Communication.

To the Editor of the Vidette:

I was much pleased with the communication which appeared in the last number of your paper from the pen of Mr. Crum concerning methods for developing more and better records in athletics. There is a tendency in many institutions to strive for phenomenal records rather than a long line of good records. We need no other example of this than that which occurred in our own University last year. The student body relied upon Mr. Crum alone to uphold the athletic honor of the entire institution, and while he did this better than any other man in the world could have done, ther was an inclination among many of the students to despise the field of athletics simply because they were unable to make a phenomenal showing with short practice. These who are at all anxious to make any progress along the line of athletics must remember that Mr. Crum made his good record by long and faithful toil. He could not have gotten upon the sidelines and cheer a University vicer as well as any other student, but the enthusiasm that diverts his mind from the purpose for which he was himself striving. It is very hard work for the student, at least, in the University, who would develop to the extent which Mr. Chapman did in recent years and not be hard, yet it is but reasonable to expect that there are a number of men who could develop along some line of athletics and perhaps make records correspondingly equal to those made by Mr. Crum. Our University needs more athletic spirit. Not the kind that is found in the hands of these enthusiastic lookers on, but that athletic spirit which prompts men to work with the result that their efforts will be recognized and deserved. The President of the Board and the Senate should stimulate and direct rather than discourage one who is striving for honors of any kind, and athletics is no exception to the rule. Don't neglect to work simply because you think it will be impossible. Let the student form a mental picture of a phenomenal record at some future time. Even though you may never become a world's record breaker the opportunity may come to you at some time to rescue the University from a defeat at the hands of some other institution. We need a little more of that self-sacrifice which would make us eager for the very best that is to be had, even though it is not the best that may be given. An honest effort is a poor investment at any time even though the reward is delayed in com­ ing.

M. Phi Beta Kappa.

The National Council of the United Chapters of the Phi Beta Kappa society in convention assembled at Saratoga, N.Y., September 12-15, 1896, granted a charter to the Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in the University of Iowa, under the title of the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in the state of Iowa.

This society was organized in December, 1767, at the College of William and Mary, and is composed of the college societies to assume a Greek name or title.

Many names illustrious in the history of the University among its earliest promoters, and from its very beginning its practice of including three faculty men in the chapter. Membership in the society was suspended because of the approach of Britain's armies, and the papers of the society were given into individual hands to safely keep, and the parent chapter ceased to exist.

Prior to this, however, namely in 1778, Eliza Parmalee, who subsequently to New England, he established the Alpha of Connecticut, at Yale, the Alpha of Massachusetts, at Harvard; this latter charter being established after the parent chapter had become defunct.

For many years the Alpha chapter granted in its respective state to each such colleges as were deemed worthy, and from the very first, only to those institutions whose students would study with the full knowledge of the fact that the chapter would be known in later years as superior to those not included, and that the men composing it; of these members the present members are, as professors with the colleges in which it is located.

In 1831 the society was reorganized by bringing the existing chapters into closer relations and by vesting the power of granting charters and the general management of the associated chapters in a National Council, which has been continued without interruption. The object of this council is to foster the advancement of learning and to secure the interests of the members.

This society having its origin as a Senior society, and basing its existence upon his work, was favored and highly esteemed by the authorities and by the public at large, in consequence, it has long since passed into full control of the members of the society who are composed of the colleges in which it is located.

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The character of the society may be further attested by examining the list of colleges upon its chapter roll, and by reviewing the names of those who are its general officers.

As to the latter Bishop Henry G. Petts of New York is President, Hon. John A. DeWitt of Schenectady, N. Y., is vice president, and Rev. Dr. E. B. Parsons of Williams college, is secretary and treasurer.

The society is composed of: Bishop Patterson; Hon. John A. DeWitt; Rev. Dr. E. B. Parsons; Col. T. W. Higginson, of Cambridge, Mass.; Prs. Seth Low of Columbia University; Prof. M. G. Gates of Amherst college; Prof. Samuel Hatt, Trinity college; Prof. F. A. March, Lafayette college; Prof. Francis A. Walker, of Mass. Inst. of Tech.; Horace E. Scudder, of Harvard college; Prof. T. W. Winans, of Wheaton college; Prof. D. C. Gillam of Johns Hopkins; Rev. Dr. E. E. Hale; Rev. C. F. F. Nash; Prof. F. W. Longfellow, of Harvard College; Prof. Adolphus W German, of the College of Oldham, D. G.; Prof. F. P. Nash, Hobart college; Prof. Adolphus Werner, College of Willam and Mary, New Haven; Prof. H. B. Chapman; Col. William Latham, Virginia; and Prof. F. H. Twining of Western Reserve University.

The chapter roll comprises the following institutions: Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Amherst, Brown, Williams, Wesleyan, Bowdoin, Vermont, Middlebury, Colby, Tufts, Union, Colby, trie City, E. V. COL; University of Pennsylvania, Cornell, Rochester, College of New York, C. V., Colgate, Hamilton, Syracuse, Hobart, Rutgers, University of Pennsylvania, Dickinson, Lehigh, Lafayette, Swarthmore, Johns Hopkins, William and Mary, Western Reserve, Keayon, Marquette, De Pauw, Northwestern, State University of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

The charter members of the local chapter are: Prof. Charles A. Schaeffer, Professors Currier, Wilson, Holbrook, Rockwood and Wilcox, and the local officers are: President A. N. Currier, Vice President. James A. Hubbuch, Secretary and Treasurer, Charles H. Wilson—Republicans.

