

has never met in Lincoln before. Let us prepare to entertain them in good style. It will take money to be sure. Let us, if necessary, call on the business men of Lincoln for financial aid. Our visitors should be shown all the sights while here. Every student who feels any loyalty to the university should take a personal interest in this matter. Let us make up a subscription of several hundred dollars and do things up in style. Everybody rustle and do something.

AN important session of the local oratorical association was held Monday March 3. A constitution and by-laws were adopted. By the new arrangement any student in the university may enter the contest. The limit is fixed at ten, however, who may really go through and appear on the class. If more than ten enter the ten receiving the highest marks on thought and composition are to appear as contestants on delivery. The others have nothing further to do with the contest. There are to be three judges on composition and thought and three others on delivery. The new way has many advantages over the old. Some dissatisfaction is heard because the clause making membership in an open literary society necessary for eligibility to enter the contest was left out. That would have made it necessary for the fraternity people to continue their Philodicean society if they ever expected any of their number to go on the contest. It seems to us that the clause in question should have been inserted. But then some of the frat people here would leave the impression that the reason a University man didn't win in the state contest last year was because no frats took part in the contest. Oratorical glory is too small game for fraternity people here. They prefer something more important—the offices in some of the classes for instance.

QUITE a little comment has been heard on the action of the electric light company management in discharging the university students who were so ably doing the real work and furnishing light for the citizens of Lincoln. The reason assigned for this wholesale dismissal was that they were not running the electric light works as a charitable institution for the state university students. No objection was made whatever to the way the boys were doing the work. In fact since the new crew have taken charge of things much dissatisfaction has been expressed because of the quality of the work done. Not a charitable institution for the support of students! This is refreshing indeed. As a piece genuine littleness this action is hard to equal. The students do not ask to be considered as subjects of public charity. It is true we receive consideration from the business men in

the way of voluntary reductions on books, etc., at times, but this new use of the term charity is indeed a strange one. Many of the students are able by working while in school to save money they already have; this will serve them when they leave the University. Very few are actually dependent on present employment to keep them in school. A few are. It is surely no crime. A young man or woman who fights life's battle in this way and by patience and struggling succeeds in securing a college education is far more worthy the honor and respect of the world than the distinguished gentlemen who were instrumental in letting the boys out. It is to be supposed that board of trade members would do everything in their power to encourage an institution which will benefit Lincoln more in time than any other two state institutions located here. This looks like encouragement.

The students spend annually in the city of Lincoln almost \$100,000. This, in addition to the amount appropriated by the legislature makes the grand total expended at present by the state and the students combined reach nearly \$200,000 per annum. Our university is gaining a reputation. We have here several professors whose services have been bid for by prominent eastern colleges and who are doing much to make this a great university. If our institution is to be made popular with the people of the state and a liberal policy fastened which will mean larger appropriations from the legislature how can business men hope to encourage this by refusing to aid in the way of employment young men who have pluck and energy enough to work their way through school. It is to be hoped that such action as this does not meet with the approbation of the citizens of Lincoln. Such action as this if made a public matter throughout the state would undoubtedly work by much harm to the University in promoting a feeling of antagonism toward Lincoln.

LITERARY.

The January number of the *New Review* contains a symposium on "Candour in English Fiction." The writers are noticeably of one opinion, that the English fiction of the present is insipid and not true to life, owing to the prudery of subject which restricts the choice of subject and mode of presentation to that which is pleasant and agreeable, however unreal; while, with rare inconsistency, the daily press revels unrebuked in the most offensive details of all sorts of crime. That is, in everyday life men want the truth; in fiction what the public demands is merely the gloss of truth. In thus criticising the taste of the public, to which the author of fiction must defer, these writers, needless to say, do not go to the extreme of justifying licentiousness of description. They hold that what is desired in fiction is truth to human nature and faithful presentation of the realities of human life. Anything less than this is necessarily devoid of interest. They