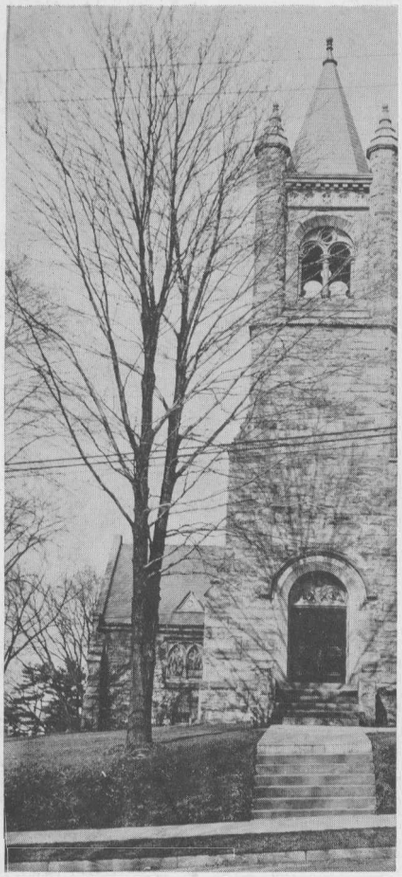
Old Allegheny

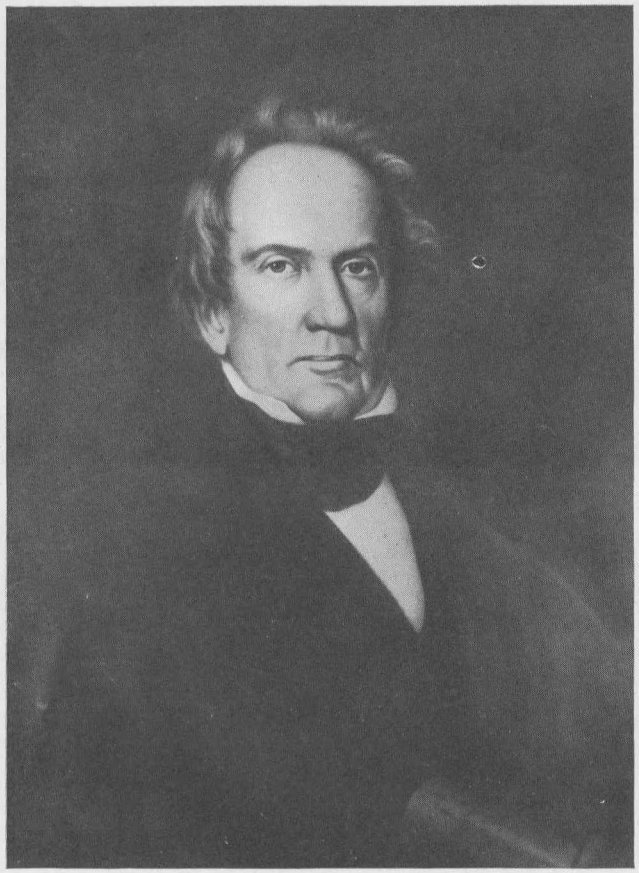
College Bulletin



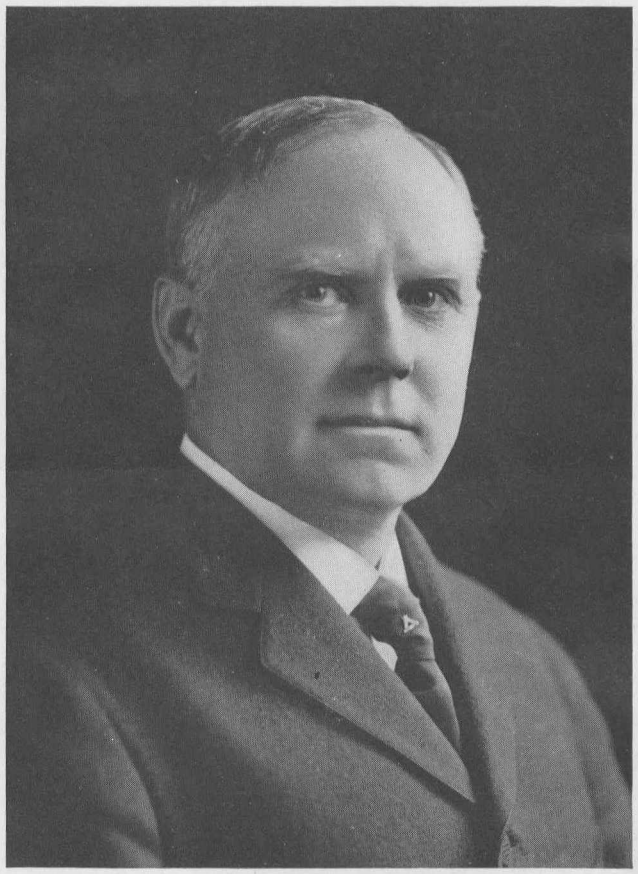
A BOOK OF VIEWS

The Campus of Allegheny College
and some of the Buildings
with a Historical Sketch

