Westtown Boarding School

A Thesis

by

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Moorestown

N. J.

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Sources of Information.

1. Six years residence at the school.
2. Two days and a half spent there for the purpose of working up the subject.
3. One or more conversations with Watson A. Denees.
4. Records of the Historical Committee of Literary Union.
5. Minutes of the Philadelphia yearly meeting from 1848 to 1882.
Westtown Boarding School.

Westtown Boarding School is an institution under the care of the religious society of Friends, for the purpose of giving to youth in the society a well-rounded religious education. It is situated in Westtown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, about four miles from West Chester and twenty-three miles from Philadelphia. The nearest station is Westtown, which is about one and a half miles from the school. It used to be known as Street Road Station, but about the year 1876 it was changed to its modern
The earliest mention of the founding of Cheyney was probably made in the life of John Dickinson. He was an eminent statesman in the early days of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and although he himself was not a Friend, he had a great esteem for Quakerish. In the year 1787 he offered to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends a large sum of money to be used in the founding of a school under their care, in which the pupils were to be instructed in "the most advantageous branches of literature, and in certain practical subjects."
This I am informed by a long correspondence between John Dickinson and the authorities of the meeting on the subject of the adoption of the religious instruction. I was finally convinced by him of the wisdom and propriety of the measure and I endeavored generally to give the subject their earnest considera-
tion.

In the 1776, Galloway's able, eloquent, and able leaders, and had the subject of founding such an institution upon his mind, issued a pamphlet entitled, "A Plan for a School." In this he cited the great need of schools across the Atlantic.
Those which had failed, he showed
wherein lay the cause. In those
which had succeeded, he took
the good points and showed
how they could be applied to a
school in this country.

The school at Leuchars, near
Ballinharriy, although start-
ed with very small capital, had
proved to be of great benefit to
that section of country. The head
of it, dependent entirely on the
assistance of the District Helper,
and, reverence, was the fami-
ly left in want.

But the most successful
school, and the one from which
Coven Biddle got most of his
data, was at Eckworth in York-
shire, about 180 miles from London.
This school had been built for a Foundling Hospital, but having failed, it was bought by a few friends, and later accepted by the London Yearly Meeting at cost. There were accommodations at the school for about 300 scholars. The boys were instructed in reading, writing, and accomplishments as fully as the time allowed them permitted; some useful employment was provided for them, according to their age, strength, talent, or all their age required. The girls were also instructed in knitting, spinning, useful needlework, and in such domestic occupations as were suitable to their sex and stations.

The monitor system was used...
there with good results, and nearly all of the larger boys and some of the smaller ones had certain duties to perform, for doing which they received such small rewards as, "a piece of bread and cheese on fourth and seventh day mornings."

Owen Biddle then proceeded to set forth and demonstrate the following four points:

"1st. That there is occasion for such an institution as is now proposed:

"2nd. That there has been a concern resting on some minds for a considerable time past, to promote something of this kind.

"3rd. That there is ability in the
society for such an undertaking.

4th and lastly, that it will be attended with advantages that cannot be obtained in any other way.

In the fourth month 1791, the subject of establishing such an institution was introduced into the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, and after a few months it was taken to the Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting. In the following year the proposition was taken up by the Yearly Meeting and although several thousands of pounds had already been raised for the purpose, no decisive action was taken. The next year the subject again came up, but likewise without any
thing definite being done. On the 30th of Feb, month, 1794, however, the Yearly Meeting appointed a committee of fifty-four men to look into the subject and to report at a future sitting. This committee gave the subject their weighty consideration, and reported to the Meeting that they approved the plan introduced by Philadelphia Quarter, and as £5,000 had already been subscribed they would recommend the appointment of a committee “to consider and digest a plan, and rules for the government and management of the house, school, and other parts of the economy.” A standing committee of
Fifty-four Friends was, according
by-appointed, forty-seven of them
being men, and seven being wom-
en. This committee held its
first meeting on the evening
of 10th. month, 3rd, 1874, in the
old meeting house on Fourth
street below Chestnut. They ap-
pointed two out of their number
from each quarter to collect con-
tributions for the new enterprise.
Thomas Fisher of Philadelphia
was appointed to receive all the
money, and thus he became the
first treasurer of Westtown. The
commis acted as chair of the com-
mittee.
The chief object of the meeting
was to select a situation for a
building site. The first place
proposed was Langhome Park, a tract of 450 acres in Bucks County, twenty miles from Philadelphia, and situated on the Nesbannum Creek. In fact, several rounds passed this farm thinking that it would be accepted by the Yearly Meeting.

