

Outstanding New Readings

Listed in our 1938 catalog are many good readings that are sure to be added to our long list of State and National Winners. We here mention a few of them:

HUMOROUS

- The Boor**—Anton Tchekoff. From the play—60c.
Cave-Man Stuff—Leota Hulse Black. 1937 sequel to "The Widow's Mites."—60c.
Joint Owners in Spain—Alice Brown. This is the only reading from this play that may be used without the payment of royalty. 60c.
He Who Laughs Last. Leota Hulse Black. A 1937 sequel to "X Marks the Spot" and "Before the Banquet." 60c.
Kollege Kut-Up. Rupert Hughes. (Newly cut). 50c.
Merry Wives of Windsor. Shakespeare. This cutting will give opportunity for varied character work. 50c.
Mind Over Matter. Leota Hulse Black. 1937 reading. All new characters. 60c.
Tom Sawyer Fakes a Dream. Mark Twain. From "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer." 50c.
Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Giant? Luella E. McMahon. 1937 sequel to "Exit the Big Bad Wolf." 60c.
The Young Collegian. (By the author of "David Garrick," which won the National Contest in 1936.) From the one act play, "The Young Collegian." This reading has especially good comedy characterizations. 60c.

DRAMATIC

- Lady Windermere's Fan**. Oscar Wilde. An appealing bit of drama from the play, "Lady Windermere's Fan." 60c.
Oh, Son—Thy Father. Matthew Arnold. From "Sohrab and Rustum." One of the best readings that will be offered this year. 60c.
The Shadow of the Sword. Robert Buchanan. From the book. 60c.
That We Might Be Saved. Cora Jane Montgomery. By the author of "The Blessed Damosel." 60c.
Ulrica's Revenge. Sir Walter Scott. From "Ivanhoe." 50c.
The Courier of the Czar. Jules Verne. From "Michael Strogoff." 50c.
The Spanish Gypsy. George Eliot. From "The Spanish Gypsy." 50c.
Zek'al's Vengeance. Carl Weber. A new reading that is perhaps more impressive than is "Mississippi Magic," a tense, fantastic drama by the same author. 60c.
When the Whirlwind Blows. Essex Dane. 1937 cutting from the play. 60c.

ORATIONS

- The Crisis in Character**. Won the National Contest for Colleges, 1937. 50c.
The Unfinished World. Won second in the National Contest for Colleges, 1937. 50c.
The Monster in the Public Square. Won first in the National Contest of the NFL, 1937 (original oratory). 50c.
Youth's Duty to the Future. J. Edgar Hoover. 50c.

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WETMORE DECLAMATION BUREAU

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The Rostrum

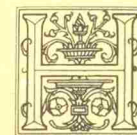


Official Publication of the National Forensic League

VOL. XII

NOVEMBER, 1937

No. 3



HAVE YOU entered our contest on Introductions. Contest closes December 15. See page 10 for other details. Here's a new opportunity to do outstanding work.



THE ROSTRUM

Official Publication of the National Forensic League

KARL E. MUNDT, *President and Editor*

BRUNO E. JACOB, *Secretary*

Published monthly from September to May in the interests of the National Forensic League and for the promotion of extended and improved speech activities in the high schools of America.

Office of Publication: Ripon College, Ripon, Wisconsin.

Subscription Price: 50 cents a year; 25 cents for additional copies. Contributions should be sent to The Rostrum, Box 223 Madison, S. D. Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Ripon, Wisconsin, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Any item herein may be reprinted or quoted by crediting the source of publication.

Where Do We Go From Here?

In the twelve years encompassed by the existence of the National Forensic League, astounding progress has been made in the development of speech education in America. It is doubtful whether any subject has made so much headway in so short a time as has been made by public speaking in its various forms.

