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SOME INTER-STATE ORATORY

IOWA TAKES FIRST PLACE

Nebraska Takes Last With Ease—How the World Will Be Formed—Kansas Hospitality.

The interstate collegiate oratorical contest was held in the grand opera house of Topeka, Kas., on Thursday of last week.

A. M. Cloud of Lenox college, Hopkinson, Ia., was awarded first place with the prize of \$100. His subject was "The Policy of Metternich."

Second place, with \$50, was given to Fred Elliot of Monmouth college, Illinois, on "Mob and the Law." Kansas received third honor, with Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Missouri, Colorado and Nebraska in the order named. The judges were: Manuscript, President James B. Angell of university of Michigan, Russell H. Conwell of Philadelphia and John Temple Groves of Georgia. On delivery, Rev. Myron W. Reed of Denver, William Warner of Kansas City, Mo., and Lafayette Young of Des Moines, Ia.

The majority of the orations dealt with our present social problems. The spirit of altruism was frequently touched upon, and a tinge of socialism also pervaded a number of the orations. Although most of the orations dealt with ideas and tendencies of the present, nevertheless, Magna Charta was granted and re-granted. Runnymede and Austerlitz were fought again and again with an astounding loss of life. Paris, with rubber boots, waded through "waters of blood." The old saw about keeping a good man down is always exemplified in oratorical contests. Savanrol scarcely got a cat-nap the whole evening, and Martin Luther nailed up his theses at least five times, and then, with commendable persistence, insisted on being present at the Diet of Worms.

The winning oration had twenty-three distinct historical references, and would have made a fairly concise preface to a history of the world.

Mr. Cloud came last on the program, and though his stage presence was far from graceful, he succeeded in partially rousing his audience with a forcible "lastly" and received considerable applause. He was the youngest of the contestants, being a sophomore barely twenty-one years of age.

Fred Elliot of Illinois had by far the finest production of the evening. His manuscript indicated scholarship of high degree, and his delivery was the most consistent and sustained of all the orators. He received two firsts and one third on manuscript and one first on delivery; but Rev. Reed of Denver clearly forgot the prerogative of a judge on delivery and became so biased upon the subject matter that he gave him fifty (last) place on delivery. It was nothing less than a butchery.

Nebraska was unfortunate. The subject matter of Mr. House's oration was very unlike any of the rest, being of the nature of a theological discussion. It was too heavy. It was too orthodox for even John Temple Groves. Mr. House had a careful and studied delivery, but lost the confidence of his audience at the very start through the mistake of pitching his voice too high. He modulated somewhat later on, but his audience had forgotten him and his delivery was then purely mechanical.

It was perhaps the least intelligent, least sympathetic, most repulsive audience anyhow before which any orator ever tried to speak. The upper galleries were filled with hooting, whistling idiots, while perhaps seventy-five occupied the first floor.

The delegates from other states were left to find the town and amuse themselves as best they could. There was no reception committee. No one would have supposed that Topeka had even a high school. The association lost about \$200 and only got revenge by passing strong resolutions of censure the next morning.

The next contest will be held at Columbia, Mo.

The department of elocution and oratory at the state university gave an excellent recital in the chapel last evening before a large and appreciative audience. The program, which was quite pleasingly arranged, opened with a piano solo, "Spinning Wheel," by Schultze, played with daintiness by Miss Ethel Galley.

Miss Sarah Muir costumed to represent a charming old lady of "ye olden time," recited Cora Vandermark's "Grandma at the Masquerade." Her selection was well suited to her voice, which was very sweet and clear. She was free from the restraint that sometimes troubles amateurs, and this joined to her other merits in the rendition of the selection, made the number one of the best.

The farce entitled "The Mouse Trap," which Howells wrote in a jovial moment, to make light of the fear which men suppose women have in the presence of mice, was carefully rendered. Those taking part were R. H. Manley, Marie Pollard, Jessie Spurck, Phoebe Gerard, Annie Stewart, Alberta Spurck and Jean Tuttle. The fair ladies represented by these names succeeded well in keeping rather difficult positions on chairs and tables through the trying part.