In the 20th of 12th month, 1777, a sub-committee, which had been appointed to visit the different farms under consideration, reported that they believed the farm owned by James Gibbons in Westtown Township to be best adapted to the purposes for which it was wanted. They were instructed to buy it from James Gibbons if it could be had at a reasonable rate. As
He was much interested in education, so sold the farm at an unusually low price of £12 per acre, or £6,833. 6s. and 8d. = £16, 22s. 22, for the whole farm of 638 acres. The deed was not delivered until 1st month 1st 1775, or until the Friends had made a covenant that they would use the farm for educational purposes. The wisdom and foresight of the committee is shown by the fact that they also bought the land adjoining the farm, on the other side of Chester Creek. This land was sold again, reserving the entire right to the water power of the creek.

Then the committee adopted this progress in the July 1842.
Meeting on the 2nd of March, 1795, it was satisfactory to the meeting, and forty-two friends were appointed to visit the farm, and investigate matters.

On 2nd. month 17th., 1796, David Evans presented to the committee plans for a building 104 feet long, 50 feet wide, and three stories high, to be used as the school building. This being satisfactory to the committee, operations began the following spring, and continued until 1799. The building was supposed to accommodate 150 pupils, but was so built that an extension could be made on each end if it was found necessary.
On 8th. month 12th, 1778, even before the school was ready to be opened, the committee decided that $675 a year would be a suitable rate of tuition to charge. This included board, washing etc., but excluded the cost of "pens, paper, ink and slates."

During the progress of the
building, the committee in charge made frequent visits to the school, which meant much more in those days than it does, now. Besides building up the main school building, a large barn was built, roads were laid out, a garden was prepared, and several other things done which would add to the comfort of the future occupants. These improvements had in seven years increased the total expense until it reached $46,020.17.

As the building neared completion, the committee began to look about for capable superintendents to take the oversight of the family. About the middle of the 2nd. month, 1799, hou-
On 6th day of the 5th month 1799, the school was formally opened with forty scholars and with Elizabeth B. Kent, John Strong, and Thebe Con as teachers. Other scholars were admitted at the rate of twenty every month until before winter came there were a hundred of each sex in the building which was built to accommodate one hundred and fifty only. In consequence of the growing number of students, the number of teachers was also increased, until there
In a short time, each side of the house! At this time there were about 100 applications on file, and it was ordered that no more names be ordered.

In the fourth month of 1805, before the school was 50 years old, we find it was launched on what has proved to be a most prosperous voyage, but the committee was £3784. 15s. in debt. In order to meet this financial embarrassment, the tuition was raised to £80 a year for boys, and £68 a year for girls. In consequence of this advance in the cost of education, we find in 1806, the number of boys to have decreased about one half.

In the fourth month 1807, Joe.
The duties of the superintendent were taken by Ann Sharpless. It soon became evident that in case of sickness, there should be some isolated house in which to care for the patients. Accordingly, an infirmary was built in 1803 on the south side of the lane; the basement being occupied by the tailor and shoemaker. As this building was so far from the school it was used very little as originally intended, but has been occupied by some of the married teachers, with whom the members of the committee used to lodge when a visit to the school.

In the spring of 1811, and the fall of 1813, scarlet fever broke out.
in the school, and several of the children were taken to their homes on that account.

One of the chief troubles in the early years of the institution was the difficulty in securing competent men teachers. At the time, Thomas Scattergood, one of the committee, served in that capacity for a number of months. To him more than almost any other Friend belongs the credit of accomplishing the early success of Westtown. He it was, with another Friend, who visited the Friends Boarding School at Ackworth, England, for the purpose of getting ideas for Westtown.

