

A University Need.

In the University of Nebraska, when a student who is away from home is sick, he must depend on his fellow students for care, and pay his own expenses. After he recovers, he is not only behind in his work but has the additional burden of doctors' bills to pay. We are all proud of the number of self-supporting students in our university. Many are working their way from year to year, and others are borrowing money with the expectation of paying it back as soon as their school days are over. If one of these students has incurred heavy expenses through sickness, he is probably compelled to leave school. In case of death, this burden of debt is left to parents, who often times can ill afford to bear it. Besides this, there are some who do not receive sufficient care when sick. Every parent and student would feel safer if some provision were made to secure them against these risks.

Some of the eastern universities have endowment funds for the care of their sick. But Nebraska is a young state, and has produced no wealthy men to leave us legacies. We are also democratic enough to believe in paying our own way. This can be done and yet not leave the entire burden to the individual student. If each one of the fifteen hundred students would pay a membership fee of one dollar a year into a society which the students might organize, an ample fund would be created. Every one would then feel that he had an interest in this fund and would have no hesitancy in drawing upon it. No student need begrudge investing a dollar against possible misfortune. Even if no return were ever received, one would feel that the money had been used for a good purpose.

This fund might be put in charge of a board of control consisting of representatives of the college classes, the faculty and the board of regents. I include the board of regents and the faculty because they would give permanence to the organization. College generations pass so quickly that there would be no definite policy if the entire management were left to the students.

JOHN H. MCGUFFEY.

An Appeal for a Lecture Course.

Last week one of the representative papers published by the students of the University of Iowa came into my hands, and in this paper I noticed an account of a lecture recently given in Iowa City, by Robert J. Burdette, under the auspices of the university. In the same paper announcement was made of a lecture soon to be given by Bishop Fowler under the same auspices. The question at once suggested itself to my mind: If the University of Iowa, with its six hundred collegiate students, can maintain a first-class lecture course, can not the University of Nebraska, with almost twice six hundred students, do the same?

In almost every college and university with which

I am familiar, an annual lecture course is an established thing. The lectures in such courses are usually given by men who are favorites with Chautauqua assemblies; men like General John B. Gordon, Dr. Gunsaulus, Henry Watterson, Booker T. Washington, Dr. McIntyre, Murat Halstead, Joseph Cook and many others who might be named; men who are acknowledged orators and who have something entertaining and instructive for their hearers. Occasionally these courses have included one or more entertainments by prominent concert companies or readers. Colleges with but a few hundred students and situated in places where little outside patronage could be expected have succeeded in maintaining successful lecture courses every year, and there is little reason to suppose that the same could not be done here, where there are a thousand or more students and where a great deal of patronage could be expected from the cultured, refined people of the city.

About the only valid objection that can be urged against the maintenance of a lecture course is its expense. It is true that prominent lecturers have to be paid what some might call exorbitant prices. The customary course of five or six lectures would doubtless necessitate an outlay of five hundred dollars or more. If two hundred and fifty season tickets at two dollars each could be sold, a sufficient amount would be guaranteed to cover the entire expense of such a course, leaving out of consideration all paid admissions, and a great many of these could be expected in a city as large as Lincoln.

That the people of the city are interested in and would support a lecture course was manifested last winter when Ingersoll lectured here; and there are several men available for lecture courses who are equal or superior to the arch-infidel as entertainers. The students in the university are not millionaires. Many of them have to make great sacrifices in order to remain in school. Yet these students are as cultured and refined as any we have in the university, and many of them would be willing to sacrifice even more than they are at present rather than miss the advantages of a lecture course. On the other hand, there are many students here who are amply able to attend a series of good lectures without the least sacrifice whatever.

The advantages to be derived from coming in contact with leaders and moulders of thought need hardly be stated. They are apparent to every one who thinks, and it is useless to occupy the space of the HESPERIAN in setting them forth.

It is perhaps too late this year to take any action in the matter, as half the collegiate year is already gone. However why not plan this year for the establishment of a good lecture course next winter? Is not some one of the literary societies or the Y. M. C. A. or some other organization in the university enough interested in the matter to take the initiative?

SAM B. SLOAN.