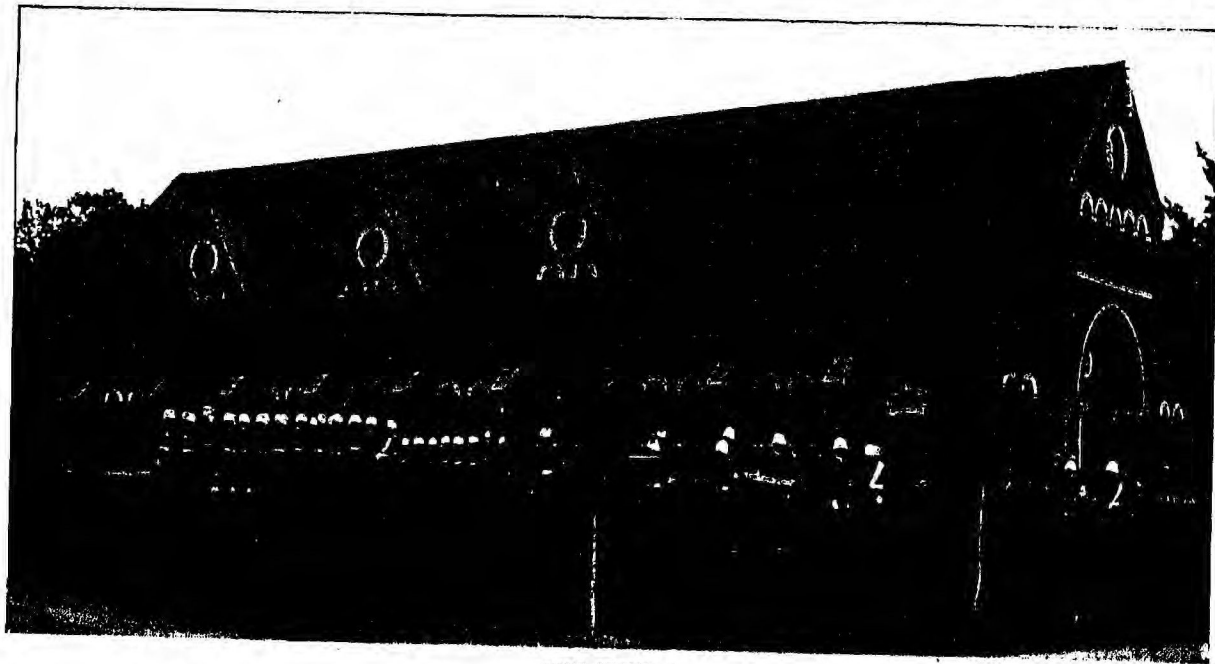
especially on the alert to make the acquaintance of the new-comers, and to select, from among those who are so inclined, the most congenial with whom to increase the

throughout the evening at least a half-dozen young gentlemen at once. Differing little from these are the receptions to students, given by the various churches of the city.

With the return of the students begins that round of gayeties, that series of concerts, receptions, banquets, and balls, which lend such a charm to Cornell life, and in which all the students take delight; but it would be impossible, in an article of this scope, to speak in detail of those various concerts and plays in which Cornell talent exhibits itself, of the receptions, differing in nature, given by the professors, at their homes, or of those others, ranging from the most informal to the most elaborate, given by the fraternity men, at their various chapter-houses. Nor would it be possible to even enumerate all the other events of social interest to lady students; but of these there are some which are of such pronounced importance that they must receive a passing notice, at least, in this connection. Among them are the hops at Sage. The young ladies giving these send invitations to certain of their gentlemen friends, and that the number may not, necessarily, be too limited, it has become customary, on these occasions, to increase the dancing space by using the large botanical lecture-room, in addition to the parlors. Differing from

the state of things existing at certain ladies' colleges,—Vassar, for example,—at Sage, as in all Cornell society, round dancing predominates, almost exclusively.

