

THE LITERARY SOCIETY

The Usual Place It Fills in University of Nebraska Student Life

The literary interests of University life are developed in the three literary societies maintained in the institution. These societies, Palladian, Union and Delian, have a firm foothold in the University, and add much to college unity and spirit. They give their members excellent training in speaking, reading and parliamentary practice. The societies are not run, however, merely for the literary benefits derived from the meetings, but also to develop the social side of the student's course, which is generally lacking to a marked degree in the career of those who do not identify themselves with some organization of the kind during their years in the University. The freshman who first attends one of the regular Friday night meetings of any one of the societies will, if he chances to be called upon to speak, probably stumble about in an awkward attempt to say something appropriate. But let him continue his attendance and avail himself of every opportunity to talk, and he will soon gain ease, grace in speaking, and confidence in himself that will aid him much in his daily duties, where he must meet and mingle with people. In the social meetings that precede and follow the programs, the student gains recreation and pleasure; he learns to conduct himself in a becoming manner and to know and understand his fellow students.

Besides the regular Friday night literary and musical programs, the societies give parties at various times during the year. They usually indulge in a Thanksgiving "feed," a sleigh-ride in mid-winter, and a picnic at the end of the year. Special programs are a commendable feature of the year's work. On national holidays and at other times special and appropriate programs are carried out. Occasionally a boys' or girls' program is given as a diversion from the ordinary course.

The three societies hold a meeting each once a week in their respective halls. The Palladian and Union halls are located on the third floor of the main building, the former in the east end, and the latter in the west. The Delians make use of the old chapel. The Palladian is the oldest society, being organized in 1871, a few weeks after the opening of the University. The Unions follow the Palladians in point of years, while the Delians are the youngest of the three.

Athletics are encouraged by the societies, and each has its tennis, basketball, football and baseball team. In these contests, student spirit runs high, for championship honors are a golden apple thrown among the contesting teams.

Each society has an affiliated debating club that meets on Saturday night. Among these clubs there is the same rivalry that exists between the societies, and interclub debates become spirited contests.

The question is often raised as to whether or not the literary element found in the University is superior to that of smaller sectarian schools. While the University is a much larger institution than the ordinary college, and while literature and learning of almost

every kind is carried to a further end, it is nevertheless noticeable that in oratorical contests the smaller institutions usually carry off the prize. This is not seen in Nebraska because the University does not now compete in such contests. The fact is apparent in adjoining states, however. Whether the difference in oratorical ability comes about through the character of the literary societies connected with the institutions or not is hard to say. As a rule, however, more interest is taken in the literary societies of the sectarian schools where no fraternities enter into competition with them. The literary societies constitute one of the most valuable auxiliary branches of instruction in any school, and in Nebraska they open the field of literary and social progress to many who would otherwise leave school without one of the most essential elements in a practical education—the coming in friendly competition, intellectual and social contact with other people of like and unlike characteristics.

Departmental

Minnesota-Nebraska.

A Minnesota-Nebraska debate is practically assured for next year. That these two state universities, between whom cordial relations have for some time existed in other lines, meet in a contest of brains next year is the outcome of the correspondence of last October, when Minnesota stated that she would be greatly pleased to arrange a debate for this year, but that, with four debates already arranged for, the debating association felt the institution had all the contests it could carry.

Minnesota has now, according to Associated Press dispatches in the Chicago and Omaha papers, decided to ask Nebraska for a debate next year. The immediate cause of this action so early in the year is that Minnesota has broken off its debate relations with



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Than the famous drugs of old,
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Wisconsin because she does not think Wisconsin has played fair in the matter of the selection of judges for the proposed debate this spring.

The extension of Nebraska's work in debate beyond the Missouri valley is the natural result of last year's championship record. So to extend the work and reputation of the University has been, as is well known, the aim of Professor Fogg. It is believed by the University officials who watched developments last year that there is no reason why Nebraska should not occupy a more prominent place in the inter-collegiate debate world than she has heretofore done. Chancellor Andrews is known to be enthusiastic over such extension of the University's fame.

Minnesota has for years debated with Wisconsin, whose annual inter-society debate is well known throughout the country for its thoroughness. Minnesota also cuts a large figure in the Central Debating League, composed of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Northwestern and Chicago, which annually holds a series of debates with a final contest in Chicago in April.

Interest in debate at Minnesota is much more general and earnest than at Nebraska. The inter-society debates in the law school and in the college proper are events of the year. Several valuable prizes are also given annually for excellence in public address.

That an attempt might be made to arrange a debate with Minnesota this year was reported yesterday, but on that point no official information could be gotten last night.

Miss Rosa Bouton, of the domestic science department, has been delivering lectures before farmers' institutes recently in session at Kearney, Tecumseh, Brock, Johnson, and other places, presenting various phases of the domestic science work. The purpose of her lecturing tour was to acquaint the people of the state with the class of work being done by this department of the University, and to arouse them to a desire for better education along the line of home science.

The South Omaha Drivers' Journal for February 25th refers in very complimentary terms to a load of stock recently marketed there by the Nebraska experiment station. A small bunch of cattle sold for \$5.50, which topped the market by a margin of 75 cents per hundred weight. The fat lambs bred and fed by the experiment station also sold for the highest price of the year—\$7.00 per hundred weight.

Graduates of the seminar room will be interested in learning that the growth of seminar courses this year has necessitated the introduction of a third table into the room. It is about one-half the length of the other tables, and is fitted into the open space between the north ends of the latter. Some of this year's classes crowd even this increased recitation area.

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