Thesis Work in the University.

The class room work of our University is a matter of pride to both alumni and students, and the raising of its standard with the development of the University and the increase of facilities has placed our institution among the foremost in the west. The character of the University's training is ordinarily judged by the observation of class room work; its capacity, however, goes far beyond the necessarily general work of classes. The spread of seminary study during the past few years has effected a deeper and more thorough scholarship than can be expected from class rooms, and has undoubtedly given a new impetus to our interest in our work generally.

The seminars represent, therefore, a higher grade of effort than the class room, and in judging of the University's worth these factors must be considered. Neither class room nor seminar is the limit of the University's capacity; in the advanced thesis and special work we find the most pain-staking research. Of these latter lines of study too little is known outside our halls, and too little information is made public by professors or students on this topic. If the facts were better known, our University would have higher rank than is now given it, and its privileges would be better appreciated.

The establishment of the Department of Science under the University's control, the issue of publications in the departments of history, science, engineering and law, are commendable, and one very successful way of showing our work.

During the present term, these efforts and similar special individual work of high grade, are in progress in several of the departments, although probably not so generally as will be in the coming term. A partial list is given below of the scientific and engineering topics.

In the Department of Physics: E. L. Kahle, thesis, "Electric Batteries"; A. F. Weiss, "Electrical Units and Measurements." Mr. Kahle's thesis is to embody the results of his investigation into the constants and action of different kinds of cells. Mr. Weiss will report the results of his work with electrical measuring instruments.

In the department of Chemistry: Nellie W. Ankeny, thesis, "Organic Chemistry;" R. M. Cannon, "Quantiative Analysis Applied to Metalurgy;" "Frank Woolston, special work, "Volumetric Analysis;" Carl Ende, "Volumetric Analysis;" Aggie Otto, "Quantitative Analysis;" Prof. Porter, "Laboratory Methods of Teaching Chemistry;" J. F. Jacoby, special work. Miss Ankeny's work will be a study of the relations of physical properties to chemical constitutions. The "special work" is all of the grade of thesis work, but not to be written up in the form of a thesis. Also, a number of pharmaceutical students are availing themselves of Dr. Andrews' instruction in advanced chemistry.

In the department of Natural Sciences: Mr. Myrick, thesis, "The Organ of Corti;" Mr. Barrett, special work, "End Organs of the Nerves of Taste and Tactile Corpuscles of the Skin;" G. L. House, post-graduate thesis, "Genera of Palaeozoic Corals." The work of Mr. Myrick and Mr. Barrett necessitates the preparation and demonstration of specimens to show the organizations, and some particularly fine results have been secured.

As to Mr. House's work for the Master's degree, it is admirable. His graduating thesis of last year on "The Cretaceous Invertebrata of the United States," is now in use as a text book; his present work consists in photographing all the available corals, and discussing the views advanced in their bibliography.

In the zoological laboratory Mr. C. L. Smith is studying "Fresh Water Algæ," preparatory to a thesis leading to the Master's degree. Other thesis work will be taken up in the spring term, but the topics are not yet assigned.

In the engineering department: F. G. Ray, thesis, "Metal Hinged Arches;" R. M. Cannon, "Paving Brick;" S. Y. Veer, "Locating Engineer's Pocket Book;" Howard M. North, "Maintenance of Way of Railways." Mr. Ray's work is the designing of a steel roof truss of 2,00 ft. span, in the form of an arch hinged at the crown and at both ends, this being the latest form of roof trusses, used where a large space is to be covered and intermediate supports undesirable. This class of design is coming into general use for railway stations, union depots, and in the architecture of the World's Fair buildings particularly. Mr. Cannon's thesis will embody the results of personal research into the qualities that make some paving brick so superior to others. He is examining into the raw materials and treatment, and will test the finished brick for crushing, cross strain, abrasion, and absorption of moisture. Mr. Veer is working up material for a book that will go into a vest pocket, and containing all the rules, tables, style and information needed by an engineer employed on railway lines.

The book will be published upon completion of the thesis. Mr. North's work is a treatise upon the most approved methods of renewing, repairing and keeping in order railway track. It will include the results of original tests of the different kinds of rail fastenings in use, the organization of the road department, the cost of the various classes of work, and a comparison of the relative value of the ordinary tie, the chemically treated tie, and metal ties.

The Home Contestants.

The following are the names of the authors and subjects of the six orations receiving the highest marks on thought and style, as announced yesterday by Professor Currier. The speakers' names are in alphabetical order, without reference to the relative standing, which is not made public: George Beardley, '93, "The New Morality;" W. T. Chauvin, '92, "The Statesman;" H. L. Fuller, L. '92, "Immigration;" W. W. Kaye, '93, "The Advantage of Inequality;" A. T. Rotledge, '94, "The Power of Mind;" F. A. Shows, '92, "The Last Philosopher." The contest will be at the Opera House, on Friday, February 26.

The Museum.

All available space in the Museum is being utilized for the new specimens which are continually arriving. A handsome new wall case contains a group of prairie dogs and their "village." This is the first of a series of groups to be thus mounted by Professor Nutting. In order to complete a number of series it has become necessary to purchase some of the more rare specimens, and of the lot received from Ward's establishment of New York a few days ago, the following are ready for mounting: White Ibis from Florida, Flamingo, Yellow Bill Tropic, some rare specimen of the Egrets, Gulls from the Arctic regions and a valuable species of Snow Goose.

Calendar.

