

the fraternities are fast losing some of their most cherished characters, and are becoming openly mere social clubs from which all nonsensical mystery has been stripped. This may be but the beginning of the end. We hope so.

WITH the closing days of 1889 passed away the time-honored, and sometimes dishonored, institution of per cent grades in the University of Nebraska. Its abolishment is without doubt a progressive move. The evils of the system were many and apparent. It may be that the best substitute has not yet been found. The making of five grades, designated by significant words is open to some of the same objections the per cent system was. However when once the old order of things is done away with, further change is easy. If the new plan works badly, remedies will be applied. We may congratulate ourselves on having a faculty which is not afraid to make innovations if it deems them wise and best.

A GAIN the season has arrived when the members of the various state societies come to the University to attend their annual meetings. Horticulturalists, agriculturalists, bee-keepers, and members of the State Historical society in turn meet for different purposes. But each meeting makes some of Nebraska's best citizens better acquainted with the work of the University; its needs and aims. Then, too, the professors are enabled to give much aid to the societies by reason of their knowledge of the scientific side of many questions. Students who are interested in the different pursuits can hear interesting papers by specialists, and can see how science is applied to practical vocations. There are good results to both sides of the arrangement—to the University and to the societies—and we hope it may long continue. Anything which makes the people of the state know more of the University is to be encouraged.

THOSE who go forth from colleges and universities, having mastered political economy and ethics, and having analyzed the past mistakes of all governments and political parties, should provide a constantly purifying element to the politics of our country. That is a very pleasing theory, and we heartily wish the facts supported the truth of it. But they don't. One has only to watch the course of any college election to see why. We venture to say that a student election will develop more schemes and schemers than a presidential election, considering the number engaged in it. This simply shows that political maneuvering and scheming arise from the elements of human nature which mere superficial study of abstract principles will not do away with. Ambition,

selfishness, prejudice, deceit, misrepresentation, all these have their part in causing the lively intrigues which always characterize college elections. All these vices are in mild form and pass under different names but they are present, and a college course does not eradicate them. Nothing short of a general moral regeneration will purify politics.

WHILE writing these last editorials of the present editor-in-chief—the last college editorials we shall ever write—we feel moved to express a few personal feelings that are roused by the thought of parting from the old HESPERIAN. In ceasing any occupation which has commanded one's earnest thought and attention; in leaving the old home the college, the old friends, many strong emotions fill one's heart and mind. But the world has grown familiar with them through the frequent valedictory sighs which greet its ear. We shall weary you by no analysis of our regrets. We shall pain you by no exhibition of our tears. But before we take our leave of the paper which has been so much in our thoughts for the last four years, we wish to declare our affection for and firm faith in, not only this representative of the college press, but the college press as a whole. We have read the ridicule of the grown-up newspapers; we have heard the gibe of the unappreciative college man, but we merely pity the short-sightedness of the one, and condemn the disloyalty of the other. We do not believe in the justice of either. The witty editor scoffs at the immaturity of which his own perfection is the fruit. The time was when his own ideas were as crude and his own literary style as faulty as any college editor's in the land. But that did not keep him from entering the profession of journalism. He simply practiced on the suffering public until he could think more clearly and write more smoothly. Now the difference between these sneering editors and the journalistic recruits who go yearly from their college papers into the ranks of newspaper men, is just this: the latter enter their profession better prepared to take it up understandingly, to learn it quickly, and to practice it intelligently than were those same scoffers when they began their newspaper career. It is fashionable to ridicule the idea of a college man becoming a good newspaper man. There are many editors who seem to think the only proper preparation for deep, broad thinking and lucid writing is in handling the ink-roller and the composing-stick. True many good editors have "risen from the ranks," but their success might have been greater if their minds had been broadened by intelligent study under wise direction; if nature, as disclosed by science, and literature could have thrown side-lights on questions they dealt with; if they had viewed political issues not merely in the