Back in 1925, few if any high schools in America had scientific speech clinics for the detection and correction of the speech abnormalities of their students. Every school of any size had within its walls students whose personalities were being dwarfed and whose futures were being dimmed because of correctable speech defects but the schools were blandly going along teaching these students subjects which they could never use rather than giving them training which would correct these fundamental handicaps. Twelve years ago, debating was frequently directed by English teachers with no special preparation in argumentation and debate and debate contests were limited to a few haphazard inter-school debates judged indifferently by the butcher, baker and candlestick maker; competition was provincial in nature and if a school had the best team in seven counties it was convinced its speakers were a superior lot even though this team would make a pitiful impression in competition with a school from a neighboring state where speech education was more advanced. A dozen years ago, debate and oratorical contests were looked upon by unthinking school administrators as being in the same class as football or basketball games, held for the enjoyment of the student body, to build school morale and spirit, and as being strictly extra-curricular to the fundamental educational functions of a school; debate speeches were "canned"; rebuttals "boxed"; audiences "bored."

Today, all this is changed. Hundreds of our more progressive and enlightened public high schools maintain speech corrective clinics and youngsters are given help in overcoming speech abnormalities. In a great many schools and in at least one state, Speech Training Under a Specialized Speech Teacher is required of every student in high

school. In many cases this training is extended down into the grades where it most obviously should be emphasized. Debate teams are coached by debate directors who are specially trained to teach students to reason logically, to think clearly, and to speak effectively. Inter-state and intersectional debates as well as debate tournaments now give opportunity for comparing the speech standards of various states and sections; contests are judged by experts who offer invaluable criticisms and suggestions for improvement to the participants. National speech contests have focused the attention of America upon speech education and have been the most important single factor in awakening the country to the value of speech training. High school students privileged by proficiency to attend these tournaments in company with the best high school minds of America, broaden their viewpoints, enrich their experiences, stimulate their ambitions, and bring back to their home schools attitudes and ideas which in turn benefit the entire student body and community. Extempore speaking has replaced memorized speeches and brisk debating has proved interesting enough to merit the broadcast of the national championship debate on coast-to-coast chain radio hook-ups for the past six years.

NFL-ers throughout the nation may well be proud of the part they have played in making America speech-conscious because to make America sufficiently speech-conscious is to make America speak correctly. But the League must not and will not stand still; some communities, a few entire states, still lag behind in speech education; in others, provincial bars still prevent the broad exchange of ideas and attitudes so essential in the building of an American speech standard and an American attitude of life unimpeded by the stumbling blocks of state lines and sectional self-sufficiency.

So—I propose this question to our entire League: "Where Do We Go From Here?" At the annual Executive Council meeting which will be held this year in New York City during the National Speech Convention, serious deliberations will take place concerning the improvement of our national tournament-conventions and the means to be taken to make them even more effective in pacing the speech developments of our secondary schools. In next May's national classic, it has already been decided to place greater emphasis on the educational and convention features; less on those strictly competitive. Letters from members will be appreciated proposing educational features they would like to see included and national speech authorities they would like to hear at the convention. Your ideas, Student, Teacher, Administrator, Layman—will all be appreciated and considered. Send them to The Rostrum, Madison, S. D., and they will be presented to the Council for deliberation.

Where do we go from here? Forward with America, of course! The National Forensic League marches on; speech is gaining in importance every year and more and more it is becoming axiomatic that "those who speak well, rule all." That America may speak better, your League will lead the way in developing the speech consciousness and advancing the "speech-correctness" of the country.

—Karl E. Mundt.

California Invites 1939 National

When Charles F. Wright, enthusiastic speech director at our Beverly Hills Chapter facetiously promised the participation of Spencer Tracy, Joan Crawford, W. C. Fields, Claudette Colbert and lights of the Hollywood movie colony if we would bring the national tournament to his city, NFL-ers thought he was simply entertaining the banquet crowd with a clever after-dinner speech. Now it is evident that the Californians really mean business.