In 1809 a slight fire occurred in one of the rooms, which led to
the procuring of fire-buckets and also, a watchman to patrol the buildings at night.

The crowded condition of the family was by this time severely felt, and consequently the brick wing was added in 1811 and was ready for occupancy in 1813.

In 1811 the stone house at the east of the lane was offered for sale, and the committee hearing of a probability of its being bought and turned into a store, in order to frustrate the plan purchased it themselves. This building has since been used as a residence for some of the married teachers.

In 1816 the tuition was again
raised to $790. In the year, in order to help liquidate the debt hanging over the school.

In 1817 a regular stage was run between Philadelphia and Westtown by the former, William Reed. Its place of departure was from the Pennsylvania Hotel on 6th street below Linch.

Up to this year the meetings held on First Day afternoons were not silent, but the children were read to from Friends writings or other religious works. In this year, however, the system was changed, so that the meetings were purely devotional, as those held in the mornings and on First days.

In 1822, owing to the increased
garity in the approval of some of the scholars, a sub-committee was sent out to labor with the tenders. Although the scholars knew well the wishes of the committee in this respect, it appears that they persisted in bringing uncomfortable clothing from home. No further mention is made of this matter, as it was probably dressed up.

About a year later, it was realized that the boys did not have enough quiet family life, and accordingly a parlor was started with a competent parlor keeper, for the purpose. It was a sort of reading room where the boys could go and spend a quiet hour social
In 1824 the immediate results of besttow were realized when it was found that 67 men and 181 women, who had been pupils at the school, had since taught schools in different parts of the county and those schools. The principal of Deaelem and the besttown ideas by so doing. Up to this time French was the only foreign language taught at the school, but in 1824 a growing desire on the part of some of the students to study Latin and Greek, lead to the introduction of those courses into the curriculum, although a regular classical teacher was not
employed until about 1830.

Astronomy had for a number of years been studied with interest by the advanced students, and they were gratified in their work in 1825, by the introduction of a telescope from England. In those days mathematics were carried by most of the scholars farther than they are now. In recent years, with the increased time put upon the modern sciences, the advanced mathematics have had to retire to the background.

In the year 1827, owing to the separation which occurred in the society, a spirit of subordination broke out among
the boys, and was not pulled until several of the younger leaders were expelled. A number of Bibles were burned by some of the larger boys, and a few of the committee members tried to prevent and live near the school. An article in a newspaper made the school in trouble in order to establish order again.

In the same year the building was insured. In 1805 it became desirable to have a library and a number of books, chiefly Friends' writings, having been given for the purpose. In 1835 Cyrus Wendenhall was appointed the librarian.

In the same year the number of scholars having doubled to about one half the school's
capacity, the tuition was lowered to $200 a year. This brought but
the desired increase in numbers but it was at a great loss
financially. The school became so crowded that it was neces-
sary in 1833 to add, at the
cost of $4100, a wing to the girls
side of the house similar to the
one erected twenty years before
at the boy's end.

The lack of teachers having
become so pronounced at this
time, the system of assistant
teachers was introduced, and
was only discontinued about
three years ago. Two or three
worthy and capable students
on each side of the house were
given the tuition free of charge,
in return for which they relieved the teachers of many of their minor duties, and frequently taught some of the classes.

The epidemic Cholera visited the County in 1833, and caused great alarm against the disease, and to ease the minds of anxious parents at home, a doctor and a nurse were engaged to live at the school until the scare was over. So healthy is the climate here, and so isolated the institution, that not a single case of the disease broke out.

It was also in this year that the committee decided to admit children to Westtown belonging to other yearly meetings.
but not more than fifteen were allowed to enter at once.

Barclay's Catechism was introduced in 1837, and the students compelled to prepare a lesson in it once a week, a custom which has been continued quite regularly up to the present date. The scholars had for a number of years been accustomed to committing portions of the Holy Scriptures to memory twice every week.

