

ATHLETICS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

By W. A. Barton, Jr., Principal Laurens Graded Schools.

In this article the writer will attempt to show why and how athletics in the public schools should be developed.

Athletics should be developed in our public schools because they aid in the development of mind and body, can be used to make poor pupils good ones, create a spirit of fellowship among the students, and give the teacher the opportunity to come into close contact with his pupils.

Athletics—that is, wholesome physical exercises of any kind—aid in the development of both mind and body. Everybody knows that a person can do better mental work after he has taken some sort of physical exercise than he could before he took it. Since the purpose of the school is to secure better mental work, it must furnish some means for the pupils to take exercise. Athletics fur-

row-fellow-pupils on to victory. Are they acting thus to obtain muscular and vocal exercise? Never! They are straining and cheering because they have a feeling of fellowship. Why does the athlete whom they are cheering create this feeling among them? They are acting thus because he represents the entire school and their united support of one who represents them creates a feeling of fellowship among them. From the foregoing statements it must needs be clear to the reader that it creates a feeling of fellowship among the pupils.

Every sincere teacher realizes the value of coming into close contact with his pupils. It is often very difficult to obtain this condition. Participation in the athletic life of the pupils is a sure way for the teacher to obtain this close contact. The teach-



One end of the stage of the Graded School Auditorium, showing medallion of "Night" by Thorwaldsen.

LAURENS GRADED SCHOOL AT PRESENT.

For many years previous to the year 1888 the Laurensville Female College had been in a slow but sure decline. The year 1888 marked her crisis, for then it was that the ever increasing demand for better and more equipped preparatory schools directed the minds of the citizens of our town to the possibilities of the old Laurensville Female College transformed into the Laurens graded school. They purchased this valuable piece of property and ere long the old building was gay with the chatter and laughter of boys and girls.

The first corps of teachers of the Laurens graded school were the following: Mr. H. H. Covington, Supt.; Mr. C. L. Fike, principal; teachers: Misses Edna McGowan, Claudia Earle, Perin Furrow, Mary Dudkin and Hattie Frierson.

The trustees were the following: Mr. J. J. Pious, chairman; Dr. E. M. Caine, Mr. L. W. Simkins and Mr. W. L. Gray. The old building met all needs for a time, but, as the years rolled on and the town grew, it was crowded to its utmost capacity. More room was needed not only for equipment but for playgrounds. So the town in 1908, having secured a most admirable site in the old home of Mr. C. D. Barksdale, erected the splendid new building which is the pride of our whole town. This site is ideal in situation, centrally located—not more than three hundred yards from the center of the town—with rolling and spacious grounds, dotted here and there with beautiful oak trees—relics of the original forest. Other trees year by year, as Arbor Day is observed by the different grades, are being added to the grounds.

The present school building was erected at a cost of about forty thousand dollars, and is one of the best arranged school buildings in the state. It contains seventeen rooms complete—eleven class rooms, each furnished with single desks, blackboards on three sides of rooms, and having lovely pictures on the walls. It is strictly modern with its perfect system of ventilation, heated by furnace and has sanitary drinking fountains. The auditorium is commodious, beautiful, and interesting. Lovely pictures, copies from those of the world's most famous artists, and beautiful statuary add much to its attractiveness. A frieze

of rare beauty, representing Alexander's Triumphal Entry into Babylon, is the crowning decoration of the walls. Busts of Longfellow and Washington and pictures of Lee and Jackson have prominent places.

Year by year the school has been accumulating books till now it has a library consisting of about seventeen hundred volumes. All things in the school point to the making of character—patriotism, heroism, and honor are not only taught in class rooms but radiate from pictures on the walls, the faces of heroes of the past, and is breathed out in the thoughts of our greatest men and women through their books.

Some of the most interesting features of the school are: athletics, music, and drawing. Our school is one among ten belonging to the Piedmont Oratorical and Athletic association. The annual meet is to be held at Greenville on the 11th of April.