The Secretary is in receipt of a letter from Richard C. Waltz, city attorney of Beverly Hills, as follows: "The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills, Calif., has adopted a resolution authorizing the appropriation of the sum of \$1,000 from the music and promotion fund of the city for the purpose of defraying certain necessary expenses in connection with the annual contest of the National Forensic League for the year 1939.

In an editorial entitled "Commendable Enterprise," the Beverly Hills Citizen endorses the action of the city council in making this appropriation and writes of the value of the National Tournament both to the participating students and to the entertaining city. Bill Rogers is the publisher of this paper.

A committee composed of school board member W. S. Field, Superintendent E. J. Hummell, and Charles Wright has been formed to further the plans.

Preliminary reports indicate that Beverly Hills has the requisites for a good national tournament: suitable buildings, hospitable homes, abundant judges, and worthwhile educational attractions. The San Francisco Fair will open next year.

That a tournament held in the California city would be both a real treat and a liberal education to both the students and coaches who could attend it goes without question. That Beverly Hills, the official school committee, and the motion picture industry would stage a mighty fine tournament may likewise be regarded as a certainty. The only question: "Should we go so far west?"

For seven years the national tournament has been held in what might be broadly termed the middle west. It has been central to the states furnishing the large bulk of the entries, though often quite a distance for the Atlantic seaboard states and always a long ways for the Californians and other west coast states which have attended regularly since 1934. The Westerners cheerfully accept their distance handicap, but plead that once in ten years at least the national tournament might be held west of the Rockies.

What shall be the attitude of the Executive Council toward this invitation? Appreciation of the interest and efforts already show, of course.

But it would be unkind to let the city go ahead to perfect its plans if its remote location precludes acceptance of its invitation. This question should be decided at the December meeting of the Council.

What is the attitude of your Chapter? Would **your** school send a team or a contestant to Beverly Hills in 1939 if eligible to enter? To do so would mean more money and more time away from classes. The broadening experiences of such a trip would undoubtedly be worth both, but would your local community see it that way? Talk it over, think it through, ask your principal and superintendent; then write the National Secretary. While the NFL runs the national tournament, superintendents run schools and we want to fit our program into the educational picture so as to contribute a maximum of usefulness. What shall we say to Beverly Hills? You write the answer.

Meanwhile, the Council is considering invitations for the 1938 meeting. Detroit which nearly got the 1937 tournament in place of Jacksonville is renewing its invitation. Omaha and Ft. Wayne have also extended invitations. There is still time for others to present their invitations. Action by the Council will be taken on Dec. 31. If you would like to have the national in your section of the country, interest a community with suitable facilities, in presenting its invitation. There is still time. And if not chosen this year it will have a lead start another year.

"I Have Debated Several Thousand Times"

(Reprinted from The Gavel of Delta Sigma Rho)

(Bernard C. Clausen, Minister, 1st Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.)

During the twenty years of my ministry, I have never been able to escape from the debate technique which was taught me during my years at Colgate. Week after week I find myself sketching my sermons in debate form beginning with the typical debater's introduction to the broad scope of the subject and proceeding in one, two, three order to the logical conclusion which I hope to achieve in my audience. Tucked into the opening pages of my pulpit Bible is a graphic outline of the course of thought and attached to it are those items of evidence, statistics, quotations, quoted authorities, similes, and poetic excerpts which will serve me to help establish my case.

More than that, I am always conscious of a desire to win the argument by means of a verdict from the members of my congregation. I am never satisfied unless I have taken them along with me throughout the course of my preaching and have, before my last word is said, convinced them of my side of the cause. With two sermons to preach every Sunday and a host of outside engagements which present me with the same problem of convincing others concerning my point of view I think I may say that I have debated several thousand times since my last intercollegiate contest, and each time I have a greater sense of respect for the clean-cut decisiveness which the debate attitude makes possible in the public speaker.

—NFL—

Have you entered the introductions contest? See September Rostrum for complete details. Get all entries in the mail before December 15th.

