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# EDITORIAL

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**College Oratory** We may be said to be living in an age of discussion. No subject, however, veiled in sancity can long escape the dissolving process of popular talk. More and more our problems, national and individual are being settled by mere word of mouth. This tendency has incentive to progress peculiar to itself. It places a premium on mental alertness. To be a factor in public matters one must possess power to talk ably.

Theoretically this is the chief function of college oratorical training. It aims to develop power of clear thinking, and forceful speech. The value of such training, however, is somewhat limited by the indirect method of procedure. By a system of tryouts and prizes elimination becomes the prime factor. In order to win, and let it be said that no one enters an oratorical contest with any other motive, the young orator must conform to a certain sort of oratory.

Herein lies the gist of the matter: the quality of the oratory of the college is determined at the tryout. The judge is the criterion. If college oratory is to have value it must be regulated by the highest obtainable standard; since the judge is responsible for the standard he should be, not only possess the keenest ability, but should act in accordance with some definite principle. This is done in theory, but it should be made a practical reality. Every time a decision is based on some individual crochets, or sentimentality the intellectual tone of college oratory is lowered. Every departure from standard weakens the quality, deteriorates the fiber of our public speaking.

It is the opinion of those who have given thought to this sub-