

THE HESPERIAN.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Steam heat at last! Its introduction does not mark an epoch in the history of anything or anybody, but to a race of shivering students it is the most welcome article that could possibly be brought into the building.

THE use of the library has always been urged by this paper upon its University readers. Frequent and energetic protests against the abuse of the same will soon be noticed if conversation and sociability within its sacred precincts do not cease.

RECENT events convince us that the spirit of mischief is not entirely dormant in the neighborhood of the University. It is perfectly natural for young men who have done hard mental work to make fools of themselves when an opportunity is given, hence we will not frown upon their horse play. So long as the fun stops short of wanton destruction of property THE HESPERIAN will be found the champion of the "rioters." As the *State Journal* remarks, "in after years they will meet trouble enough to balance it up."

THE illness of the Registrar of the University gives THE HESPERIAN an opportunity to call attention to the excellent work done by that lady since she has had charge of the office. The duties of this position are heavy, but she has always discharged them promptly and satisfactorily. The students especially are indebted to her for the faithful manner in which she has watched over records. More than one tangled course has been straightened, and more than one careless student has been kept "regular" through the kindly vigilance of the Registrar. The University hopes for her speedy recovery.

IT is the opinion of this paper that the University could attract a large number of students from the south and west by giving special facilities for the study of Spanish. The rapid development of the south-west, coupled with the opening of Mexico and South America to the business men of the United States, already makes the command of the Castilian dialect of considerable financial benefit to the young man who lives near our southern border. A chair of Spanish would certainly increase the attendance and enhance the reputation of the University.

GAS and steam are hereafter to be paid for by the societies. This decision shows a spirit so niggardly that we fear some new force is at work endeavoring to create a reputation for economy. It would be but little more unreasonable to saddle upon the classes the expense of keeping the recitation rooms habitable; then, too, if we are to have genuine economy, why not charge the professors for the gas burned in their evening studies, or tax the janitor for the light and fuel used in his room? If money is to be saved by the University let it be saved with a vengeance. No half way measures should be adopted in the present crisis.

THE feverish anxiety of the literary societies to increase their membership is unnecessary and ridiculous. The real objects of the society are forgotten in the desire to make it "popular" or a great success socially. These things will do very well incidentally, but the organization that does the hardest literary work will in the end be "the best society." As to membership, each of the three societies has to-day more members than can be used with profit to the individuals. Twenty-five workers is the limit in many colleges. With us the number is nearer seventy-five; the result is altogether too little work and too much shirking of responsibility.

THE re-election of Regents Gere and Burnham should be a cause for congratulation to the University, though that event was practically assured at the time of their nomination. A rather unpleasant incident, however, is the fact that the man who has perhaps done the most unselfish and able work for the institution of any member of the Board since its organization was slightly "scratched" by the followers of one of the professional politicians of the state. The reduced vote may not be uncomplimentary to the gentleman, but it shows more clearly than ever that the control of the University must be placed above the reach of the demagogue. Until that is done we have no assurance of the permanency of the present able management.