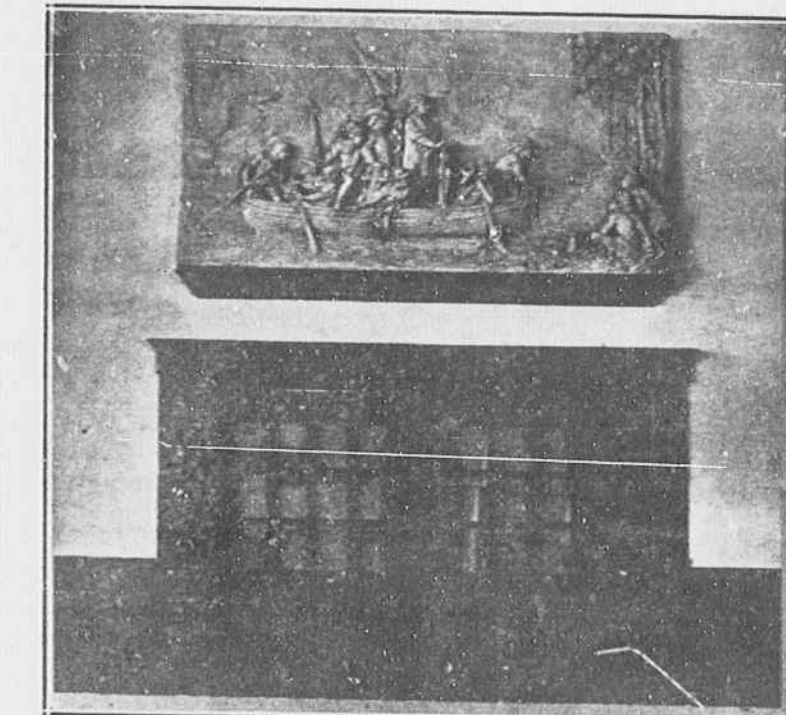
Mr. W. A. Barton organized a choral society this year which has not only improved the music of the school, but, by a public concert, added a neat sum to the treasury. Last, but not least, a victor machine has been installed. It is needless to say that this affords much genuine pleasure to all. Prang's system of drawing has been adopted and the importance of this study is greatly emphasized.

The present corps of teachers are: Mr. B. L. Jones, superintendent; Mr. W. A. Barton, Jr., principal; Miss Emily Meng, Mrs. H. S. Blackwell, Miss Ella Roland, Miss Bessie Barnett, Miss Annette Stover, Miss Annie Davis, Miss Dorcas Calmes, Miss May Delle Barre, Miss Fannie Creighton, and Miss Laura Barksdale.

The trustees under the present regime are: Mr. O. B. Simmons, chairman, Mr. C. H. Roper, secretary and treasurer, Mr. J. C. Owings, Mr. P. A. Simpson, Dr. R. E. Hughes, Mr. T. D. Lake and Mr. S. M. Wilkes.

Why He Was Late.

"What made you so late?"
"I met Smithson."
"Well, that is no reason why you should be an hour late getting home to supper."
"I know, but I asked him how he was feeling, and he insisted on telling me about his stomach trouble."
"Did you tell him to take Chamberlain's Tablets?"
"Sure, that is what he needs." Sold by all dealers.