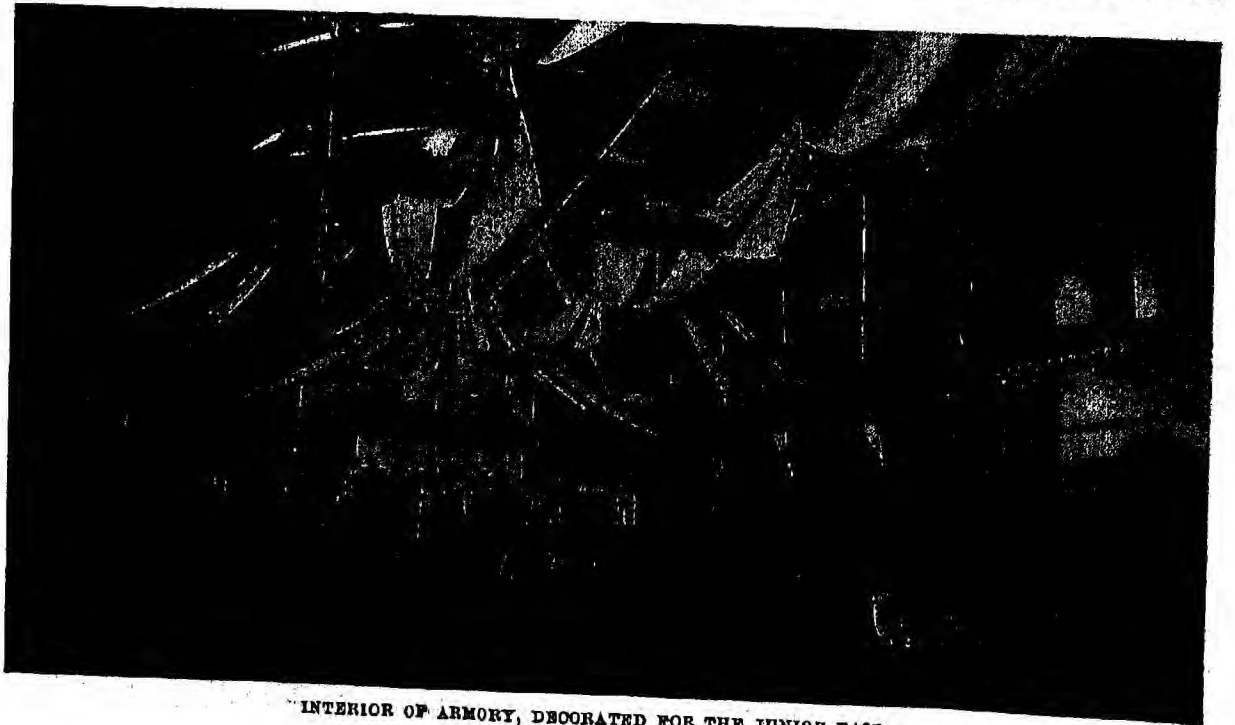
Resembling in most respects the parties at Sage, and among the events of chief general interest in the social life at Cornell, are the military hops. These, too, are full-dress parties, and the committee, consisting of the principal officers of the battal-



THE ARMORY.

membership of these various Greek-letter societies. Nor is the acquaintance of the young lady limited to those of her own sex: abundant opportunities are given, early in the college year, for meeting the other students as well. On the first Friday after registration-day, in the fall, the Christian Association gives a reception. These are rather informal occasions, but an introduction committee labors faithfully to make the unacquainted acquainted, and, owing to their inferiority in numbers, each young lady present feels in duty bound to entertain

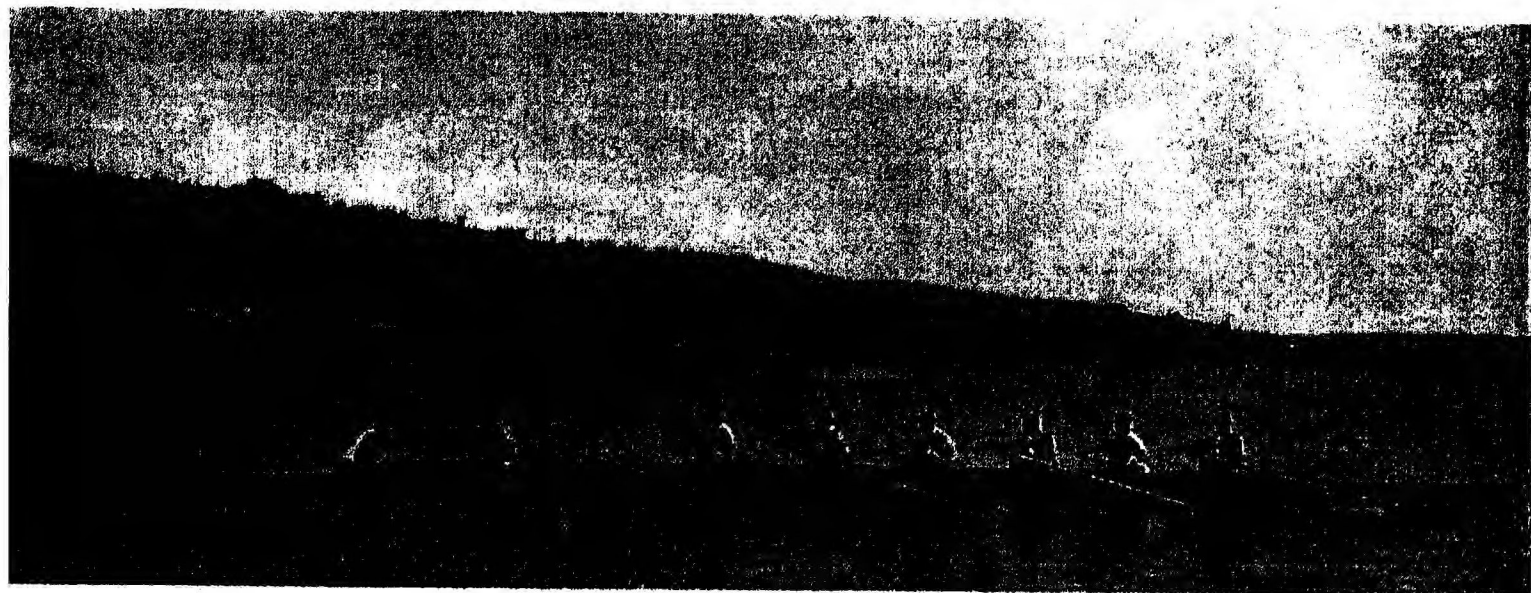
ion, add brilliancy to the scene by appearing in the gay military costume. About two of these hops are held each