Raising Membership Standards

At the business meeting in Jacksonville last May three resolutions prevailed to effect high standards for NFL membership.

1. Credit points should be recorded for NFL members only.
2. Members should be permitted to report only five individual contests a year in addition to their district and national NFL tournaments.
3. Requirements for degrees should be substantially increased.

Before definite proposals are submitted by the Council for ratification by the Chapters, an expression of sentiment from the members is solicited to the end that the most universally equitable changes can be formulated. Consider therefore these proposals both in the light of your own situation and that of the national organization as well.

The first proposal is simple. It has almost become necessary by the fact that a rapidly increasing number of chapters enter hosts of students in practice tournaments of all kinds, students who never complete or apply for NFL membership. It taxes the facilities of the national office which should be at the service of the members. Perhaps the provision should be modified by adding "or who have applied for membership" permitting genuinely interested students to file their applications and fees ready for entry as soon as their 15 credit points all on record. What do you think?

The second proposal aims to prevent the accumulation of huge totals of credit points by simply repeating the oration or declamation in contest after contest. It does not appreciably restrict the points for normal participation. The student would be permitted to select his five best contests, so that with seven or eight points in each he could still gain some 40 points a year in addition to the point he would earn in the NFL district or national tournament. It would seem that the rule would encourage a student to do better than he had done before, or else let some other student enter the contest in his place. It would not apply to debate.

The third resolution offers many possibilities. One is to simply to mark up the points required for the several degrees. Another is to reduce the credit points for large scale participation so that the higher totals of points would be harder to get. Proposal No. 2 is along that line. It offers opportunity to readjust credit point relationships of the various contests. These suggestions are before the Council:

In debate—

A. Reduce credit points for non-decision debate to 5. Now participation in three practice debates qualifies a student for an NFL key; the change would require five such debates.

B. Eliminate the extra point for team leader. This change was heartily endorsed at the business meeting. Most chapters ignore the

extra point anyhow or pass it around among the members. Elimination would simplify the schedule.

C. Provide a minimum of one point for all debates instead of the present minimum of two for winning. In the latter part of the season when debaters have had enough debates to reach the minimum the difference between winning and losing becomes small in terms of ability and effort. Perhaps no distinction in points should be made. Or should the winning team members receive the recognition of an extra point? What do you say?

In other contests—

A. Make the maximum eight in any round instead of ten. NFL rules limit sections to eight anyhow, but in many other contests larger numbers are allowed. This rule would affect only participants in large contests and leave the rest untouched.

B. Give extemporaneous speaking as much credit as original oratory. This would raise point totals for some members of course. It would be putting increased emphasis on original speaking. When it is well done it is worth a lot of credit, but is the preparation for extemporaneous generally as thorough as for oratory? Practice varies from school to school, section to section. No rule will be fair in all instances. What would be the best provision in most situations and the best NFL policy?

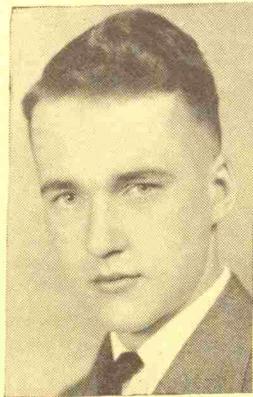
C. Give extemporaneous speakers as many points as schools in the contest (not exceeding eight), original oratory one point more and declamation one point less.

Another related matter has been added to these discussions. Newer NFL coaches have often expressed the sentiment that the huge totals of credit points accumulated by veteran coaches through years of NFL membership almost discourage the younger ones from hoping for a place among the leaders. That is frankly too bad. The NFL wishes to encourage not discourage. Yet just recognition should accrue to those who have served long and well in the speech field. A simple wiping out of all previous points each year or stopping point additions when a certain number is reached would not be fair to them.