Hugh Walker read from "The Bonnie Brier Bush," the deathbed scene of Dr. McClure, entering thoroughly into the spirit of it. His bonnie Scotch brogue needs no praise.

"The Fatal Message," a farce by Bangs, closed the program. As an imitation of amateurs by amateurs it was excellent. Those taking part were R. H. Manley, Josephine Lottridge, Henry Nelhuus, Norman Shreve, G. E. Hager, Saddle Smith, Eva Rolofson and Jean Tuttle.

If an accurate decision were made probably Mr. Manley would be counted the best in both forces, although there were commendable points in each one.

The Chicago papers report that the university buildings were blown down and badly wrecked by the storm last Tuesday. They say that it was the worst tornado that we have ever had in the west. This illustrates how accurate news is reported. The storm did some damage, but nothing like the account given in the eastern papers.

President Davis of the Y. M. C. A. says the association will send six or seven delegates to the Lake Geneva summer school this year if enough money is raised. Those who have been soliciting for the fund have been quite successful thus far. Several of the old members of the association have made subscriptions.

The results of the Kansas-Nebraska debate are already noticeable. Enthusiasm enough has been roused to start talk of a debating club this summer. It promises to be a reality, as many who will stay in Lincoln during the summer have promised to join. It is proposed to hold meetings every two weeks and at each meeting every member will have an opportunity of speaking.

NOTICE.

A premium of \$250 is offered by the Scientific American for the best essay on "The Progress of Invention During the Past Fifty Years."

This paper should not exceed in length 2,500 words.

The above mentioned prize of \$250 will be awarded for the best essay, and the prize paper will be published in the special 5th anniversary number of the Scientific American of July 25. A selection of the five next best papers will be published in subsequent issues of the Scientific American Supplement at our regular rates of compensation.

The papers will be submitted for adjudication to a select jury of three, to be named hereafter.

Rejected MSS. will be returned when accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope.

Each paper should be signed by a fictitious name, and a card bearing the true name and the fictitious name of the author should accompany each paper, but in a separate sealed envelope.

All papers should be received at this office on or before June 20, 1896, addressed to

Editor of the Scientific American,
361 Broadway, New York.

OUR GYMNASIUM GIRLS

SATURDAY NIGHT'S EXHIBITION

The Boys do Some Fine Ladder Work Themselves—Audience Tested the Armory's Capacity.

The long looked for gymnasium exhibition came off last Saturday night and everyone who could beg, steal or buy a ticket was on hand. Some of the boys who were not able to procure tickets any other way bought them of their less interested classmates and others climbed in the windows by the help of ladders. By 8 o'clock the gymnasium was packed three deep with expectant people. There were fond fathers and mothers, admiring girls and ultra appreciative boys who had bribed their best girl or bullied their sisters into giving them tickets. The faculty was well represented in the gallery. The animated scene gave quite the appearance of a circus, with the rows of people lined around the open space, the scattered apparatus and Bob Uhle and Jack Best rushing the mats around like a couple of tent hustlers in starched shirts. The girls were clad in tasty gymnasium suits with white cuffs and collars and large ties, which were white or colored, according as they belonged to the advance or first year class. From the first to the last all the drills had the closest attention of the audience and the applause was frequent and hearty. The marching executed by thirty-two girls was especially taking and during the execution of the many figures there was an almost continuous round of applause. This drill was as fine as any ever given in the city, some of the figures being very clever and very difficult.

The bag passing contest worked the audience into a high pitch of excitement and seemed to revive some of the enthusiasm that has lagged since the football games. During the progress of the game the girls on either side became so worked up that the dropping of a bean bag would nearly cause a stroke of nervous prostration. At the close of each game the players on the winning side would indulge in the most jubilant manifestations.

