

At this time of the year various state societies are holding their annual meetings on the University of Nebraska campus. Recently the State Teachers' Association, the State Historical Society, the State Horticultural Society and the State Farmers' Institute have convened.

The Electrical Engineering Department of the University of Nebraska recently purchased a storage battery of twenty-five cells for experimental use, and also a new direct current dynamo of low voltage by large current capacity for making tests such as electrolytic separation of metals.

There is some agitation in Lincoln in regard to a University Club, the membership of which shall consist of all who are or have been connected with any higher educational institution in the country. It is the intention to ask the Board of Regents for a site for a club house on the campus of the University of Nebraska should the plan materialize.

The State Teachers' Association held a very successful meeting at the University of Nebraska on December 27, 28 and 29. The programmes as carried out were interesting, and the discussions of papers showed more than usual enthusiasm on the part of members. The meetings closed on Friday night with a lecture, "Dewey, Manila and the Philippines," by the noted journalist Murat Halstead.

The German department of the University of Nebraska has recently imported two handsome life size busts of Goethe and Schiller. They are in *terra-cotta*, excellent copies of the most famous busts in the Ducal library at Weimar. Prof. Fossler is making an effort to have a sort of German Pantheon. He is just now in correspondence with a house in Germany, looking toward securing good busts of Lessing, Herder, Heine, Kant, Bismark and others.

On Wednesday morning Clement Chase, of Omaha, of the class of '83 made a few remarks in Chapel and presented the University with some important documents, including the announcement issued before the opening of the University, the first by-laws of the Board of Regents, a number of early catalogues and various reports. These are now very rare and will constitute a valuable addition to the library in the Chancellor's office. He also presented a number of important manuscripts relating to the early actions of the Board of Regents. Mr. Chase's remarks were thoroughly appreciated by the students.

The preliminary debates held at the University of Nebraska for the purpose of choosing students to represent the University in Kansas, Missouri and Colorado, closed Saturday night after a close and interesting con-

test. Places were awarded to Miss Austine, Messrs. R. S. Baker, C. C. Crouch, A. L. Deal, F. G. Hawxby, S. G. Hawthorne, H. A. Meier, E. H. Smith and G. D. Talbot. Miss Meade and Messrs. Duff and Traphagen were chosen as alternatives.

Ignace Paderewski, the most noted living pianist, has been engaged for a recital to open the new auditorium at Lincoln February 12th. This is the great artist's only appearance in the state and an excursion rate by the railroads entering here is all that is necessary to bring thousands to hear him in this new and commodious public building. We are indebted for Paderewski's visit to the untiring efforts of Prof. Willard Kimball, director of the University of Nebraska School of Music.

Dr. William W. Hastings, of the Department of Physical Training at the University of Nebraska, has returned from Mexico after a month's leave of absence where he has been conducting some anthropometrical investigations. Material obtained on this trip will be used in the preparation of a paper in the Physical Education Conference which will convene during the Paris Exposition. Dr. Hastings was considerably hindered by lack of knowledge along this line of investigation and the limited time at his disposal, but those secured are quite satisfactory, representing about 400 individuals who were examined as fifteen different qualities. One hundred were school children and the remainder Mexican soldiers of the regular infantry and cavalry stationed in northern Mexico. As these soldiers come from all parts of the Mexican Republic they form a satisfactory basis for comparative study.

The report of Acting Chancellor Bessey to the Regents showed the University to have had a very prosperous year. In most departments there has been a marked increase in the attendance as indicated by the reports made by the professors the latter part of December. The following is a summary of these reports: Art 59, Agriculture 7, Animal Husbandry 6, Botany 153, Chemistry 526, Domestic Science 13, Civil Engineering 54, Electrical Engineering 70, Elocution 78, English Language and Literature 1,556, Entomology 25, Geology 100, German 629, Greek 172, American History 271, European History 299, Horticulture 17, Latin 407, Law 151, Mathematics 545, Mech. Drawing and Mach. Design 140, Mechanical Engineering 251, Military Science 473, Astronomy and Meteorology 30, Music, 240, Pedagogy 135, Philosophy 287, Physical Training 510, Physics 348, Political Economy 215, Romance Languages 328, Zoology 160.

The Y. M. C. A. of the University of Nebraska has submitted its budget for the years 1899-1900. It shows necessary expenditures of \$746 for the salary of General Secretary, Geneva delegates, missions, improvement of rooms, socials, printing, telephone, state and international committees, care of the sick and incidentals. The necessary resources are membership fees \$225, subscriptions already pledged \$200, subscriptions needed \$321. During the year 123 positions have been secured for young men, some permanent, others for only a few hours. The sick committee has had under its care one or more students almost the entire time since school opened. The public telephone, maintained by the association, is proving of valuable service to the students. The faculty and students directory, giving home and city addresses, is now ready for free distribution. Fifteen hundred of elegantly bound books have been distributed among the students. A general secretary is employed by the board of directors, who gives fully one-half of his time to the work. One hundred ten men are in Bible classes—average attendance at Sunday meetings, one hundred.

Prof. Conway MacMilan, of the University of Minnesota, an alumnus of the University of Nebraska, has presented acting Chancellor Bessey of the latter institution with a handsome volume, entitled "Minnesota Plant Life." This book, published in an edition of 10,000 by the University of Minnesota, is a superb work, beautifully illustrated and containing four fine plates of plant life in the northern state. It is written in clear, simple English, meriting the designation of popular and yet scientific to the extent of choosing one of the great realms of living things, the kingdom of plants. The plant world is presented as an assemblage of living things and the different kinds of plants in Minnesota are briefly reviewed in their natural order. Some plant structure and behavior are elementarily explained as adaptations to surrounding nature. Finally certain plant individuals and societies are brought before the reader as having life problems of their own, not as mere material for economic, anatomical or classificatory industry. Writing to Chancellor Bessey, Prof. MacMilan says, "I have spent some labor not only on the botanical side, but on the printing and I think you will admit that I have done something to raise the standard of public documents in the state of Minnesota. How do you like the title page vignette? I spent a couple of weeks figuring on that with the help of a designer, so you can imagine how much attention to detail it required to get the book out in such shape."