

THE HESPERIAN

The professor who was to talk to us was Professor Hyslop, and his subject, Psychological Research.

The typical Columbia professor comes up to the University, delivers his lecture or two, and goes away again. What he does in the meantime, nobody knows. It is supposed however, that he does a vast amount of research. And *a priori*, one would say that he eats three good square meals a day, and sleeps ten hours. Not so Professor Hyslop. Nature has bestowed upon him flesh barely sufficient to keep his soul from soaring away into space. His clothes look as if not a square inch of them ever had a moment's peace. His black tie climbs to the top of his collar, and perches on the edge with nervous perseverance. A little black beard grows from his meagre chin. His hair, stiff and dry, recedes from his restless brow. His eyes are dim with study, but bright with enthusiasm. Though his voice is thin and husky, his rhythm harsh, his sentences at times disjointed, one can listen to him hour after hour, for the content of his speech is so very much worth while. I think I have never yet heard a talk so interesting as the one he gave last night.

No problem so fascinating as that of immorality. No matter what one believes, he cannot but hail with joy anything which looks like a scientific proof of the persistence of the individual consciousness after death. Professor Hyslop looks dispassionate and unimagrative. He approached the subject with the determination not to believe anything unless forced by the facts to do so. Therefore nothing could be more interesting than the narrative of the facts that have forced him to the conclusion that of the two possible hypotheses, the existence of discarnate spirits, or the existence of a faculty whereby one person may read not only the thoughts that are in another's mind, but also the thoughts that he has wholly forgotten, the former is far the more rational.

Naturally, there was something almost uncanny in even Professor Hyslop's calm discussion. Late in the evening when the professor told of the alleged coterie of spirits, "Phinuit," "Imperator," "Rector" that are trying to bring the unseen into communication with the seen through the medium of Mrs. Piper; of how Imperator may be communicating through Mrs. Piper's hand while Phinuit is talking through her lips; how Imperator may become annoyed at the talking of the other spirit, and may point with Mrs. Piper's limp hand at her unconscious head and then write down a remark of bitter irony—as the professor's long finger pointed in illustration at his gaunt temple—you almost felt that a spirit out of the smoke might at any moment twitch your ear, and whisper in it a chilling message from the unknown.

A. S. JOHNSON.

State Oratorical Contest.

Talbot wins, with Kirby a close second.

The state oratorical contest was held in the Y. M. C. A. auditorium last Friday night. Mr. Talbot of the U. of N. was given first place, Mr. Kirby of Grand Island, second, Mr. Shollcross of Bellevue, third and Mr. Lindberg of Doane,

fourth. Mr. Talbot was given first place by all three judges on delivery but was marked low on manuscript. The crowd which attended the contest was not a large one and was composed mainly of the adherents of the four contestants. Bellevue had the largest delegation and occupied the entire right of the auditorium. There were eighteen or twenty in the delegation from the U. of N., while Doane and Grand Island each had a few delegates.

Mr. Talbot's delivery has improved much since the local contest. He speaks with much ease and carries a sense of conviction with his words. Mr. Kirby of Grand Island, had an excellent oration but his delivery was not first class. He had a ministerial style that was not pleasant. His subject was "The Anglo Saxon, the Highest Type of Civilization." Mr. Shollcross of Bellevue, spoke on "The Mission of War." He spoke vigorously and deserved a good mark on delivery. Mr. Lindberg of Doane was unfortunate in that he forgot at one place. His oration was entitled "Unrest, a Sign of Progress."

The party from the University of Nebraska which attended the contest was composed of Misses Wilson, Dysort, Williams, Chase, Butler, and Henry and Messrs. Benedict, Smoyer, Talbot, Maguire, W. H. Warner, E. F. Warner, Roper, Barr, Miller, Waterman, and Edgerton. The party spent the day visiting Bellevue college, which is about eight miles from Omaha. They were treated royally by Dr. Kerr and the entire corps of faculty and students. The business meeting of the association was held at two o'clock and, as usual, was very lively, at times. Doane presented an amendment to the constitution shutting out as contestants, members of law, medical and technical schools. The University delegation fought this amendment but all three of the other colleges were combined in favor of it and it was finally forced through.

Petitions from Cotner and Creighton were presented asking for membership in the league and the convention was unanimous in favor of their admittance.

The delegates and friends held a banquet in Omaha at 6 o'clock. G. A. Benedict acted as toastmaster and did the honors in an eloquent manner. The following toasts were responded to: "Bellevue, Our Host," F. E. Edgerton, U. of N.; Response, Willis H. Kerr, Bellevue; "Nebraska in the Interstate," J. T. Backus, Bellevue; "The Winner," Ralph W. Anderson, Doane; "The Co-ed," Arthur G. Abbott, Grand Island; "The College Lad," May W. Nickoll, Bellevue.

The excitement which has prevailed in the Senior Law class for the last few weeks reached its climax in the class election Tuesday afternoon. The two factions, "barbs" and "frats," met and the result was a sweeping victory for the "barbs." R. M. Thomson was pushed by the "frats" for the presidency but was defeated by the "barb" candidate, Hon. C. W. Beal, on a vote of 27 to 26. The full "barb" ticket was elected which is as follows: president, Hon. C. W. Beal; vice-president, R. W. Moyer; secretary, H. Halderson. The fight was led by Moore, Bates and Rickets in behalf of the fraternities; the opposition by Hager, Perry, and Maguire.