

Alumni and Old Students.

UNL. OF CHICAGO, NOV. 25, '95.

DEAR MR. ALLEN:—I am very glad to comply with your request to write a letter for the readers of THE HESPERIAN. If it does not prove interesting reading matter, I trust that it may at least serve as "copy" for the editor.

When I entered the University of Chicago, October 1, I again experienced something of that feeling—home-sickness, which I had experienced six years before when I first entered the University of Nebraska. This later time home had a two-fold significance. It meant not alone the parental roof but also the institution in which I had spent five of the best years of my life. There is something wrong with the man or woman who, after spending from four to six years at the University of Nebraska, does not feel a debt of gratitude to her. Alma Mater has a new significance to one when one becomes an alumnus.

To treat of Chicago University adequately, in a short letter, would be almost as impossible as it would be for me, in my financial condition, to form an intelligent conception of the size of Mr. Rockefeller's recent gift to the University. Consequently I shall not attempt it.

One of the significant things here is the cosmopolitan character of the student body. Almost every state in the union is represented. Canada has a large delegation; the south is well represented, and there are a good many students from abroad. Any chance collection of a dozen students would probably be representative of every section of the United States and of Canada. This condition is due in a large part to the large and ever growing graduate school of the University.

It does not mean very much to be a senior here. He does not have the prestige which he has in most institutions. This is due to the fact that the undergraduate colleges are overshadowed by the graduate school. "Ph. D.," not "B. A.," is the goal. Notwithstanding this, the undergraduate school is a

very important part of the University. It is the center of the social life, and the place where college spirit is most abundant. The effect, though, of so many students working for higher degrees is certainly very considerable upon the undergraduates. This, no doubt, in part accounts for the very noticeable absence among the students of what for a better name I shall call "kidishness."

Chicago now claims the largest graduate school in America—even surpassing Johns Hopkins. Over three hundred students were enrolled in this school last year. To this number may be added the students of the graduate divinity school who number about two hundred, making the total number of graduate students about five hundred. Compared with other leading universities, the University of Nebraska has surprisingly few alumni who are posting here. However, I am not unmindful of the fact that the U. of N. has a pretty good graduate school of her own.

The spirit of Chicago University is decidedly western. Although the University is the result of the munificence of rich men, yet there is no aristocracy of wealth among the students. Scholarship and worth, not wealth, give prestige. Many of the students who are most prominent in student organizations and in university life are those who are largely making their way through school. I am told by those who know that very many of the students do outside work to support them altogether or in part while in school. What may be denominated the "fast" and the "sporty" element is small, and is looked upon with disfavor. Rich men, for the most part, still send their sons and daughters to eastern institutions. The great majority of students here are not sent, but come.

You will not understand me to imply that there is not a high degree of culture here, for there is. While the social life is marked by cordiality and unconventionality, there is also a manifest high degree of culture and refinement.

In the matter of co-education Chicago