

Last year seminar work was started by Prof. Fling in European historical research. This year American history will also be represented in the same line of work. The work has been undertaken under the leadership of Professor Caldwell, and will consist of a course of investigation upon political and economical subjects from 1850 to the present time. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening, and are open to all interested in this kind of study. Mr. J. D. Calhoun will be present at the meeting next week and will lecture upon the feelings which actuated the common people to secede at the beginning of the war. Next week also the election laws of the various states will be taken up, and their advantages and disadvantages criticized. The meeting for this week has been postponed so that double work will be done on the evening succeeding election.

It is not an easy task to find a man as well suited to an occasion as was Prof. Blackmar to Columbia day and the Columbian address before the students and faculty of the University. Himself a careful and conscientious student of history, and given to special research in connection with early Spanish archives bearing upon the discovery and development of this country, he was peculiarly fitted to speak clearly and strongly and wisely of the day and its hero and his work. The address was short and terse, but full of strong passages and thoroughly alive with a keen appreciation of all that the discovery of the New World for the Old World and for present generations within the limits of this hemisphere. The address was listened to with the utmost attention, and though not interrupted by applause, received liberal recognition at the close—really the best tribute that can be paid to any speaker.

The Sem. Bot. has always been an aggressive organization, and they are still ready to fill any long felt want in botanical circles. This year the members considered a botanical survey of the state to be the proper thing, not only to furnish the univers-

ity herbarium a complete set of the state's botanical specimens, but also to add further lustre to their own name. In future years the tramp of the Semi. Bot. will be noticeable from the arid regions of the north to the fertile plains of southern Nebraska. Nothing of botanical interest will escape their notice. After everything has been wound up the collection will be tabulated, encased and presented to the university herbarium. The first open meeting of the year was held on October 15th. The seminar listened with great interest to the papers read and discussed. This part of the program was "Observations of Cross Fertilization," Fred Clements; "Notes on the Flora of the Sand Hills," Roscoe Pound; "The Leaf Structure of *Redfieldia Flexuosa*," [communicated] J. G. Smith; "The Black Cottonwood," P. A. Rydberg; "Notes on the Canon Flora of Sioux County," A. F. Woods; "The Present Status of Nomenclature," Dr. Bessey. Prof. Hitchcock of Kansas took part in the general discussion. The second part of the program consisted in the presentation of the bust of Darwin to the University by the L. W. on behalf of the Sem. Bot. Prof. Bessey received it for the University. Mr. T. H. Marsland then read a paper entitled "Darwin, His Life and Work." Prof. Swezy of Doane and Lieut. Webb of the Nebraska Wesleyan were present.

LECTURES ON SHAKESPEARE.

Henry A. Clapp, dramatic critic of the Boston Advertiser and a Shakespearian lecturer of reputation, gave two lectures in the chapel on the 12th and 13th of last month, under the auspices of the Palladian girls. A fair audience greeted both entertainments, yet there was a financial deficit. Mr. Clapp selected "Hamlet" and the "Merchant of Venice." His views upon "Hamlet" were more generally commented upon, since they were entirely different from those held by