THE COLLEGE BULLETIN
Series XIV, No. 2 MAY, 1915



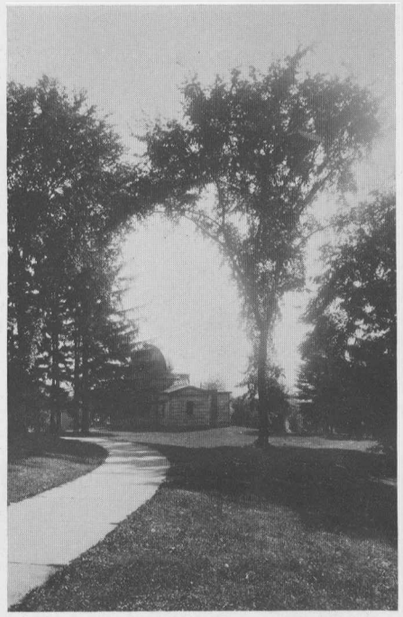
TIMOTHY ALDEN
PRESIDENT 1815–31



WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD
PRESIDENT SINCE 1893

Historical Sketch

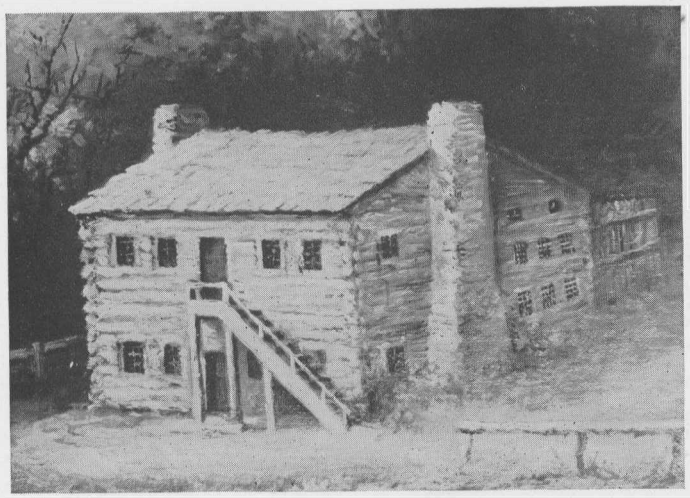
TRAVELERS from Erie to Pittsburg in 1815, by way of the Waterford and Allegheny turnpike—now called Main street in Meadville—on coming to the top of the hill which overlooks the silvery curve of French Creek where the Cussewago falls into it, saw at their feet on the left bank of the stream, a village of perhaps a hundred white wooden houses and black log huts, scattered along three or four parallel and cross streets, and surrounded by cleared fields thickly dotted with stumps. To this village of less than five hundred people came in April, 1815, the Presbyterian preacher and teacher, Timothy Alden, from New York City. His cousin, Major Alden, was one of the most prosperous and progressive citizens of the village. This Timothy Alden was a graduate of Harvard College, and a lineal descendent of John Alden, of the Mayflower. He had come five hundred miles through the wilderness to found a college. He had looked over a map of the country, and concluded that Meadville would be a good place for the institution he had been dreaming of. Major Alden favored the plan, introduced his cousin to the Rev. Robert Johnston, then pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, and the outcome was the historic meeting of citizens in the log court house on the evening of June 20, 1815.



ARCH OF THE ELMS

At this meeting Major Alden was called to the chair, and John Reynolds was chosen secretary and treasurer. It was voted to found an institution of learning, to be called from the name of the chief river of the region, Allegheny College. The Rev. Timothy Alden was elected president, and the Rev. Robert Johnston vice-president, and the former was directed to go east and gather whatever he could of value for the new enterprise.

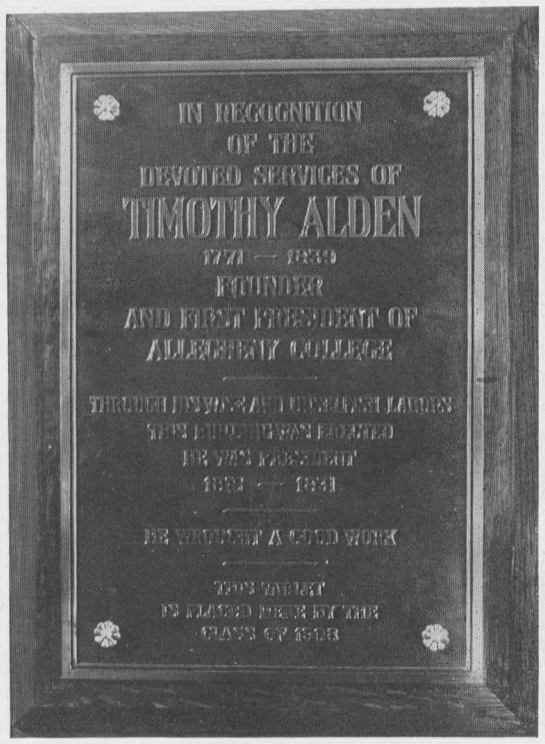
The same year the charter was conferred (1817) the first commencement was held in the old log court house. For here, or in Doctor Alden's house, college instruction was given during the five years



LOG COURT HOUSE IN WHICH COLLEGE WAS FOUNDED

before Bentley Hall was built. A program of this first commencement is still preserved. Four Latin orations and one Hebrew oration were delivered, but there were no graduates. Indeed, there were only twelve graduates during all the fifteen years of Dr. Alden's administration. With honorary degrees, however, the young college was more lavish, having bestowed at Dr. Alden's inauguration two LL.D.'s and two S.T.D.'s.

The first building was called Bentley Hall, in honor of the Rev. William Bentley, of Salem, Mass., who at his death in 1820 left to the college his library, valued at $3,000. There is a tradition that Harvard had her eye on this rare collection of books, and had honored its owner in anticipation of the bequest, but was supplanted by the little college on the frontier. The gift was due to Doctor Alden's personal influence, as was the donation soon after by the Hon. James Winthrop, LL.D., of Cam-



ALDEN TABLET



BENTLEY HALL. THE OLDEST OF THE TWELVE BUILDINGS



BENTLEY THROUGH THE TREES

bridge, Mass., of a library valued at $6,400. The founder of Allegheny College, being a thorough scholar himself, evidently realized that good books are as necessary to higher learning as good instructors, for at the end of his administration the college had a library worth $20,000.

With such material resources, such territory, and with such energy and ability at its head, it would seem that the new institution ought to have kept pace with the growth of the country. But it did not. The Presbyterian Church, to which it looked for its main support, already had two small colleges in Western Pennsylvania. For this reason, Doctor Alden's petition that the Presbytery of Erie take Allegheny College under its patronage, met with a stubborn refusal. Hard as this must have seemed to him, it was to result finally for the good of the College. Yet, to the zealous founder, to see his college rejected by his own church was disheartening; to see the attendance decrease in consequence and the annual state appropriation of $1,000 withdrawn was despair. The enterprise which had absorbed the best years of his life seemed a failure. With a heavy heart he resigned and gave



IN THE RAVINE



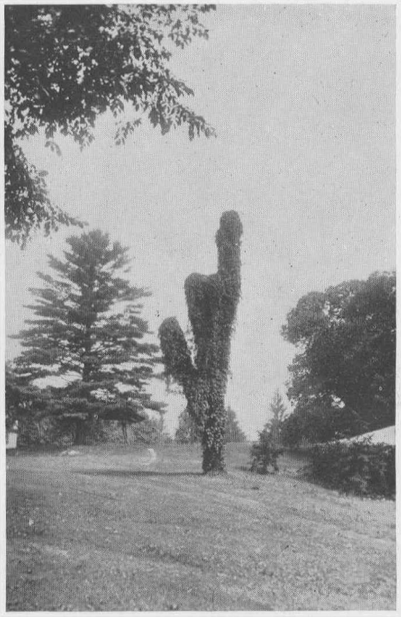
RUTER HALL AND CLASS OF '03 GATEWAY



KENNEDY HILL

up all relations to the institution

For two years after 1831 Bentley Hall stood deserted. Then the eloquent young Homer J. Clark came to Meadville to be the pastor of the First Methodist Church. He had been professor and agent for Madison College, at Uniontown, Pa., a struggling little institution, chiefly remembered now as the Methodist forerunner of Allegheny College. Through his influence the Pittsburg Conference met in Meadville in July, 1833. The trustees of the college, utterly discouraged, and seeing no future for the institution without the support of some church, offered to turn it over to the patronage of the conference. The offer was accepted and plans were made to raise $20,000 for endowment. The institution opened in November, 1833, with the Rev. Martin Ruter, D.D., as president, the Rev. Homer J. Clark, as vice-president. Only thirty students were enrolled at the opening, but at the close of four years of Dr. Ruter's presidency, the number of students for the year was one hundred and forty-six. The number of graduates during the four years was fourteen.