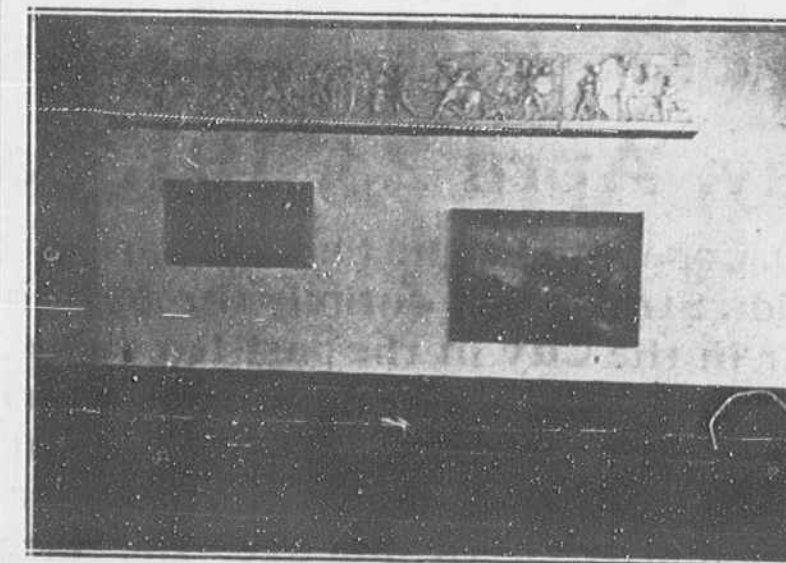
Showing cast of "Landing of Columbus" over a door in the Graded School auditorium.

ish a means of obtaining exercise, which the pupils take advantage of sooner than they do of any other means. The school, therefore, seems forced to provide athletics for its pupils. Since athletics result in more effective mental ability, we conclude that they aid in the development of the mind. Do they develop the body? The answer is, "Look at the well developed athlete who has been developed by moderate indulgence in athletics." A look at him will convince any reasonable person that athletics develop the body. Considering these facts, we say again athletics aid in the development of both mind and body.

Athletics can be used to make poor

er who helps his pupils in their athletics finds himself loving his pupils more and more, and they likewise love him with an increasing affection. Realizing this fact, every teacher, as far as possible, should aid his pupils in the development of their athletic life.

In order to develop athletics in his school the teacher must get interested, secure the best possible equipment, and work hard. The teacher who tries to teach a lesson in which he is not interested fails. In like manner the teacher who is uninterested in athletics can never develop them in his school. On the other hand, the teacher who is really in-



Showing part of the Alexandrian frieze in Graded School auditorium and pictures of Troyan's Return from the Farm.

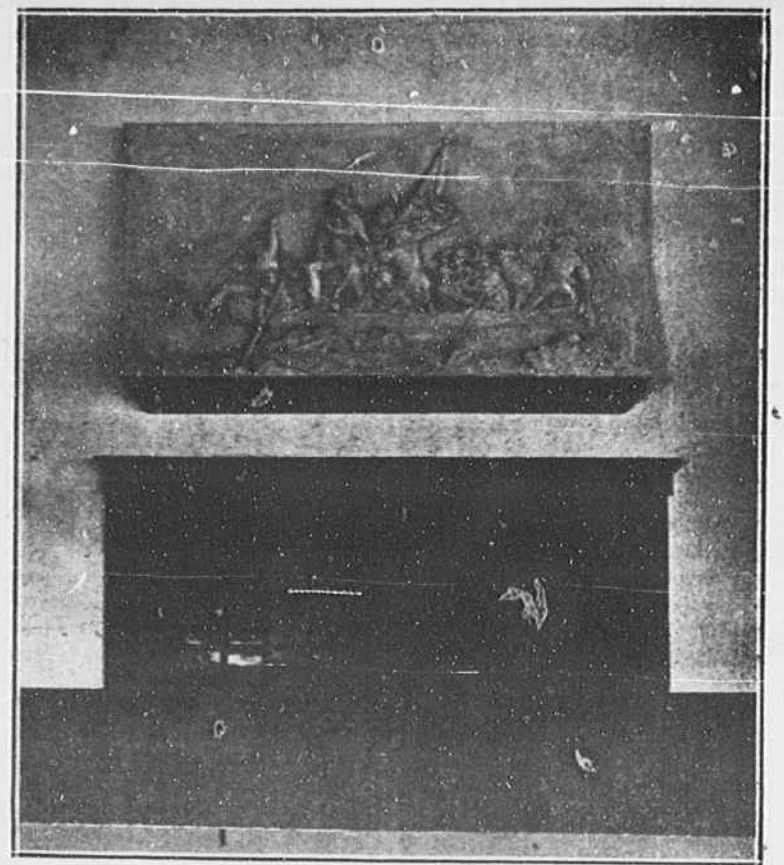
pupils good ones. To do this it is necessary to make good standing in scholarship and deportment a requirement for obtaining a place on any athletic team representing the school. By this method the writer has seen boys apparently, intellectually dead become very efficient students. He could give concrete examples, but he feels that this is unnecessary. If athletics can be used to reform poor students, surely, they merit a place in our public schools.

