

The Debate at Doane.

A fair sized crowd of University students went down to Doane in a special car last Saturday night to attend the joint debate between the U. B. D. C. and Doane college. The debate was held in the Congregational church. The Creteans did not turn out in full force, perhaps it was because there was an admittance of 15 cents. But our boys did not stop for that. Three of the debaters who represented the U. B. D. C. had to pay to get in. But Mr. Baker for some cause or other was admitted without buying a ticket. We were met at the depot with an imaginary band and escorted to the college where we amused ourselves until it was time for the debate to begin.

It was just 8:30 when President Maguire of the U. B. D. C. called the meeting to order. After a vocal solo by Mr. Aller of Doane, the president stated the question: "Resolved that too much weight is given to precedent in judicial decisions in the courts of the United States." Doane had the affirmative of the question and was represented by Messrs. Kenegy, Reed, Halze and Lee. U. B. D. C. was represented by Messrs. Maguire, McGuffey, Baker and Barr.

The affirmative argued that the judges not only abuse precedent but misapply it. They claimed that unless the negative proved that to follow wrong decisions in judicial precedent is right the affirmative had the best of the debate. Their arguments were in the form of general statements.

The negative traced the great system of law—despotic, codification and precedent systems. They defied precedent as in vogue in the United States courts today. They argued that there should be uniformity in law from top to bottom, that precedent maintains consistency and guarantees stability in laws; that legal contracts are the most vital principles in organic law, that precedent carefully studied and wisely followed insures the safety and protection of obligation under contract; and that a system

that includes all the common sense of the present judge and of all the judges gone before is better than simply taking the opinion of the present judge.

After the debate the Doane mandolin club favored the audience with music.

Saturday evening the English club met at the home of Miss Wort, 1327 E street. In spite of the chancellor's reception and other distractions there was an unusually full attendance. The program opened with a story of a runaway, by Miss Esther Smoyer. This is a subject which Miss Smoyer handles with unusual force and vividness. A perfectly controlled voice adds not a little to the effect of her reading. Miss Wort read a story, "Mud and Maybaskets," very bright and true to girl-life in a boarding school. "Arbitus Blossoms," a dainty little poem by Miss Katharine Morrissey was listened to with much pleasure. Miss Morrissey is soon to leave for California to take charge of a young ladies' seminary. She will be greatly missed by the club. After a song by Miss Annette Abbott, Mr. Alexander read a long story which led to some discussion. It was a story of devotion and sacrifice and misery and death, a story such as Mr. Alexander can write. It contained much philosophy, too much, perhaps, but was a strong treatment of a difficult subject. Miss Maude Hammond favored the club with several very pleasing selections on the piano, after which ices were served. In a short business session the name of Miss Henry was added to the list of members, and the club adjourned to meet May 2 at the home of Miss Prey.

Students needing photographs will do well to call at the Harden photograph gallery, 1214 O street, and get special prices.

The Junior class elected officers Saturday the 18th inst., as follows: President, E. F. Warner; vice-president, D. J. Flaherty; secretary-treasurer, Helen M. Goff; sergeant-at-arms, F. T. Raley.