

THE NEBRASKAN

A Weekly Newspaper Issued Every Friday Noon, by the Students of the University of Nebraska.

Entered as Second Class Mail Matter.

F. T. Riley, Managing Editor.

ASSOCIATES.
I. S. Catter, Editorial
A. E. Parmelee, News Editor
C. E. Matson, Asst. Editorial
Kate Snow Walker, Sororities
H. C. Burr, Athletics
Oliver Chambers, Local
Edith Schwarz, Asst. Bus. Mgr.

The Nebraskan will be sent to any address upon receipt of the subscription price, which is one dollar a year, or fifty cents a semester.

Contributions are solicited from all News items such as locals, personals, reports of meetings, etc., are especially desired. The Nebraskan will be glad to print any contribution relative to a general university subject, but the name must accompany all such.

"Why," we beg leave to ask, "were the 'powers' of the University so very short-sighted in regard to our library building?" Only two years old, and tested to the limit of its capacity already. We find it no joke to enter that "calm and peaceful" sanctum at almost any and every hour of the day, only to search vainly through its length and breadth, its every corner and alcove for one solitary unoccupied chair. Friends and schoolmates, happy in possession of seats look up sympathetically at the weary searcher, but do not offer to surrender their priceless booty, and we heroically prop ourselves in a standing posture against the wall to try to accomplish a little necessary study and at the same time keep a watchful eye on the assembled students, ready to swoop down upon a chair left untipped while the owner searches for a book. Or, if this occupation prove more vain and amusing (to others) than profitable, we wander out into the hall and occupy a stair, of which, thank heaven! there is usually a vacant one. Study there? Oh, no; how could you think it? We join in the customary racket which rules that region and do our part to increase it. This is a deplorable state of affairs. Something should be done to remedy it, and that quickly. Each alcove in the book room can easily accommodate a long table and three or four times the number of chairs. We pray those who have our interests at heart to succor us in our dire distress.

Oh, but that is not all! How about that "perfect system of ventilation?" It does its best, no doubt, but it does not do the necessary work. The air is poisonous by chapel time on a disagreeable day; it is insufferable in the afternoon. How, pray, can brains work and lessons be learned without oxygen? Wherefore are we taught the harmful effects of vitiated air and then forced to breathe it from 8 in the morning till 6 at night, in library and class rooms as well? If we all had iron constitutions, we might not protest; but somehow headaches and dullness and lassitude will afflict us, and we solemnly protest. If the evil cannot be thoroughly remedied, it certainly can be diminished by a little care and attention.

The preliminary debates begin tonight with a contest between the first of the seven divisions before all nine judges. One particular article of the rules governing the grading of the individuals deserves especial emphasis. That is the one providing that set speeches shall either be thrown out entirely or else be marked down. Set speeches belong more properly to the realm of oratory than of debating. To be a successful debater one must be able not only to build up argument, but also to tear down that of an opponent. This requires an extempore as well as an analytic ability, which cannot be brought forth by set speeches. This fact cannot receive too much emphasis. The judges should bear this constantly in mind and make their gradings accordingly. There is a constant tendency on the part of many, and especially on the part of the first speakers on the affirmative, to commit their argument. This cannot properly be called debating and we trust that none such may be chosen to represent us in this year's contests.

Northwestern University students terminated an election contest by unanimously choosing the physical director of the university manager of the football team. Experience proved that student management was unsatisfactory and an alumnus was prevailed upon to take the nomination, but could not be elected. Mr. Bryan, the physical director, was then nom-

inated and the nomination carried with wild enthusiasm.

A man in that position, if he has business ability, is particularly fitted for football manager. Northwestern has certainly acted in accordance with good judgment. We note also that Michigan has elected a member of '98 as next year's manager.

