

to all—Miss Gaither and her corps of teachers and the pupils—and desire, above all things that work along these lines be continued and prosecuted with vigor.

Just one little suggestion to those who take part in the debates: A debate is not an oration, it is an argument. Do not fancy that when you have committed your statements to memory that you must win—this is but the beginning. You must know your subject backwards and be able to argue in fitting language the various points which may come up in rebuttal. To be prepared for rebuttal it is necessary to know your subject. Judges of debates, those who desire to get at the real standing of the contesting teams, are likely to be most strongly impressed by the showing made in rebuttal—impromptu.

SPELLING MATCHES

No one will deny that to be able to spell correctly is a matter of memory. Very well. Memory may be defined as one of the results of study, of mental drill, and surely it is most necessary to us, no matter what may be our walk of life. In order to be able to boast of a fine vocabulary we should be equal to the feat of proving our knowledge by spelling and defining our list of words.

We recall an old saw, to the effect that "There may be an excuse for bad penmanship, but not for poor spelling." This is quite apparent on first thought, for we find that sickness or accident, or many conditions, might make for bad penmanship. While poor spelling is in itself an indictment for lack of knowledge. There is no other satisfactory explanation.

It is pleasing to note in various sections of the country indications of a desire to revive the old-time "spelling bee." From advices to reach us it appears that our own academic department is cognizant of the merits of such a plan and will be found among the leaders in putting it in force. Good! Let all welcome this movement and get out their spelling books and settle down to business. There is nothing that will prove of greater benefit to pupils of the various grades of our school and we rejoice in the movement on foot.