Have you ever attended an inter-high school baseball game or track meet, seen the manifestation of school spirit, and heard the cheering of the rival students? If you have not, there is a great treat in store for you. There one sees hundreds of boys and girls standing up and stretching every muscle as they cheer one of their

interested will unconsciously transmit his enthusiasm to his pupils and soon athletics will be growing in his school. Therefore, by all means, get interested.

After he has become interested the teacher should secure the best possible equipment. This point should be carefully noted. If you give a boy a cheap, dull knife and tell him to do some fancy wood carving, you will never receive the article requested, for the boy will not work with a poor inefficient tool. For this reason, the teacher who is satisfied to let his pupils work with a poor equipment will never succeed in interesting them in athletics. To put the thought in other words, good equipment means "Success," poor equipment means "Failure."

The teacher, even though he secures



Showing cast of "Washington Crossing the Delaware" over a door in the Graded School auditorium.

the best possible equipment, will never succeed unless he himself works hard. Since boys and girls are great imitators, they will not work hard unless their teacher does. The teacher can work hard in many ways. He can actually take part in the

events, keep the boys at work, and sustain their enthusiasm. He who tries to do these three things will soon realize that he must work hard. Of the three things the teacher must do to successfully develop athletics the most essential is hard work.

The Public School Situation In Laurens County.

As Seen from Without the County.

To one who is a native of Laurens county, and who is intensely interested in her educational progress, the following facts appeal with peculiar force:

Recent Improvements.

- Growth of local interest in districts, resulting in increased enrollment and higher average attendance.
- A gratifying number of new local taxes for schools.
- Recognition of the value of consolidation.
- Better paid teachers, who retain their position longer and give better service.
- The erection of many splendid school houses.
- The establishment of several excellent high schools in the county.
- A longer term of office for the County Superintendent of Education.
- The employment of an efficient county supervisor of schools to work under the direction of the County Superintendent.

Needed Improvements.

- A continuation and enlargement of the good things already being done.
- Local levies in a number of additional districts.
- Consolidation of schools in suitable localities and transportation of pupils where feasible.
- Taking advantage of the new Act providing for consolidated and graded schools in country districts.
- Transferring to neighboring high schools all pupils within reach who are prepared for high school work, thus giving the lower grades in one and two teacher schools a better showing.
- Providing teachers' homes in stronger districts as part of the school plant.
- Establishment of agricultural

and industrial courses in several suitably situated schools.

h. A salary of \$1800 for the County Superintendent, making it commensurate with his responsibility and the needs of his work.

i. Making the County Supervisor of schools a permanent officer in the county department of education.

j. Recognition of the people's obligation to give every child in the county a fair chance now, and not suffer the loss of hundreds while waiting for the conditions to become ideally favorable.

It is the hope of the writer to see all these things and many others accomplished in the near future.

J. A. Stoddard,
Asst. State Supt. of Ed.

GUARANTEED TO STOP ITCHING AT ONCE

Eczema, Rash, Tetter, Dandruff Disappear by Using Remarkable Zemo.

