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From Other Schools

Hastings College Letter.

Hastings, Neb., March 11, 1903.
The last year has been one of the most successful years in our history. There has been a gain of more than 25 per cent in attendance, and the character of the students and the work done has been of the very best. The introduction of a limited number of electives has enlarged the opportunities of the student and has also added to their interest. The evident need in the central and western part of the state is normal work. This is shown by the bill introduced by our state superintendent. And it is evident that sooner or later—and the sooner the better—there will have to be a state normal in the central or western part of the state. The recent action in allowing colleges who have maintained a sufficiently high standard, and have \$50,000 worth of property, with the approval of the state superintendent, to grant state certificates will enable Hastings College to assist in this work. The executive committee have already given instructions to supply the electives in pedagogy, etc., that are required by law. It is expected another year to enlarge our work along the normal line.

The College laboratories are supplied with necessary apparatus and material for all the science courses and are constantly being replenished and increased. In so far as it is practicable, students in all laboratory work are required to perform experiments for themselves, under the constant supervision of the instructor in charge. The library now numbers about 3,500 volumes, and a fund is being created that will aid the various departments to add from time to time such new books as are necessary for reference and research. An especial effort will be made to add to the collection bearing upon American and English literature and history.

There are two literary societies, the Whittierian and the Pestalozzian. These organizations are conducted entirely by the students. It gives an opportunity for practice in parliamentary law, and also affords the members a chance for training in debate, oratory and composition. There are two Christian organizations, the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. They have their separate meetings every Saturday and a joint meeting every Wednesday. The Christian influence is of the very best. In addition to these regular organizations classes in Bible study and mission work do much to advance the religious life of the college. In athletics there is the usual football association, and baseball and track teams. They are well organized and the games with the other colleges in the state increases the friendly spirit among these institutions.

The greatest need of the colleges of Nebraska is endowment. There is not one of the institutions that has even enough to carry on its work to the best advantage. We do not believe that the good or usefulness of a college can be measured by its endowment, for the majority of our colleges have but very little of this world's goods, and yet they are doing good work. Nevertheless, a small endowment gives a permanency to the work and enables the institution to enlarge its usefulness. Two years ago an effort was started by the executive committee to secure

\$50,000 as an endowment. Twenty-eight thousand dollars has already been pledged. Two citizens of Hastings, A. L. Clarke and W. H. Ferguson, have each contributed \$5,000, Robert Brown \$1,000, and the students have subscribed \$2,700. A large number of other individuals and churches have given. This work will be pushed, and it is hoped before long to have a substantial endowment fund.

Hastings College was opened for the work of public instruction in September, 1882. This was the result of a movement begun in 1874 when the Kearney Presbytery, which included what is now Hastings and Kearney Presbyteries, sent an overture to the synod convening at Nebraska City. The college is under the control of the synod of Nebraska, which elects annually nine trustees to serve for three years. It has been under the care of the board of aid for colleges and academies for the past sixteen years, except during the years 1897-99. It is situated in Hastings, a thriving city of about 10,000 inhabitants, well supplied with schools and churches, and easily accessible by railroad from ten different directions. There is in the state no institution doing college work west of Hastings, yet according to the last census about one-third of the population of the state lives in the territory west of a line extending north and south of the east side of Adams county, in which Hastings is situated. The college is well located and destined to become an educational center, and its position affords a strategic center for educational activity and influence in the state.

The art of right living is a greater art than the art of high living. To teach and train our young people how to live right with their fellow men is better than to teach them professionalism. The college is to broaden men. The tendency of the technical school is always to make him narrow. Therefore the importance of a college training before one enters upon their professional work. The purpose of Hastings College is to give this training. While we have been hampered by the lack of means in fulfilling this ideal as we would like, the work of our graduates bears testimony to the fact that the institution has not altogether failed in carrying out of the purpose of its founder.
E. V-D. W.

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