

OREGON EMERALD

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Wednesday, October 20, 1909

DEBATERS

Never before in the history of the University of Oregon did such a favorable opportunity open for new men—freshmen—in debating. For three reasons; an early adoption of the interstate question, a new method of choosing the team, and an extraordinary coach.

Debaters do not seem to realize that the subject for the Varsity debates this year is already definitely determined. All who have the least aspiration to ever represent the University of Oregon in forensics should begin preparation at once. An early start and hard work are the chief assets of the man who wins out. The old men recognize this fact and three out of the four left from last year are already hard at work. Can a freshman afford to begin later than they?

The greatest advantage the freshman candidate will have this year is in the new system of tryouts. Hitherto he has been compelled to stake all on one desperate chance. He knew little of college methods. He was new and unknown to the judges. Probably his first appearance caused nervousness and made it a general "off day" for him.

Now all this is changed. Instead of being judged on his one first performance alone, he will be given a thorough trial just as a football candidate practices for a month before his true value is decided. He has a chance to learn from hearing the older men and improve the methods that he learned in high school. He becomes accustomed to appearing in public and the judges get acquainted with all sides of his personality. And then after all this, he has only gone through one tryout. If he fails he still has the second and largest team before him to try for.

This year will mark a change in Oregon's record in debating. Those who have seen the able and determined way in which Gustave Buchen handles the men in his debating and public speaking classes know that he is far from an ordinary coach. We say this in a spirit of neither over confidence nor carelessness. We honestly believe that Mr. Buchen will prove by far the greatest master of debating that the Northwest has ever seen. If his material is anything better than a shame to the University he will win the championship for Oregon this year.

It is a mistake to look upon the de-

bating team as one not worth making. Some of the best known graduates of the University were debaters and owed their prominence almost entirely to that fact. Unless we misunderstand the situation, the coming year will be a "debating" year more than any preceding one. From the time that Oregon meets Utah in the great Portland debate in January, through the girl's debate later on, till the final contest for the championship of the Northwest and perhaps of the Pacific Coast, the University of Oregon will "live in debate."

Coach Buchen is increasing in popularity at a remarkable rate. Every day brings new students to his classes. He is enthusiastic over his work and will doubtless make debating one of the most prominent and popular of the student body activities. We would advise every freshman in the college of liberal arts to take work under him and try out for the debating team.

Now is a good time for those who say they haven't any chance in athletics to help out in another way. Get busy and write a song or yell. Oregon needs both badly, especially the latter. This week is the last chance.

Those last year's notices on the bulletin boards might just as well be taken down. A good many things that happened last year were better forgotten anyway.

By all means, we say, name the new "Gym" after "Bill," and "Long may she wave."

ADAMS' SKYSCRAPERS INTEREST ENGINEERS

At the meeting of the Engineering Club last Saturday night, an illustrated lecture on skyscrapers was given by Professor Adams, and several mathematical puzzles were presented by Dr. Leonard.

According to Professor Adams, the pyramid of Creeps was the first skyscraper ever built, rising to a height of 500 feet above the neighboring plain. The first skyscraper of modern construction was the Eiffel tower at Paris. This tower is 948 feet high and is still the highest structure in existence.

In the United States the first skyscraper was the twenty-story Masonic Temple of Chicago, which held the record until 1897, when the twenty-six story Park Row building of New York was built. Following this came many buildings in New York from eighteen stories up. Now one is planned—the Equitable Life—which will be two and one-quarter times as high as the Park Row building, or 909 feet. This is half as high as Spencer's Butte. It will have over fifty acres of floor space and accommodate 10,000 people.

Dr. Leonard's mathematical puzzles were of the usual high order. He first took up the problem of determining the smallest number in which 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 were each contained with a remainder of one, but in which 7 went with no remainder. He deduced an indeterminate equation for such problems, but one which can be solved by a finite number of trials. Another of his problems dealt with a certain number of roses which the three Graces divided with the nine Nurses. The number was zero. Several other like problems were presented.

Yale's largest gift is a \$425,000 physics laboratory. Smaller gifts amounting to \$40,000 have been received recently.

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Literary Societies

Last Saturday evening the Laurean Society held its regular weekly meeting. Forty members were present to listen to the splendid program prepared by the freshmen members, which consisted of interesting extemporaneous speeches by McFarland and Kuykendall on freshman debating and track prospects and an excellent debate on the question of state prohibition between Roberts, Brossins and H. Cash; and Collier, Gore and Yaden.

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Ralph Cronise, University Correspondent

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