

keeping the library open during the evening, and it would certainly encourage a freer use of reference books. It seems to us to be an important step in raising a university above the level of academies, to give the best of opportunities to compare their text books with other authors, and free access to the library at all times, is the only means of reaching this goal. A few minor "reforms" should be mentioned. After five o'clock many of the students who have classes from four to five do not care to go to their rooms before supper; this is a splendid time for athletics, but it is also a splendid time to look over periodicals or to work upon special topics, and the library should be open from five to six. This innovation should be introduced now, this term, while we are sitting around wondering what we may do to employ an hour profitably, when waiting for supper time.

There is not another library in the city that does not have paper files. It is next to impossible for the librarian to keep track of the dailies and to find a particular number of a weekly would be an absurd undertaking. The reading room has been provided with reading desks and "lunch counter stools" why not also have paper files? The system of charging books is very loosely managed; not a few students have been requested to return books which had been returned several months before. To plead for a published catalogue seems vain, others have failed before; but we wish to remark that it has never been our fortune to hear of a library as large as ours that has no printed catalogue. This distinction, of which we should be heartily ashamed, is entirely our own.

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The university cadet battalion will go into camp at Hastings, Thursday, May 29. The city of Hastings will pay \$150 toward the expenses of the outing, besides the other accommodations always furnished. The battalion will probably leave Lincoln on the morning 'flyer' and arrive in Hastings about half past seven. This will give us ample opportunity to take possession of the camp and to make all necessary arrangements so that we can acquit ourselves creditably in the Memorial day exercises, Friday. Never in the history of the department has it been able to put a battalion into camp as large and well drilled as the battalion will be this year. More than a hundred of the cadets have expressed their intention to go. This will give us four good sized companies, and as very few cadets will remain at home we will not be placed at a disadvantage by the necessity of reorganizing the companies, thus placing men in positions to which they have not become accustomed. The benefit derived from the battalion drills and dress parades this term will manifest itself when all realize that the battalion is the center of attraction, the observed of all observers.

Lieutenant Griffith is investigating the feasibility of having a general mess tent where all may obtain board at reasonable rates. This will be a great improvement upon the arrangement of former encampments, as it will be not only more convenient and cheaper but will also be more in keeping with military discipline. We understand that the state will furnish new officers' wall-tents, somewhat smaller than those used last year, but much better.

The camp will consist of from twenty-five to forty tents and will present an appearance of which we may be proud.

Through the kindness of the commandant THE HESPERIAN will have a special tent assigned for its head-quarters. The editorial staff will be there in force, and we take this opportunity to assure our friends that all will be welcome who desire to subscribe. THE HESPERIAN will be in camp ready for distribution Sunday morning, June 1.

The seventeenth inter-state oratorical contest has passed into history. Who will say that we did not derive great benefit from the meeting of the association? Many lessons were taught that could not have been learned from books. The truth of the expression, "many men of many minds," was clearly demonstrated. The markings of six judges, coming from different parts of the country, stand witness to the fact that what one considers an excellent production others rank very low. A glance at the chart of grades will show that several orations received both extremes in grades; such a glance will also show the injustice of the present system of ranking. Orators who stand high in the first ranking are crowded down by the pernicious system of throwing out the first orators and re-ranking those remaining. Will some enthusiastic defender of the present system explain wherein lies the justice of crowding a man down in final rank because part of the judges have ranked him above the winning orator? As an example we submit the following:

Under one section of judges the following markings appear: A receives 2, 4, 1; B receives 1, 3, 5; C receives 3, 5, 2. The sums of these ranks give A 7, B 9, C 10. Their ranks are manifestly and justly A first, B second, C third, but let us apply Sec. 6, Art. V of the constitution to these ranks. A is declared first and B and C are re-ranked, giving B 1, 3, 4; C 2, 4, 1. Adding these ranks we obtain B 8, C 7, and C, not B, is declared the winner of second place. This apparent paradox is easily understood when we observe that B was marked above A by two judges and hence gained but one by throwing A's marks out, while C marked below A by three judges gained three by this process. Will some one please explain what pillar in the temple of justice this system of ranking rests upon? We should like to suggest to the local associations of Nebraska that when the Nebraska delegation goes to Des Moines next year they carry with them an amendment which will provide for a single ranking from the marks of the judges. The final rank of states to be in order of precedence as shown by the sums of these ranks; ties between ranks to be settled by grand averages.

If there had been more time we might have advertised our university to good advantage, as it was all students as well as delegates were kept busy in working for the success of the contest. Few of our visitors had time to thoroughly inspect the different departments of the university; we heard only favorable comment upon those departments which were inspected. After all we did not entertain the association for the purpose of advertising our university but for the purpose of gaining individual benefit from intercourse with other institutions of learning. In spite of social disturbances which threatened at one time to swamp the entire contest, everything passed off smoothly; or at least it so appeared to a casual observer. It is for the visitors to decide whether or not they were well entertained; we did our best, and are satisfied with our effort, although of course we realize that improvements might have been made.

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