

ORATORY AND STORIES.

Arrangements have just been completed for a contest in extempore speaking, to be held some time in May, between the University of Minnesota and the University of Nebraska. The plan provides that each university shall select in its own way two speakers to represent it. Some weeks previous to the contest, four subjects suitable for extempore orations are to be chosen, the plan for these selection being essentially the same as that now in use in selecting questions for inter-state debating contests. Each speaker prepares as fully as possible upon all these subjects. On the evening of the contest, at a time not to exceed two hours from the beginning of the program, the representatives of the two universities shall meet and decide by lot what subject each speaker shall discuss and also the order of the program. The intention is to have as far as possible the language of each speaker the product of the moment. Judges are instructed to discriminate against any speaker whose speech shows evidence of having been committed as a whole, or in any considerable part. The contest is open to all students of the university. The plans for the local contest will soon be ready.

In connection with the contest in extempore oratory, opportunity will be afforded for the story-writers of our university to try their work against that of Minnesota. At any time previous to four weeks preceding the contest, stories may be offered in competition, and from these three will be selected. These, along with a similar number from Minnesota, will be sent to a committee of competent judges, and the two stories taking highest rank will be read immediately after the contest in oratory, and pending the decision of the judges. Stories are to be upon any subject and treated in any way, and are to be between 2,500 and 3,000 words in length. The manner in which the stories from each university are to be chosen has not been definitely decided upon, but is to be announced in the near future.

The following has direct bearing upon these contests. It is taken from the Minnesota Ariel:

"The University of Kansas has written to ask the privilege of joining the western oratorical league upon the basis of the provisional constitution which we submitted to Nebraska. Kansas suggests that the presidency of the league be given this year to Nebraska, as the contest is to be held there, and the vice-presidency be given to Minnesota for the coming year. "If Kansas is admitted to the league there will be two representatives from each university instead of three as formerly suggested. The subjects for the orations will be announced at the first of next term, so that two full months may be put into the preparation of the orations."

Y. W. C. A. MEETING.

Miss Rosa Bouton led the usual Sunday afternoon meeting of the university Y. W. C. A. association last Sunday. The meeting was very helpful, and a practical subject was considered—"Friendship and God, Our Friend." We do not let God be the practical, every day friend to us that he would like to be. We let him into our dreaming and praying, but not enough into our living. The election of the officers for the coming year was announced and the good judgment of the electors commended. The members of the society resolved to double the attendance at these meetings, feeling that the girls who do not need the influence of this society in their lives are few.

MECHANIC ARTS SCHOOL.

Among the university publications now in process of publication is one entitled "The School of Mechanic Arts." This school was organized to give some of the fundamental principles of mechanical work to those young men who have neither the time, preparation, nor money to take

the regular course in engineering. It is not a trade school since no specific trade is taught, but the elements of all the more important trades are given, thus giving the student the opportunity to choose his own trade.

The applicant for admission must be at least sixteen years of age, and must satisfy those in charge that he can successfully carry the work. A good knowledge of arithmetic and English grammar is essential. This is not a preparatory school to the regular university courses, for after completing this course it will require considerably more preparatory work to enable the student to enter the lowest class in the university. The next year begins September 11, 1900.

The subjects taught will be algebra, geometry, trigonometry, rhetoric, and composition, elementary engineering, mechanical drawing, carpentry and wood turning, pattern making, foundry work, physics, elementary steam engineering, and electrical engineering, machine design, machine shop work and forge work.

This publication as well as any of the other university publications can be had free by writing to the Chancellor, stating which publication is wanted.

COLLEGE NOTES.

Yale sophomores have organized a new literary club called the Quirites. Yale will hold a dual bicycle meet with Columbia at New Haven, in the latter part of May.

Notre Dame has a new athletic field. "Dad" Moulton is laying out the running track.

Princeton and Harvard have agreed to play only one baseball game this year, instead of three as in former years.

The Yale crews have already commenced rowing on the harbor and Pennsylvania expects to be on the open water soon.

The cast for the comic opera to be given by the students of the University of Chicago consists of fifty singers and twenty dancers.

In Yale's spring football practice no attention will be given to kicking nor to individual players; team work will form the main feature of the work.

The Pennsylvania crew candidates are working on the machines under the supervision of Ellis Ward. Pennsy's crew is almost identical with that of last year.

The men who are rooming in Snell Hall at the University of Chicago have adopted a house cap. It will be made of dark navy blue material with a large "S" embroidered in maroon colored silk on the front.

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