In this same year a fund was started, the interest from which was devoted to the payment of the salaries of the teachers. This enabled the school to get along better with the lower price of tuition.
Owing to the admission of children from other sources, and the costly rate of tuition, the school became very full, and it was in 1837 decided best to divide the school into two terms. It was found very difficult to arrange the classes satisfactorily, as new students were continually coming and old ones leaving. Accordingly, a vacation of three weeks was given at the yearly meeting time in the spring, and two weeks in the autumn. These were afterwards increased to four weeks each.

A sub-committee was at this time appointed to visit the school and labor with the boys in regard to the use of the English language.
They also discouraged the scholars from banding together in order to keep necessary information from the teachers.

The teachers' meetings were started about this time and continue until now. The teachers meet every two weeks and discuss the condition of the school, dealing principally in personalities. While the system may be good in theory, in practice the meetings frequently become gossiping conclave in which the faults of the different pupils are brought up and discussed, with no possible good resulting to either students or teachers.

In 1836 the school became so overcrowded that it was deemed
advisable to raise the tuition again to $800 per annum.

Up to this time all the heating and cooking had been done by means of wood fires. But in this year coal began to be used in some of the stores. The coal was delivered at Norristown for $4.50 a ton. It then cost $2.00 per ton to be hauled over. That this was a great step in advance we need only be intimated.

In 1847 letters were delivered to parties in Philadelphia by stage driver at a cost of six cents each, but they were carried between Westtown and the Philadelphia post office for one half that amount. In 1852 the little West
town stamps were introduced, and had to be put on all letters sent from the school until 1878, when a regular mail carrier was hired by the school independent of the stage.

In 1846 the roof of the building was raised four feet, thereby making the boys' chambers much more commodious, comfortable, and airy. Two nurseries were also built at this time, which proved to be most useful. They were sorely needed about ten years before when the measles broke out, and out of a family of 172, 94 were attacked by the disease. These buildings were situated very close to the school and were connected with it by the galleries.
Improvements now began to be made in a number of directions. Gas was introduced about 1854, and consequently the old kerosene and the oil lamp, and the dangers connected with them became a thing of the past. The laundry was moved from the basement of the main building into a building erected especially for the purpose. In the same year, the girls' bath house was built, and it proved so satisfactory that five years later, one was built for the boys.

In the year 1869 Industrial Hall was built, and all of the boys' recreation rooms were transferred to this new building. Of course
It was greatly relieved the pressure in the main building and allowed the girls to expand. New chemical and physical laboratories were fitted up in this hall, and consequently these courses proved of much more value to those taking them.

Very early in the second half of this century, an attempt was made, by the Legislature, to tap the Heston property. Dr. Oliver Worrington opposed this measure, and it was largely owing to his efforts that it was defeated. He showed that nearly all the other institutions of the kind had received aid from the State, but that Westtown, although often financially embarrassed
have struggled on, and depend-
ed entirely upon the private sup-
port of Friends. It was on this
occasion that Thomas C. Upman
made his memorable speech a-
bout the Friends, in which he
say: "I have carefully studied
the Bible in the original lan-
guages. I have visited the Holy
Land, the places memorable
in Scriptural history, and what
is more important, I have had
many years experience. The
conclusion of the whole matter
with me, is an abiding con-
viction that Christianity is
true, and the Society of Friends
have produced the highest
and best statement of spirit-
ual Christianity yet made."
Their spiritual view of Christ, their doctrine of the universal saving grace and light, are yet in advance of the age, and of the views entertained by any other denomination on this important subject.

Owing to the continued financial embarrassments with which the school was encompassed, the Yearly Meeting decided to give an annual appropriation of $370 in order to help defray expenses. This was, in later years, increased to $2000.

