

THE NEBRASKAN.

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The promoters of the petition asking for free bath privileges made a grave mistake in wording that important document. It should have begun: "We, the great unwashed."

Everything to make field day a success on the part of the management is being done. Many good prizes have been secured and some new apparatus. The new vaulting poles are here together with a \$5 dollar one for a prize. Few men are training and will be in good shape, but there are not enough. We should make a showing this year that will do honor to the university. There are enough good athletic men in school to break almost every record if they would but train. Come out and train either in a class or privately and make a university record as well as win a good prize. There are a little over three weeks yet to train, so make use of the time.

We have permitted another discussion on Phi Beta Kappa to enter our columns this week. We do not think the writer has said anything to the point, however. "How great doth Doane loom up!" and other like expressions do not convince anyone of the benefits or disadvantages of the scholar fraternity. We are not such a staunch supporter of the doctrine of the sublime principles of barbarianism as Mr. Abbott. It is not going to hurt Phi Beta Kappa if the term fraternity is applied to it. No one is going down the path of destruction if he belong to an aristocracy of scholars.

A petition signed by a majority of the male students has been presented to the chancellor and faculty. This asks that the free privilege be extended to all alike. However, the promoters of the petition acted without a full knowledge of the circumstances. It is not the province of a state university to provide bathing facilities any more than it should provide for washing the students' laundry. The baths were never intended to be used for the purpose of cleanliness. They are merely tonic baths—for the benefit of those taking work in the military and physical training departments. It is evident that this privilege cannot be extended to all. The university has not the facilities. There are many who have sincerely regretted signing the petition. "Justice and equality" were too much for them at a first glance.

There should be some justice extended, however, in granting the privilege. The physical director did not act justly in usurping for his department the exclusive use of the baths. Military drill is compulsory. The connection between military department and the army is as close as that between the physical training department and the gymnasium. Gymnasium work is not required for male students, some times the cadet is compelled to march double time from the vicinity of Eighth and Y streets to the armory. Does he not need a tonic bath as much as the gymnasium student?

When it comes to a question of justice, the cadet should have first chance at the baths; the physical training department next. If there is room for any more, let them come. But the student who is not connected with either department has no right to clamor for bath privileges. Had the petition come from the cadets, it could have received more consideration.

The requirement that every participant of the field day contests should undergo a physical examination is

timely. There is no use of going into an event of this character without a full assurance of safety to the contestants and a fair promise of success. It is certainly no waste of time nor an interference with the most efficient work to know the capabilities of those who compete. Why then, consider the requirement necessary? Will it not give full and fair play to the deserving athletes, and thereby raise the standard of the exercises? Let us have some system upon which competition in the athletic field may be carried on with the least amount of friction and the most effective results. It is creditable to every athlete that he enter the field after a thorough physical examination and a full knowledge of his fitness. By so doing, we will have exercises worthy of the name. Due attention will be given to the skillfulness of each contestant and to the part in which he is the most capable. We long to see the coming field day exercises far better than any preceding. Let no effort be spared in training and preparing the contestants for the most warmly contested and enthusiastic event of athletic sports.

"Modest doubt is the beacon of the wise." We doubt very seriously the expediency of students discussing their differences with the faculty and the policy of the university in the state press, without at least the assurance that any efforts to adjust them in our own councils are futile. The faculty and board of regents endeavor to right all differences fairly and justly. No just cause of complaint and uncalled for discriminations will be overlooked for a moment. The interests of the university and the student body are certainly always at heart. Then, does it show wise and mature forethought to agitate petty differences in the state press, when there is a possibility of a more timely and effective solution at home?

To be sure, we felt chagrined to read in an Omaha paper that the student body was in battle array, contending for the great principle of "equality," as opposed to the rules and prevailing policy of the university. Apropos, it is no less a novel to the general public. Reports of such character spread with amazing rapidity, and no little effort is required to correct the false rumors which naturally accompany them. In no time, rumors and hearsays are in circulation which disgrace the cause of truth. Urging that home matters be discussed and settled at home is far from meaning that the university desires anything kept from the scrutiny of an intelligent public. It is purely a matter of expediency and sound judgment, and not a restraint upon the freedom of the press. The alleged discriminations in the bath department are matters which concern us and should not be addressed to the critical tastes of the public. When we show our inability to effect a wise and proper adjustment, then there will be plenty of time to call upon the assistance and the co-operation of the state press and general public.

Bear in mind that the normal life of the university, the work it is doing, the development of a healthy manhood and culture should not be overlooked to give voice to some petty matter. It is well enough to speak candidly of the abnormal, but not at the expense of that which is addressed to the sobriety and intelligence of men. News from educational circles has a brighter and nobler sphere than to satisfy the curiosity and the meanest tastes of the public. Let us not parade student differences in the state press, but keep them where they belong—in the hands of a fair-minded and intelligent faculty. There every just cause of complaint will receive the consideration it merits and all misunderstandings and possible unpleasantness with the general public may be avoided.

The Hesperian board met Thursday afternoon and elected the following to compose the board for the coming year: Editor-in-chief, J. W. Llew, Union; associates, Mabel Dempster, Mr. Kinton from the Unions, Steve Carey, Anna Burrows, E. A. Moore, Palladian; Ader Graham, J. A. Sargent, F. E. Edgerton, Delians. It is understood that the board will elect Booner and Allen, Delians, business managers.

C. E. Adams of the Minnesota chapter was the guest of Phi Delta Theta boys the first of the week. He was a delegate to the oratorical meeting at Topeka.

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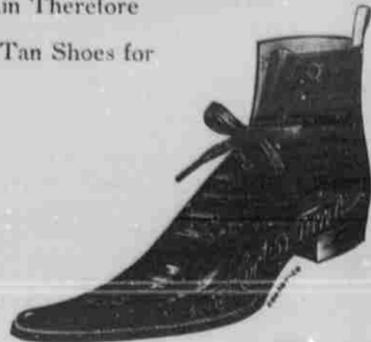
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