

The Daily Nebraskan.

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Editorial Remarks

Plagiarism has occupied quite a prominent place in connection with oratorical contest in different parts of the country this year. In fact this element has been more in evidence this year than for some time past. At several schools even lately have trials been held as a result of the tendencies of orators who prefer to borrow the master thoughts than attempt to create some for themselves. Such revelations of untoward conduct in oratorical contests seem to be bobbing up at regular intervals in spite of the examples frequently made. Such experiences at Brown and at an Iowa institution are still fresh in the memory of many of us, and now a flagrant case at Minnesota is producing considerable excitement.

This plagiarism if one is to judge from appearances, is growing to be an epidemic, scattering infectious germs that develop into bad results. The humiliation attendant upon exposure ought to be sufficient to deter any student from running the risk, even if the proper morals are lacking. A man practicing it puts himself into a position where the chances are against him, risking all on not being found out. If he succeeds in evading suspicion, then his feelings of triumph over whatever he may achieve must be mingled with some misgivings, and he can not feel the pleasure that he would have felt had he buckled down and won out by his own hand work.

Anyone struggling to achieve success in oratory should be prompted by no stronger motive than to work hard and do his best to win out. If he loses he has experience and can try again. Each time he goes through a course of preparation and tries again, he strengthens himself that much. But he never will increase his mental capacity or moral worth by pilloining the thoughts of another and disguising them as his own. He risks all for triumph that is a disgrace to himself, even if his wrong doing is never known by others. He runs the same risk as does a breaker of the laws, and when detected he is not regarded in a much better light. In his case indeed the way of the transgressor is hard, if he is found out; for ere he has travelled his course he will find himself in a situation that is troublesome to say the least.

The debate with Iowa is off. The conditions relating to time and place were of such a character, that we could not think of closing negotiations for a contest. The debates with Washington and Kansas come close together, and each of them will require a tremendous concentration of effort. A third contest entering in would great-

ly increase the burden of our debaters—in fact to such a degree as to render it altogether impracticable. We would like to have met Iowa, as she is a likely opponent in debate, but our debaters can not well do so much in so short a time as the increased burden entailed by a meeting with her would necessitate.

The Junior Prom. committee at Cornell has an excellent system of managing things, which is indeed commendable in an institution where it can be put in operation. They reported \$3.74 on hand and \$1.3 coming in on programs. Fifty dollars was also given to the Fencing association, and \$50 to aid the Junior Smoker committee. Each of the sixteen men of the Hop committee will receive a watch fob costing \$19.

The question of the Easter vacation is still puzzling many institutions. The students at many places are desirous for a longer rest than has been granted them in the past, and have adopted the custom of making their wishes known by means of petitions. In some places considerable excitement has been caused by the refusal of the faculty to grant these petitions.

California has received a gift of a \$700,000, and yet we have heard of no complaints from anyone regarding its acceptance. California is a richer state than Nebraska, and yet the people there have realized that endowments and contributions by wealthy parties are necessary to the fullest development of a state institution. It has been pointed out that because the people of other commonwealths see fit to accept the contributions of wealthy men, it does not follow that we do so. And yet is it not likely that people in other states are guided by reason as well as ourselves, and that if their institutions that have received gifts are willing to accept more, their experience disproves the allegation that disastrous results inevitably attend the acceptance of such gifts? Will anyone think of assailing the moral character of the students of Yale, Harvard and other institutions that have received gifts from wealthy parties? Our great eastern schools have been in the habit of receiving such gifts for years, and does anyone assert that their moral atmosphere is vitiated thereby, as is alleged will be the case at Nebraska when the Temple Building is constructed? We must be practical. It is useless to theorize in discussing such a thing as the Temple Building. We must look around us for statistics and precedents, considering the experience of institutions where gifts and contributions have been accepted, before we draw conclusions too readily. Theorizing on moral matters is apt to lead one into error and one must not be led to conviction until he sees the practical workings of his theory put into operation. If there is a taint on such gifts how does it manifest itself? What statistics have ever been cited to show that there is one? If we don't reason out the thing for ourselves and find substantial proofs for our convictions, we are apt to fall into error.

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