

Creighton University's Steady Growth

One of Omaha's Most Valuable Assets

ONE of Omaha's best assets is Creighton university, whose students spend with Omaha merchants a half-million

dollars each year. Starting in a very humble way thirty-four years ago, this institution has grown to splendid proportions, with nearly a thousand students in attendance, and alumni numbering nearly 2,000 scattered all over the country. Thanks to the generosity of the Creighton family, the university has an endowment of several million dollars, and its equipment is thoroughly modern in every respect. Each year witnesses notable additions to the facilities for up-to-date teaching, and Creighton now takes high rank among the educational institutions of the country.

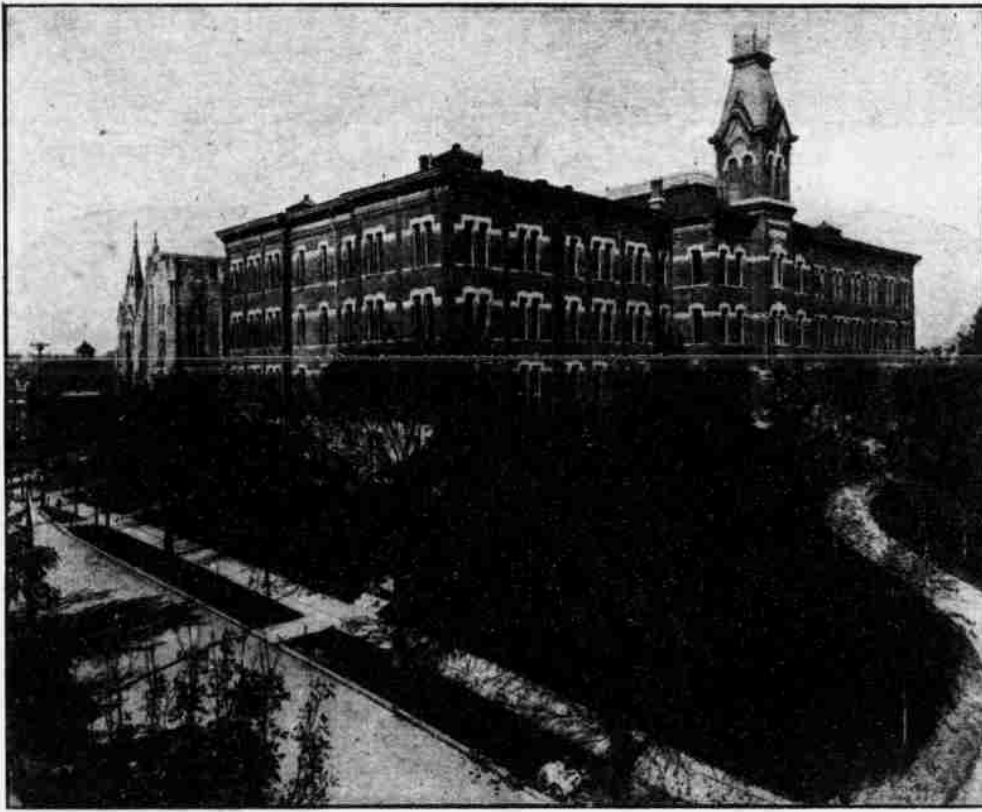
There are various standards by which institutions may be measured, one of the most generally appreciated being that of dollars and cents. The average citizen may not be able to judge of a university's standing educationally, but he can easily grasp the idea that an institution which helps to swell the local bank clearings is worth while. Perhaps he does not often reflect upon this phase of the matter, but once it is brought to his mind he will not soon forget it.

The university's combined enrollment is now 967 students, whose aggregate annual expenditures in Omaha for board and lodging, clothes, laundry, amusements, books and stationery, incidentals and railroad fare is about \$500,000. As the bulk of this money goes through the Omaha banks this accounts, in part, for the fact that Omaha ranks higher in bank clearings than in population among the cities of the country.

It may be interesting to consider in detail what Creighton's contribution to Omaha's financial welfare means. The single item of shoes amounts to \$10,000 per year; suits and overcoats, \$50,000; confections and tobacco, \$10,000; laundry, \$15,000; hats, caps and haberdashery, \$10,000; baggage transfer, \$1,500; books, stationery, instruments and apparatus, \$40,000; drugs, jewelry, sporting goods, engraving, printing, catering, taxicabs, etc., \$25,000; board and lodging, \$200,000; amusements and incidentals, \$25,000; railroad fare, \$25,000.

