

The Vidette-Reporter.

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THE VIDETTE REPORTER, Iowa City, Iowa.

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On last Monday night the organization known as the "S. U. I. Minstrel Troupe" presented what was supposed to be entertainment at the Opera House. Had the organization been in any way a representative organization of the University, with an object for mutual improvement, or displaying some talent in the University in a manner that would be a credit to the institution, we would be tempted to be more lenient in our criticisms. The fact, however, that a few students, and a greater number who were students only in name, and some we are glad to say didn't even pretend to claim that title, attempted to hold themselves up as a representative organization of the University, is deserving of criticism. Had the organization been composed largely of S. U. I. students, and had it been given the right by the Faculty to assume the title of an S. U. I. organization, any attempt on their part to give a public entertainment would have been encouraged by the entire University. The inadvisability of allowing so many different organizations to assume the title of S. U. I. when they in no way represent the University, has been discussed in this paper before. We believe it would be policy for the University authorities to discourage in every way possible the use of this title in connection with any organization or undertaking unless it is strictly a University affair and has met the approval of Faculty and students. There are organizations in the University at the present time, such as the Glee Club, Sketch Club, etc., which are universally approved, which will represent the University in a creditable manner in any undertaking. Such organizations as these are a credit to any institution, but the organization which displayed itself

last Monday evening is a credit to no institution

The Erodolphian Musical.

In pursuance of the invitations recently distributed by the Erodolphians to their friends, a large crowd assembled Tuesday evening in the Society halls. Fair ladies loyally wearing Erodolphian colors met the guests at the door and made them feel thoroughly at home from the very first. The greater part of the crowd was composed of students, though the Faculty also was well represented, along with a good sprinkling of those not directly connected with the University.

The whole evening was spent in a most social manner, good feeling and fellowship seeming to prevail everywhere. No games were used, and no one thought of them except to rejoice at their absence. Early in the evening the Erodolphians showed their musical talent by giving the following musical program:

PART I.

- "The Freshman Social"
-Erodolphian Chorus
- Violin Solo.....Jda Kriechbaum "Heimweh."
- Quartette, Misses MacFarland, Miss Barrett and Miss Kriechbaum. "Sleep, My Baby, Sleep."
- Pantomime.....Ethel Charlton "Way Down Upon the Swanee River."
- Piano Duet....."Our Boys." Bertha Remley, Baptista Kerby.

PART II.

- Piano Solo.....Mae Freeman
 - Bones.....Clem Ashley
 - Vocal Solo.....Beulah MacFarland "Polly and I."
 - "The Erodolphians"
 -Erodolphian Chorus
- After the program, orange punch and light refreshments were served by the Erodolphian ladies to all comers. The punch, be it said, was of the kind which cheers, but does not inebriate, though one of a suspicious turn of mind might have judged otherwise from the hilarity and good feeling which prevailed everywhere. When the crowd finally broke up and the guests began to leave it was the unanimous opinion that the Erodolphians possess no small degree of musical talent, and as entertainers are behind no organization in the University.

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Fact and Rumor.

Harriet Holt has been voted into Germania.

Helen Stewart has returned to resume her studies in the University.

Dr. Bullock visited the Psychology class Thursday morning.

There were no History classes on Friday on account of Professor Wilcox's absence. He has gone to Spencer to deliver a lecture.

Professor Nollen, Professor of Modern Languages at Iowa College, is in the city. He acted as one of the judges in the contest last night

I. C. A. A. Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of America, held in New York last Saturday, transacted business that was of especial importance to our University. The petition of our Athletic Association for admission to membership was considered and granted. California, Syracuse and Dartmouth were also admitted.

After much discussion it was decided to send a team to England to compete in a field meet with representatives of the English universities. This team will be composed of winners of first and second places in the Association meet this spring, and winners of third and fourth places may be sent as substitutes.

Our admission into this Association means a good deal to the candidates for our University track team. While we cannot possibly send a full quota of men, yet we can surely find two or three men who would creditably rep-

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resent us in the east. Crum will undoubtedly be one of these, and if he develops as much during the coming season as he did last, he bids fair to be a representative of S. U. I. on the American team in its meet with the Englishmen. Who else our Association will send east it is impossible to predict. This point will be determined by the work of the candidates for our team. This fact should stimulate our men to hard, earnest work, for any one of them, by proving his worth, may be fortunate enough to secure the prize.

Corals and Coral Reefs.

A small but attentive audience assembled at Close Hall, Wednesday evening, to listen to Professor C. C. Nutting's instructive and interesting lecture on "Corals and Coral Reefs." The speaker began his remarks by discussing some of the genera of the subkingdom Cellerata, commencing with a consideration of the Hydra, which is found in Iowa and elsewhere. The Hydra is a sack-like organism having a whorl of seven or eight tentacles about the aperture in the anterior portion of the body. This aperture serves as a mouth. The tentacles are composed of a series of cells, in each of which a thread-like arrangement is coiled up. Thus the animal has the power of extending, and by shooting it forth it may penetrate with it its prey. In the Hydra sexual reproduction is reduced to its simplest forms. Hydroids were next considered. These are peculiar, for they exhibit alternation of generation.