INTERIOR OF ARMORY, DECORATED FOR THE JUNIOR BALL.

erm, in the armory, or gentlemen's gymnasium. In response to the general invitation which is always sent to Sage, a few of the young ladies are usually in attendance accompanied by the matron; but the majority of the Cornell girls accept individual invitations, or, in other words, accompany young men. On these occasions the ladies scarcely emerge from the dressing-room before they are surrounded by the male students, and their dancing-programmes are in great demand. It is usually about nine o'clock when the orchestra, consisting of ten or twelve pieces, strikes up and the promenade begins. Waltzes, polkas, schottisches, and lancers follow each other in rapid succession; and it is only when the hands of the clock indicate the approach of the hour of one, that the strains of "Auf Wiedersehen" arouse the eighty or ninety couples to realization of the fact that the time for departure is near.

another bell tells them that the breakfast-hour has come. Then they know that they must be in the dining-hall within the next sixty minutes, for after that no bribes will secure their admittance. University work usually occupies most of the morning hours, and the time not spent in lecture-rooms or laboratories is often employed in study. Much of this is done in the library or in the senior reading-room. It is not until fifteen minutes after one that the dinner-hour comes. Then, in the afternoon, the lake, the tennis-courts, or skating-ponds furnish available means for recreation, while the lady students manifest their interest in the young men's sports, by frequently occupying seats in the grand-stand that adorns the Cornell athletic grounds, or watching the boat-crews on the lake. At the expiration of the supper hour, the Sage girls assemble in the parlors to await the announcements of the matrons; and, later than



CORNELL UNIVERSITY CHEW OF 1890.

But surpassing in elaborateness and splendor all other social events at Cornell, are those celebrated affairs the junior and senior balls. Many of the Cornell girls attend them, but, on these occasions, ladies from abroad are always present in considerable numbers. The shimmer of beautiful dresses, the flash of jewels, the blaze of electric lights, the perfume of flowers, the crash of music,—all tend to produce a dazzling effect. More brilliant than ever were the last balls, those of 1890: the boxes, or booths, with their velvet curtains, were a new and additional feature; never on previous occasions had the Cornell colors—the cornelian and white—shown more conspicuously; never before were the bunting, muslin, Chinese parasols, banners, and trophies more artistically arranged; and never in preceding years had a second orchestra been among the features, adding to the effect by rendering the "concord of sweet sounds" more continuous. Many other things of interest might be spoken of in this connection, did space permit: something might be said of the banquets held in the freshman and sophomore years, and many instances might be cited of jokes perpetrated upon each other by the rival classes. But indeed these are of rather a wild nature. Unassuming freshman girls have a right to leave their ice-cream freezers left standing in the halls, and sophomores cannot complain if after seizing upon the tempting bait they find themselves in possession of an icy skeleton,—a freezer, but no cream.

Every day brings with it so much to take the time and attention of the Sage maidens that there is little chance for feelings of homesickness or loneliness to enter into their lives. The rising-bell sounding throughout the corridors rouses the young ladies from slumber, and, a little later,

that, if nothing more exhilarating presents itself, callers, chapter-meetings, or dancing in the gymnasium will serve to occupy any leisure hours which the student may have.

Thus time hangs, not heavily, upon the Cornell girl's hands. The days flit quickly by, the years, bringing with them their medley of joys and sorrows, wear rapidly away. But past pleasures and trials, triumphs and failures, all, all are forgotten in that one supreme moment, when the Cornell girl receives that which experience has taught her can be won only by earnest effort, that which she knows will receive a due appreciation from the outside world, that which is the true symbol of her work,—a Cornell diploma.

EDITH ANNA ELLIS.

C. U. '90.

"LADIES OF HIGH DEGREE," a charming article by Margaret Bisland, profusely illustrated with portraits of many of the handsomest and most distinguished ladies of the English aristocracy, ladies whose names are synonyms for beauty, talent, or fashion, will be one of the many attractions of February number of this Magazine. The illustrations will include fine portraits of the Prince of Wales' family and other members of England's royal house, and also those of several transplanted American beauties who have married into the English peerage, including Lady Randolph Churchill, the Duchess of Manchester, and the Duchess of Marlborough. All the pictures will be reproduced from recent photographs, and in the high style of art for which this Magazine is noted; and chatty biographical sketches of the lovely originals will enhance the interest and value of these beautiful pictures.