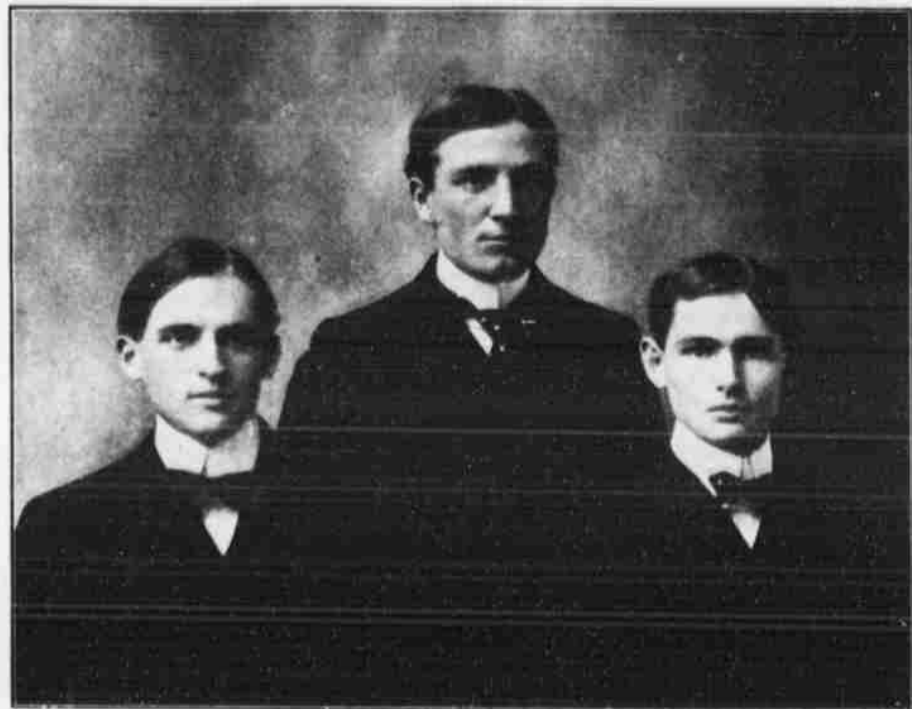


# State University of Iowa Debaters



E. K. Brown, H. E. Spangler, C. T. Kemmerer.  
IOWA DEBATERS AGAINST WISCONSIN.

**I**OWA CITY, Ia., Feb. 18.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—The interstate debating teams of the University of Iowa have been selected by the elections of the societies following the preliminary debates, and now two very earnest sets of young men are engaged in studying all about two questions that are agitating the public mind. The question which Iowa will debate with Wisconsin at Iowa City, April 26, is: "Is it desirable that our national banking laws should be so amended as to permit branch banking?" Iowa affirms this question, while Wisconsin argues against branch banking. The question to be debated by Minnesota and Iowa at Minneapolis, May 9, is: "Is it desirable that the United States retain permanent possession of the Philippines?" Minnesota affirms this question and Iowa denies.

The men who will represent Iowa in debate this year are much younger than have ever borne the standards for the last thirty years. Of the six debaters on the two interstate debates but one is a senior, whereas the general rule at Iowa is that to seniors alone belong the interstate debate honors. The younger students owe their places on the debates to their exceptional ability in rebuttal debating, to the tendency of the younger students at Iowa to push to the front, which is just now very marked, and to the possible ebb and flow of undergraduate ability which makes up in a younger class for an older class being slightly below the average in debating ability. The Minnesota debaters will be met by H. E. Hadley of Webster City, Edward H. McCoy of Dumont and Merritt Brackett of Iowa City for Iowa. The Hawkeye team against Wisconsin is composed of H. E. Spangler of Adair, E. K. Brown of Solon and C. T. Kemmerer of Eldridge. All are students in the college of liberal arts of the university. Spangler, Kemmerer and Brackett are members of Irving institute and Hadley, McCoy and Brown belong to the Zetagathian society.