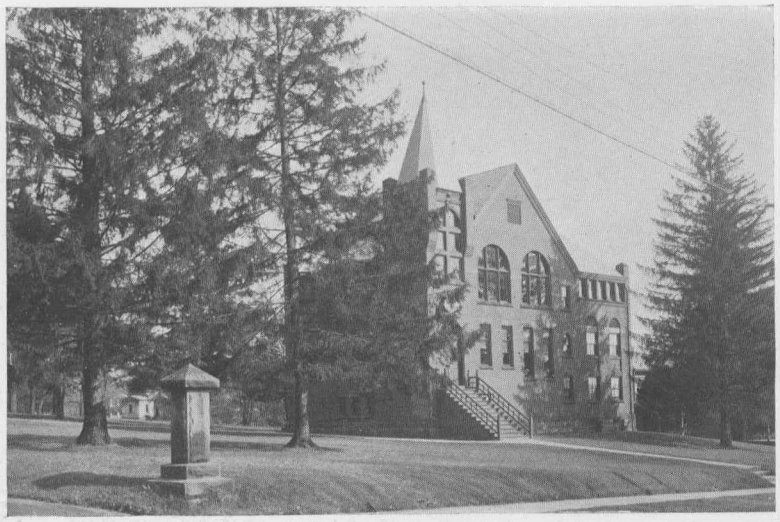


THE VINECOVERED LOCUST

The most notable result of Homer J. Clark's administration (1837-47) was the adding of $60,000 to the endowment. The state had been appropriating $1,000 a year for six years, up to 1844, when this prop fell away. The college was closed for a year, while Doctor Clark went begging for its relief. By his hard labors, its future was made secure.



THE LIBRARY



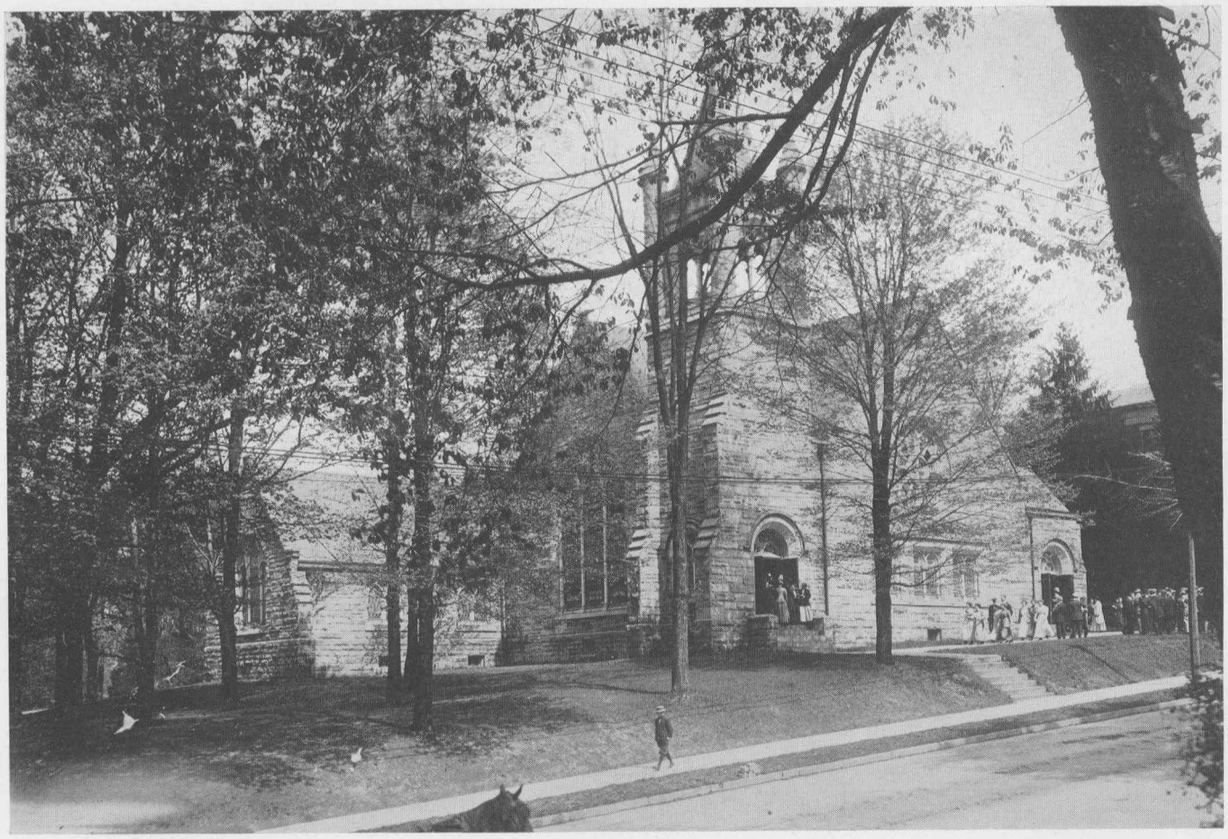
WILLCOX HALL

Then came the gentle Doctor John Barker. He had succeeded Matthew Simpson here in 1839 as professor of natural science, and gone to Transylvania College, Ky., seven years later as professor of ancient languages. The visible memorial of his presence is Ruter Hall, built in 1855, and paid for by the citizens of Meadville; but a more enviable memorial of him is the invisible one—the affection for him which lies in the hearts of all who knew him, and which will be spoken of whenever his name is mentioned. He was at home as a teacher in all departments, and students were equally delighted to pass an hour with him in mathematics or in Greek. As a preacher and lecturer he was genial, witty, and thoroughly up to the times. Though repeatedly offered other positions with better salary, he remained true to Allegheny until he was smitten down with apoplexy in the twelfth year of his incumbency, December, 1859.