This suggestion has been put forth: Whenever any NFL coach reaches the 1,000 point mark (two are approaching it) the points then held by all coaches shall be reduced one-half. Sounds foolish, doesn't it; but thinking it over discloses that it might reconcile very nicely the interests of all concerned. Take an example of a veteran coach holding 1,000 points and a recent man who just passed the 200 mark in three years of hard work. Apply the rule and the veteran would still be high man in the League with 500 points, but while he lost 500 points the newer member would lose only 100. Instead of an impossible gap of 800 points between the two, there would be only 400. Newer members would have a chance. Seniority would still have an advantage it deserves, but not enough to discourage others. The work of the NFL does not depend upon the solution of this problem, but think it over too and let us have your recommendation.

These Boys Lead the Decalet West High, Aurora, Illinois

TOM McELIN



Entering speech work as a freshman, Tom has represented his school in Original Oratory for three years and has entered the state finals twice, as a freshman and junior. A staunch believer in the negative side of any question, reversed his procedure last year and debated consistently on both sides. Elected to the editorship of this year's yearbook, is afraid his journalism will interfere with his speech work. Also elected president of the NFL chapter, he is just beginning to realize the headaches of a Tournament Director, as West High sponsors its practice contests. A member of the tennis team, considers it his favorite sport. Winter activities

find him a ping pong fiend. Studious, he ranks with the top of his class in scholastics. Aspiring to a career of medicine, believes a study of speech quite important. Tom is in concurrence with his team's motto, "Never concede nothin'." Believes the greatest enjoyment in all his debate experience was when West Aurora defeated Springfield, Mo., in the quarter finals of the National at Jacksonville last year.

BILL MURPHY

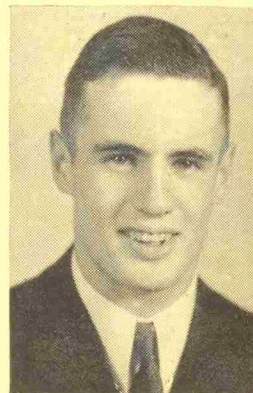
In a nutshell, Bill's achievements and interests have been varied, to say the least.

Two years of play on the West Aurora football team which won the conference title and thirteen straight games have given him a love of the rough and tumble method of "diplomacy." His biggest thrill was scoring a touchdown against Elgin, West's chief rival in forensics as well as football.

Four years of debating and three of individual speaking have given Bill a world of experience including about 15,000 miles of travel—most of which came in the coaches' "flivver." Two trips to the National have his "forensic education" just about completed—but—as he says, "nobody can know everything about speech."

Bill's hobbies are golf, photography, and debate. He intends to bring a candid camera to all the meets to catch the speakers off guard. He is still wondering how to cure a slice while golfing and invites interested parties to send in their advice. (Entries in before Jan. 1 receive a special gift offer.)

His ambition consists of the desire to become a lawyer and believes that debating is very valuable to anyone so inclined.



Letters to the Editor—"Here the Reader Has His Say"

River Rouge Public Schools, River Rouge, Mich.

Dear Editor:

One weakness of most practice tournaments lies in the fact that the coaches have to spend the time listening to and judging other teams when they would like to be listening to their own debaters.

We recently held a practice debate tournament here at our high school in which we attempted to get away from this weakness. Each debate team was scheduled to debate in two of the three rounds and act as a board of judges in the other round. The tournament was open to any school that desired to come. Eighteen schools were here with thirty-six teams. While there was no great emphasis placed on winning in the tournament held for practice, we did offer trophies to the school with the highest percentage of wins and we were therefore interested to find out whether debating on a given side of the question at the time makes any great difference in the student's ability to judge a debate.

A compilation of the votes showed that students debating on the affirmative voted slightly more often for the negative side than for the side in which they were debating. The ratio being 37 negative votes to 35 affirmative votes. Students who were debating on the negative side issued 32 negative tickets to 28 for the affirmative.

