

# The Institute Monthly



Oct. - Nov. - Dec. - Jan.  
Feb. - Mar. - Apr. - May

1925-26

Press of  
The West Virginia Collegiate Institute  
Institute, W. Va.

C. H. Payne



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# THE INSTITUTE MONTHLY

*The West Virginia Collegiate Institute, Institute, W. Va.*

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### Sub-Committee on Publication for issuance of the Institute Monthly

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## Commencement Announcements

8 p. m. - May 28 - Fourth Year Class Play

3 p. m. May 30 - Baccalaureate Address  
by the President

6 - 8 p.m. - May 30 - President's Reception

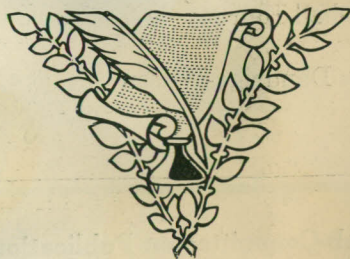
8 p. m. - May 31 - Othello

June 1 - Alumni Day

June 2 - 10 A. M., Commencement Exercises - Address by Dr. Eugene Kinkle Jones, Executive Secretary of the National Urban League.

Let every graduate who reads these announcements come and tell those who have not read them to come.

The Summer School will open on June 7, 1926



## The Institute Monthly

VOLUME SEVENTEEN

### EDITORIAL

With the entrance, for scholastic purposes, of most of the college classes, and a part of the secondary classes, into the new College Hall, at the beginning of the second semester of 1925, thirty-three years had passed since The West Virginia Collegiate Institute had begun its first session with an enrollment of fifty-one students.

No mere words may describe the change that these few years have witnessed. It is a change that shows itself not alone in the school, but in the miraculous development of the straggling hamlet that neighbored the school. It is a change even in the topography of the section, and in the social and mental growth of those among whom the school was placed, enduring, ennobling and efficacious.

The school's growth, through each of the thirty-three years, has been gradual, healthy, stable. Through sunshine and shadow, through smiles and tears, through favor and opposition, through good and ill repute, through propaganda pro and con, it has steadily grown, steadily advanced, steadily mounted to heights of service, and usefulness to a race, state and nation, undreamed of by its staunchest supporters.

Born on the border line between man's necessity and God's opportunity, the little waif was refused a home until the present location was offered. In thirty-three years it has become Gargantuan in its growth and ambitions. Its limitations now have no bounds save those that may be prescribed by a race's urge, and the altruism of a generous common-wealth.

The school thus conceived and begun, during each year of its existence, has infused itself into the history of the state, and amalgamated itself so intimately with the factors that are essential to the perpetuity of a state, that its failure to carry on, would be a distinct disaster to both black and white folk. Its progress up through these years has been natural, conservative, and well advised.

As in the life and growth of the best and oldest schools of the world, mistakes made have been corrected; crude methods have been supplanted by those in accord with the demand of the age; its plant has been enlarged; its laboratories, libraries, and



teaching force have been improved and modernized, and the trend of its spirit is more and more for SERVICE.

As it is a human institution, it is not perfect. As it is an Institution whose basic principles stress Character Building and Service, it is greater than any individual. It is greater than a private interest--though laudable. It is one and the same with an essence, a cardinal principle, a faith, a religion. It belongs to no section. It is the gracious heritage bequeathed by a state and nation to all the Negro citizenry of West Virginia.

Any movements, that have not for their objectives the preserving, strengthening, and augmenting of all agencies for racial development, are but disintegrating influences that sooner, or later, sap and destroy the mental, moral and social vigor of a people.

The dream of the good men who have directed the destinies of this school, has not been realized. Directed by wisdom and prayer, they envisage a great University on the banks of the Kanawha, where Negro youth may become masters in any field of endeavor.

From fifty-one students and one building thirty-three years ago, to fourteen capacious buildings and, in round numbers, one thousand students now, is a development that may be regarded with pardonable pride by the most conservative.

It is no fantasy of the imagination to bespeak, before the next thirty-three years have passed, there will exist a school rated among the first in the land for its productivity of material fitted for home, church and state, with its fifty buildings dotting its campus, and a band of three thousand students, thirsty for knowledge, crowding its halls.