Therefoare, only boys under fifteen and a half years of age were admitted to the school, as it was feared that if any older than that, they would become
unmanageable. In 1856, however, it was decided to admit them over the age at the direction of the Superintendent, but they were at all times subject to dismissal if their behavior was not entirely satisfactory to the authorities. In the same year the price of tuition was advanced $10 a year. In 1858 the accessibility to Westtown was greatly increased by the opening of the Baltimore Central Railroad between Philadelphia and West Chester. About ten years before, the Prager Branch had connected West Chester with Philadelphia, and this was used to a large extent by Westtown, but previous to
this everything had to be hauled from Philadelphia or Norristown and a stage ran between Westtown and Philadelphia for the purpose of carrying passengers and mail. Now that this new railroad was built, Westtown was brought much nearer to the outside world, as Street Road Station was only three miles and a half from the school.

In 1859 Davis Reece gave up his position as governor, which he had held for nearly thirty years. He had entered upon his duties when the orders among the boys was at a very slow ebb. Although he was at times, of necessity, very strict, and even severe, yet he was le-
Loved by all who knew him.

Old Westtown. Girls' End.

WESTTOWN SCHOOL, 1840.
In 1861 the curriculum was divided into two courses: a classical course, and an English course. The former was for the more advanced scholars, and was intended chiefly for those expecting to pursue their studies further, or those intending to teach. In this year the length of the term was changed so that each term was twenty-two weeks long.

In 1864, owing to the rise in prices all over the country, the price of tuition was raised $10 a year, and again in '65 it was raised $20 a year, and in '66 it was raised to $140 a year for members of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and to $150 a year.
for those belonging to other Yearly Meetings.

In order that the opening and closing of school might not interfere with the busy season of the farmers, the sessions were ordered to begin and end a week earlier, thus putting two weeks of the vacation before Yearly Meeting week and one week after. On the 8th of 4th month of this year 1868 there occurred a fire in the boys end of the building. The bath-houses played with and about a quarter of the gallery were destroyed, but the loss was nearly all covered by insurance.

In 1870, a number of girls desiring to perfect themselves in
order to teach, opportunity was afforded was afforded them
practice upon some of the
younger scholars. This developed into the formation of a
regular normal department which was embodied in the
curriculum in 1852.

Very early in the existence of Westtown, there had been, what
was called "morning school."
This was an hour before break-
fast which was devoted to the
study of grammar and geog-raphy. This was probably dis-
continued sometime in the
'30s or '40s. There was an oth-
ing school; however, up to the
year 1876, but in this year it
was abolished, and a study
from introduced in its stead.

In 1878, the tuition was raised to $160 a year but as the school had been coming out $2,000 and $3,000 ahead for several years, it was lowered again to $150 in the following year, and the appropriation of $2,000 from the yearly meeting was rescinded.

Westtown Boarding School had now been established for eighty-five years. Dears, that it had been a success we have only to look at the results. But the buildings which had stood the storms and strains for so many years were fast showing signs of decay. The roof was settling, and it was only a matter
of time before it would fall in. Accordingly the question began to be considered in regard to erecting new buildings. There was so much sentiment connected with the old structure, that a number of friends demurred, but finally good judgment overcame the opposition, and steps were taken to collect money for the enterprise. Operations were begun in 1885, Addison Sutton being the architect, and Henry Taylor the builder.
The winter term of 1880 and 81 was not opened until the 1st of next month, in order that the boys' wing of the new building might be used. The girls' wing was not completed until a year or so later. The entire building was erected at a cost of $326,000, all of which was paid by private contribution.

The old building was 160 feet long, 50 feet deep, and four stories high. In the basement were the kitchen and dining- and store rooms, and at each end the wash-rooms. On the first floor were the collection rooms, library, and in the central part of the building the offices and parlors. On the second
floor were recitation rooms, the meeting room, the lecture room, and museum. The third floor was devoted to the girls sleeping apartments, and the fourth floor contained the boys' chamber.

Now a family of 250 people could possibly live in such small accommodations it is hard for us in this day, to imagine, but from 1837 to 1840 there were fully that many at the school.

Compared with this we have the new building which is 520 feet long. It consists of a main central part, attached to which are the boys and girls wings. They are each 192 feet long and 154 feet deep.