The rope climbing contest was well appreciated while Cora Crosey and Naamah Lowe did some clever work on the ladder. Miss Spurck won hearty applause by her work on the rings. About the middle of the program some of the boys who were disappointed in getting tickets put a ladder up to one of the windows and began piling in six abreast. It required a great deal of ungentle muscular inducement on the part of Bob Uhle to persuade them to get back. As it was, nearly fifty of the boys got in that way. The exhibition was brought to a close by a mass drill by all the young women participating. They gave their "gym yell" in a timid sort of way and marched out. The audience was so large that it took nearly ten minutes for them to file down the stairs.

Much credit is due to Miss Barr for the excellence and precision of the work. The efficiency which "our girls" have acquired is certainly to be praised and it is due to Miss Barr's energetic efforts, that the exhibition was the success it was. The assistants, Miss Anna Spurck and Miss Stella Elliott deserve credit for acquitting themselves so creditably. Their leadership showed careful and systematic training.

Personal.

NOTICE—The gentleman who kindly sold me his gym. ticket for \$1.50 will be good enough to redeem the lead quarter he gave me in change.

O. W.
FOR SALE OR TRADE—I will trade my annual window pass to the girls' gymnasium exhibition for a general admission ticket for next year, the family doctor having objected to further ladder climbing.

R. H.
FOR RENT—I have a pair of large field glasses (such as I used at the exhibition Saturday night) which I will rent on easy terms for similar functions.

BILL GREEN.

WANTED—Some self-sacrificing youth with nerve and persistence who will obtain a ticket for the next girls' gym. exhibition. Having never yet had the opportunity to witness one, I do

not wish to be deprived of this essential part of a college education. G. T.

LOST—While rubber-necking in the armory last Saturday night someone exchanged hats with me. My hat was a "Barbers Delight" stiff hat, costing \$1.44 when new. The head gear left in its place was a low-crowned, fried-egg "dicer," which has not been in style since the time of George I. It had a Sir Walter Raleigh brim and cost no more than two bits when new. The man who exchanged will please leave my hat with Short Lenhoff or someone else whom it would not fit.

ART HUTCHINSON.

THE SENIOR PROM.

The senior promenade promises to be by far the greatest event of the university this year. College work will practically be completed by the 22d and on that evening the care-worn and prof-oppressed will gather and forget or relate their troubles as things of the past. Better prospects for a general good time could not exist for the committee, assisted by the class, is pushing things to accomplish such an end.

The number of tickets to be sold is sixty, so that in the large representative hall the dancers will not be crowded.

The hall admits of a good circulation of air so that, although the weather during the day will be warm, yet the evening, and especially the part contained within capital walls, will be cool enough.

For patronesses of the party the following have been secured: Chancellor and Mrs. MacLean, Mr. and Mrs. Morill, Mr. and Mrs. Gere, Miss Ellen Smith, Captain and Mrs. Gullfoyle, Professor and Mrs. Richards, Professor and Mrs. Taylor and Professor and Mrs. Fling. The grand march will take place promptly at 9 o'clock.

STUDENTS' RECEPTION.

The members of the Political Economy club and the students in the political science department were given a reception Tuesday evening by Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Langworthy Taylor at their home, 511 North Sixteenth street. The inclement weather kept a good many away who would otherwise have been there. Those who were there nevertheless enjoyed the evening. There was plenty of music and lively conversation to make the evening a pleasant one. Late in the evening delicate refreshments were served. Miss Miner, a sister of Mrs. Taylor's, who is visiting here until after commencement, was an honored guest at the reception.

Do you know that headaches and many nervous affections are due to eye strain, and can be cured by scientifically fitted glasses? Examination and consultation free. Dr. H. M. Betts, graduate of Chicago ophthalmic college. Hours, 10-12; 2-5. Richards block.

IN THE LIBRARY.