President Barker's successor was Doctor George W. Loomis. Soon after his inauguration came the Civil War. Patriotism ran high among the professors and students. A company was formed to go from the college—Company I, Thirty-ninth Regiment. Ira Ayer, a student and the only member who knew tactics, was made captain. Just before their leaving, Doctor Loomis addressed the student company drawn up in line, and told them that if any of them showed the white feather he never wanted him to come



WINTER SCENE



FORD MEMORIAL CHAPEL



CLASS CIRCLE

back to Allegheny. Twenty-eight of them did not come back, for they were buried in southern fields. But their old flag was brought back, and is now one of the most precious relics in the possession of the college.

During the administration of Doctor Loomis, Culver Hall—burnt in 1884—was built in 1864, furnishing dormitories for one hundred students, and large additions were made to the endowment. Perhaps the most notable event during his term was the admission of young women as students (1870). Allegheny was one of the first colleges in the country to make this innovation.



THE DIAL

The next president was Doctor Lucius H. Bugbee, who came from the headship of the Woman's College at Cincinnati. At the beginning of his term, Alexander Bradley contributed an additional $6,000, bringing the total of his gifts up to a sum sufficient to endow the chair of Latin. During this time also Hulings Hall was built, thus carrying to practical realization the policy of co-education adopted by the preceding administration. The college furnishes to young women the highest educational advantages open to young men and also the best features of a distinctively



HULINGS HALL



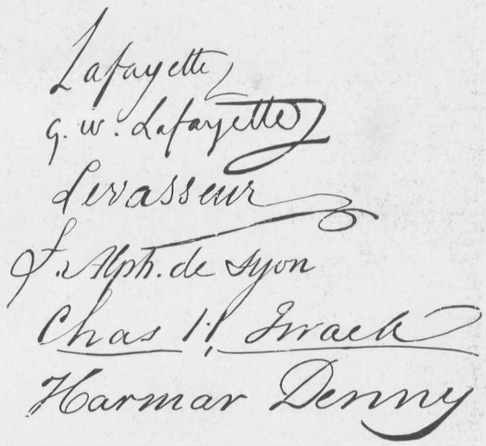
HOUSE IN WHICH PRESIDENT McKINLEY BOARDED WHILE A STUDENT
"The brief time I spent in Allegheny College is one of the dearest recollections of my life."—Wm. McKinley.

woman's college. Hulings Hall has rooms for ninety young women. It is provided with all modern improvements and makes an ideal college home.

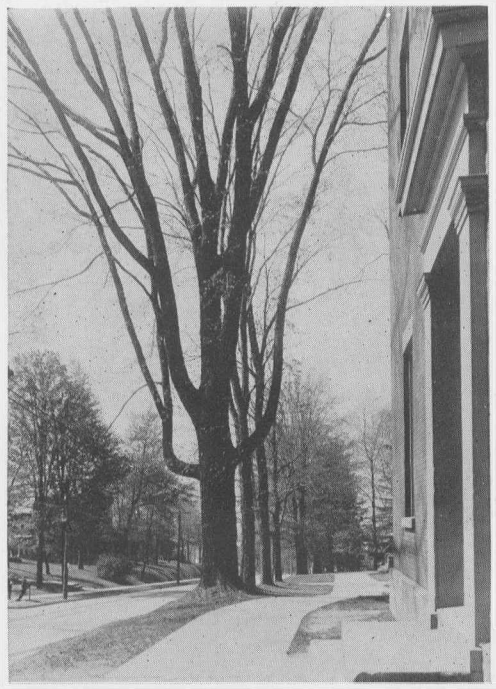
Doctor David H. Wheeler succeeded President Bugbee in 1883 and continued in office for ten years, with the exception of one year (1888-89), when Doctor Wilbur G. Williams was president. During these ten years Wilcox Hall of Science was erected, giving to the department of Physics ample room for lecture and laboratory work. its equipment is complete and up to date. The field of instruction was materially broadened and the courses of study modernized.

In 1893 Rev. William H. Crawford, D.D., was called to the presidency. Since then the college has made marked progress in every line. The buildings have increased from four to twelve. The great natural beauties of the campus have been supplemented by care and wise improvements. The endowment has been increased from $160,000 to more than a million dollars; new departments of instruction have been added; greatly increased facilities in library and laboratories have been secured; and the reputation of the college for sound and thorough scholarship has been greatly enhanced.

In 1896 the gymnasium was erected, and since then regular instruction in physical training under skilled and experienced teachers has been a part of the curriculum for all students.



SIGNATURES OF GENERAL LAFAYETTE, HIS SON, AND SUITE, AS THEY APPEAR ON THE COLLEGE VISITORS' BOOK. LAFAYETTE VISITED THE COLLEGE JUNE 2, 1825

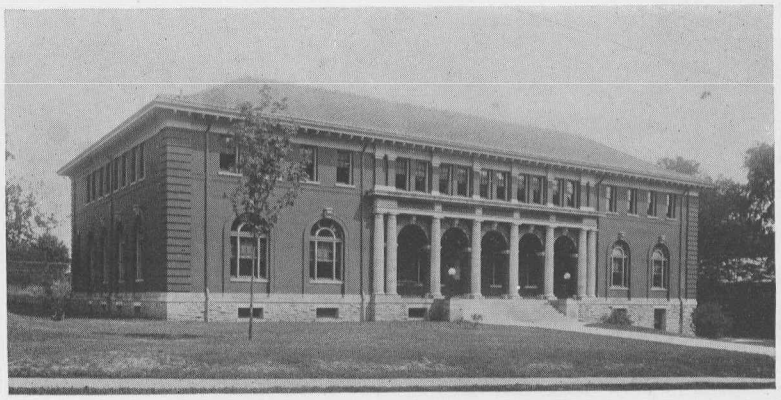


THE HAMNETT ELM

In 1900 Mrs. Mary M. Newton, of Batavia, Illinois, contributed funds for the erection of an observatory, which is named in honor of her husband, who had been a student in the college. There are two telescopes, one with a nine-inch glass, made by Brashear; the other with a seven and one-half inch glass, made by Alvin Clarke & Son. The mountings for the large telescope and the other instruments are from the establishment of Warner & Swasey, of Cleveland, Ohio. A fine new sidereal clock has recently been given in memory of the late Professor Milton B. Goff, and a laboratory has been equipped through the generosity of Col. John J. Carter, of Titusville, Pa.

In 1901 Captain John B. Ford gave money for the Ford Memorial Chapel. In the richness and chasteness of the exterior finish and interior appointments the building is one of the finest college chapels in the country. Three grand-daughters of Captain Ford contributed $6,000 for a pipe organ, which is used daily in the chapel exercises.