The future of The West Virginia Collegiate Institute, and that of all state supported Negro schools, rests in the attitude that our group assumes towards them, and let us not forget, that this attitude affects largely the judgment of the powers that be, in whose hands their fate lies.

Before this decade ends, the major portion of two hundred thousand Negroes will be citizens of this state. This prospective population, and its consequent transformation into respectable citizens are challenges to the present group for a greater number and better quality of schools than exists now.

THE MONTHLY enlists you---Negro Citizens of West Virginia---for forward, not backward steps; for sacrifices of petty ambitions; for UNION in the fight to be won for race, country, God.

S. H. G.



### The Passing of Fleming Hall

The above is a cut of Fleming Hall, which, for thirty-three years, almost wholly housed the literary normal department of The West Virginia Collegiate Institute. It was erected in 1892, under the administration of the late Governor Aretus Brooks Fleming, at a cost of \$10,000.00. Later it was enlarged from basement to attic, and by this addition several class rooms, and Hazlewood Hall, the old auditorium, were made possible.

It is interesting to recall that the auditorium was named in honor of the late James Hazlewood, of Charleston, West Virginia, who, at the time of the remodeling of Fleming Hall, was the only colored member of the Board of Regents.

The building was so named in accordance with a custom then strictly observed, of naming state school buildings after the governors under whose administration, funds, for the erection of the buildings, were appropriated.

After the completion of the new College Hall, the uses for



Fleming Hall were greatly modified. Only a part of the literary classes of the Secondary Department and the major part of Secondary girls' industries meet there now.

Old Hazlewood Hall with all its memories and traditions has been converted into a dormitory for young men.

There are yet living alumni, who can recall, that the boys' industries were also taught in the basement of Fleming Hall.

It stands at the south end of the quadrangle, facing the new College Hall. The two--fit types of the old and the new, of beginning and progress--are monuments of the past and present of a school's development.

The bronze memorial tablet on the west side of Fleming Hall's main entrance, erected to the memory of the late James McHenry Jones, the school's first president, after the leadership of Campbell and Hill, assures that those whose lives have been touched and influenced within its walls, will hold in it sacred remembrance.

## The Drama at Institute

The student body of the West Virginia Collegiate Institute was both entertained and instructed the week of March 8th-14th. The Dramatic Club, which is a working organization of English 22, under Prof. Mary L. Strong, enacted short plays in the various languages and sponsored lectures on certain phases of the drama.

On Monday morning, March 8th, during chapel period, Dean Lane presented a brief outline of the origin of the drama which he traced from its incipency in the church to the point where it became a product of commercialization.

Tuesday morning, March 9th in chapel, Miss Winnie Page, student and member of the Dramatic Club, began where Dean Lane paused the previous day and discussed the drama of the Elizabethan period. She showed in a clear and scholarly manner how the social and economic environment influenced the stage. Her lecture reflected a sincere love for the subject and thorough knowledge of the matter she was presenting.

Opera is also a form of drama set to music. Action is subdued somewhat to conform to the musical score. Mr. White gave a lecture Wednesday morning, March 10, on the opera.

Excerpts from such popular operas as Aida, Rigoletto, Tristan and Isolde and Samson and Delilah were played on the piano by Professor Valaurez B. Spratlin.

Students of the Department of French, under the direction of Miss Harriette Stewart presented an extract from Wilde's *Salome* on Thursday morning, March 11th. The extract was finely done, the French diction of the members of the cast being particularly noteworthy.

Friday morning, at chapel hour, students from the Department of German under the direction of Professor Spratlin gave a scene from Lessing's *Minna von Barnheim*. Following close upon this, students from the Spanish Department under Professor Matheus presented a one-act play entitled *El Primer Disputo*. Both brought fourth the enthusiastic applause of the entire student body.

Friday evening, March 12th, an elaborate and beautiful Style Show was presented in Manhattan Hall. As a result of the aid and interest of Mr. Mitchell many charming frocks were borrowed from the leading stores in Charleston, West Virginia. The Hall was converted into a veritable club-house. Tables were arranged around the sides of the Hall and the place was decorated with fir-trees and ballons. At one corner the Institute orchestra under the direction of Mr. Clarence Cameron White, Director of Music at the West Virginia Collegiate interpreted several classical numbers. The first part of the evening was taken up with dancing for which the Collegiate Merrymakers provided the music. The Style Show began after about an hour of merriment.

