

It is a little surprising that our museum is not put to more practical use. The five thousand specimens of Nebraska flora which look so well in the catalogue might as well be growing in their native haunts for all the good the students get of them. Botany classes come and go and the howl goes up that there are not thirty-five species of plants to be found in the region; while a little study of the vast collection so carefully preserved under lock and key, with the key lost, would do more to disprove this statement than a half dozen of text-books. As the case now stands the names of about fifty of the commonest weeds are handed down from class to class as a priceless legacy. An unusually fine collection of rare woods is a feature of our museum which is never known to be mentioned in any class; yet a little illustration by means of their markings, of the facts of structural botany would discount all wood cuts ever invented. While speaking of unused educational machinery it may be well to mention that the three or four compound microscopes which the institution boasts are never used except by the curious who ask for the privilege. We go through Biology without the microscope, we go through Botany without the use of specimens, we close the text book of Geology after having the privilege only, which every citizen of Nebraska has also, of examining the stones in the museum. Zoology has no more to do with our stuffed groups of birds than has Civil Engineering. The STUDENT suggests that instead of complaining of our lack of advantages, the professors use and require the students to use the materials they have. Students do not come here merely to be allowed to study but to be made to study to the best possible advantage.

### Drift.

When this number of the STUDENT reaches the subscribers the school year of 1883-4 will be a thing of the past. The boys and girls will be scattering to their homes and preparing for the summer campaign in the territory of bookagency and desert of farming and rustication. The year has been an eventful one. Two fraternities have been established in our university. Both have come to stay. The Palladian society has held its first oratorical contest and the first regular joint meeting of the societies has passed off smoothly. Thus two precedents have been established which will produce good results in the future. To be sure there has not been so much reckless fun this year as in the past, partly owing to the advent of our new Chancellor and partly to the disintegration of the old clans that were responsible for all the devilry perpetrated about the college. The first "annual" has been pushed through with commendable energy and excellent success. Altogether the year has been one worthy of remembrance and pleasant recollections.

The Annual is out at last. It rejoices in the strikingly

western title of "Sombrero." We think that all the students acknowledge that it is a monument of painstaking industry and enthusiasm on the part of the editors. Many disadvantages had to be labored with. Since the "Sombrero" is the first annual ever published at the University many of our students were groping about in a dense fog of ignorance as to what an annual was. Some thought that it was a bound file of the *State Democrat*, others imagined that it was as much like the "keep off the grass" notice that bedecks our campus as anything which would be compared. Then time, money and brains (not counting jokes and cheek) were woefully wanting to the editors. Notwithstanding all these disabilities the Vol. I of the "Sombrero" is now in the market. As the Drifter was in the habit of remarking to the casual passer by when he was soliciting subscriptions for it: "The Annual is a pamphlet one of hundred and twenty pages, printed on super-extra toned book paper, fully illustrated by our best native talent, containing chief matters of interest which have occurred in the University during the past year and, in short, furnishing a complete compendium of the life of each and every student from September 12th 1883 to June 11th 1884." "Please send in your money by the speediest means" or etc. We would review the publication if it were not too large a subject to handle in such limited space.

Commencement exercises passed off pleasantly although the hall in which they were held was slightly inconvenient. The graduating class made itself as conspicuous as usual, and the honorable Faculty and Regents preserved the conventional solemnity and dignity, thus making a great big impression on the parents, relatives, friends, acquaintances and other accompaniments of the students. It looks like an old custom to torture the graduates, the audience and every one else by a lot of old ideas presented in a second class whining rhetoric and which cannot be of any value either as exponents of the competency of the graduates or as an honor to the University. It looks too much like a vain show, a needless ceremony. There was an anxiety among the Seniors to refrain from troubling the populace with their orations but they were restrained from their philanthropic intention by the blood-thirsty Faculty. May the class of '85 inaugurate the new order in which the '84s failed.

Prof. D. F. Easterday is worthy of the highest commendation for what he is doing to raise the musical standard of the University. The band is remarkably improved and an entirely new organization owes its being to Prof. Easterday. We refer to the Orchestra. The first public appearance of the home talent was at the commencement exercises of the year just passed. The boys acquitted themselves nobly and won the approbation of all heavens. The musicians of the University are being developed rapidly. A good rousing Glee Club is one of the first things to be looked after in the fall. The circle will then be unbroken.

The amount of new clothes, canes and general "dudesqueness" displayed by our students at this epoch is remarkable. All seem to be desirous of making the most tremendous impression possible upon the numerous visit-