We met.—With hair as dark as night,
Her eyes outshone the sun,
A dainty, fairy little sprite
Whose smile was never gone,
This little maid I would possess;
We'd go thro' life together
Thought I, enraptured by her gaze.
And then—I met another.
She was divinely tall and fair,
With head poised as a queen's,
And when she moved she seemed on air,
I saw her in my dreams,
"And now at last I've found my choice,
With her all happiness lies;"
"Handsome is as handsome does!"
My better part replies.
With this old proverb much impressed,
I took time for reflection,
And when I found this priceless flower,
My thoughts changed their direction,
A noble soul—and heart as well,
Shone from her eyes of blue,
She held my fate in her sweet hands;
I would to her be true.
Alas! for him who needs must choose
A jewel from so many;
You'll find it's very hard indeed,
For you may get—not any.
One more with arms around my neck,
A warm kiss speaks of love;
She said she'd always love me, and
I knew she'd keep her word.
And after seeking till I'm old
I now am satisfied;
A curly-headed three-year-old
Says she will be my bride.

UBI QUITOUS.

The spring tennis tournament will begin on May 16. All who wish to participate are asked to pay their dues before May 15.

ALL ABOUT THE X RAYS

PROFESSOR BRACE LECTURES

Many Physicians Were Among the Hearers—Gives a Scientific Talk That All May Understand.

On last Wednesday evening Professor Brace of the department of physics delivered his talk on X rays. The chapel was for the time being converted into an electrical laboratory, as no other room in any of the buildings would have held the large crowd which was attracted by the advertisement of the exhibition.

The professor opened his talk with a description of the apparatus which had been used in all experiments carried on at the laboratory, and which had, by continual experiment, been found to give the best results. The air pump used was of the Sprengel pattern, by which he had been able to obtain a vacuum of about one millionth of an atmosphere. The vacuum tube used is the result of continual experiment, most of the experimenting having been concentrated on this part of the apparatus with a view to obtaining the best results and overcoming several difficulties which have heretofore hindered the progress of photography by X rays. The tube is a radical departure from the original Crookes' tube and differs not a little from those now being used in other institutions. The principle change consists in the introduction into the tube, of a metallic reflector, which is so placed as to receive the rays coming from the cathode, and in thus becoming the source of X rays, projects them out of one side of the tube. Before this reflector was introduced the cathode rays were projected against the glass so forcibly as to heat it to redness, whereupon it would melt and the vacuum be lost.

The induction coil is of a rather antiquated type and the professor stated that with a larger and better coil he thought he would be able to take almost instantaneous pictures.

During the first part of his talk the professor had several pictures taken, which were afterwards developed and shown at the end of the lecture. The pictures and time of exposure were: A hand, five minutes; a pocket-book containing several metallic articles, ten seconds; a metallic screen, one second. Pictures were also shown which had been taken under an exposure of one-third second. Views of all the pictures taken at the laboratory were projected on a screen by means of a stereopticon.

Not the least interesting part of the exhibit was the fluoroscope, which was used by one of the assistants. By means of this he was enabled to see coins placed in a thousand page book and many other objects otherwise totally invisible. The principle of the fluoroscope is simply this—that certain chemical compounds are excited to fluorescence by X rays. If a screen be coated with any of these, such as barium, platinum, cyanid or tungstate of calcium, and then brought in the vicinity of the rays, the compound will fluoresce and any object placed between the source of the rays and the screen will cast its shadow. The more opaque the object, the more clearly defined is the shadow and thus objects may be quite clearly distinguished.

The lecture closed with some advice to physicians regarding the apparatus to be used for experimenting with X rays in surgery. The professor recommended the use of a Bunsen battery of fifteen to thirty cells; an induction coil which would give a four-inch spark, and tungstate of calcium for the fluoroscope. Professor Brace expressed his thanks to the electrical engineering students who had helped him in preparing for the exhibit, and the audience was then allowed to inspect photographs and apparatus, etc.

The success and progress of photography by X rays at the university of Nebraska is due in no small degree to Mr. Bert Spencer of the physical laboratory, who, under the direction of Professor Brace, has made all of the vacuum tubes used in the experiments.