Thursday, November 11—American History Seminar, 3 p. m.
Friday, December 2—Zetatchawian, Irving and Law Literary Societies, 8 p. m.
Saturday, December 2—Brodelphian Society, 8 p. m.
What do people want in a lecture? In opening last night Mr. Eggleston quoted the Scotchman who advised a lecturer that the one thing not wanted in a lecture is information. There is more truth than humor in this remark. Hard and solid information, such as was imparted last night concerning old American life, can be gleaned from cyclopias by those who have the curiosity and the patience to read it. What we do want in a lyceum lecture is something that cannot be obtained from books. If the speaker has anything original as the result of observation or thought to give an audience, that is what the audience wants. We presume the lecture bureau is something that displays to better advantage the literary and intellectual ability of the author of "Hoosier School Master," "The Circuit Rider" and "The Faith Doctor."

It occurs to us that "Old American Life" is a subject Mr. Eggleston has added to his list for the purpose of making it longer, with the supposition that it would not be called for.

We are always sure of finding matter for amusement in the Cornell Breeze. Proof reading seems never to be indulged in by the editors, and their almost childish efforts to write result, in many cases, in downright nonsense. In the last issue, dated Monday, 8 February, there is a crazy screed directed against the State University. An attempt is made to express a high degree of wrath toward S. U. I. for leaving the State Oratorical Association and joining the Northern Oratorical League. A better example of crudity and incoherence we have never seen. If the writer of the editorial was not in a state of somnambulance he must have been miserably drunk. To snug the utter lack of connected thought in the article we quote below a few sentences exactly as they appear in the Breeze:

"The drop from something to nothing was to much for you dilettante. Truly the mighty are fallen. Dear S. U. I., crushed by defeat, leave the vulgur plebeian through. These Iowans who respect be so little as to defeat her, Renounces her sisters who loved her with all her faults and the slight taint of dishonor, flirts her yellow skirts, takes her doll-rags and goes home sits sullen awhile, throws chips at her sisters who go on with their play, con costs a scheme for revenge. * * * This is assined, and suffices for us as for us, we like a little real down and glory."

We have given this much space to the Breeze, not because of its intention to insult S. U. I., but because the editors of the paper deserve to be censured for their carelessness.

Local and Personal
President Schaef er returned from Des Moines Tuesday evening.
Professor Jameson, who has been in Des Moines for the last few days attending the County Supervisors' Convention, returned Tuesday evening.
Rev. Mr. Miles visited the class in English History yesterday.
Mrs. Haddock is able to be about once more after an illness of several weeks.
Professor Anderson outlines the courses in English at Leland Stanford, Jr., in the February number of the Palo Alto. The courses are ten in number.

The Inter-State Oratorical Association from which S. U. I. withdrew in withdrawing from the State Association, will hold its annual contest May 6, 1892, at Minneapolis, under the auspices of the University of Minnesota.
Wade Artherholt, L. 92, is suffering from a severe and serious attack of the grip.
W. D. McCabe, D. 94, who recently returned to his home in Muscatine, after a painful illness of pneumonia, and the sad death of his father in this city, is recovering his health.

"Instinct" was the subject of a paper presented to the class in Psychology, yesterday morning, by Mary Gurney, M. 92.
The class in Astronomy is at present considering the subject of eclipses.
A new class will probably be organized in the gymnasium soon.
The seminary in Pedagogy will meet Saturday morning.
The revised constitution of the home oratorical association is being printed, and copies will soon be placed in the hands of the members of the association.

LATEST STYLE HATS AND FURNISHING GOODS AT BLOOM & MAYER'S.
Eggleston’s Lecture.

A full Opera House gathered last evening to hear the fifth lecture of the winter's course, by Edward Eggleston, on "The History of Old American Life.”

Dr. Pickard, after announcing the lecture to be given by Max O’Neill next Wednesday, introduced the celebrated American writer.

Mr. Eggleston is a man of medium or a little over medium height, and fine build, with abundant iron gray hair and beard, a pleasant expression and easy manner. He spoke informally, using his notes occasionally, giving a pleasant, interesting talk on the manner of life and the general characteristics of the most ancient settlers.

After speaking of his last visit to Iowa City when tramping his way west in 1856, where he said he tried to die of consumption, but made a failure of it and got well instead, he went on to his subject.

Our fathers, he said, were completely ignorant of the principles of colonial building, but nothing but the coercion of despotism behind them pushed them on to success. They were not a race of inventors, but of imitators. Their methods of constructing their homes as well as of conducting the various affairs of their colony life were crude in the extreme and never original.

The houses in which early Americans lived are significant. First existed the dug-out, in which the first colonists sheltered themselves. Then bark houses took the place of dug-outs. Next the half-faced camp, half dug-out, half bark house, and finally the log house, the improved log house, and frame house of the colonial gentlemen. The manner of constructing these was always taken either from the old world or from the Indians. No new ideas seemed to be developed. This paper was used instead of glass, and their manner of heating their homes was exceedingly clumsy. The great chimneys and other heating contrivances showed imitation of old world institutions, without regard to the peculiar needs of new time and new place.

Indian corn was the staple food, the manner of preparation being learned from the Indians. This was the case with most of the common dishes, even the great New England dish, baked beans, being of Indian origin.

The dress of the time was briefly described, as well as the various household customs, many of which were close imitations of feudal England, and the lecture closed by a contrast of Americans of that time and the present in reference to England. Then they were all Englishmen, now they are a distinct and separate race, utterly unlike; the change being attributed to the different surroundings. Our democracy is the result of a continuous growth of the idea that all men have equal rights.

which idea began long before the Revolutionary war, as shown by colonial legislation.

There is now an unusually large spot on the surface of the sun. It may be seen without any other aid than that of a smoked glass. In the telescope it is a magnificent object.

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There will be an important meeting of $4 in the South Hall, Friday, at 3:30 p. m. W. L. CONVERSE, Pres.

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