

students in attendance at the University for the first year, to population, was nearly the same as at present—about one to one thousand. Those of us who had assembled on that bright autumn morning, did the best we could to occupy the benches in the chapel, calculated to seat about two hundred and fifty persons. The chapel of that period was not a very inviting room. About all it had to recommend it was cubic content. The floor was level; there was no gallery except across the south end, accomodating about one hundred persons; a rectangular platform was raised at the north end, about twelve feet in width and extending from window to window. The newly plastered white walls, the woodwork, including benches all freshly painted white, gave to the whole room a ghastly appearance which was far from pleasant. In the winter season there was added to the furniture two large red hot stoves; yet we were frequently frozen out.

Lincoln was then a little place of about three thousand people. There was no water except the primitive well, no sewerage, comparatively few sidewalks, no street cars or pavements. A gas plant was just beginning operations. The University campus was "away out," and it was about as raw a piece of prairie as could be found, save for the building just completed.

At first only a few rooms in the main building were occupied. They were with one exception on the south side on the first and second floors. The preparatory school, the departments of Greek, (ancient languages) and Mathematics were assigned to the rooms which they still occupy. These are noteworthy examples of the tenacity of custom in the development of institutions. The Chancellor's office was in the room now used as a lecture room by the department of Philosophy. The room opposite eastward, was occupied by the janitor. Then, one man taught the natural sciences, Chemistry, Physics, Botany, Zoology and Geology, and the room now used by the business and finance officers was the general science lec-

ture room. The library and reading room occupied the space now assigned to the department of American History. The Museum occupied the west room on the first floor in the north wing, now used as the book store room for the library. The Palladian literary society, organized soon after the opening of the first term, occupied the corresponding room in the north wing on the east side, now used as the general reading room. The room now used as the Chancellor's office was the general science apparatus room. The department of English Literature occupied the south west room on the second floor. The only science accompanied by practical laboratory work was Chemistry. But the equipment for experimental Physics was the most *exhaustive*. It consisted chiefly of a large air pump. The Chemical laboratory occupied the rooms now assigned to the department of Civil Engineering on the first floor.

On one occasion there was a remarkable reaction in the chemical laboratory. A large water tank had been erected against the north wall in the northeast corner room, for supplying water to the work tables. Behind one of the timbers supporting the tank and between the post and the wall, we discovered that a large rattlesnake had gone into winter quarters. We soon captured the creature and put him to soak. But it made our nerves a little unsteady for some time afterward when we reflected upon the fact that for days possibly, we had been passing back and forth within a foot of the dangerous reptile.

In the limited space assigned to me it is impossible to do more than make slight reference to the early college sports, songs, yells etc. They were all here in a healthy state of activity, but different of course, from those of today. The Greek letter fraternities were also abroad in the land, but there were not sufficient numbers in college classes above Freshmen, to make installation of a chapter possible.

One thing has come down to us from the