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor funds were provided for the imposing library building, completed in Septem-



COCHRAN HALL FROM THE LIBRARY



COCHRAN HALL FROM NORTH OF RUTER



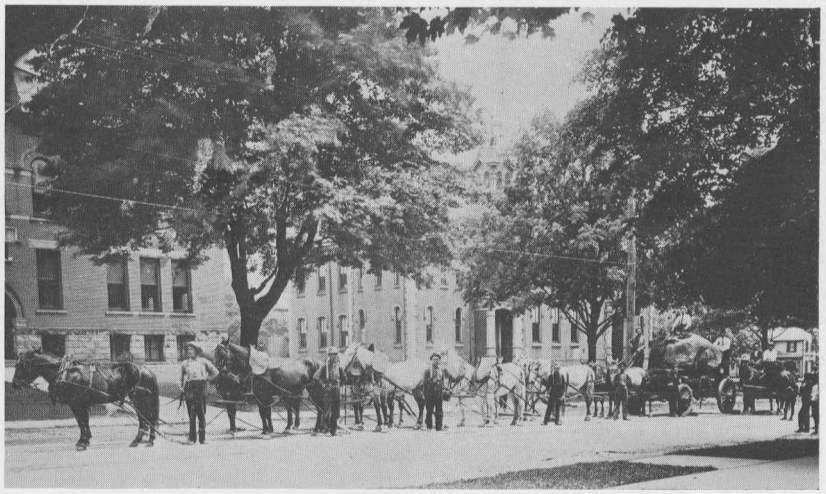
SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL

ber, 1902. It is fire proof, has room for one hundred thousand volumes, and is perfectly adapted to the peculiar uses of a college library. In addition to a spacious general reading room, and the usual stack room, cataloguing room, and librarian's rooms, it contains a large reference reading room, and several seminar rooms. Occupying the highest point of the campus, it is the most striking of the whole group of buildings. All who have seen it agree that it is a delight to the eye and ideally arranged for college work. The library now contains more than thirty thousand volumes, and is growing at the rate of fifteen hundred volumes a year.

The same year that brought the new chapel and library witnessed also a large increase in the endowment of the college. Mr. Frank A. Arter, of Cleveland, Ohio, offered $60,000 on condition that the total sum of $200,000 should be raised. This condition was more than met.

Nor had the year 1901 been remarkable for material additions alone. One of the most highly prized acquisitions of the year was the securing of a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. This recognition from the famous old society which stands for culture and character shows clearly the standing Allegheny has secured among the best colleges of the land.

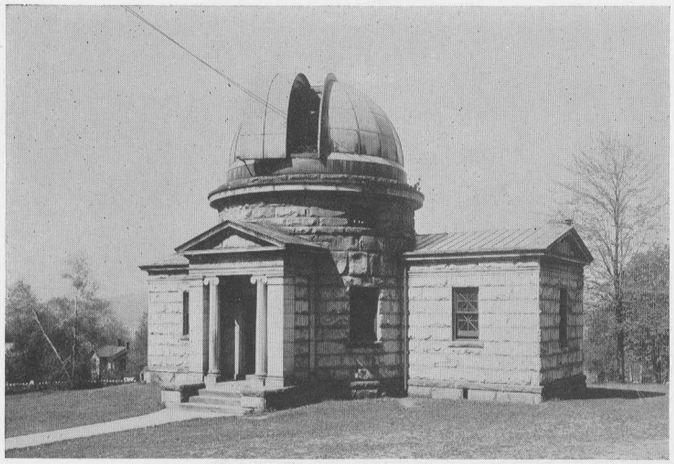
The next important building project was the erection of Cochran Hall. This building was the gift of Mrs. Sarah B. Cochran of Dawson, Pa. It is of red brick and Terra Cotta, with Spanish tile roof. It was formally opened in 1908.



HOW THE SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL BOULDER WAS BROUGHT TO THE CAMPUS



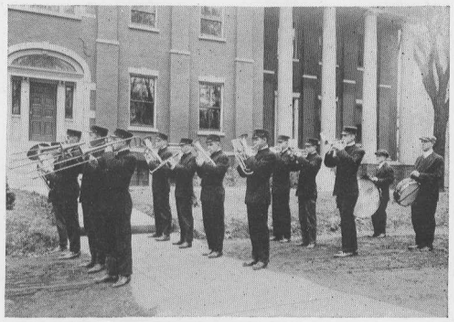
THE RAVINE



NEWTON OBSERVATORY

THE situation of Cochran Hall is significant of its purpose. Back of it lies the new athletic field; close by is the Gymnasium. In front, across a sloping lawn bordered with noble elms, is the Library; a little farther away is Bentley Hall, the pride of succeeding generations of students, containing recitation rooms and the administrative offices of the College. Thus Cochran Hall stands between the chief center of the athletic life and the intellectual life of the college. It is the tie binding together these two important parts of college life, making the transition from one to the other natural and easy. Both are fuller and richer because of its influence.

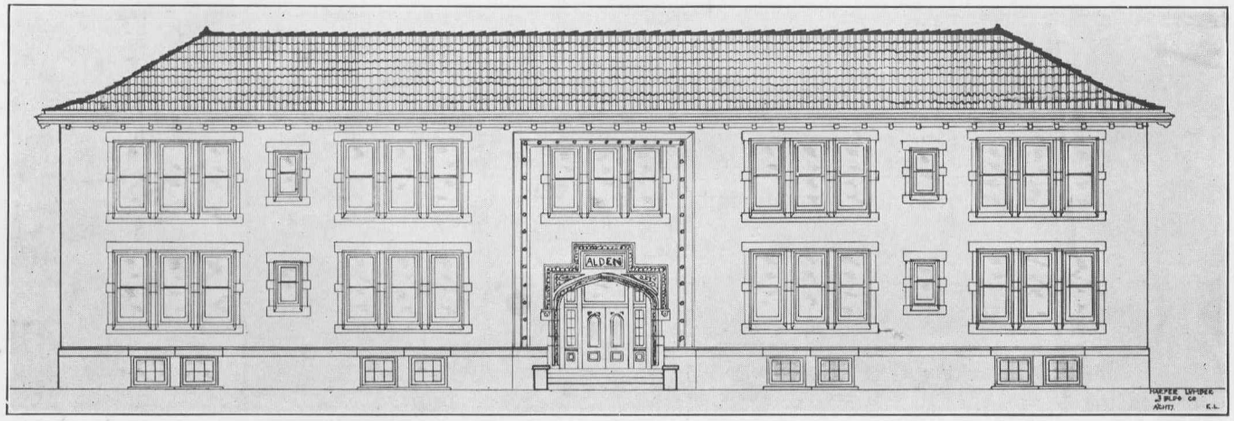
But this is only a part of the purpose that prompted the erection of Cochran Hall. The building was intended to be the center of the social life of the men of the College. Too often it is forgotten that no small part of the benefit of a college education comes from the intimate association with other young men, coming from different environments, with different ways of looking at things, with varying ideas and ideals. This part of college life is none the less real because largely unconscious. College friendships are among the closest and most helpful that a man forms. But college friendships may be narrow, limiting a man to a very small circle of acquaintance. Literary societies, clubs, fraternities, are all the outgrowths of the social side of college life. All have their advantages and their place in college life. But all have their limitations. They may become factional and divisive. Even class spirit may be so intense as to interfere with genuine college spirit. There had



