

Y. M. C. A. BUILDINGS.

Enlargement of scope and growth in material equipment are the most pronounced evidences of progress in American institutions of learning. To the academic hall here have been added departments of law, of medicine, of engineering and of agriculture, besides the summer school and the system of university extension. Each year sees new buildings being erected, better equipment being introduced and more adequate accommodations being provided for the ever increasing body of students. Nor is this spirit of enlargement restricted to the college proper. It is as well the phenomenon of college voluntary organizations. The athletic association must have its gymnasium; fraternities are building chapter houses; graduate clubs and literary societies in most institutions have undertaken to provide themselves with permanent homes. So, it is not surprising that the Young Men's Christian association—the largest student organization in the world—is the pioneer in meeting the growing need of an adequate building, equipped and maintained as a center for student activities.

Princeton college was the first to erect such a building, securing a home in 1879 at a cost of \$20,000. Since then about \$2,000,000 have been expended in the erection of college association buildings. Princeton is now spending \$30,000 for an addition to her original plant. Dwight hall of Yale cost \$60,000; Barnes hall of Cornell \$55,000. The State University of Iowa association owns a \$30,000 building, and the associations of Johns Hopkins and California universities have erected buildings costing \$20,000 and \$30,000, respectively. Altogether, about thirty institutions own association buildings.

The object of such a building is to provide, through the association, a center for student life. It becomes a home for men away from home; it becomes a social center, a musical headquarters, and, of course, it is pre-eminently the religious center. The need of a building in our university is pressing. The work of the association is hampered and restricted at every point. The social department is especially in need of accommodations. There are about fifteen hundred men upon the campus during the year. Of these three hundred are members of fraternities and about three hundred belong to literary societies. Duplicates reduce the number to about five hundred. What social life have the other one thousand men? A building will enable the association, to a large extent, to fill an empty place in the lives of these men.

The University of Wisconsin is going to have an association building. Plans are not yet complete, but provisions will be made for reading rooms, library, games, reception parlors, Bible classes and offices. A large auditorium for lectures, concerts, etc., and a smaller lecture room for the regular association meetings, besides a music room and a dark room for amateur photographers, will be special features. Provision will also be made for adequate quarters for the Young Women's association. Such a building should cost about \$50,000.

The experience of colleges has proved that an association building gives prominence, stability, popularity and dignity to the Christian work. And it intensifies the work of the Christian men. It rallies the Christian forces and makes possible a thorough organization of them.

No stronger testimony of the advantages of a building can be adduced than a few extracts from statements of well known men.

A. A. Stagg, director of athletics of the University of Chicago and formerly general secretary of the Yale as-

sociation in 1889 and 1890, says: "The influence of Dwight hall has been the leading factor in the remarkable change in the religious life of Yale during these last four years. From it as a center have radiated all the numerous lines of Christian activity that are the forces in this change. It has placed the Yale association in a position of dignity that has appealed to and secured the support of our leading men in all classes."

President C. K. Adams, while connected with Cornell college, said: "The association building, therefore, forms not only a very desirable, but really a very necessary feature of university life. It gives a Christian home to young men who wish to keep up their religious interests, and in various ways encourages and stimulates religious activity. I think that most of my colleagues would say that no institution or building connected with the university is more constantly used; certainly no other exerts so strong and wholesome an influence."

Professor G. H. Emmott of Johns Hopkins: "There is an atmosphere of homelike comfort and genuine practical Christianity about the hall (Levering hall, the association building) which cannot fail to influence all who come within its walls."

E. L. Shuey, trustee of Otterbein university: "The parlors, the gymnasium and the association hall have become the social, physical and spiritual centers of the college as fully as the recitation room and libraries are the intellectual centers. Since the erection of the association building all the college life and work have been uplifted, each department re-enforcing and stimulating the other. The prominent position thus occupied by the association gives it greater influence in all the college departments."

G. S. PHELPS,

General Secretary U. W. Y. M. C. A.

MORTON MAKES GIFTS.

Secretary Barrett of the state historical society received a collection of very interesting material from J. Sterling Morton last week. There are several personal letters especially interesting. One is a letter of introduction from Lewis Cass to Governor Burt written in 1854. Another is a letter from John Kelley, one of Tammany's managers, to Mr. Morton written in 1880. It was written to correct some reports that New York democrats were wavering. Mr. Kelley promised the state of New York for Hancock and English by a larger majority than that given to Tilden, namely, twenty-one thousand. The state went twenty-two thousand for Garfield. There is also a "first prize" card awarded to Nebraska's exhibition of apples at Boston in 1873. Most of the material concerns territorial Nebraska, such as a petition to Morton, acting governor, in 1859, to organize troops to defend citizens against the Indians. The petition is dated Omaha City, July 3, 1859. Besides these there are a number of reports, documents, briefs of cases and drafts of bills, valuable as relics of early Nebraska history.

The junior promenade this year promises to be a success from every point of view. A large attendance is expected and no effort is being spared by the committee to make the affair one of great enjoyment. The call of the chairman in this week's issue of the Nebraskan-Hesperian for advanced sale of tickets that the auditorium may be secured should be heeded by all who expect to be in attendance. With such an increase of floor space it will be possible to avoid the jam that usually characterizes the junior affair.

THE SERENADE.

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He sung a rag-time tune,
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