

classical society is ever going to accomplish anything it must have a room set apart for its exclusive use. If the desired-for-room were obtained there could be some hope that a little enthusiasm might be aroused in the classical department. Books might be purchased and the society would have a place to keep them. There is also a literary society that is in need of a hall. We do not intend to say anything about a gymnasium for already that has been harped upon considerably and to no purpose. Now we do not find fault with the scientific department, but we do hope that some other departments may receive a little attention.

WE admire class spirit when it shows itself in the proper manner. Usually class spirit in this University has been only a temporary craze, suddenly breaking out and then quickly passing away. This class spirit has appeared among us in different forms, but it must be admitted that the Sophomores, by establishing a class paper, have hit upon the most original and desirable plan for exhibiting loyalty to their class. When the *Sophomorian* first appeared we did not know but that time and hard work would be too much for class spirit, but in this we are mistaken, for the sheet still seems to flourish and is surely improving, although it has by no means arrived at perfection. It must be encouraging to the editors of the *Sophomorian* to find that the city papers have clipped some of their articles. We wish our friends success.

SINCE the new board of editors assume control of THE HESPERIAN with the present number, it may be of interest to some of our friends, who were not pleased with the stand taken by the former board upon the fraternity question, to know our position on this all important matter. Doubtless most of the students in this institution know in what light we regard the Greek letter societies; but in order that there may be no misunderstanding in the matter we wish to announce to all that we shall follow as nearly as possible the course so ably pursued by our predecessors. We believe in the principle of barbarianism as opposed to fraternities; of the open society as opposed to the secret society; of a rule of democracy as opposed to that of plutocracy and snobocracy; of the universal brotherhood of man as opposed to the brotherhood of any small clique or faction. We have seen with pleasure the healthy and vigorous growth of barbarianism in this University during the last term and while we admit that the literary societies are not all following an ideal course yet they are all prosperous. The fraternities are losing ground and have been ever since the beginning of

the school year. It might be a little premature to predict the early demise of any of the fraternities, but even if it be admitted, for the sake of argument, that they are all upon a firm foundation, yet they no longer threaten the very existence of the open societies. We have passed through a trying ordeal and are now more powerful than ever before. We shall continue from time to time to express our views upon Greek letter societies, to point out certain things in their system of which we do not approve.

DURING the year there has been a noticeable lack of interest in the local oratorical association. The fact that there will be held in this city both the state and the inter-state contests has failed to arouse anything like a proper feeling of enthusiasm. If we are content to drag along in this listless fashion we must not complain if we are again defeated. It was only after several failures that we were able to get together a quorum of the association. Each of the literary societies is entitled to two representatives, but strange to say will have only one, while the fraternities have no desire for oratorical greatness. However indifferent we have been in the past we must not fail to give our representative the strongest support in the coming state contest, nor must we fail to give the representatives of the various states who will soon be her guests, a hearty welcome. Since the inter-state contest is to be held under the auspices of this University it behooves every student to do his full share in according the visitors a cordial greeting.

WE publish in another column an article on the relations of students to societies, written by a graduate of this University. It will certainly be of interest to all our students; and anyone who has not yet taken a stand upon society politics should carefully consider the arguments brought forward against the fraternities. But in treating this matter the author has conceded to the fraternities that they do a certain amount of literary work. Now we do not know whether or not the secret societies make any such pretensions, but if they do, we are still inclined to doubt it. One thing at least the fraternities must admit, that their efforts to maintain a literary society has ended in failure. If each fraternity is so anxious to do better work than any other, if each fraternity is so desirous, as they would have us believe, of appearing better than any other, why is it that the scheme adopted last year, by the now deceased Philodicean society, was abandoned? This scheme was, as many of our readers know, for each fraternity in turn to take charge of the program. Speaking about literary work in the fraternity meetings reminds us of an article we read in one of the