

The first contest of the U. O. A. was held in the Palladian hall on the 4th inst. A. G. Warner and C. G. McMillen were the only contestants. The contest, though a very close one, was decided in Mr. Warner's favor. The subject of his oration was "A Word and an Idea," and was handled in his usual original manner. Though Mr. Warner's oration possessed the elements of strength, yet it lacked the polish necessary to a finished oration. Mr. Warner evidently did not appear at his best. Mr. McMillan did credit to himself and the feeling was prevalent that had he been successful the interests of the University would have been well cared for.

The Freshmen celebrated Arbor day by planting a class tree. The mob that had gathered in front of the building attracted John Green who showed them his star and informing them that he was a special policeman, ordered them off the grass. They begged permission to plant just a tree. John gave in, especially when the girls pleaded. And the choice of tree was begun. The first difficulty was to get one large enough, but this point being settled and, after consulting with Prof. Bessey and the entire faculty, an ash was selected. Then an immense hole being dug, they proceeded to fill in the earth, each throwing in a shovel full and packing it down with his or her No. 11. This being done they separated much to the relief of the faculty.

We visited a Freshman's room the other day. As we entered, there faced us, elaborately worked in colored zephyrs, the motto "Lead us not into temptation." A barbed-wire cane stood in one corner and a pair of boxing gloves lay in the other. The Freshie produced tobacco and cigarette papers and proceeded to roll up a cigarette which he had the impudence to offer us. Of course we indignantly refused it, but managed to retain our composure until he produced a pack of cards and proposed to play poker for the beer. This was too much. Uttering a wild unearthly yell like the wailing notes of the tannery whistle, pointing our finger at the motto on the wall, like an avenging spirit from the realms of the dead, we vanished, while the laugh of the depraved Freshman floated out like the sonorous music of a hoarse mule on the cool, still air of an autumn-evening.

On the last Wednesday evening of the winter term the Freshman class in German gave a performance in that language as a sort of advertisement of progress achieved. The entertainment consisted of an essay, Sharman; recitation, Miss Boyer; declamation, French; original German poem, Wheeler; select reading, Miss Bickle; and after this German counterpart of the regular society exercise Misses Loomis and Barrett, and Messrs. Perrin and Scofield gave a very spirited representation of a German farce. Even those who do not know much of the language could gather something of the plot, and, from the tortured gutturals, gather the very satisfactory conclusion that the jealous wife was at last convinced that "ihr mann" was a veritable jewel, and that "die Verliebten" got things all straightened out before the final drawing of the calico curtain. Some instrumental music enlivened the occasion, and Mrs. Manatt kindly favored the audience with a vocal solo of which the words were German. Let us have more such entertainments.

The contract for the new Laboratory building has been let to J. H. Lanham. The building is to be located in the south-east corner of the campus, east of the main drive.

It is to be built of St. Louis pressed brick with stone facing. The building will consist of three floors. The first will contain the general laboratory with work room for eighty-four students. Each student is to have his own table with closet annexed and all necessary apparatus, for which he will be held responsible. The second floor will contain the Qualitative Laboratory, Gas analysis room, recitation rooms, &c. The third floor will contain the lecture room arranged in amphitheater form with seating capacity for two hundred and twenty-five students. This floor will also contain the Quantitative Laboratory, the library and balance room. Here will be the professor's private study and special laboratory. On the whole this is to be the finest building in the country. Prof. Nicholson visited, during last vacation the laboratories in the Universities of Michigan and Ohio and Case School of Applied Science, and other prominent ones throughout the country. While there he showed the plans and specifications of the Laboratory and the different professors unanimously agreed that it was the most completely arranged Laboratory they had seen. Prof. Nicholson goes to Europe soon for the purpose of purchasing apparatus. A large amount of the apparatus will be made to order. The Legislature made a liberal appropriation and the professor knows how to make a judicious use of it, and we may be assured that the apparatus will be the best that can be had. Hereafter the facilities of the University for chemical work will not be excelled by any college in the country.

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