Why so many legislatures attempt to prohibit the playing of football and at the same time retain such soothing silence concerning extended bicycle races is a mystery. Only this week saw the close of a six-day contest in New York city where few, if any, of the starters did not receive permanent injuries from overexertion. Several were carried from the track absolute mental wrecks. Yet the city council of this American metropolis, so solicitous for the welfare of football players, says not a word in opposition to this sport in which a participant has not even a chance to escape injury.

It is rumored that the librarian has established a "black list." On this may be found the names of the public nuisances who pretend to study in the library, but who in reality come there to sit and gossip, entirely oblivious of the rights of others. Just what action will be taken with those who continue their offensive conduct is uncertain, but it will be nothing less than suspension of library privileges. Needless to say, this action will meet with general approval and its strict enforcement will meet with unqualified indorsement. There is no reason why a patrol should be needed to keep our library as quiet and orderly as that of the city.

In the annual Harvard-Yale debate at New Haven last week Yale won her third consecutive victory. Formerly Yale was regarded as the winner in athletic contests, and Harvard in the debates; but now "Yale's brain" has equalled "Yale's brawn" of years ago. There was a time when the sons of Eli felt keenly the prowess of Harvard in literary contests and to them the phrase "Yale brain" brings a feeling of pardonable pride. It does not necessarily follow that results of debates are indicative of the literary work done in the respective colleges. It may be merely personal brilliancy, or personal application; but such results certainly are indicative of the general interest taken in forensics by the college.

"Corn Tassels" is out, and it's one of the neatest books displayed for the holiday trade. It contains about seventy-five of William Reed Dunroy's best poems, mostly his later ones. Evidently the poet made his selections carefully, as the verses cover a variety of subjects and monotony is excluded from every page. The binding is substantially done in "corn" and olive green. It can be found on sale at the newstands by Saturday.

Last week the students of the University of Michigan listened to Mr. Joseph Jefferson speak on "The Actor and His Art." Mr. Jefferson was accorded an enthusiastic reception. No doubt the senior class of the University of Nebraska would be very grateful to Mr. Jefferson if he would drop in and give them a few pointers on the class play. It is said, on good authority that they intend to excel that of the class of 'umpty-seven.

A NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.
A bill to establish the University of the United States has been introduced into congress.

The bill in general terms provides for an institution of the highest possible type for the graduates of accredited colleges and universities only, with special reference to the work of original research and investigation in all important fields of inquiry. The government is vested in a board of regents and a university council. The board of regents embraces the president of the United States, the chief justice of the United States, the commissioner of education, the secretary of the Smithsonian institution, the president of the national academy of sciences, the president of the national educational association, the president of the university and nine other citizens to be appointed by the president, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, and no two of them shall be from the same state. The university council is to have immediate charge of the work of instruction, research, and investigation. It consists of the regents and twelve other members, to be appointed by them from among eminent educators, with

a like impartial distribution. All courses and officers of instruction, also all regulations governing the internal management of the institution. Neither sectarian nor political preferences in any form are to be allowed, either in the appointments or in any of the operations of the institution. Authority is given to establish with other institutions of learning such co-operative relations as are deemed advantageous.

MID-WINTER HOLIDAY RATES.
On December 24 and 25, also on December 31, 1897, and on January 1, 1898, the Burlington will sell round trip tickets, good to return until January 4, 1898, at rate of fare and a third to points within 200 miles. Apply at R. & M. depot or city office, corner 10th and O sts., for further information. G. W. BONNELL, C. P. & T. A.

See Dr. Leonhart's ad in this issue.

ATTENTION STUDENTS.
We wish you to know that the Lincoln District Telegraph Company, at 121 South Tenth street, telephone 190, solicits your patronage to haul your trunks, packages, etc., to and from any part of the city.
W. H. PATMORE, Manager.

"There are others" as good, perhaps, but none better than the pictures taken at the Students' Photograph Gallery, 1031 O street.

Dr. Clifford R. Tefft, dentist; artistic crowns and bridges; 1127 O street, over Rehlander's drug store.

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