The coral polyp was now introduced. It consists of a sort of a sack-like body, inside of which is another sack, which is a digestive sack. This is supported by membranes known as mesenteries. As soon as the coral polyp commences its existence it begins the depositing of lime salts, and as this is deposited the polyp gradually rises upward until ultimately the polyp occupies the summit of the coral branch of which it was the originator. The most common coral is the Madreporaria or branching coral. Professor Nutting took occasion to correct the popular opinion that the coral polyp is an insect.

The lecturer gave a most eloquent description of the assemblage of life which might be seen about a coral reef with the aid of a water glass. There are three kinds of coral reefs, barrier reef, fringing reefs, and atolls or circular reefs.

Three theories have been advanced, each one of which attempts to explain the existence of coral reefs. They are the subsidence theory of Darwin, the talus theory of Murray, and the current theory of Agassiz. Professor Nutting stated that he believed all three theories to be true under different circumstances.

The history of a coral island is very interesting. The primitive condition of the future site of a coral island is a level sea bottom; an eddy begins to form in the water and the deposition of sand takes place. The sand gradually accumulates and soon becomes the resort of various sea animals, such as star fishes, crinoids and sea urchins; these finally die and contribute their skeletons to the sand dome, for such the accumulation of the sand has become. The whole mass is cemented together by lime salts, and it is a rocky dome which towers up toward the surface.

In the course of time when this dome has reached a point about twenty fathoms from the surface, an

important event takes place in the history of the island "that is to be." This happens when a little sack-like polyp, the coral polyp, appears and takes possession. Other polyps appear in their turn and finally, by the accumulation of their deposits and the further accumulation of sand, the island appears on the surface and becomes the home of marine life, no other life existing there at first. Sea gulls, however, soon appear, and likewise a spindle shaped object comes floating on the tide and settles on the mud flats. This is a mangrove seed, and in time it produces a Mangrove forest, which is the home of birds that bring seeds; these seeds produce the vegetation of the island. By and by a coconut floats in from some distant shore; it sprouts and grows, and ere long we have a shore lined with these fruitful trees. Insects come, frogs and lizards appear, sea turtles deposit their eggs here, man comes and sees all that nature has placed here, takes advantage of all, and henceforth the island has a place in the world's history. The history of a coral island is but the epitome of the history of the earth.

Here are some of the popular features of the *Midland Monthly* for March: "Afternoons in Italy," by Mary B. Welch, known to all alumni of Iowa Agricultural College; "Literary Atlanta," with portraits of Joel Chandler Harris, Frank L. Stanton (the coming poet of the south) and numerous gifted women of Georgia; "A Washington Logging Camp," by Ida A. Baker, the prize descriptive paper of the last quarter; "Women Writers of Washington" (city), with latest portraits of Grace Greenwood, Kate Field, Mrs. Dahlgren, and others; the story of the military telegraph, by its organizer Major George H. Smith, of West Superior; "A Princess of Silverland," an Idaho Love Story, by a daughter of Governor Edwards, of Missouri; the conclusion of "Beatrice;" the prize short story and poem; home themes; talks with contributors, etc



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Ladies' Gymnasium

Quite a large company of ladies assembled at Close Hall, Wednesday afternoon, to witness the given by the ladies of the class. Instructor Kallen gave a few apt remarks emphasizing the importance and necessity of culture and its relation to development. The object of the gymnasium was to give a general idea of the work that was being done in the gymnasium, and how it developed the muscles. The first exercise was a dumb-bell drill in which class took part. This was followed by the running high jump, in which the girls really did something. Afterwards came the ring and tumbling matches, which were highly appreciated by the lookers on. Then a girl can't throw was demonstrated, which was done with a ball went flying through the room. Then followed some work on the parallel bars, which received hearty applause. The mat work was next displayed, which consisted of vaulting over closed the first part of the game. Two games of basket ball were played—the first, between the "O. K.'s," in which neither team scored a goal; the other between the "O. S.'s" and "B. C.'s," the latter winning the game. The spirit with which the girls enter into this work shows that they take in it with interest and success. Surely the University can afford to have the advantages offered to her by the gymnasium.

A Tribute.

The "tribute of a friend" by William Rufus Perkins, late of Iowa, is a little more than a page in length, but gives a succinct and accurate account of his life and achievements, accompanied by a character sketch. Perhaps the most interesting bit of this biography is the fact that he was unknown to them, will be interesting.

The six years of his life with Cornell University, and his happy and healthy life, although all the cause of much distress, had not yet become so serious as to cause him to lose interest and achievement. A nervous temperament, accompanied by a sweetness of disposition, brought him many friends, whom his relations were not able to understand, and who, through their sharp-witted criticism, tried to give him a certain peace of mind. His own feeling was singularly strong. He wrote most of his poems at this time, though even his mate friend knew only a few. The longer one knows him, the nearer his heart, he becomes. His Iowa friends will be of regret that the completion of his lectures in History