When to these amounts is added the tuition of the four professional colleges, all of which is immediately disbursed in Omaha to the faculty and to Omaha merchants for equipment and supplies, the total will aggregate approximately a half-million dollars, not including the large expenditures made every year by the university for the construction of new buildings and the purchase of additional permanent equipment.

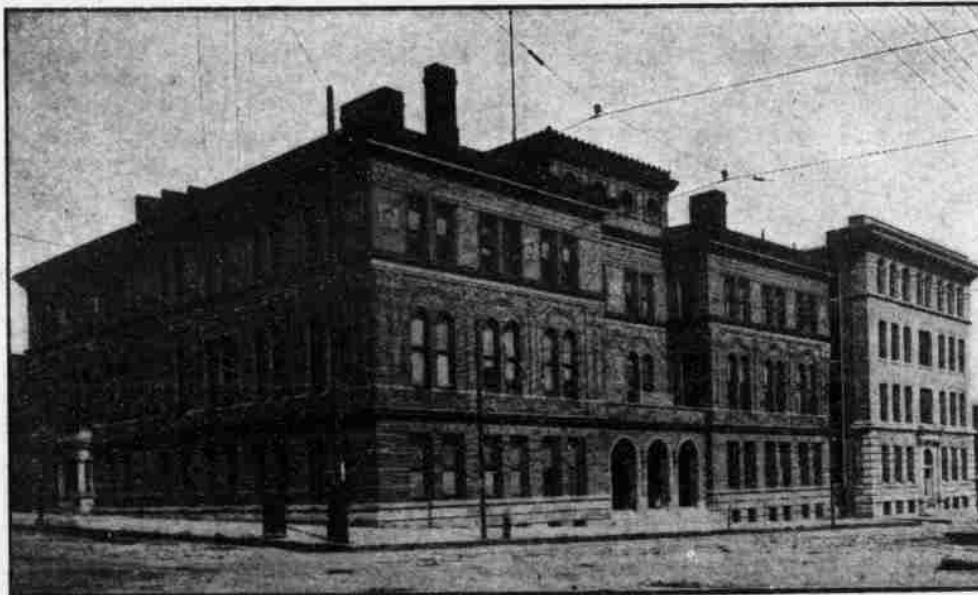
How much, in addition to these various amounts, is spent each year in Omaha by friends



College of Arts and Sciences



Colleges of Law and Dentistry



Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy

and relatives of the students cannot be accurately estimated, but the total will doubtless run between \$15,000 and \$25,000, and it should not be forgotten that the university's graduates, who number about 2,000, are, in large part, located within a radius of 300 miles of Omaha, and naturally they spend considerable sums of money here for supplies and equipment, to say nothing of the business which they bring to the city along professional as well as distinctly commercial lines.

Perhaps it is not generally known that this great university owes its origin in large part to a woman, Mrs. Mary Lucretia Creighton, who, upon the death of her husband, Edward, made provision in her will for carrying out his oft-expressed wish to found a free college for young men. He died suddenly on November 5, 1874, and as he left no will, his immense fortune passed to his widow, upon whom, therefore, there was no legal

obligation to use the money in any particular manner. However, she was very devoted to her husband and she gladly seized upon the opportunity to perpetuate her affection for him by leaving \$100,000 to found the college. How unpretentious were its beginnings may be gathered from the fact that when its doors opened on September 2, 1878, the highest class was the "Sixth Reader Class." But the men in charge labored with enthusiasm and intelligence, and from this insignificant beginning there has grown an institution of university rank, with complete preparatory, undergraduate, graduate and professional courses.

This remarkable growth would never have occurred without the generous co-operation of a man whom Omaha will never forget—the late Count John A. Creighton—who showered his wealth upon the struggling school and lived to see it emerge from its experimental days into a sturdy institution destined to endure. During his lifetime he constructed the Observatory, extensive additions to the original building, a separate library, auditorium, dormitory, heating plant and permanent homes for Colleges of Medicine, Law, Dentistry and Pharmacy. On February 7, 1907, he died, mourned by all who knew him, secure in the grateful memory of those he had befriended.

It is a far cry from the grammar school of 1878 to the university of 1912, and unless one has kept in close touch with the institution he would scarcely realize the change which has occurred. Instead of one building which then housed the faculty and provided ample quarters for the students, there are now nine large structures devoted to the work of the institution; the staff of professors has increased from 6 to 130, and the student enrollment from 120 to 972.