Zetacetaia.

Despite the indolence of the weather, the hall was comfortably filled with an enthusiastic and appreciative audience at the regular Friday evening meeting.

Miss Wood opened the exercises by an excellently rendered solo vocal, "The Unconquered," written by Mr. Holstein.

The speaker continued the program by declining Webster's famous oration, "The Bunker Hill Monument." The speaker had not made sufficient preparation, and was unable to complete his selection. Although a new man in the society, he is an excellent worker, as is known from a former appearance, and it is hoped his failure will be a sufficient warning to others.

God then declaimed "The Dream of Aldaran." This speaker was very pleasing in his delivery, but the subject was very abstract, and the paper was not given an equal hearing.

The debate of the evening, upon the question of compulsory education, was lively and full of interest from first to last. Messrs. Saylor and Chapman and the paper; Messrs. Chapman and Troy; Mr. Foster, and Mr. Edgerton; Mr. Wilson. The question was very abstract, and the paper was not given an equal hearing.

The closing number of the program was a declamation by Mr. Anderson, who rendered "The Blacksmith's Story" in a touching manner. Mr. Anderson is one of the strongest men in our Freshman class. His appearance last evening was quite good, but the subject was perhaps a little too high for the occasion. Instrumental music closed the exercises, and the president announced the adjournment of the judges on the resolution as being in favor of the negative.

By action of the Zetacetaia society, in accordance with a request of the Faculty, the latter will be permitted "the pleasure of extending the Zet banquet next Friday evening."
The students of S. U. I. maintain two debating leagues—one with the University of Chicago, the other with the University of Minnesota. Each of these results in an annual inter-collegiate debate. There are perhaps not above a half dozen first rate schools east of the Mississippi river which do not have something of the kind. S. U. I. is to be congratulated for its wide-awake and progressive spirit, for it is the first Iowa school to adopt this plan. Other schools realize its advantages. There is scarcely one of the exchanges which has not contained some favorable comment upon the subject within the present school year. Nothing has been accomplished, however, and nothing can be under present conditions. One school waits upon another, and within the respective schools, one student upon another. There can be no question that meanwhile the students of Iowa college are missing a wonderful opportunity for the strongest and most practicable discipline conceivable.—Normal Life.

Engineering Society.

College Notes.
The Chittenango Library at Yale University now contains about 850,000 volumes. It is reported that the University of California will send another team east this spring. Only three of Yale's last year's base ball team are in college. Captain Quincy, Houston and Truesdale. The trustees of the State College at Lexington, Kentucky, have prohibited foot ball as a college sport. Columbia College has challenged Chicago University to a debate and, if possible, Chicago will accept. Some time between this and summer there will be an intercollegiate debate between the University of Chicago and Columbia University. The crews of the Universities of Wisconsin and Minnesota have offered to go east and race Columbia this spring, if Columbia will return the visit. As a recent meeting of the faculty at Harvard College, it was voted that students who have back work shall not be allowed to act as managers of athletic or other organizations. Henry G. Gale who a few weeks ago was elected captain of the University of Chicago foot ball team for '96, resigned the captaincy January 14. A new election will be held at once by the members of the team.

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The Hammond Law Senate has challenged the Zetagonthian society to a joint debate. The challenge was accepted and Van Law, Hanson and Moss were selected to appear on behalf of the Zetas.

The papers read at German Seminary Thursday afternoon were: "The Present Day Experience of Goethe," by Miss Louise Bowser; "Prolog im Himmeln," by Miss Nash; and "Report on the Visit of the German Theatre," by Mr. Dewel.

The Toledo Chronicle publishes in full a paper "English in Public Schools," which was read by F. L. Sargent, of the Tama High School before the Teachers' Association at Tama. Mr. Sargent graduated from the University in 1892.

Last Thursday evening Mrs. Schae for entertained the friends of Miss Ada Horine, '98, and Selma Stempel, '99, the occasion being the birthday of their respective young ladies. After a delightful spread, toasts were indulged in, Rank, L.'00, acting as toast master.

The game of basketball between S. U. I. and the Central Y. M. C. A. teams, at Chicago last night, resulted in a victory for the latter by a score of 11 to 4. The Chicago papers speak highly of the playing of our boys, and also state that their defeat was probably due to the difference in size of the ball used.

At the meeting of the Athletic Association held yesterday afternoon: Clarence Miller, L.'96, was elected base ball manager, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of F. J. O'Brien. Geo. M. Price, '97, was elected foot ball manager in place of C. B. Flick, resigned. Wm. B. Alli son, Jr., was elected member of the executive committee of the W. I. A. A. A. L., and Lloyd Elliott was selected as our alumnus in Chicago to represent us in the business of the same Association.

The Winter Picnic.

Pi Beta Phi fraternally delightedly entertained a number of friends informally with a winter picnic last evening. Two wagonloads of jolly pioneers left close Hall at 7 p.m. for the home of Miss Nora Allin, at 803 Kirkwood Avenue, where the picnic was held. The customary picnic amusements were enjoyed during the fore part of the evening, after which the company sat down to a dainty lunch prepared in picnic style. Music, dancing and story telling occupied the remainder of the evening, after which the young gentlemen were escorted home in the long year style by their fairer friends.

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