## Local Interest in the Debates.

The final university debaters owe their elections largely to the outcome of the two preliminary debates between the two societies belonging to the debating league of the university. About these preliminaries, called for convenience by the name of the university against whom the final debate will be held, center all the society interest and loyalty. Long before they occur the societies are in a fever heat of expectation as to their outcome and for a week before their final occurrence the merits of the respective debaters are discussed as generally at the students' clubs and boarding houses as are the merits of the 'varsity' foot ball players in the fall or of the base ball men in the spring. Enormous quantities of pie, the staple boarding house dessert for dinner, change hands on the result of the debate, the members of the successful society frequently enjoying two or three or four pieces of pie regularly for dinner for the rest of the term, while the members of the losing society read up on the harm that pie does the human system. The interest of every society member in the final debate is not the interest of a partisan of two of his own society debaters whom he desires to see elected to the final debate, as would be the society's privilege if it won the debate. The true forensic society man imagines that the very existence of his society depends on its winning the two preliminary debates each year. On this record of victories the society will be able to make the best canvass of freshmen and develop other debaters, who, in turn will bring succeeding victories and prestige to the society. While the two societies have held their preliminary debates for over fifteen student generations without suffering loss of existence because of losing a preliminary debate, the society members feel crestfallen after every loss of a decision and at least two days are required to make a member of the society which did not win feel the equal of his fellow man.

## Rivalry and Its Results.

For the last two years the debates have

given equal honors to the Zetagathian society and to Irving institute. This year the Zetagathian society won two of the three judges' votes in the Minnesota preliminary and Irving institute secured the same decision in the Wisconsin preliminary. Last year the societies were reversed, the Zetagathians winning the Wisconsin preliminary and the Irvings the Minnesota debate. The Zetagathian society formerly won all the preliminary debates and in the fall of the year the newly elected president is always installed with copious references and extracts from the history of the society for the benefit of the admiring freshmen who have not decided which society they will care to join. The worship of the old debaters who won glory for their society is still active with the present Zetagathians and the views of a celebrated debater, though he has been out of the university for a decade, are still accepted as guiding by the society. Four or five years ago Irving institute stopped the procession of victories by winning one of the preliminaries and the next year the Irvings took both debates. This made both societies work the harder and the more careful in their elections of debaters, and the closeness of the debates is regarded by the debating coach and professors interested in debating as one of the best guarantees of the preservation of the excellence of the undergraduate debating standard.

## Where the Interest Centers.

The debating interests of the University of Iowa center around the Zetagathian and Irving societies. Of these the Zetagathians are the oldest, being founded before the civil war. Among the early records of the Zetagathian society is a note made of a challenge for debate received from the Irving society. The Zetagathians refused this, but resolved that they were ready to debate at any time with the Women's Debating society. In the early '70s, however, the Zetagathians consented to debate with men and the university debating system was commenced. The radical difference between the two societies in the debating is found in a clause in the Zetagathian constitution prohibiting any of its members from joining fraternities or Greek letter societies and prohibiting the election of fraternity men to membership in the society. The constitution of Irving institute contains a clause welcoming to membership all students who

desire to do forensic work. The cause of the expulsion of fraternity men from the Zetagathian society in early days was their tendency to vote too closely together in the elections.

## "Socks" as a Condition Precedent.

A larger element of the Zetagathian society than of Irving institute are said to have been from the farms and poorer homes and less sympathy with fraternity men existed in the Zetagathian society on that account. One of the names that still clings to the Zetagathian society members is that of "Sockless Zets." Its origin was somewhat the same as the history of the adoption of "Yankee Doodle" as the American song in the days of the revolution. The Zetagathians were, as a rule, poorer than the Irvings and some of their members were currently reported to be not so much inclined to observe all the usages of polite society as they were to cheat the clothier and the washerwoman. The taunt "Sockless Zets" was applied in a scornful speech by an Irving president and taken up at once by the Zetagathians. To this day the feet of all candidates for membership to the Zetagathian society are examined by a specially appointed committee to ascertain whether the candidates wear socks, and no man has yet been initiated into the Zetagathian society who has not been cleared of the odium of belonging to the sock-wearing class by the unanimous vote of the investigating committee. Hon. John N. Baldwin of Council Bluffs was about to join the Zetagathian society when at the university, when he heard the rumor that the Zets wore no "socks." Baldwin indignantly affirmed that he did wear the articles tabooed and turned aside to the camp of the Irvings.

