

THE inter-state oratorical contest is drawing near. Let us give our orator the most hearty and loyal support. No less than a dozen representatives should go from the state university. The Wesleyans, of course, will be there with a strong cohort. Can't we charter a car and go over to Des Moines in a style that will make our orator feel, on that memorable night, that we appreciate his efforts? We could go much cheaper in this way, and certainly much more agreeably. It is no longer Gates, or Doane, Cotner or the U of N, but Nebraska that we represent. We all feel that, when the final account is taken, Nebraska will be in the immediate vicinity. Let us bear in mind that in delivery our orator is a tower of strength and that hearty support means everything to him. Gates and Doane and Cotner let's see that this is done in the latest and most approved style. Can't we get up a party of twenty-five or thirty?

By AN act of the last legislature the regents are empowered to charge tuition in the departments of law, of medicine, and of the fine arts. With a view to the establishment of a law college, correspondence has been carried on with the various bar associations, inviting them to send representatives to meet with the regents at the session of June 9. The matter will be fully canvassed at this meeting and if favored by the bar association the regents will establish the school. The Central Law college of Lincoln will probably be incorporated and thus be made the law department of the university. It is greatly to be hoped that the plan will be favorably considered. The state is certainly in need of such a department and if it is established it will be well attended. The Central Law college is now thoroughly established, and its incorporation would be of great advantage to the university.

THE legislature has passed the university appropriations item by item as recommended by the board of regents. The total sum granted for the next biennium is about one third of a million. The whole of this snug sum belongs to the university, being realized from the income of its various endowments. This money could be used for no other purpose and the legislature simply did its duty. Yet it is to be commended for not attempting, as former legislatures have done, to make political capital by reducing this appropriation. The funds of the university are simply placed in the hands of the state treasurer as a trust fund to be paid out as needed. The United States government and the state have richly endowed the school. The revenues from this endowment should be by act of legislature placed at the disposal of the regents. The state and national appropriations for the common schools are not paid over by act of legislature but by the state superintendent of

public instruction. Why should not the university endowment be placed on a similar basis?

It is unfortunate that the university can give no pecuniary aid to the proposed summer school. Money expended in bringing the state into closer contact and sympathy with us is surely well expended. The regents have however acted wisely in throwing open the library and laboratories to the teachers of the state for study during the summer vacation. This will attract the best and most enthusiastic teachers from every part of the state, and will certainly result in making the university better and more favorably known throughout the state. Much good work has been done in extending the reputation of the university, but much more remains to be done. The students may aid very materially in this matter by encouraging the teachers of their community to take advantage of the opportunity offered in the summer school. This is a debt we owe our *alma mater*. Let us with a hearty good will extend the influence and reputation of our *alma mater* whenever and wherever an opportunity is afforded.

As improvements seem to be the order of the day since the appropriation passed, THE HESPERIAN makes the suggestion that the chapel be supplied with new hymn books. Those with which we are now furnished, have been in daily use for five years and it is no wonder that the books, as well as the songs, are becoming a little worn. This defect is one that may be easily remedied and an improvement would be thankfully received by the entire body of students.

THAT the reputation of our faculty is not confined within the limits of the university circle, is shown by the appointments of Lieutenant Griffith as senior aid-de camp on the governors staff, and that of Professor Hicks, as chairman of Lincoln's board of public works. Lieutenant Griffith has the additional honor conferred upon him, of being sent to Denver to meet President Harrison, and welcome him to our state.

SPECIAL WORK.

The Parliamentary Franchise in English Boroughs Before 1689.

Nothing to my mind shows better the practical excellence of England's form of government and the sound sense of her people, than the way in which the parliamentary franchise in English boroughs has been reformed during the last seventy-five years. A century ago the great body of the freemen in English boroughs were wholly disenfranchised. Self-elective oligarchies ruled many of the chief borongas. Towns like Old Sarum which had been deserted, sent representatives to parliament by virtue of ancient custom. Thriving cities, such as Manchester and Leeds, were unrepresented in parliament, because, forsooth, they were not in existence in ancient times.