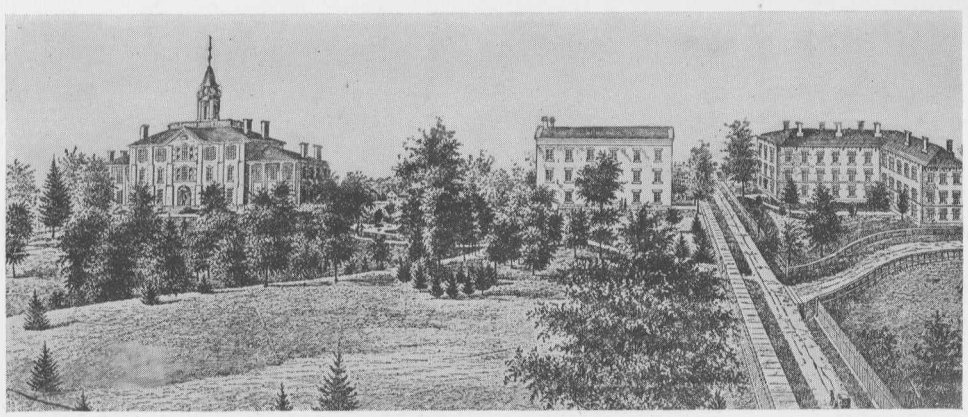
THE COLLEGE BAND



ONE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY MEDAL.



ALDEN HALL—IN PROCESS OF ERECTION



ALLEGHENY COLLEGE IN THE LATE SEVENTIES

long been felt the need of some institution that should be the center of all activities among the men of the College not intellectual or athletic, where the social side of college life might be developed under the most favorable circumstances. For this purpose Cochran Hall is almost ideally adapted. It is far more than a mere dormitory or dining hall, though in both these ways it is very attractive.

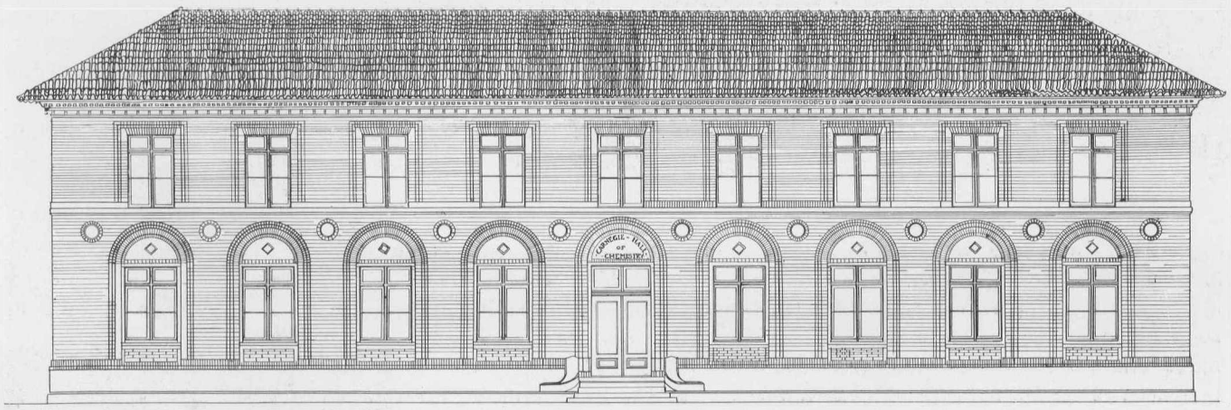
On the second floor there are rooms for thirty men. Some are intended for one occupant, some for two, and others arranged *en suite*. Several of the suites have private bath. The arrangement of the rooms and the scale of prices are adapted to the most exacting taste and to the humble purse. The furnishings in all the rooms are of good quality, and particular pains have been taken to make them harmonious and attractive. There is enough variation in the style of decoration of the rooms and in the character of the furnishings to give each one its own individuality.

On this floor are two large bath rooms, furnished in white tile and marble, with ample equipment of tub and shower baths of the most approved style and quality. All the sanitary features of the building are faultless.

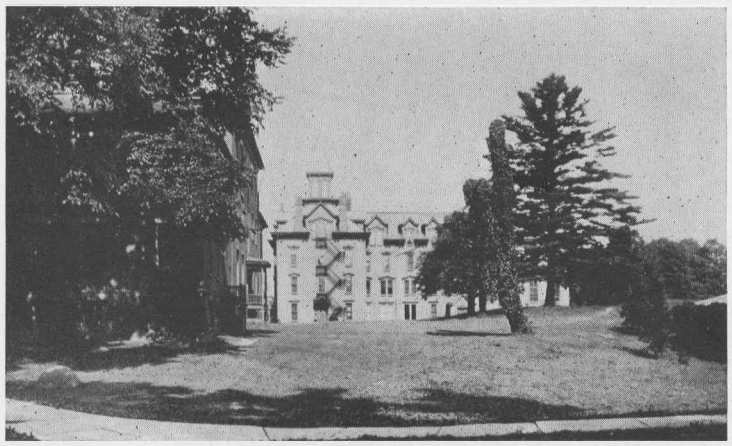
On the first floor there is a large dining room which seats two hundred men, a small dining room seating fifty, a spacious lounging room, and a noble entrance hall. All these rooms are furnished with timbered ceilings and richly panelled walls of oak in old English style.



