

# THE NEBRASKAN.

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"It has been the policy of the Hesperian to consider new questions wisely, conservatively and in the light of the highest interests of the university. As we outlined our policy in our salutatory last September, the Hesperian will not be influenced or controlled by any clique or faction, but will represent the whole student body. That policy we most cordially reaffirm."

"In giving place to Mr. C. M. Skiles' communication in this issue, the Hesperian prints the views of a good, faithful and staunch barbarian alumnus, who agrees with us that the way to fight the frats is to fight them. The Hesperian is a barbarian paper, representing the democratic views and beliefs of the university plebeians."

The gem of consistency which shines serenely from the editorial columns of the aforesaid is brilliant to a degree. From the appearance of the above we should judge that the Newbranch-Abbott combine had compromised with a modern element, and each taken a column unto itself. It shows signs of hope for the future.

It is well to note the favor with which the proposition of Harvard college to shorten the college course to three years is received in the west. The advisability of the proposition is surely deserving of consideration. Coming from the oldest and most conservative institution of learning in America, it promptly merits grave discussion. The favor with which it is received in the university of Chicago may lead her to be the first of the higher institutions to put it into actual practice. From the fact this is a money-making age it is not singular the western youth and his alma mater take to it kindly.

Certainly the scheme is not wholly commendable. Great as may be the field of human possibility, an early age of specialization is a matter to be discouraged. The breadth of mind that comes from a scholastic training is decidedly useful in making thorough preparation for a specialty. Four years of study for a bachelor's degree is necessary to open the mental vision to the possible avenues of thought. A good foundation is laid for a more assiduous study in specialty. Even the brightest minds can hope to progress better in their life's work. There is no isolated branch of knowledge. All are in some degree relative. To be sure, there are many eminent men without degrees from a four years' university course. But do they strengthen the plea for a shortening of the course or study? The vigor of the competition today, the improved methods of instruction and the growing intricacies of possibilities should give an impulse to a thorough training before specialty. The suggestion, however, may bring about timely discussions.

Every department of the university should receive just recognition. Those of especial merit are certainly praiseworthy. The aim and purpose of the Political Economy club seems crudely understood. It has no official connection with the department of economics other than a similarity of interests. The students are the personnel and have the general management of the club. The officers, with the active assistance of Professor Taylor, have made the meetings entertaining and instructive. A series of lectures have been given for the last two years on a variety of economical subjects. The ablest men of the state are invited to discuss the live questions. Partisan motives are disregarded. A knowledge of economic principles and a fearless search

for the truth are the objects in view. With this policy the club is doing a valuable work for education and should receive the encouragement and support it deserves. No person is invited to lecture who is not a thorough student in his specialty. Economic theories, often of an abstruse character, are vividly applied to practical questions. The student is brought in touch with practical men of learning. Example as well as precept is useful in college education. And those interested in live topics of a governmental-economic nature should certainly take an active interest in the work of the club.

### ON THE SIDE.

Most of us, no doubt, have lost track of the large, athletic young man who had charge of the physical department during the spring of '94. I mean Professor Flattery, who took the place of Professor Bowen. He now bobs up again with an article in the American University Magazine on physical training in American colleges. In his article he remembers Nebraska long enough to mention the fact that ours is about the only institution requiring physical training of students in the college proper. Professor Flattery is now director of physical training in Centre college.

Speaking of the American University Magazine, it is noticeable that nearly every western university has a communication except Nebraska. Space is given to such letters, which are generally written by some professor of the institution. It is an excellent way of keeping the work of an institution before the university world.

Miss Jones has fitted out a delightful little spot in one corner of the library. It is so different from the rest of the library, with its cushions, pictures and flowers. If it were only possible to extend a little of it to the rest of the reading room!

They should call it "student heaven" in this town rather than "nigger heaven." The Lansing gallery is for the most part patronized by students. They go early and put in their hour's wait pounding out their studies for the next day. But it is a sore trial, owing to the light, and that is what we've tried to say from the start. Such an emphatic kick should be registered that the entire four chandeliers will be turned on full blast from the time the gallery door is opened.

There is one branch of the university extension plan not down on the program, which has been going on for some time, quietly but in such a way as to be most beneficial. It is the newspaper work carried on by students in their home papers concerning university matters. Many of the boys are running weekly columns and arousing the interest of their townspeople in the 'varsity and its training.

Another part of this same work is being done by the clubs—the Omaha, Ashland and Richardson county clubs—which form a connecting link between the university and their home high schools.

If, by the way, you are not quite certain of the need of this university extension, or are in want of evidence on the point, just step across the street to Haymarket square and mingle with the crowd on a busy Saturday morning.

The department of hygiene is getting more than its share of abuse. This is not right. This department, you know, ranks with that of English literature or romance languages, and is entitled to equal respect and appreciation. The complaints are principally that freshman hygiene is not a five-hour study, and that no post-graduate courses are offered. There is also much kicking on the use of the baths being limited to two hours a day, and that baths after drill are permitted only after all the tomfoolery of a special permit from the physical director. This complaint is all poppycock. The department knows what it is doing. We earnestly hope to see a more sensible view taken of the matter.

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### The Old Man's Grief.

Miss Scraper (amateur violinist)—Did you notice that old man crying while I was playing my sonata?  
Friend—Yes, and I spoke to him. He said your playing reminded him of the old days when he was happy.  
"Was he a violinist?"  
"No, he was a piano tuner."

### Ought to Sympathize.

Jinks—Why are you forever bothering me about that bill I owe you?  
Minks—I need the money.  
Jinks—Then you ought to be able to sympathize with me. I need the money, too.

### Using the Water.

Governess—I gave you a glass of water to wet your sponge in.  
Little Boy—I'm using it.  
"But you are spitting on the sponge."  
"Yes'm. I drank the water so's to have it handy."

### Johnny Figures It Out.

Little Ethel—I stands for loud, and S. stands for soft but my music teacher says F. stands for loud, and P. stands for soft. How can that be?  
Little Johnny (after reflection)—I guess F means "Fire away," and P means "Please don't make such a racket."—Good News.

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