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MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1905

SOME CHANGES SUGGESTED

At the regular session of the executive committee of the Oregon Inter-collegiate Oratorical Association, held recently at Newberg, some important recommendations were made by the committee to the state association.

These recommendations pertain more especially to needed changes and additions to the constitution and by-laws adopted by the association at Forest Grove in March 1904. In transacting the preliminaries in the committee meeting this constitution was found to be deficient in many particulars and the delegates which go out from Pacific University to the coming business meeting should be intelligently instructed as to their duty in these matters.

Among other things the committee recommended to the association that all the expenses of executive committeemen be defrayed by the state association and not by the local associations as at present. This will materially augment the annual tax levied by the executive committee but will not increase the expenses of the local associations.

Too much, heretofore, has been left to be provided for by precedent, established custom or "unwritten law." It has always been the custom that the school where the state contest is held should receive all moneys and receipts of the contest and should defray all expenses of the contest. This is important and is a matter of several hundred dollars yearly and no provision of the constitution or by-laws compels any institution to pay out any money derived from the returns of the state contest. This has

caused but little trouble in the past but it can readily be seen that it ought immediately to be remedied.

Another point which needs action of the association is in regard to the ranking of points in judging a contest. The method adopted this year by the committee does not distinctly discriminate against biographical sketches but the committee felt, as many others do, that the orator who chooses an abstract theme dealing with some up-to-date problems has not in the past been given the credit that he deserves. A historical subject may require sometimes considerable thought it is true but it is also true that college orators are choosing them because they "always win" and require less brain work. The details of the method cannot here be discussed but are creditable and should be adopted by succeeding executive committees.—The Weekly Index.

EXAMINATIONS

The time of examinations is upon us, and the hasty final reviews, sometimes lightly spoken of as "cramming" are now engrossing the time and careful attention of everybody, great and small. No one escapes the semi-annual test of strength. What a man has done or is doing for his college amounts to naught in time of examinations, for all are brought to a level, despite the part each takes or does not take in the general interests of the University. The man who has served on the football team or who has debated or who has written newspapers, receives the same questions and is expected to give the same answers as the easy-goer who has had absolutely no cares but to eat his meals and peruse his books. The mere bluffers and the plodding conscientious stand side by side with equal chances. The man who has soaked himself full of musty lore by the aid of nightly midnight oil, and the spontaneous youth who can temporarily absorb several complete volumes of learning in a single evening, do not differ from each other in the examination. Last of all things, however, is the ordinary examination fit to be taken as an index of the true worth of a student. The examination is one of the necessary formalities of student life which can neither be slighted nor escaped. The deep-laid foundations of a man's earnest work and the stable superstructure of his attainments constitute the only gauge whereby it is right to measure the worth of a student.

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