The spectacle showed first the prevailing styles of the different periods in American History beginning with the time of the Indian. Finally all of the latest modern creations were displayed. The styles for Spring were quite attractively shown. The selected mannequins were quite alluring. Some who were particularly fascinating brought forth great applause. The Pageant ended with a wedding group which was the climax of the evening.

Dean Lane brought the unusually interesting, entertaining and instructive week to a close Saturday morning, March 13th in chapel with a short but concise lecture on Present Day Tendencies. He discussed succinctly but clearly the characteristics of modern plays.



The week as a whole brought before the attention of the students body a rather valuable side of college curriculum. One came face to face with the fact that the drama is quite an important part of college life. This year has shown quite a noticeable awakening in this necessary side of collegiate endeavor. Two short plays have been excellently given. A dramatic version of the book of Job, with music arranged by Mr. White, is planned for the near future. Shakespeare's "Othello" will be presented during Commencement Week.

All of the aforementioned activities have been the out-come of the introduction this year of English 22 which has its headquarters in The Workshop in Room 306 of the Administration Building. It is interesting itself in a thorough study of stage settings, color and lighting effects, costuming, and stagecraft in general. It is merely the inauguration here of what is done in all schools of recognized standing. Students are training in Dramatics in order that they might be better prepared to do this kind of work when they leave Institute and go to teach in the various high schools throughout the State.

MILES M. JEFFESON

## The Library

A greater interest in books and reading is being awakened among the faculty, resident alumni and students at The West Virginia Collegiate Institute. During the past five months an addition has somewhat filled a long felt need on the part of those connected with the Institution.

The present library is particularly appreciated by those who were acquainted with the one of 1898--1926. The students at The West Virginia Collegiate Institute, during those years, no doubt had an intense desire to study, to browse in a library, but they were denied such privileges because of the lack of facilities.

In former years each department of the Institution has made more progress than the library, which is, after all, one of the most important departments of the school. At present more attention is being received gradually, which fact enables one to say that the library now contains books--considering quantity and quality, to constitute a fair foundation for scholarship, research, reading, learning, browsing and teaching of five hundred students and their instructors. An average of 1200 monthly

loans are made. This includes text-books and fiction, supplementing the work of text-book usage and research. The students seem to be keeping up to date with constant reference magazine, government documents and pamphlets.

As The West Virginia Collegiate Institute Library is one of the government depositories, much recent and authoritative material is found, especially in the field of agriculture, agricultural economics, sociology, education and their allied subjects.

The Collegiate Institute library uses the Dewey decimal system and the Cutter expansive system of classification, thereby aiding the patrons thereof in selfhelp and freedom of selection. The library is growing in scope and usefulness. It is bringing the community into closer contact with the institution.

The importance of a library should be fully realized. It is a central power plant among the instruments of learning. However, emphasis should not only be placed upon the library as an instrument of education, but upon the library as a method of education, for it is in the library, as in any laboratory, that the student learns to work for himself and by himself thereby developing an important phase of his education. It should be further realized that the library is the working laboratory of no department alone, but of all departments of the School. Thus, one may think of it as the "heart of the school". We are happy in the knowledge that the heart of our school is rapidly growing.

MRS. CLARA F. SAVOY

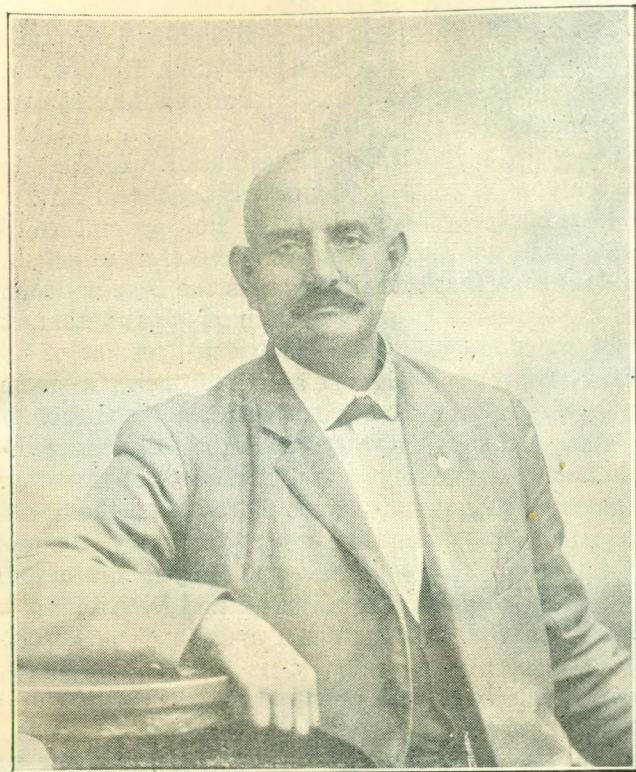
## Report of the Committee on Resolutions of Respect to the Memory of the Late Judge Christopher H. Payne

