stalactites and transformed us into the mud-diest crowd ever beheld. We enjoyed ourselves that night at the "White Sulphur." The waters smell strongly of H₂S, and remind us too much of the laboratory to be palatable.

June 20. Quinnimount was reached at noon. Here the iron furnace, coke ovens, and coal mine were examined and the party hospitably entertained by Mr. Lewis, the manager.

June 21. Pushed on to Blacksburg, W. Va., where we made our headquarters till the 26th. Excursions were made to each of the various points of interest in the neighborhood. A trip down the Kanawha gave us a chance to examine the government system of locks and dams.

The same day we visited the Mercer coal mine and enjoyed the collation furnished by the managers.

East Bank mine, belonging to Mr. S. L. Buck, absorbed our attention one forenoon, while at a party given in our honor by Mrs. Buck in the afternoon, we became aware that West Virginia produces charming young ladies as well as "split coal."

Starting from Charleston, eighteen miles distant, we took a twenty-mile horseback ride, ostensibly to visit the "black band" iron ore deposits at Davis Creek, but really for the sake of the ride. We saw the ore, but many of us concluded that night that horseback riding over rough roads was more romantic than comfortable.

The last day of our stay in West Virginia we visited the Kanawha salt works and bromine factory at Malden. The latter turns out seventy-five pounds of bromine per day.

The evening of June 27 we reached Luray and visited the famous cave. The next day three of the party went south and the remainder reached Washington, where they scattered.

During our short visit we found that naturally Virginia is a State remarkably adapted to the manufacture of pig iron. With her coal, ore, and limestone in close proximity to each other, she requires but capital, science, and enterprise to make her a rival of Pennsylvania.

Western and Southwestern Virginia are splendidly adapted to stock raising, while the forests of that section abound in the choicest lumber. Already saw-mills are making havoc, and if preservative measures are not taken the hills will soon lose their most valued treasures and greatest attractions.

D. W., '83.

The Luray Caverns of Virginia.

SINCE many of our students have had occasion to visit the Luray caverns in the course of the summer vacation, perhaps a description of them may not be out of place here.

These caverns were discovered in the year 1878 by two natives of Luray named Campbell, who, from the nature of the ground, believed a cave existed in that quarter.

It is said that the discovery was kept secret until the land which was at that time offered at a bankrupt sale had been secured and the deeds passed over, when, with less than usual sagacity, the purchasers exposed themselves by an ill-timed statement of the facts, exulting over the people with whom they had made so advantageous a bargain. Upon this a suit was brought against them by the former owners of the land, and after considerable litigation the cave passed back to their hands, and was subsequently sold for $40,000 to the Luray Cave and Hotel Company, connected in interest with the Shenandoah Valley Railroad. It has now been on exhibition for five years, and has been visited by thousands of people, either from scientific interest in the formations, or for the remarkable beauty which the cave displays.

Luray is one of those rare places where the visitor is indifferent to the state of the weather,—hot or cold, rain or shine, it is all one; indeed a wet day may be preferable, as the contrast is the more striking than on brighter days between the gloom outside and the brilliant begemmed interior with its sparkling crystals of calcite gleaming in the powerful rays of the electric