The foundation of the build
ing is of brownstone with water tables of Wyoming Valley Stone. The first and second stories are of stretcher brick with red mortar. The third story is of black Flemish Bond style. The roofs are peaked and of slate, with cornices and gutters of copper. The main building supports a tower which is flanked with cut stone. On the top of it is an observatory with a four inch telescope mounted on an revolving stand.

On the first floor of the main building, and on the south side of the long hall, is the library which is 44 feet by 48 feet, and contains about 5400 volumes. Across the hall from the library is the dining room, and back of
at the kitchen, which extends back
for 70 feet. On the second floor
and just above the library is
the meeting room, with dimen-
sions of 54 feet by 48 feet. Just over
the dining room, and occupy-
ing both the second and third
floors, is the lecture room. There
is floor space, at the north side
of the room, to seat about 200.
Raised seats go from the floor
up to the level of the room, as
high as on a level with the third
floor. These will seat from five
to six hundred. Just north of the
room are two ante-rooms for
appliances etc. It is proposed,
this spring, to take away these
partitions and thus increase
the room on the floor. It is fun-
Other proposed to take away the raised seats and to put a gallery around three sides of the room. It will then be used primarily as a gymnasium but commencements and other literary entertainments will still be held there. This last alteration will not be made until next summer, and perhaps not till still later.

The museum occupies the space just over the meeting room. In it are collections of minerals, shells, birds, mammals, pressed flowers, butterflies and antiquities, etc.

Near the ends of the wings are the two water-towers, which extend toward the north, and
are 64 feet long and 24 feet wide. At the extreme ends of the building are the collecting rooms, with space for 128 desks in each. There are 33 sleeping rooms on each floor of each wing. They are about twenty feet by eight feet and all are double rooms, each one having two single beds in. At the end of the wings toward the central building are the nurseries. Usually only the second floor is used, but in serious cases, or when many scholars are indisposed, the third floor may also be brought into service.

An engine house 30 feet by 55 feet is situated just north of the kitchen, and 85 feet from it.
In it are the boilers supplying steam heat for the whole building and also steam to run the engines. The dynamos are placed in the engine room and are connected with the engine by belts. They supply electric light to all the buildings. A chimney 110 feet high gives a draught to the furnaces under the boilers.

Attached to the engine house and just south of it is the laundry. Nearly all the machinery is worked by steam, there being washing machines, a centrifugal clothes-ringer, and one or more steam mangles. All the students' laundry is done here with the exception of the collars and cuffs which are sent to
a regular laundry.

BOILER HOUSE AND LAUNDRY.

About 1890 a course in manual training was started and is continued up to the present day. All the boys in the intermediate department are compelled to take it, and beneficial results have been noted.

For a number of years the girls had received a course in physical
Culture, but it was not reduced to a systematic state until the autumn of '73, when a special teacher was employed for the purpose.

Graduating classes, which were started about 1865, had by this time increased from eight to twenty or more. But therefores the girls course had been a year shorter than the boys. In the year 1892 the courses were made alike.

About 1874 the prescribed course, which had previously been divided into a scientific and a classical course, was subdivided into six courses as follows: English and Literature, Science, Mathematics, German, Latin, and French. A person desiring to grad-
state had to complete any three of these courses. This is the plan which is in operation today, and it appears to be a very good one.

For several years prior to the fall of 1876, the order among the boys was far from satisfactory, probably largely due to the want of an efficient governor. In this year the committee employed William T. Sweneyham, who had before acted in the capacity of Assistant Governor, as Principal of the school. This not only relieved the superintendent of a large number of his duties, but it gave these sanatorium duties into the care of a man much better qualified to look after them. Now the Principal decides all questions of discipline and school work.
while the superintendent simply acts as a steward and general prefect of the premises. It is worth while to note that since the advent of William Dickerson as principal the school has come up very decidedly. Both the order and the literary standard of the school have improved most noticeably.

In the same year a course in domestic economy and sewing was started for the girls. The younger girls are taught needlework, and the older ones are given cooking lessons once every week.

