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- TRANSFER—Lincoln Local Express, Lincoln Transfer Co., Globe Delivery Co.

The Student in Society

The Social Side of University of Nebraska Student Life

How Uni Society Enjoys Itself.

University students pretty generally believe in enjoying themselves, and dancing is probably the favorite amusement. In no other western school is there so large a number of social events that have become regular features of the school year. These dances are of three varieties—military, class, and fraternal. There are five annual military dances scattered throughout the nine months of the school year, and each class has its regular dance. In addition to these, there are nineteen fraternal organizations that will average at least three parties apiece during the year, all ending with the Pan-Hellenic—the big dance of the season. As in many other matters, Lincoln society would be rather dull were it not for the stimulus given it by the University. It is largely the student who sets the social pace—and, for the most part, follows it himself.

Social Life from Which the Student Comes.

Nebraska draws most of her students from Nebraska farms and the small towns scattered throughout the state. Before coming here the student's social experience has been more or less limited, according to the place from which he comes. The farmer's son has probably been accustomed only to country debating societies and lyceums. Those brought up in the towns have had a better opportunity to mingle in a social way, and consequently they are not subjected to as great a change.

The New Life He Finds Here.

However, their environment must necessarily become somewhat different since they are thrown in contact with so large a number of young people. One of three courses is followed. If the student so desires he can devote his time exclusively to his work, paying no attention to the social advantages of the school, or he may join a literary society, or a fraternity. The course he takes will depend upon the state of development of his social tendencies.

If he adopts the first course he will spend all his time following his special line of work. If he intends being an engineer, his time will be spent in the shops, and the number of his acquaintances will equal the number of friends he makes there. If he has any spare time at the end of the week, he will probably spend it at the room of one of his friends, and that will constitute his social activities. His knowledge of girls is extremely limited, and when he leaves school his education will be deficient in that very important thing—experience.

The middle position is occupied by the members of the literary societies. Besides extending the circle of a student's acquaintance these societies give valuable experience in the art of entertaining, and in many ways are more beneficial in the social line than are the fraternities. To be a fraternity man does not mean that you are a society lion, although it is by fraternity people that social enterprises are usually advanced. A great many fraternity men never attend a public dance, or "go out in society," and in such a case the list of their friends is the membership roll of their fraternity. As far as outside social benefits are concerned, they might as well not belong to any organization.

How Social and School Work Harmonize.
A great many students pay no attention to society because they believe

the social and intellectual elements cannot be successfully harmonized, and that to be a good society man means to be a poor student, and vice versa. That is a very wrong impression. While it is true that few social leaders ever graduate with a P. B. K., many of the students who take an active interest in the social life of the University make good all-round students. It is becoming more and more the tendency to look upon book-lore as only a part of a person's education. Experience is considered half, at least, and society helps to a large degree in giving that experience. A liberal education is what is considered valuable, and while pursuing your special line of work, a little time spent in cultivating your social qualities will not be ill-spent. If you are taking a general course you should consider it a part of that course.

As a rule it is the student who successfully combines the two who makes the greatest success of life. A person who goes through college with the idea of devoting all his time to work and consequently keeps to himself as much as possible, not only misses a great deal of pleasure during his four years' stay here, but also finds himself seriously handicapped when he starts out in life for himself. This does not necessarily mean that a student should attend at least one dance or party a week. There are many forms of society, and the man who takes an active part in the debating club or literary society, is perhaps improving his time to greater advantage.

Social Tendencies of the University.

Nebraska University society is rapidly assuming the character of the social life of the eastern schools. It costs more now to be a "society man," in the big sense of the word, than it did in the earlier days of the institution. Dress affairs are becoming more the rule and less the exception, and the University society man of today has more requirements to meet than did his predecessor of ten years ago. The dress suit and cab have long been established features. The grill room has lately made its presence felt on the pocket-books of the social sports, and the opera crusher will soon be here. Indeed it will be a matter of only a few years until eastern customs will prevail entirely.

In spite of this fact, there is little or no tendency towards snobbishness. The student waiter, if his personal ability and character is up to the standard, is accepted on the same footing as the man with a large allowance. A student may lead the most formal dance of the year one night, and the next evening will see him "supping" for some show or otherwise amusing himself while taking in a little money on the side. The true western spirit that dominates everything in the University is quite apparent in society, and will continue so for some time to come.

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