Men die, but sorrow never dies;  
The crowding years divide in vain,  
And the wide world is knit with ties  
Of common brotherhood in pain:---

A solemn sense of relationship comes to us especially, as we here pay tribute to the memory of one whose long distinguished service has made us all his debtors.

It makes no difference that the most of us here never knew him; for he lives, and shall live in the deeds he has performed for his race, his country and his God.





REV. C. H. PAYNE, D. D.

It seems especially fitting that this tribute shall be paid, here on these grounds, at this institution, that he helped to establish so unselfishly, by this body whose presence is made possible through his unwearied efforts.

About December the 6th 1925, the sad news, of the death of Judge Christopher H. Payne, was received. The governor of the Virgin Islands, cabled his daughter, Miss Mary J. Payne as follows:

Saint Thomas, Virgin Island, December 5, 1925.

Miss Mary J. Payne  
152 Pleasant Street,  
Hinton, W. Va.

The Governor of the Virgin Island, regrets to announce the death of Judge Payne, who served so long and faithfully as American consul to Saint Thomas, member of the Colonial

Council, Saint Thomas, and Judge at Saint Croix. The people of the Islands, the judiciary, and the Government send you and your family their sincere condolence.

In the passing of this native West Virginian, this preacher this teacher, this publicist, this lawyer, this statesman, this friend of lowly origin, this christian gentleman, we recognize regretfully the inexorable decree of destiny, and we bow our head reverentially in submission

In the minds of men, the good that he did, will never die. We feel that no words of eulogy can be an unmerited decoration for the man who has reflected honor upon West Virginia, his native state, credit upon the great American Government, and who, though dead, lives enthroned in the hearts of the grateful people scattered through isles of eternal summer, among whom he labored and laid down his life.

Be it resolved, that we, the faculty of the West Virginia Collegiate Institute, in grateful remembrance, extend our sympathy and condolence, and congratulations upon his record, to his surviving relatives; that, we spread these expressions upon our minutes, and send copies to his surviving relatives and the Press.

By order of your committee,

SHERMAN H. GUSS  
DAVID A. LANE, JR.  
JOHN F. MATHEUS



## Artist Recital Course



After making a thorough survey of recitals given during the present school year in the leading Negro colleges in America we feel that the course given at Institute this year stands out as the best or one of the best offered to a Negro student-body. Early in the season we were privileged to hear Viola Hill the young coloratura soprana of Philadelphia, who not only charmed us with

her beautiful singing but by her modest and unassuming stage presence. We believe that Miss Hill is at the beginning of a very brilliant career.

Mr. Joseph Douglass, the distinguished Violinist who gave us such an enjoyable program in November, has long been a favorite and we know that he will always be a welcome visitor to Institute.



Mrs. Lucretia Lawson Mitchell who came to us as our third recitalist is a Soprano of wide reputation, having appeared successfully in many European music centers as well as here in America. Altho Mrs. Mitchell makes her home in Indianapolis, Indiana she is a native of Kentucky and comes from a musical family, being a sister of R. Augustus Lawson, the Pianist who gave us such a fine piano recital on our Artist Course last year.

This season we welcomed to Institute for the first time Carl Ditton, the Philadelphia Pianist and Composer and his recital followed the one by Dwight Anderson the well-known American Pianist who gave us a treat in artistic piano playing. Up to this point in our Artist Course all of the accompaniments needed for the singers and the violinist were furnished by our own Professor Spratlin's artistic accompaniments and did much in making these recitals fine artistic successes. We are especially fortunate in having such a ver-

satile and accomplished person on the campus.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kircheloe, the well known singers of Charleston who gave us a delightful Sunday afternoon program brought with them as accompanist Charles Greybill. We hope that we may have them again, their recital was greatly enjoyed.

