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For some time many complaints have come to the Hesperian that papers and notes have been taken out of the mail box by some unscrupulous wretch. We have refrained from making mention of the fact, because we thought that such dishonest work would soon stop, but it continued. Suspicion pointed to a young man prominent in University affairs, and he was forced to return a note which was taken from the box. Anyone who would do such an underhanded deed should be published far and wide, but for the present we withhold all names connected with the affair.

Many of our students are inclined toward literary matters of which the Kiote and other publications bear evidence. But, the great bulk of the student body does not know what is going on in the state legislature, saying nothing of affairs in our national congress or our foreign relations. The classes in journalism and public speaking are exceptions. The students in these classes are required to keep informed on the issues of the day. A University man often fails on current events in a teachers' examination. There is no excuse for such indifference to the library advantages in the University and the city of Lincoln.

The sacrificing efforts of Mrs. Manning and of Mr. Schuyler Miller in the interests of public speaking in our University, and especially in so far as the recent local contest is concerned, deserve, and not only deserve, but, we believe, receive the sincere appreciation of those receiving their instruction and training. Mrs. Manning was diligent and faithful in her labors with each and every one of the contestants and helped them wonderfully in their manner of delivery, as was very apparent in those who participated in either of the two contests held prior to the local. She drilled them daily for the last two or three weeks, and many times sacrificed her own interests for theirs. And what speaks still better of her work,

is the feeling that every contestant had, all along, of her true interest in each speaker, and her decided impartiality to none. Not the least suspicion of impartiality to any individual is expressed by any of the contestants. The same is true of the helpful suggestions and aid given by Mr. Miller in every instance. For several weeks, out of hours and in hours, he has spent his time in suggesting and pointing out defects or depicting merits in each one of the orations. In nearly all cases he has gone over the manuscripts several times with the authors, and helped plane off the rough edges or fill up the depressions, and in all instances his efforts have resulted in more polished productions. Not only has he labored on the manuscripts, but he has in several cases and whenever so desired, heard the individuals rehearse. His suggestions have been practical and to the point.

The HESPERIAN is glad of the chance to commend the work done this year for debating and oratory by the heads of the departments of Elocution and Public Speaking, and to prophesy that with the continuation of the joint efforts of these two departments the University of Nebraska will soon assume a more deserving rank in the art of public speaking among institutions of its kind.

The Oberlin Review thus explains a recent defeat in debate: "Last Friday evening Oberlin met Ohio Wesleyan in debate and was decisively defeated. Although the result was due to a combination of circumstances, with due credit to all other elements in the contest, the battle was won by Miss Mary Beal. Coming into the debate at an opportune moment, without finding it necessary to extemporize a rebuttal, she delivered a finished and well worked out oration in such a winning and tranchant manner that she won a hostile audience, confused her opponents and captured the decision of the judges. But to leave out personality it was the same old story—form won. It has been a lesson of every debate in the league so far that not so much depends on what is said as how it is said. It is only a common sense recognition of the fact that the mind can be appealed to on the side of the emotions as effectually as it is compelled through the intellect by arrays of fact. Under a just interpretation of the question Oberlin presented the more solid argument, and yet when the judges were called upon to decide which team had done the most effective debating they had but one choice to make. Oberlin has gained one debate through oratorical form and has lost two because the greater form was on the other side. In this lies a suggestion for the future." Nebraska can furnish a similar testimony. There is no question but that the speaker who has an easy and graceful bearing on the stage will, as a rule, receive a better mark from the judges than will he who confines himself to simple facts, paying no attention to his delivery. With the numerous facilities that we have in the shape of debating clubs, literary societies and classes in public speaking and elocution, there is no excuse for anyone who neglects his manner of delivery. We do not want set speeches in debate but we do want careful and forceful enunciation, easy and graceful gestures.