

# Fisk University News

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Changes of name or address, and dates of deaths of Alumni and other friends, should be promptly reported in *writing* to the office of the News.

Fisk University News is published in the interest of Fisk University. Address all communications to Editor "Fisk University News."

## EDITORIAL.

### SCOTCHERS.

Turn back to your dictionary and you will find that the transitive verb *scotch* means "to prop or block with a wedge, chock, etc.," and the noun means "a chock, wedge, prop, etc., to prevent slipping or rolling." Under the laws of word formation persons who prop a body or other persons to keep them from slipping are *scotchers*, although usage has sanctioned no such word abomination; for the root-word itself has no general acceptance. Nevertheless, the word *scotchers* represents a very definite and valuable idea, and if the purists will suspend judgment for a little while, the term will be used in this one editorial, at least; although no promise can be given that it will never be used again.

#### *"Scotch" Further Explained.*

In certain sections of the country where the sawmilling industry was wont to thrive, it was the custom—still is the custom—for the teamsters who hauled the rough logs from the forests to the mill to stop their horses at some points on any steep incline or hill traversed and let the animals rest. Often the ascent was very steep and the horses carried their loads with great difficulty. To go on would mean permanent injury to the animals. To stop without taking some measures to prevent the wagon from going backward was to lose all past gain and endanger the vehicles and the horses. So the drivers learned to take a stone or large piece of wood and put it under the wheels

# ALUMNI DEPARTMENT

Of Interest to Loyal Fisk Men and Women  
and to their Friends.

TEN DOLLARS AND GOOD WORDS.

1566 Range St., Selma, Ala., Dec. 27, 1920.

Mr. Isaac Fisher, Editor FISK NEWS,  
Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.

*My Dear Mr. Fisher:*

I cannot begin to tell you how much my husband and I enjoy THE FISK NEWS. We always look forward to its coming with great pleasure. It is a special treat to us when we are in the Congo. The editorials are always most helpful and consoling in so many ways.

We are sorry to say that we have never paid for any of the subscriptions since THE NEWS began to appear. We are sending you a check for ten dollars (\$10), hoping that this amount will at least pay us up in part. We would be glad if you would let us know just what we still owe.

Thanking you for your great kindness in sending us THE NEWS for all these years, and with all good wishes for a happy New Year, I am,

Most sincerely yours,

ALTHEA BROWN EDMISTON.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—That Mrs. Edmiston, missionary of the Cross in far-away Africa, could send so generous a donation to THE NEWS when her own work to which she is to return very soon needs so many things is a high commentary upon her own fine spirit. Much as our own work needs the help which Mrs. Edmiston gave, much as we appreciate the good will which prompted the gift, somehow, just because of the generous spirit which moved her to remember us—somehow, we



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SNOW SCENES  
AT FISK—

THE OLD  
BELL TOWER.

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wish that we had \$1,000 to send to Mrs. Edmiston for her work; because we seem to have so much—poor as we are—as compared with her own mission on the “Dark Continent.” There are some times when we wish we were rich in this world’s goods so that whenever we found an unselfish soul we could give ourselves pleasure by giving to them their heart’s desire.

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#### DEATH CLAIMS ANOTHER FISK GRADUATE.

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On December 4, in Los Angeles, California, death came to Rev. Jacob Johnson, Durham, B.A., 1880; M.A., 1885, Fisk University. He was buried in Chicago, Illinois, on December 10.

This was one of Fisk’s honored graduates. After completing his course here, he was graduated from Meharry Medical College with the degree of Ph.G., and M.D.; the State College of Louisville, Kentucky, conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity; and Guadalupe College, the degree of Doctor of Laws. He has been president of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina since 1909; and was lecturer on pastoral theology in Benedict College for the period 1916-1918. During the late war he was surgeon of the Eighth Illinois Infantry, with rank of captain; and he has served as a minister in Columbia, S. C.

In his death Fisk loses an active son; and all of his friends will regret to learn of his passing.

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#### MRS. JENNIE NOEL PORTER PASSES.

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Mrs. Jennie Noel Porter, Music '06, died in Nashville at the home of her mother on January 19. Mrs. Porter was brought from the home of her husband in Dallas to be with her mother when her illness became alarming; but she did not get well, and the end came soon after the birth of the new year.

Mrs. Porter was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. H. T. Noel, a cousin of Mrs. Nellie E. White, of the Fisk office staff, and of the Compton families. She was a member of the Howard Congregational Church in Nashville; and a host of friends will be deeply grieved to have her taken away from us.

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The classmates and friends of Mr. Hardy L. Keith, now living in Pittsburgh, Pa., will be sorry to learn of the loss of his little daughter, Urmila, who died of spinal meningitis on the day before Christmas, after eleven years of hopes, prayers and joy—a child whose winning sweetness endeared her to all who knew her.