Our March recital brought to us Julius Bledsoe, the great Negro Baritone, one of the musical sensations of the day. I am sure this recital will live in our memories for many days. Mr. Bledsoe has not only perhaps the most beautiful baritone voice on the American stage but his program was so well arranged and so varied in style that he received the keenest attention and the most enthusiastic applause from his large audience. Justin Sandridge, a young pianist of Boston came as Mr. Bledsoe's accompanist and added much to the artistic success of the program.

It is probable that we will hear one or two more artists before the school year closes.

C. C. W.

## Second Annual Basketball Tournament of West Virginia High Schools

The second tournament of the West Virginia High School Athletic Association, was by far the major effort of this organization, and showed by the number of teams represented, and quality of basketball staged that the interest in this sport and organization is now state wide, and the desire of each

school to turn out a championship team is perfecting the game, and turning out a fine set of young athletes.

It will be recalled that Lincoln Hi of Wheeling was champion last year, and Kimball was runner up.

About one hundred young men, members of the various teams, with visiting high school students, parents, friends and alumni of the Collegiate Institute, swelled the number of visitors close to four hundred.

The conduct of the Tourney was under the direction of the Collegiate Institute's Athletic Association. S. H. G.

## Mrs. Edna Roberts Dandridge Wilson

A forceful character in the racial uplift of her adopted State was Edna Roberts, sister of Miss Eubank, of The West Virginia Collegiate Institute faculty. She was born of slave parents in Halifax Court House, Virginia, where she received her early education in the parish house of her parents' master, the Rev. Grammar whose own children were tutored at the same time.

Years ago, when educational and civic affairs were nebulous in this state towards our group, seeing her visions and dreaming her dreams for racial uplift, she worked, hoped and prayed for the realities of the present, died with an abiding faith that today but marks the beginning of a day at hand, brighter in outlook, richer in practical results.

She was a charter member of the West Virginia Teachers' Association, founded in 1893, and in the establishment of The West Virginia Collegiate Institute. We welcome it as highly fitting to honor, in a modest degree, the memory of Mrs. Edna Dandridge Wilson.

## Items of Interest

Mr. Thomas Posey writes interestingly of the work done by the Business Department. Lack of space prevents a recopy of all the article which appeared in the Negro Press. Mr. Posey says, "To encourage initiative in pioneering business, the Business Department is seeking to bring business to the students through the medium of the project method. The Col-



lege Book Store, Inc., owned and managed by students is one project; another is a student bank to be organized next fall. Prominent insurance men, brokers, lawyers and real estate men have given practical talks. During the summer students desiring will be able to work as insurance agents clerks and stenographers in various Charleston enterprises."

Prof. George D. Brock, Director of Physical Education is the author of "The Play Book," a practical collection of play activities. It is "an interesting and useful publication.....should be of much assistance to the teachers in the teaching of games to the pupils in various grades," says Melville Stewart, Supervisor of Physical Education in West Virginia, and President of the Physical Education Section of the National Association. Other comments are enthusiastic.

Prof. J. S. Price, Director of the Department of Education, under the auspices of the State Department of Education is making a study to ascertain the I. Q. of Negro school children in selected counties of the state.

Miss Angie Turner represented the College Y.W.C.A. at the Christian Council Association Conference in New York City. With Miss Ovada Hyder she attended the Regional Conference in Harper's Ferry. At the conference in Harrisburg, Pa., for preparation of Eaglemeer Interracial Conference, Miss Angie Turner was present as local delegate.

Though the medium of four committees appointed by President Davis the College has essayed an introspective study of its major problems with regard to its scope of future usefulness.

A study of "New and Old Occupations for Negroes in West Virginia" made by Miss Fonteneau, Chairman, Messrs. Savoy, Posey and Brock, insisted upon the need of directing students toward preparation for exploitation of the business opportunities in West Virginia, a field that is in the main neglected.

Mr. Guss, Chairman, Miss Strong, Miss Tancil and Messrs. Ferguson and Washington, have isolated the field and objectives of the Secondary School of The West Virginia Collegiate Institute.

