

ter the size of present-day Battalion pages. Then it went back to the old Journal size and style, adopted maroon-colored covers. The Battalion was published in that pocket-size format until 1904.

Editorials Sound Familiar

For all the differences in appearance, there is a familiar touch in editorial comments of the early Battalions and Journals.

In the first issue of The Battalion, Editor E. L. Bruce wrote: "This thing of wading through water on rainy nights cannot last long!" He suggested better campus drainage and better street lighting, still subjects for editorial consideration.

Another editorial complained that prices at the campus store (a private concern) were so high that it was worth the 30-cent round-trip fare to go to Bryan for supplies.

Apparently some state papers had been editorially attacking the college, saying that farmers weren't getting enough from the college to justify the taxes they were paying. The Batt invited the editors to visit the campus and see what was being done.

Same Letters to Editor

A letter to the editor signed "Nemo" charged that the English department was assigning too much outside reading. Another letter in reply suggested that if "Nemo" didn't like it at A. & M. he "should resign and go elsewhere."

On the other hand, this statement from an 1894 Batt now seems amusing: "Football at the A.&M. C. is surely the coming game. Two years ago comparatively no interest was manifested in the scrappy game at all." By 1902 The Batt was printing reports of all games in its two fall issues, and the A.&M. - Tulane game of 1902 — won by the Aggies—was reviewed IN VERSE! That game, incident-

tally, made the Aggies "Champions of the South."

Censured Gridsters

In 1900 The Batt censured members of the football team for "preferring cigarettes to glory" and frequently breaking training either by smoking or eating items not on the training menu. Names were printed. First glance at the record makes it hard to understand The Batt's indignation. A. & M. defeated LSU, Tulane, Baylor, and Houston by lop-sided scores. But—they lost to 'Varsity (TU) and Sewanee. Even then, a loss to Texas could sour a whole season.

A little hard to believe is the fact that the chief article in the first Battalion was a long critical essay on Shakespeare's interpretation of King John! Other Batts describe "Life in the U. S. Army" (six installments). The two biggest stories ever carried by The College Journal were Sully Ross's acceptance of the A.&M. presidency, and the elaborate memorial services conducted in the college chapel when Jefferson Davis died. Davis had been asked to become first president of the A.&M. College; he declined because of ill health but suggested his friend Thomas Gathright instead. Gathright got the post.

Philpott Was Guide

Always involved in the publication of the Journal and the early Battalion was William Bledsoe Philpott, Mephistopheles-bearded professor of English and an early Aggie graduate. He was inevitably on the mastheads of The Journal or The Battalion as supervising editor, alumni editor, or in some other editorial capacity.

Born in Brenham, Texas, in 1865, Philpott received his early education at James' Academy in Bryan and in Austin, and entered A.&M. in 1881. He graduated in '84 with a degree in mechanical engineering, but after a period as