

AS a result of the spirit of economy that prevailed the last session of the state legislature, the department of rhetoric and oratory has suffered to a considerable extent. It is to be hoped that the next session will amply atone for the mistake of its predecessor and vote money enough so that Professor Hunt may have an assistant. It is obviously impossible for any one man to do all that should be done by the department of oratory. In addition to giving instructions to several classes the professor must correct about 300 essays and orations each term. Manifestly he cannot devote any of his time to training the students in declamations. We desire to see such arrangements as will remedy this defect. The delivery of a production is of as much importance as the writing of it. It should be so arranged that any student can receive training in the delivery of his productions, whenever he so desires.

IT has reached our ears that some of the items in THE HESPERIAN this Fall have given offence to certain parties. We are sorry that such is the case. As editor of the paper we desire to state our position with reference to the associates. One or two items have been published of which we did not approve, but since several of the associates were anxious to have them inserted, we gave our consent, and in general we do not desire that any associate should be prevented from criticising the actions of those who are connected with the University. The editor has felt free to criticise what to him seemed wrong and for this reason, if for no other, he feels that the associates are entitled to the same privileges. THE HESPERIAN aims to voice the sentiments of the students and feels that it has the support of the great majority of that body. With this explanation we trust that everybody will at once recognize that the associates are largely responsible for what appears in their respective departments.

THERE has not been much interest shown by the local oratorical association so far this year. This is unfortunate. If the University is ever to win the state contest, her representatives must put more time upon the preparation of the orations than has been customary in the past. It has been said, and we think truly, that the University orators do not work so hard in preparing for the state contest as do the representatives from some of the other schools of the state. The reason assigned for this is that here the students employ all their vacant time in investigating special topics connected with their regular work. In other words that the time that might be used in making preparations for the state contest is spent in a

more profitable manner. Admitting that it is more profitable for advanced students to follow certain special lines of study than it is to prepare thoroughly for the state contest, the question naturally arises, why then are we in the state oratorical association? But since we are a member of the association we should try to win, and for this reason alone THE HESPERIAN desires to see some students patriotic enough to put less time upon studies and more time upon orations. Let us go to the next contest with an orator who has thoroughly prepared and there can be little doubt that the next winner of the state contest will be from the University of Nebraska. It is time, then, to decide when the local contest will be held, but above all it is important that all who intend to enter the home contest should begin to prepare. Only about three months till the state contest and still it is safe to say that no student of the University has yet written a line upon an oration for the local contest. We had better wake up, for unless we do there is no hope for us is the coming state contest.

IT is frequently said that fraternities are founded for noble purposes and that in all cases they exert a powerful influence for good upon the different members. Let us examine this statement a little and see if it be true. It is seen that the new student wears good clothes and consequently it is assumed that he has a large sized pocketbook. He is set upon by the members of a fraternity. After an acquaintance of a month or less he decides to cast his fortunes with those who profess to love him and for whom he in turn cherishes tender feelings. Now it is absolutely impossible for any man to form a correct estimate of another's character in so short a time. But although common sense teaches us that no man is infallible, yet we find that no one leaves a fraternity after having joined it although in many cases it it must be distasteful to him. Again the members of a fraternity may sometimes be deceived in their man and initiate one whose moral character is not entirely faultless or who for other reasons is not all that he was supposed to be. In such a case the only proper course for the fraternity to pursue would be to expel that member, but how often has a member been expelled from a fraternity? Instead of expelling the undesirable member his brothers usually undertake to defend him and to keep secret as much as possible his faults, thus becoming in a measure at least responsible for whatever wrongs he may do. In time this undesirable member must inevitably have a bad influence upon his associates no matter how upright and noble they may be, and perhaps it may not give offense to the fraternity members if we remark that a few of them lack a little of having yet arrived at per-