## Giving the Girls a Chance.

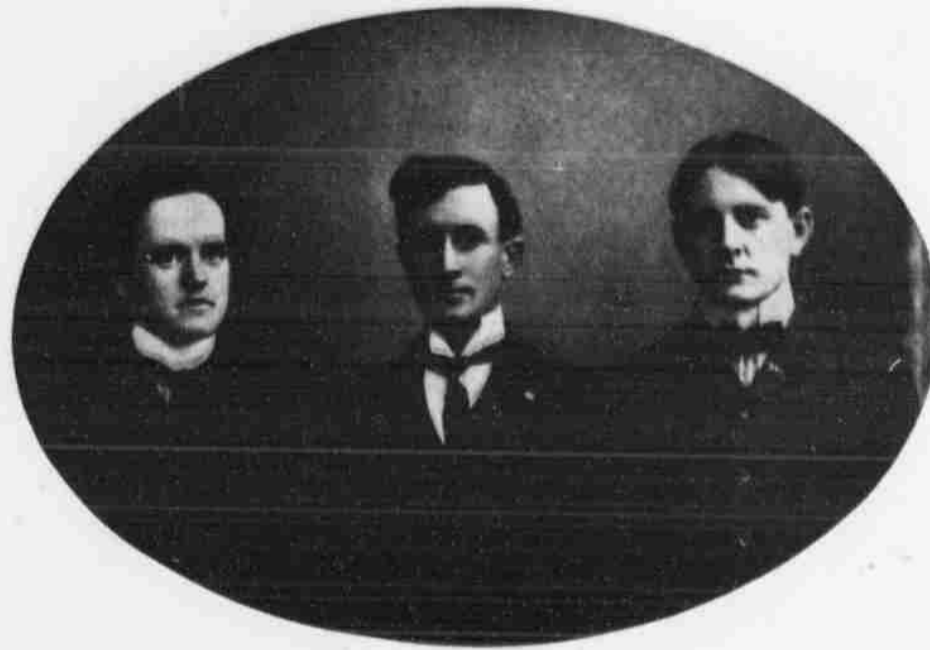
Each of the men's forensic societies has a sister society which shares its hall, cheers its debating teams at the regular contests and votes for its candidates at the class elections. In return the men's societies accord their sister society boundless admiration and respect and a semi-occasional banquet, sociable or dance. The sister society of the Zetagathians is the Hesperian society, while the Erodelphian society clings to Irving institute. The society halls have been the scene of many courtships and each society has enshrined in its photograph gallery the portraits of members who have ordered their lives as they should order them by marrying a fair member of the sister society. Two questions of about the same trend are in the initiation ritual of the two men's societies.

"Do you solemnly promise to admire, respect, love and adore the members of the Erodelphian society, individually and collectively?" asks the Irving chaplain who is initiating a candidate.

"I do," the candidate must respond. "Do you further announce that it is your present intention and future purpose to follow the noble examples of Smith and Jones and Brown and all that grand galaxy of Irvings who have attained bliss and happiness by marrying Erodelphians?"

When the candidate has said, "I do," the air is rent with cheers of the society members and loud hee-haws from all about the hall and caresses of the goat behind the candidate bind the mystic compact of the initiate.

The Iowa system of debating has been evolved by more than fifteen generations of students. For thirty years past the annual debates between the Zetagathian and Irving societies have been held and places upon these debates accounted one of the highest honors that can come to a senior after three years of hard preparatory work on the regular Friday night programs of the societies and on the class debates.



E. H. McCoy, H. E. Hadley, Merritt Brackett.  
IOWA DEBATERS AGAINST MINNESOTA.

Every member of the forensic societies runs for a debate, class or preparatory, at some time during his college course. All prepare for possible elections by great attention to their appearance on the Friday evening programs. Rarely does it occur that a debater is introduced first to a university debate audience on a preliminary debate. The freshman, sophomore and junior debaters provide the first introduction to the business of debating and the aspiring disputant is much trained in his art before he receives the crowning honor of a preliminary election. Only the winning society in a preliminary can hope to elect more than one debater to the final debate, so it is largely on the result of many chances that more than one of the preliminary speakers on either side can hope to speak on the interstate stage.