THE ANNEX



CARNEGIE HALL OF CHEMISTRY—IN PROCESS OF ERECTION



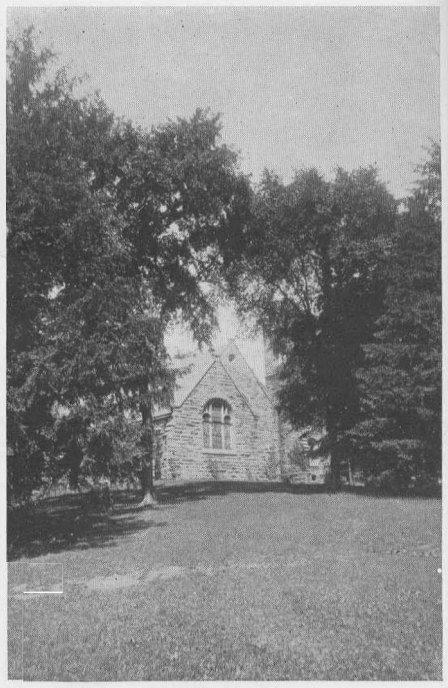
LOOKING FROM THE EAST ENTRANCE DRIVEWAY

The furniture is in entire harmony with the character of the rooms. Everywhere there is simplicity and dignity, richness without ostentation, beauty without lavishness.

Not the least attractive part of the building is the basement floor. This is high and well-lighted and at the south end opens nearly at the ground level. The quarters of the Young Men's Christian Association are on this floor and are ample and convenient. A large assembly room is used for meetings, for social gatherings, or as a reading room. There are also cloak and committee rooms and a secretary's office. With these facilities this most efficient organization is meaning more than ever to the men of the College and is doing more for them.

The central portion and north end of this floor are given up to four bowling alleys and shuffle-board spaces, thus meeting the demand for indoor sport not gymnastic in character.

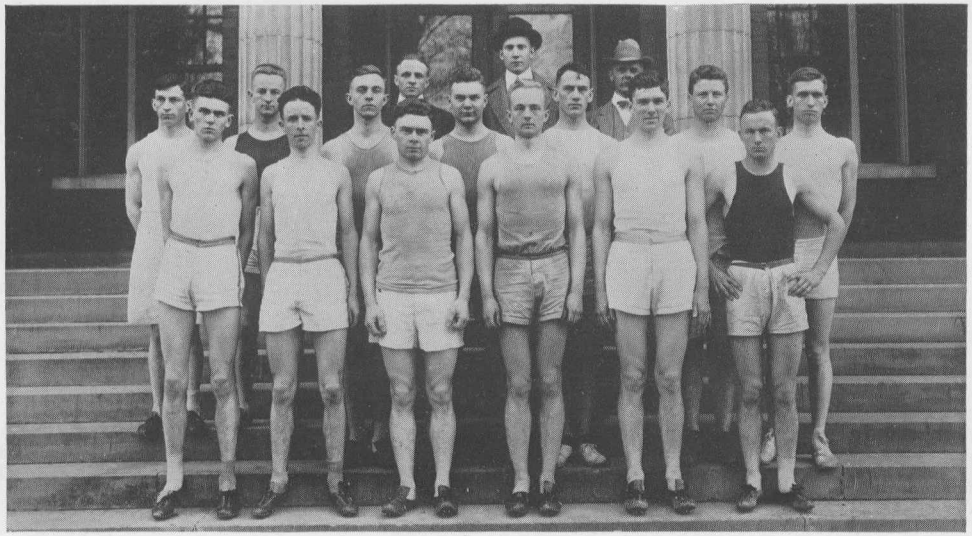
Standing side by side as they do, Cochran Hall and the Gymnasium supplement each other, and in connection with the athletic field close by, offer admirable facilities for the athletic and recreation side of college life.



ORATORY WINDOW AND NATURAL ARCHWAY



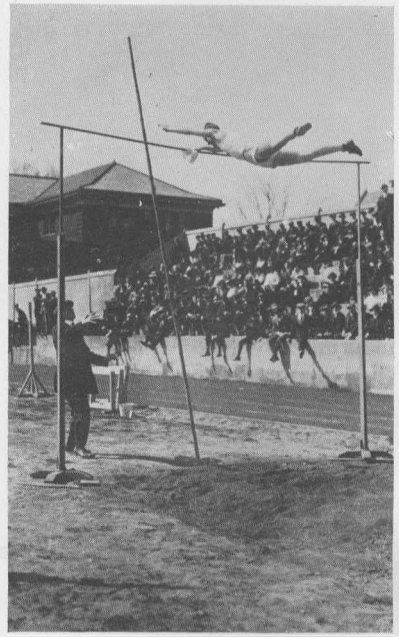
THE UPPER RAVINE



TRACK TEAM

GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS

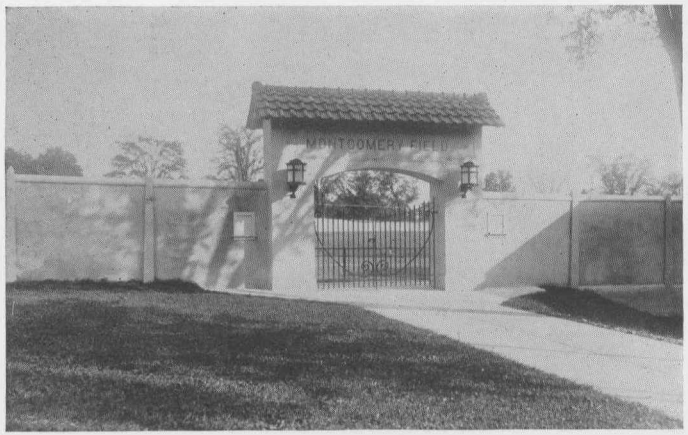
It is difficult to describe the college campus without seeming to exaggerate its beauty. The natural features are unsurpassed. Situated on a hillside with a picturesque ravine running through it, with great old trees, and younger trees, and fine lawns, it is a picture which once seen is not easily forgotten. The buildings, twelve of them altogether, besides the President's house, are admirably located. Bentley Hall, the oldest of all, and the pride of the college, is in the center. The alumni who come back to enjoy the festivities of commencement week never tire looking at it through the trees from the various points of view from which it is seen to best advantage.



