

IN DEFENSE OF LITERATURE

A literary department in a live student publication may seem at first thought only a variation in "space fillers," which is to be read with the advertisements and the personals. Perhaps that is in fact the idea, for we are not sure but that in our active lives literature is essentially a "space filler" and as such deserves no better place in our publications. Granting that, however, we still contend that the space is at least well filled; for we believe, owing doubtless to certain prejudices we inherit from the past, that literature is at least better reading than the advertisements and more "snappy" than the news items. News is a dry and shriveled apricot of life at best. What we enjoy is "juicy writing" the writing that is nearest to actual life.

You remember those Siwash stories in the Post last year yet, do you not? They were literature. They were close to life. A narrow and shallow life, to be sure, but that was why you laughed at them. Contrast those with that other story of college life, "Dink Stover at Yale." We say that the latter is the better piece of work, although I doubt if you will get a single hearty laugh out of the whole affair. But in spite of the fact (or it may be because of it), we readily recognize that the latter is the truer picture of college life. It has not the exaggerated and amusing romance of the lighter work, to be sure, but our interest is held, instead, because the author is talking seriously about the very things we are thinking of ourselves. The things Stover does and the things he thinks are almost typical of the four years you spend in college here.

Literature, it seems, to read from entirely selfish motives. We demand that it be interesting, which, by the very definition of the word requires that it treat of things that intimately concern us. The truth of this is apparent when you stop to consider what kind of story you enjoy and why you enjoy it. We reason by analogy and constantly compare the actions and problems and pleasures of the people in the book with those of a similar nature in our own lives. And this is what it means to "understand" literature. There are some who have never learned to live, and they will never understand anything that goes on beyond the rim of their hat. Safe to say then that nothing of much importance will transpire within that circle. But for one who is not shut up within himself, one who is of generous, sociable nature, always ready to go out and meet his friends and learn of them that he may be able to adjust himself to larger ends and fuller understanding of what goes on about him; one, in short, who is interested in having a good time during the long years that are left when college days are over, will find

congenial and worth-while fellows in the writing business. While it is true that Ibsen writes literature and that Shakespeare wrote literature, I feel bound to point out that Robert Louis Stevenson's "Kidnapped" is literature, and that Kipling and Jack London may also be classed as such so that the term may be seen to denote some very sensible writing not read in the department of English literature.

The point I am trying to make is that this word literature stands for an entirely harmless and, in fact, very pleasant pastime. I want to clear it of the reproach of those who like to "live well," or as we say "to enjoy life and go to the musical comedies now and then," for they often think that literature is a rather slow, prudish sort, with little or no life. They are very far wrong indeed. In truth, quite the opposite is the case, for I think that if our books should step out of their pages into life the town would be either enviously shocked or hold its sides for laughing at the energetic and droll characters dropped into the hum drum midst of everyday life.

"CHAS."

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

(Continued from Page Three)

to find out the attitude of his home candidate, and, if possible, to get him to express himself favorably to making Nebraska University at least as good and big as some of our sister institutions.

W. E. KAVAN

LOUIS NOVAK MAKES GIFT.

Chicagoan Presents Slavonic Department with Valuable Books.

Louis Novak of Chicago has presented the Slavonic department with close to \$100 worth of books in the Bohemian language. The list includes a number of literary and scientific reference books, in addition to a sixteen volume encyclopedia.

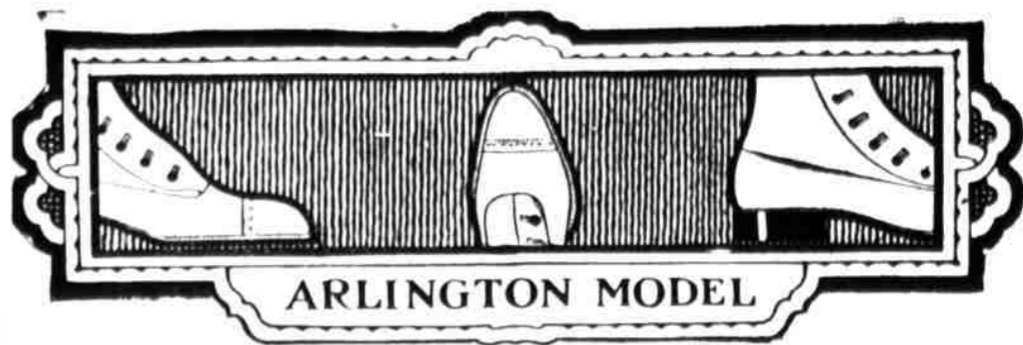
Mr. Novak is the donor of several other important gifts to the department, but this will prove the most useful of any received for some time.

SENIOR LAWS FIRST.

Will Be Only and Original "First" Hop.

The only and original "first social event of the season" will take place October 26, Saturday of this week, and will be known as the senior law hop, contrary to all rumors concerning other "first" hops. The dance will be held at the Lincoln Hotel, and tickets can now be obtained from J. B. Cain or E. L. Hyde.

Following the practice at Illinois, membership in the athletic association at Chicago University grants the holder the use of the tennis courts as well as admission to all home games.



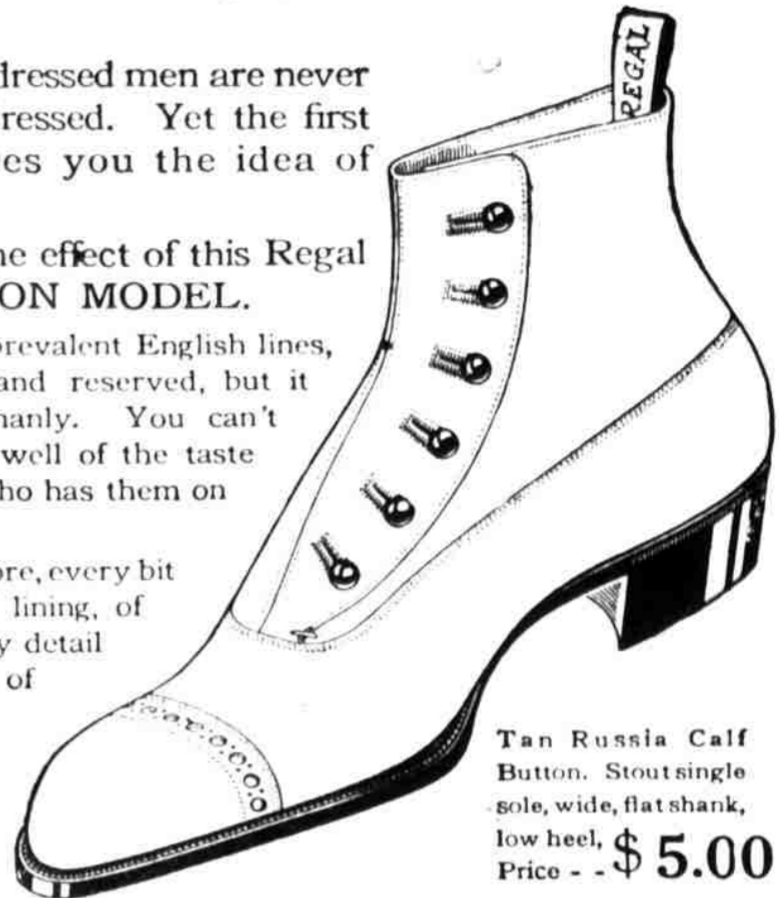
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