## When Debating Begins.

The first chance a freshman has for a debate is in his class contest. To obtain this the freshman must show up well on the fall term programs of the society. If he does this he will be placed on the freshman blowout of his society. This affair is held the night the freshman debaters are elected and the participants in it are the six or eight best freshmen in the society. They choose a question, argue over judges, fight over positions and sides and have all the incidental disagreements that the older and bigger debaters have. The two best freshmen speakers on the freshman blowout program receive the freshman debate election. In the sophomore and junior years three debaters are elected by each society to the debates of these classes. The preliminary elections are held in the spring of each year, so that the debaters have the long summer vacation to work up their question.

The debating arrangement with the University of Minnesota was made in 1894. Since that time eight debates have been held between Minnesota and Iowa. Of that number Minnesota has won two and Iowa six. In 1896 the first debate between Chicago and Iowa was held, Iowa winning unanimously. The following year the debate was held in Chicago and resulted unaimously for Iowa. The contract between Chicago and Iowa had two years yet to run, but Chicago discontinued the debate at that time. The debating agreement with Wisconsin was negotiated to take the place of the Chicago debate. The debate held at Iowa City this year is the fourth annual

debate with Wisconsin. Wisconsin has won two of the debates in the past and Iowa has won one. R. A. C.

## Pointed Paragraphs

Chicago News: Love is one kind of praise and envy is another.

Your life isn't worth living unless you think it is.

Self-inspection is said to be a sure cure for self-esteem.

Men with narrow views are apt to be broad in their conversation.

The average man deceives himself oftener than he does others.

A woman never feels comfortable unless her shoes are uncomfortable.

If a man says only what he thinks he is not likely to be a great talker.

Many a man grows wealthy by acting contrary to the advice of the majority.

A woman would rather other women would talk disrespectfully about her than ignore her.

After a girl who married for money becomes a widow she is very likely to be married for money.

The student who lingers around the foot of his class may eventually become a first-class chiropodist.

It is not wisdom to tell everything you know, but some people can't avoid it if they tell anything at all.

An egotist is a man who insists on telling you the things about himself that you want to tell him about yourself.

That candidate who places himself in the hands of his friends at the convention is likely to be left on their hands after the votes have been counted.

## Railery

Boston Record: I overheard a lively argument between three college girls while waiting for a car in front of the public library last night.

"Which is correct," asked the first, "to say 'here she comes' or 'here it comes'?"

"As the attention of the trio was directed toward a car approaching in the distance."

"Here it comes," of course," emphatically declared one of the group.

"No, I think 'here she comes' is preferable," quickly retorted the first speaker, still watching the car.

"You are both wrong, you are both wrong," spoke up the third, jumping up and down excitedly; "you should say 'here he comes.'"

This remark so amused the other two that their attention was suddenly diverted from the rapidly bearing car, as they laughed in feigned derision of their companion's sense of grammar.

But the girl who had spoken last kept her eyes on the car, watching it closely as it came more clearly into view.

"Girls, I am right," she shouted at them so unexpectedly that the two turned toward the street at once.

"See, it is a mail car," she pointed out triumphantly to the surprised couple who saw one of the white trolleys coming down the track; "here he comes."

## A South African Episode

"There are men," says Julian Ralph, "who wax enthusiastic, and even poetic, when they speak of war. For its sake, there was Surgeon Major Lindley, well known as a physician in New York. He once said to me: 'What a delicious affair the battle of Graspan was; it was so lively and so hot in spots. It was as complete and pretty as a well-cut little gem.' And yet, in that fight Major Lindley was caught in a depression of the veldt, with Boers peppering at him from three sides, and with only one little break in their lines, through which he had to ride in the full blaze of all their fire.

"What did you think when you saw the fix you were in?" I asked him.

"I thought I had better dash ahead and attract the fire, so that my colonel would get out safely," was the reply."



"WEDDING OF THE CHINEE AND THE COON"—AMATEUR MINSTRELS AT METROPOLITAN CLUB—Flashlight  
Photo by Staff Artist.