The social condition at Westtown has changed completely from what it was in its early days. Then the boys and girls saw each other in meeting and that was all.
Brothers and sisters were allowed to meet each other once a week, and first cousins once in two weeks. How they and sometimes second cousins can meet practically whenever they desire. Previous to the early 70s, the boys ate in one dining room and the girls in another. Under Jonathan Williams, a change was made so that the boys and girls ate together, but it was a number of years before they shared tables much together. Even in the early 90s, it was only the older students who conversed, but now all the barriers seem to have disappeared, and old and young alike, talk in a free and easy manner. The boys and girls seated separately until about
Twenty years ago, when a few of the classes had joined for the sake of economy, and mostly were nearly all coeducational.

The most unusual thing was now for the boys and girls to share camp supper together, and geology and botany trips were looked upon as regular occurrences. The boys and girls have been allowed to skate and coast together for the past fifteen or twenty years, but the picnics and companies given by the teachers are of recent origin.

That the latter is much the better method of managing the social question there is no doubt. In the old days the boys and girls saw just enough of each other
...and idle fancies without really ever becoming ac-
quainted. Now however, healthy and sensible friendships are formed which one is apt to keep for a lifetime. One of the advantages of going to Westtown is the forma-
tion of friendships among friends. There one meets the nicest children in the Society, and it is worth much in after years to have such friends.

Although Westtown is not noted for its athletics, yet they occupy quite a prominent place. For a number of years baseball was the Westtown game, but in the spring of 1875 several of the boys started cricket, and it has been on the increase ever since.
Base-ball has practically died out, though they usually get up a team to play the "Visitors" every spring.

The Westtown boys have never been allowed to play other schools in any line of sports. If they were, they believe material there to turn out good teams in all branches of athletics, and would undoubtedly turn out winning teams. But the committee are anxious to ever bear in mind the concern of the founders of the institution: to give to the youth of the society, a guarded religious education; never mingling with other schools would defeat this end, it is prohibited. Old scholars and other friends are however allowed to
indulge in friendly contests, and one or two such games are usually played every year.

Recently golf has been introduced and is played by a few scholars on both sides of the house. Tennis has for a number of years been a popular game, and still has a number of adherents.
particularly with the girls.

In the autumn, rugby football is now played, but it has only been recently that the committee have permitted it. The old-fashioned association football was considered safer, and was played up to a few years ago. It was then shown that
more serious accidents occurred from that than from the rugby, and consequently the latter was introduced.

In the winter skating and cross-country are enjoyed by both boys and girls alike; a serious accident occurring on the skating track in the winter of '11-12authentication error. Last winter was enjoyed as much as ever. An effort has been made with more or less success to encourage the girls to learn fancy skating. The boys have always been quite proficient in this art. Hockey has been played by some of the boys during the past winter and it promises to become
in popular game.

In the warmer months, basket ball is perhaps the most popular game with the girls, although tennis is preferred by some. Tennis tournaments are often held in which both the boys and the girls participate.

Literary Societies have for a number of years flourished at Beetown. The Beetown Literary Union is a society composed of both boys and girls from the upper classes and teachers, and meets every Fourth day evening. It was formed in the early 1850s by the union of the Beetown Literary Society and the Under it is the Natural History Committee, which holds bi-weekly meetings, and at which
all natural historical subjects are discussed. Frequent trips are
made to places of interest, and
after an afternoon of scientific
research, a camp supper and a
walk home in the moonlight are
no small coefficients to the days
pleasure.

INDUSTRIAL HALL.
The Historical Committee is also an important body, for by it are presented all the literature about Westtown besides numerous old records, which have been of great value to Watson and Sarah B. Hewes in compiling their history to be issued next month. The Natural History Committee enters the Union four times a year, while the Historical Committee has one meeting under its direction.

On the boys' side there are three literary societies, the Orientals, the Juniors, and the Pyrae. On the girls' side there are also three: the Occidentals, the Pyronians, and the Ernest Workers. The two upper societies on each side of the house, usually give a public
entertainment once a year.

For the last ten or eight years the girls have given a gymnastic exhibition in the latter part of the winter term, and it is rapidly becoming the great social event of the year. For the last four years the boys have occupied one half of the program, and judging from the increased attendance...
it is an acceptable change.