Miss Anderson, as Chairman, with the assistance of Miss Prillerman, Miss Eubank and Mr. Taylor analysed curriculum problems and practical needs of "Training for an Increasing Field in Home Economics".

A Committee, whose chairman is Mr. Morton and whose members include Messrs. Taylor, Spriggs, Solomon Brown and Posey, are studying the subject, "Training Negro Artisans in West Virginia."

Finally a committee under the direction of Mr. Ferguson have studied and reported on a Salary Scale.

Born to Dean and Mrs. David A. Lane, Jr. on February 22nd, Hugh Webb Lane.

Miss Estrelada Spratlin of Denver, Colorado, now Director of Physical Training in the Junior High School of Trenton, N.J., spent five days of her Easter vacation visiting her brother, Prof. V. B. Spratlin.

Prof. Spratlin played the accompaniment for the rendition on Easter under the direction of Mr. Theodore Nash, 25, at the First Baptist Church, Charleston, of a part of Rossini's "Stabat Mater".

On March 17, at the regular Wednesday evening prayer service, the choir under the direction of Miss Horton sang Galalia by Gounod.

During October Mrs. McKenzie was called to Detroit on account of the sickness of her sister.

Mrs. Frederick A. Parker and her sister Miss Mabel Campbell were among the Easter visitors.

Rev. Wm. B. Marsh visited Mrs. Marsh during the holidays.

Mr. C. E. Mitchell in company with Mr. L. H. Foster of the V. N. & I. I., motored from Institute enroute to join Pres. Wm. J. Hale of Tennessee. These gentlemen from the Land Grant College Survey Commission are to study the equipment and administration of all the Colored Land Grant Colleges. They will report to the Land Grant Association in May.

The members of the Advisory Council, Mr. W.W.Saunders, Miss Irene Moats and Mr. E. L. Morton, visited the school during October, speaking to the students in chapel and before the faculty in the evening.

Mr. Clarence Cameron White, noted violinist and Director of Music, had two of his compositions, "Cabin Song" and "March Triumphale" played on a recent program of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra.



Miss Exie Lee Kelly visited the campus during Easter. Mr. and Mrs. George Brock entertained delightfully in her honor. Mrs. William Spriggs gave a party also in honor of Miss Kelly.

Miss Horton directed the choir in an excellent Easter service. Rev. C. H. Woody of Charleston, W. Va. preached.

In addition to chapel talks by President Davis and various members of the faculty, the following speakers have appeared in chapel:

October 11. Mr. J. Frank Marsh, Secretary of the State Board of Education.

October 18. President J. Stanley Durkee, Howard University.

Nov. 22. Mr. T. G. Nutter.

Nov. 29. Mr. Pat Withrow of the Union Mission.

Nov. 11. Rev. Mordecai Wyatt Johnson.

Jan. 17. Mr. W. W. Sauders, Chairman State Advisory Council.

Jan. 24. Dr. H. F. Gamble.

Feb. 21. Senator Clyde B. Johnson.

Feb. 28. Mr. Phil Conley, Editor of the West Virginia Review.

March 7. Mr. J. Arthur Jackson, State Librarian.

March 14. President James E. Shephard N. C. College for Negroes.

March Rev. W. H. Beane, San Francisco, Cal.

Rev. Brown, M. E. Church, Charleston.

April 2. Rev. Mordecai W. Johnson, Rev. McDowell, Durham N. C. Messrs. Arnold and Duncan of the State Y. M. C. A.

April 11. Hon. E. M. Keatly, Speaker of the House of Delegates.

April 18. Mrs. Nutter and College Women.

April 25. Mr. C. H. James.

May 2. Founders' Day Services were in charge of the American Legion.

Miss Ruth Occomy for two years connected with the State Department of Public Health addressed the young women on March 31. Miss Occomy is resigning her position here to study in New York City before leaving for missionary service in Africa.

## THE WEST VIRGINIA COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE INSTITUTE, WEST VIRGINIA

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NEXT REGULAR SESSION will open September 15, 1926.

### SUMMER SESSIONS.

In the summer special attention is given to

- A. Problems common to rural and urban teachers;
- B. Review of elementary work;
- C. Needs of conditioned students;
- D. Teachers desiring college credits toward a degree.

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