While our experiment was not large enough to be scientifically conclusive, we are satisfied that generally speaking even the less experienced debaters are able to judge without a great deal of bias as to the side on which they are themselves working.

Howell High School was the first place winner in our tournament with a percentage of 75%. Royal Oak and Flint Northern winning second and third places, respectively.

Yours very truly,

Harold A. Dressel, Debate Director.

The Rostrum is always glad to publish letters sent in by NFL-ers—either students or teachers. Someone has said, "No man has really lived until or unless he has responded to the urge to take pen in hand and over his own name and in his own language write it to the editor." Come on, NFL . . . no more alive organization exists in America. I invite you, "write it to the editor."—K.E.M.

—NFL—

The West Bend High School Chapter of the National Forensic League is pushing declamation activities this fall. Six teachers have been pressed into service to take care of the unusually large group. Miss Lois Buswell, sponsor of the local chapter, is chairman of this activity.

Debate is also in progress, over forty students reporting for try-outs. Mr. Robert Barber, who recently came to West Bend from Volga, S. D., has charge of this work.

Something of This—Something of That

Sylvester Toussaint, national honorary member and well known speech director of Monmouth College for a number of years and oft-time director of judging assignments at National NFL tournaments has recently accepted an appointment to the staff of Greeley State Teachers College of Greeley, Colo. From this vantage point he will continue to contribute to the speech program of America as teacher, scholar, president of Pi Kappa Delta, friend of NFL, writer and speaker. He is now acquiring his doctor's degree in the University of Wisconsin, where he has as a counsellor that other great and good friend of NFL, Henry L. Ewbank.

—NFL—

"The Maskers," West High School (Minneapolis) Dramatic Club under the leadership of Miss Joyce R. Gregory, is acting as host to twenty-eight high schools on Dec. 10 when they sponsor a Declamatory Festival in three divisions of the declamation field: serious dramatic; humorous dramatic, and oratory. The speakers will appear before the English, Speech, and Social Science classes of the high school; no rankings will be announced but each speaker will be criticized by competent speech teachers and dramatic coaches. Every speaker will be permitted to appear at least two times. West High believes that education is advanced by observing "the other fellow" and is holding this festival early enough to permit schools dissatisfied with their choice of selections to hear a large variety of declamatory work before the regular district declamatory contests start in Minnesota the latter part of January.

—NFL—

Phi Rho Pi Crusader: "The National Phi Rho Pi tournament for Junior Colleges will be held next April at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla." T. M. Beaird of the university staff will be Tournament Director which means to NFL-ers who have enjoyed meeting "Mistah Ted" at every NFL tournament that the Junoir College tournament will be a miracle of dispatch and efficiency.

—NFL—

The location and exact dates of the eighth annual NFL tournament-convention to be held the first week in May will be announced soon after the New York City meeting of the Executive Council. All NFL-ers attending the National Speech Convention are invited to "sit-in" on the deliberations of the Executive Council in New York. "Come on over and sit-in and talk-up"—you're all invited.

—NFL—

The Scout, Muskogee, Okla.: Carrying the ambitious masthead "Oklahoma's Livest High School Newspaper," this newsy and splendidly gotten up paper reports an item giving additional proof to a fact already very well established, namely, that student speakers are usually student leaders. Ramey Harper was elected speaker of the Student House of Representatives early in November. Of course, Ramey is a high school debater and one of Muskogee's speech stars!!

More of This—More of That

District Chairman E. J. Diller of Chaney High, Youngstown, Ohio, issues a mighty interesting monthly news letter to all chapter members in Ohio. We wonder—does every District Chairman issue a news letter to the chapters in his district? If so, why doesn't The Rostrum receive them all? If not, Mr. Chairman, you're passing up a real opportunity to build up the esprit d' corps of the members of your district. A recent issue of the "Buckeye News Letter" shows Wooster, Niles, and Youngstown in 1-2-3 order in chapter ranking in the Ohio district.