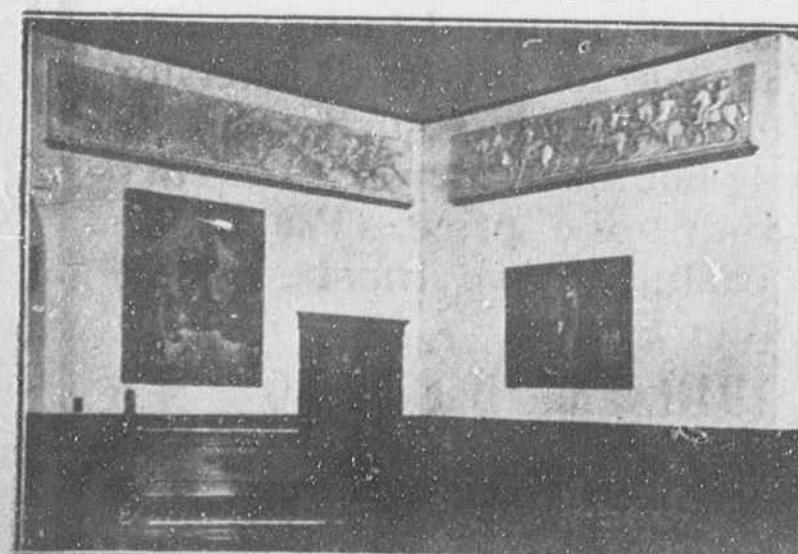
Buy a 25c bottle today and prove it. That itching that drives you nearly wild, that keeps you awake in agony all night long, that scalp itching, will vanish instantly by using the new remedy ZEMO. It is guaranteed.

ZEMO will surprise you as it has thousands of others by its results on fiery eczema, sores, rash, tetter, blotches, inflamed or irritated skin, pimples, rawness after shaving, all skin afflictions, sores, blotches, and itching scalp. It cures dandruff completely, since dandruff is nothing but eczema of the scalp.

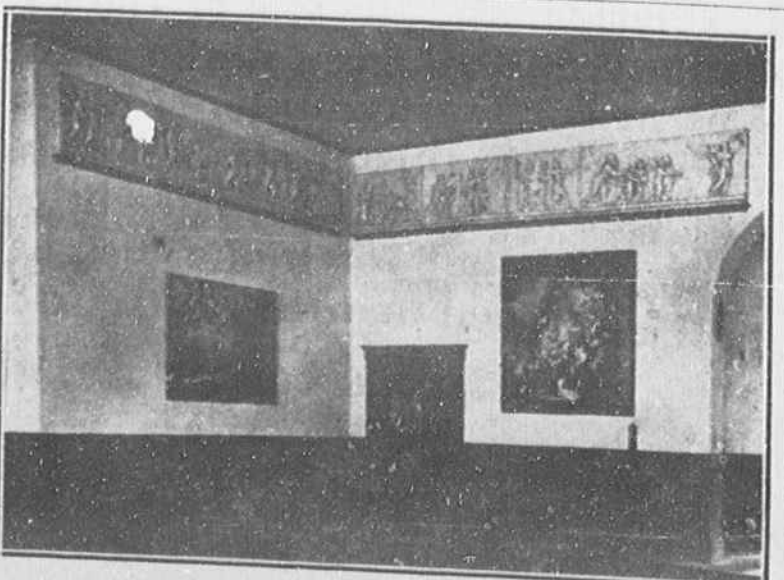
ZEMO is wonderfully refreshing to the skin. It is a clean, antiseptic solution, not a paste, cream or ointment. The first application gives blessed relief. ZEMO has been imitated, but positively never equaled.

It is impossible for me to do justice in recommending ZEMO, because words cannot express its wonderful achievements." R. A. Stierlin, Supt. Electrotype Dept., Sanders Engraving Co., St. Louis, Mo.

ZEMO is sold in 25c sealed bottles and guaranteed in Laurens by Laurens Drug Co.



Corner of Laurens Graded School auditorium, showing part of the 80-ft. frieze of Alexander's Entry into Babylon and pictures of "The Sistine Madonna" and "Interior of Vatican," Rome.



Corner of Laurens Graded School auditorium, showing part of the Alexandrian frieze and pictures of "The Holy Family" and "Cloisters of St. Paul in Rome."