A RECORD POLE VAULT



THE GYMNASIUM

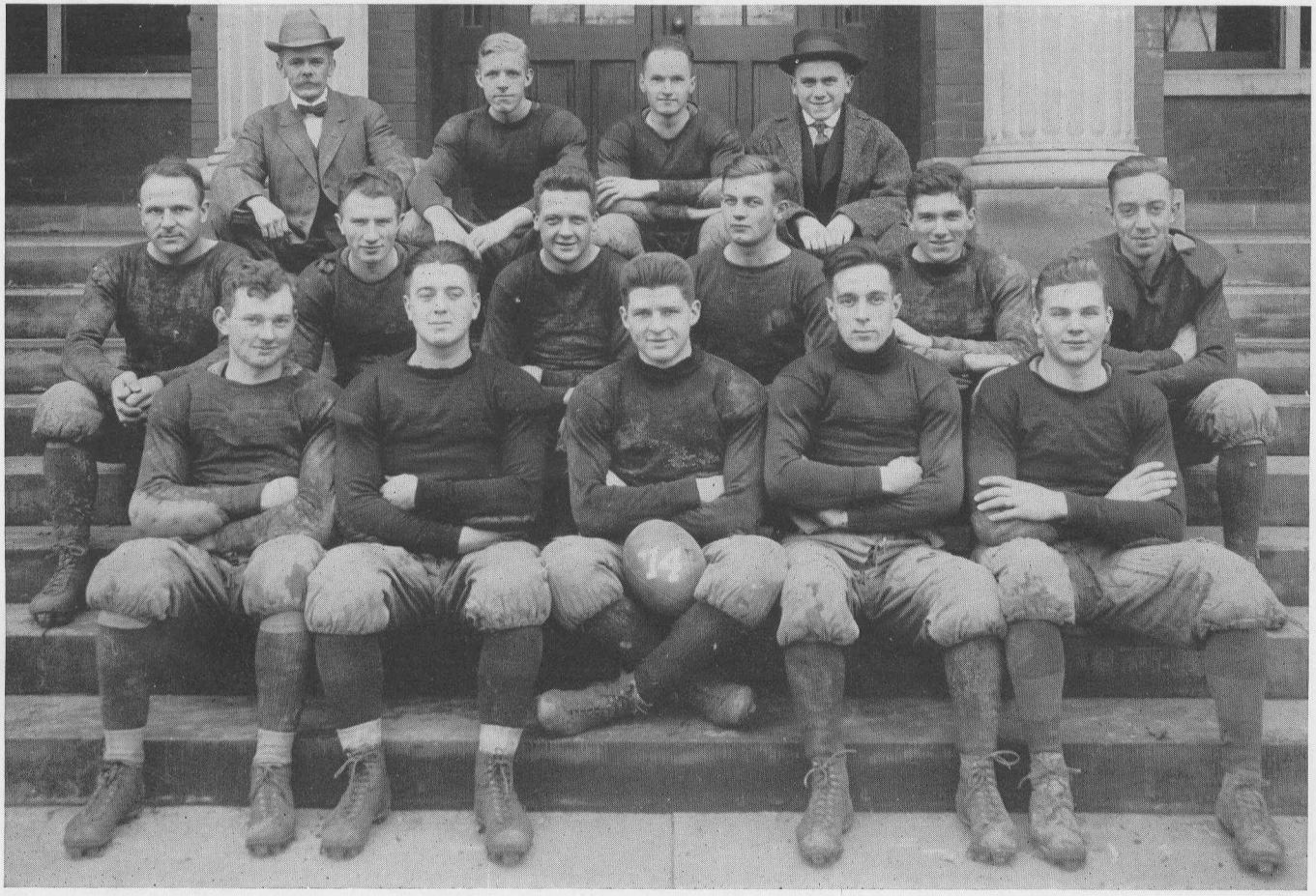


GATEWAY TO MONTGOMERY ATHLETIC FIELD

Bentley contains the recitation rooms and the lecture rooms for the departments of language and literature, together with the halls of Philo Franklin Forum and the German Club. Just above it is the power and steam plant, and to the left on the highest point of the campus is the Library building, standing proudly above its neighbors. To the right is Ruter Hall, erected in 1854 and named for Dr. Martin Ruter, the first Methodist President. This building houses the Museum and the departments of Mathematics, Graphics, and Philosophy. Just below is the Chapel, and farther down the hill in the open stands Newton Observatory. At the lower part of the campus is the Carnegie Hall of Chemistry, 120 by 60 feet, now in process of erection. This building is the gift of Andrew Carnegie. It is being built in the Italian Villa style with tapestry brick and red Spanish tile roof. It will accommodate some 250 students and will be well equipped for all courses in Chemistry offered by any high grade American college. On the other side of the street is the Gymnasium, and back of this is Montgomery Athletic Field, one of the finest fields to be found anywhere. To the north of the Gymnasium is



BASEBALL TEAM



THE FOOTBALL TEAM



BASKET BALL TEAM

Alden Hall, which is now being built to house the departments of Biology and Geology. The building, 120 by 60 feet, is of vitrified buff brick with gray terra cotta trimmings and red Spanish tile roof. On the other side of the campus is Hulings Hall, the young ladies' dormitory, and just above the corner of the campus occupied by the President's house is Willcox Hall of Science. From the inner campus there is a beautiful view, in the spring and summer an entrancing view, of French Creek valley and the hills beyond. It is no exaggeration to say that to see the campus of Allegheny College is to admire it and to live on it for four years is to love it.



CHEER LEADER

LOCATION

No city in Pennsylvania is more advantageously situated for a college than Meadville. It is on the main line of the Erie Railway, with its superb vestibuled trains, furnishing quick and comfortable service to New York, Chicago, Cleveland and Cincinnati. This railway runs ten trains a day through Meadville, and by means of its branches and connecting lines offers easy connection with Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Erie, Oil City and interevning towns. The Bessemer Railway connects Meadville with Pittsburgh, Butler and Erie. These two lines of railway furnish good connection with the Pennsylvania, Lake Shore, Baltimore & Ohio, Nickel Plate, Allegheny Valley, and the Western New York & Pennsylvania systems. It will be seen that from all points easy and expeditious access to the college is possible.

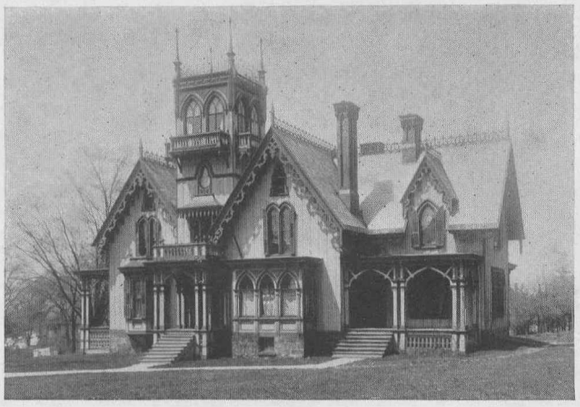
1861. It was formally opened in 1868.



MOVING UP DAY SCENES









FOUR OF THE FRATERNITY HOUSES