

neglect lessons or society occasionally for the sake of the paper. Don't elect a man because he is prominent in society or class politics, nor because he has not had an office lately. Elect those who have the making of newspaper men in them; those who have shown that they have the ability to write in a crisp, vigorous style. By all means elect at least two men who have a "nose for news," and who can write a neat "two-liner" without bringing in a stock phrase. Do not wait until the election meeting and then nominate the first man your eye falls on. Each society knows how many men are to come from within itself. Look around, weigh, compare, and put your best men on the paper. THE HESPERIAN can be made a far greater power for good than it ever has been, if the right men are chosen for the new board.

EVERY student of the University of Nebraska has, at times, been struck with the ignorance of the majority of the people of the state in regard to the University. The progress of the institution has been far more rapid than the spread of information concerning it. Everything, then, that tends to better acquaint the people of Nebraska with the high standing and superior advantages of the University should be encouraged. Our exchange editor recently mentioned a plan which it would be well to carry out to its fullest extent. This is that the students be correspondents of the country press at their various homes. They will thus be able to keep the public informed of important changes or improvements in the University, and they will reach the class which should supply most students. There is enough of interest in and about the University to enable any discreet student with even small literary ability to get up several interesting and instructive letters during the year. It is largely through lack of information as to the relative merits of the State University and the little denominational schools that the latter are supported at the expense of the former, and the young people of our state receive a narrow, partial, or old fashioned education instead of a broad education, up with the spirit and knowledge of the times. The denominational schools have an active and aggressive agent in every minister. When it becomes known that a young man intends to go away to school he is met at every corner by a minister urging his particular school as the best in the state. Strong and well grounded, indeed, must be the faith of the young man in the State University if it resists the incessant pleading and arguing of these agents. But let the people of the state once be fully informed as to what the University of Nebraska is, and the number of students won by the smaller schools will be materially lessened. The University needs no exaggera-

tions, no labored arguments, to prove the superiority in methods, instructors and apparatus. State facts as they are; they can not be controverted. A student's love for his *alma mater*, together with the interest every Nebraska citizen should feel in having the youth of the state educated to the best advantage, should be sufficient to induce the students to make the slight effort necessary to write a few letters to their home papers during the year. Besides, there will be a personal benefit which will repay all such effort. We hope at least a few of our readers will so appreciate the advantages of the plan proposed as to put it into practice immediately.

SOMETIMES we are told that the day of speaking is past, that it is now necessary only to write in order to put your views before the people. True, the opportunities for reaching the public mind by written communications have largely increased in number, and the necessity of knowing how to write was never so great. But we deny that public speaking is out of date. If it were only for the opportunities given at the bar, in the pulpit, and in the legislative halls, oratory would yet be a power in the land. But these opportunities for its use are few in number compared with the others that exist. In the countless conventions and meetings of all kinds of organizations the ready, forcible speaker has a wide field and constant opportunity for the use of his talents in a way to benefit his fellow-men. The next quarter of a century is to be one of great reforms and radical changes in government and society. No such period has yet been passed in the world's history without the appearance of great orators who were a host in themselves, nor do we think the world has yet outgrown the influence of the personality, the voice of man, expressing his inmost convictions. If the young men of the country are to have effective training in public speaking they must secure it in youth, during their school days. In college therefore should ample provision be made for practice in public speaking, both impromptu and of prepared articles. In this line is seen one of the great superiorities of the open literary society over the secret fraternities. Even if the fraternity really does do literary work, and the chapters here have not seemed over-active in the matter, there can be no real practice in public speaking. Practice in anything must be as near the real thing as possible. Almost any one can tell his thoughts to a friend; few find difficulty in speaking plainly and forcibly to a group of intimates; but to speak to an audience of mingled friends and strangers is a totally different operation. The opportunity to do this is given in the literary society and is not possible in the fraternity of eight to fifteen numbers, with its secret sessions.