

throughout the state be reformed, let some uniform system be adopted. Let there be some connection between the district school, the high school and the University. The student needs it, the interests of the University and state demand it.

OUR LITERARY SOCIETIES.

The nature of the work of the literary society is of so much importance to the student that we cannot forbear saying a few words on this subject, even at the risk of being accused of writing to fill up space.

We do not wish to speak in a captious or over-critical manner, yet it seems to us that our societies have not opened this year with that degree of energy, and that spirit of work which we have sometimes known to characterize them. They comprise, moreover, a less number of students than ought to be engaged in such work.

Is this in a large measure owing to the absence of prominent members? As long as these are old and experienced members in a society, these usually take an active part, and others are often inclined to keep themselves in the background. But when the former leave there ought to be no real vacancy. Others should improve the opportunity which is presented.

If the older members that still remain say they are so pressed for time that they cannot attend to society work, we fear the excuse has no good foundation. When students lose interest in this work, there is no wonder that we hear the complaint that the societies are "running down". When this is seen to be the tendency it belongs to the members to bestir themselves and create new life in the society.

As to the alleged want of time, the excuse is more apparent than real. All can, without material disadvantage, afford some time for preparation. If the student is studying hard, he needs something to enliven the monotony of his hours of toil. Nothing of an intellectual nature is so

good for this purpose as participation in society work. If he is diffident, he needs to overcome this tendency.

The work of the society is a quite indispensable adjunct to that of the class room. It is practical in its nature, being calculated to impel one to examine other sources of information and make practical applications of the results. Let the members, then, see to it that the societies, this year, shall be fully up to their condition in former times and if possible, better. Earnest profitable work is required and less noisy quibbling in the business meetings.

A word to the new student. It is to your advantage to join one of the societies and to become an active member of it. Do not stay out because it seems too full. When the present societies have no room for new members, then by all means let another one be organized. But we have never yet known, we are forced to say, either society to contain a surplus of working members. Then join the society you prefer, be a "good member", and you will gain by the act.

SUNDRY TOPICS.

Prof. G. E. Woodberry, who occupied the chair of Rhetoric, English Literature, and History, in the University during the last year, resigned his position at the end of his year's labor, preparatory to entering upon the *Nation* as assistant editor.

While in the University Mr. Woodberry gave ample proofs of thorough and accurate scholarship. And though comparatively a young man, his knowledge of Belles letters was exceedingly critical, and his philosophical manner of treating history made him appear an unprejudiced teacher of its lessons. The droab culture obtained by one so young is an honor to any vocation that he may follow and while we regret his departure from the University, the STUDENT extends its best wishes for the success of the enterprise upon which he so auspiciously enters.