In 1886 the Westtown Alumni Association was formed chiefly through the instrumentality of Rev. Holland Brown, Chas. Gause Jr., Isaac Sharpless, Rev. H. Brown and others. It held its first meeting at Westtown, and since then has held a meeting there every other year. On the odd years it held a meeting at the Friends' Select School at 16th and Race streets in Yearly Meeting Week. The chief work of the Alumni Association has been the publishing of the "Westonian". It is a monthly periodical devoted to the interests of Westtown. It was started in 1895, and is edited by a board of editors of whom M. Devees is the Chief.
It is under the auspices of the Alumni Association, that the history, which comes out next month, has been prepared.

But the Alumni Association only included the graduates of the school. There was a great number of old scholars, who left before graduating, and these persons were anxious to do something for their Alma Mater. They first asked to be admitted to the Alumni Association, but this plan did not meet with the approval of that body. Consequently the Westtown Old Scholars Association was formed, and held its first meeting at Westtown in the spring of 1897. Another very enthusiastic meeting was held in the tenth month 1898.
in the Friends Meeting House at 4th and Arch Streets, Philadelphia.

On the 10th of next month, it is proposed to hold a reunion of all those who have ever attended the school, in honor of the one hundredth anniversary of its founding. It is expected that 2,000 people will be present. The association in order to fittingly celebrate the occasion, is raising a fund of $100,000 to be known as the Westtown Centennial Memorial Fund. It will probably be dedicated on the 10th of next 6th month. The money will be invested and one half of the interest will be spent according to the direction of the Committee, while the other half will be set aside.
disposal of the Westtown Old Scholars Association.

Westtown under the "old regime" was vastly different from what it now is. Then the teachers acted very much as police officers and were truly hated by the scholars. The pupils were continually trying to get ahead of the teachers and the teachers lost no chance to catch the pupils in mischief. Now however, a very different spir-
it prevails about the place. The scholars in the main love their teachers and vice versa.

Ever since the founding of the school a hundred years ago, the scholars have been allowed to roam over the farm on seventh day afternoons. The wilds of Violet Hill thicket are just suited to the desires of adventurous boys. Much more of the farm is now under cultivation however than in the earlier days. A large herd of cows graze in the meadow, and from it the school is supplied with an abundance of milk and butter. The farm also produces enough fruit and vegetables to keep the family well supplied during the whole year.
The Westtown table has often been criticized, but there is an abundance of good wholesome food, though not a great variety. It is far better now than years ago, when the housekeepers said they had three vegetables consisting of potatoes, pickles, and catsup. For those who desire more variety than they receive
Infirmary built in 1803, now Teacher's Residence. At the table, cupboards are provided in the basement, where they may keep such stores as they may receive from home. Since the school was started, nearly a hundred years ago, there have been between 12,000 and 13,000 people who have received a part or all of their education within its walls.
The healthful location of Westtown can only be realized when it is known that in all this time only about ten deaths have occurred at the school, or an average of one every ten years.

During the whole existence of the institution, the committee have endeavored to follow out the original intentions of the founders, that of giving to the children in the Society a guarded religious education. Although the committee have often been criticized for adhering to the peculiarities of the early Friends, rather than to their principles, yet the two are so firmly interwoven that it is difficult to separate them. Although it is quite possible that the restric-
Time is ripe to draw near, or to withdraw in the distant future, it is not probable that the present committee will devote any labor from the late customs in this respect. It is much more likely, that children with only one parent, a member of the society will be admitted to the institution, than that any changes will be made in regard to plainness of speech, behavior and apparel.

The present committee has been criticized as being a lot of old fogies, and perhaps there are still rather narrow-minded members, but the majority represent the solidest part of the yearly meeting.
Westtown has been, and still is a school for Friends. Here the children receive an education which is calculated to make them love the principal of the society to which they belong. To show that the school is a good one, it is only necessary to point at the records made by its graduates at the various colleges scattered over our country. That the first century of its existence has been a success admits of no doubt. May its future record be as clean and brilliant as its past.

The End.