

but one full program was given during the term, and that largely by outside talent enlisted for the occasion.—*Elite Journal*.

The editorials of THE HESPERIAN are well written. They are all concerning questions of especial interest to students, and contain some good advice. We heartily agree with the position taken with regard to doing more society work as opposed to fraternities. The "Miscellany" column affords much interesting matter, and is always read with delight.—*Geneva Cabinet*.

THE HESPERIAN has for some time been vigorously waging war on the fraternities at the University of Nebraska. Never having had any experience with fraternities, we can express no opinion on THE HESPERIAN'S statement regarding them; nevertheless, it seems to us that college is no place for secret organizations of any kind. Students who really have the welfare of their *Alma Mater* at heart, need no other bond of fellowship, and a stronger one can hardly exist.—*College Chips*.

The University of Nebraska has a frat and anti-frat war on hand. The feeling has become so intense that the frats have boycotted the college paper. The editors, however, declare that this action has loosened their tongues in regard to the frats, and they pay their respects to them in very vigorous English.—*Elite Journal*. This calls to mind the action of our beloved (?) Frats '87 when they became enraged because some of their men were not chosen to fill places on the staff, and conceived the idea of conducting a paper in the interest of their own organization. After computing the expenses, however, finding that no one took any notice of their fruitless attempts, they submitted to the inevitable in true frat style; and compromised by initiating the assistant business manager.—*The University Argus*.

The Southern University Monthly says, "All is not well at the University of Nebraska. The fraternities were dissatisfied with their representation on the editorial staff of THE HESPERIAN, their college paper, and boycotted it. Since then THE HESPERIAN has been waging war vigorously against them." After quoting our comments on the boycott, it continues. "Fraternities have evidently not taken so strong a hold at the University of Nebraska as they have at most colleges, or the withdrawal of their support would mean the discontinuance of the paper. The fraternity problem has been widely discussed, and is as hard for college authorities to solve as the race problem is for our statesmen. Many leading colleges, such as Princeton, Monmouth, Oberlin, the University of Illinois, the A. & M. College of Mississippi, and others have prohibited fraternities. Many others would do likewise if they could keep them out entirely. We have seen fraternities from all points of view; as a "barb," an active member, and a neutral party, and we have yet to see any marked good accomplished by them. They divide a school up into factions, and undoubtedly benefit the leaders of these factions so far as gaining honors is concerned, but, whether a majority of their members, or the school as a whole, derive any advantage from them, we are not so certain. They invariably prove injurious to the literary societies. More politics and chicanery are introduced into a college through the attempt of fraternities to push forward their own men than from all other causes combined. We seriously doubt whether the good accomplished by fraternities compensates for the evil. * * * A good paper is THE HESPERIAN. Its articles are all short, but sensible and to the point. We think its sphere of usefulness might be enlarged though by more elaborate literary efforts.

EXPERIMENTAL BORINGS.

During the winter vacation an interesting series of borings was carried out on the college farm for the purpose of determining the thickness of the various pleistocene, or more recent strata. The work was under the supervision of Professor Shimek and he was assisted by Harry Hicks, Mr. Helvie and some other students. Mr. Hicks made the survey which determined the location of the borings, ran the levels and has furnished a topographical map. The borings were made at intervals of 500 feet, thus making about seventy-two to be sunk on the half section comprised in the farm, and they were put down from 18 to 48½ feet. Eighteen borings have now been completed and the work will be continued as soon as warm weather begins again. The borings were made with an ordinary augur, so modified that the core could be examined and its quality ascertained at any given depth. The results so far are chiefly interesting as showing the great variation in thickness of strata within small areas. They prove that the ordinary method of boring at long intervals can show but little as to the real character and inclination of strata. The variations in the thickness of surface soil were from ½ foot to 4½ feet. The mixed stratum of surface soil and loess varied from ½ foot to 13 feet. The stratum of true loess clay, fossiliferous and showing the usual indications of lime and nodules of oxide of iron, varied from ½ foot to 16 feet, and in the lowest spot tested was entirely lacking. The upper till, composed of drift, exceedingly variable in its ingredients of blue clay, yellow clay, sand, and gravel, varied from 2½ feet to 33 feet in thickness. Below this, in ten borings out of eighteen, were found unmistakable indications of a forest bed, composed of very fine vegetable mould of a cinnamon brown color, which turned black on a short exposure to the air. Where found, this stratum varied from 1½ feet to 7½ feet—a rather remarkable thickness. Below this lay the lower till of the drift material, of indeterminate thickness, which was penetrated in one boring for 17 feet. In some seven of the borings the strata were less clearly defined and it was difficult to determine the limits of each layer. Water was reached at depths varying from 9 feet to 40 feet, and on some of the high ground the augur did not go deep enough to strike it at all. If the funds of the experiment station allow, the borings may be extended beyond the college farm, with the intention especially of determining the limits of the forest bed, which it is known does not underlie the city. So far as Professors Hicks and Shimek know, these experiments are conducted here for the first time in so exact a manner for so limited an area. When the work is completed profiles will be made showing the comparative height and thickness of the strata at the various borings. The result of the observations will also be published in a bulletin from the experiment station.

DIED.—On January 13, in this city, Frank Bulla, aged fifteen years. The deceased was a brother of R. S. Bulla and had just entered the University. He was first taken sick with the prevailing influenza, which developed into pneumonia and caused his death. His parents arrived in the city the next day and took his remains to their home in St. Edwards, Iowa, for interment. The young man's classmates accompanied the remains to the depot. The death of one of our members just entering on his college life should make us pause for a moment in our busy round of duties and give a thought to the great mystery of life and death. We extend sympathy to the bereaved brother and family.