—NFL—

The third annual pre-season, non-decision debate tournament was held Nov. 1 at Greenbrier High School, Ronceverte, West Virginia, under the direction of debate director, Richard C. Brand. The Wilbur Jones Kay Chapter of the National Forensic League served as tournament sponsors.

—NFL—

The Hi-Comet, North Little Rock, Ark: Front-page notice is given in this paper of the fact that The Rostrum disclosed the fact that North Little Rock was listed among the first fourteen chapters of the country in advancement. The people of North Little Rock should indeed be proud of the fine record their high school is making in developing the speaking abilities of its students.

—NFL—

Add to seven wonders of the world; a group of school men journeying to convention to discuss reasons why students in high school should be prevented from journeying to conventions to develop better abilities to meet life's problems.

—NFL—

The Chip, Maplewood, Mo.: From Maplewood comes an idea so interesting and so much worth imitating by other NFL chapters that we quote this news item in full . . . "Thursday, Sept. 23, the public speaking instructors of six of the county high school met at Clayton High School to outline plans for a High School Speakers' Bureau of St. Louis County. The purpose of this bureau is to provide opportunities for students interested in public speaking to speak before public groups. It is not to stimulate a spirit of rivalry between students of member schools.

"The personnel of the High School Speakers' Bureau is to be composed of students from the following high schools: Clayton, John Burroughs, Kirkwood, Maplewood, Webster Groves, and University City. . . . Student speakers will be informed of their speaking engagements at least one week in advance of the scheduled appearance, and their talks must be approved by the speaking instructor of their schools."

Contest News . . . Read and Act!

Since the announcement of NFL's first direct-by-mail contest in the September issue of *The Rostrum* (see page 2) mail receipts of *The Rostrum* have picked up considerably. A nice bunch of contest-entries have already arrived and more are coming in with every mail. **But we want more!**

Remember, the contest does not close until Dec. 15 so there is still plenty of time to enter either contest or both. The winning introductions with pictures of winners will be published in *The Rostrum*—in addition, appropriate awards will be given to the winners of each division. It takes only 300 words to win this contest; here is a real opportunity to match your ability and art against that of students from throughout America. The contest will be judged by three eminent speech authorities of America.

Speech teachers might well use this opportunity to hold local "contests in introductions" in their classrooms and send the best one or two of these to the National Contest. Thus far, most of the introductions have been in a rather serious vein, but the contest rules permit humor, frivolity, drama, hyperbole, irony, wise-crackery or any other product of your imagination . . . come on, gang, **it's a contest**—get into

Book Reviews

"Prize Winning Orations" . . . (*The Yearbook of Oratory*) For the ninth consecutive year, Noble and Noble have published a compilation of prize winning orations representing the best college speeches given in America last year. This volume is replete with splendid examples of what America's youth is thinking today and is going to be doing tomorrow. It is a book which should be in the hands of every educator, minister, or youth-worker because it reveals what today's youth actually is and why it is that way.

"Intercollegiate Debates," Volume XVIII, compiled by Egbert Ray Nichols and published by Noble and Noble, is another valuable library reference for speech departments in either high school or college. As a guide to the proper construction of argumentative discourse, *Intercollegiate Debates* is a splendid asset to anyone interested in studying the art of using language for purposes of conviction.

"Unicameral Legislatures," by E. C. Buehler; Publishers, Noble & Noble. This year's edition of the Buehler series of debate hand-books is by far the best of the series to date. Well printed and attractively bound, Prof. Buehler has impounded a wealth of information in this hand-book which will prove a welcome boon to debaters and debate directors during the early season preparation periods when material is hard to find and arguments difficult to organize. Sources are specifically quoted and the facts have been reliably accumulated. An extensive Bibliography provides one of the most valuable features of this year's hand-book. Source of materials are definitely located and wherever possible prices of source material are quoted. Short annotated sentences give the prospective reader some idea of what to expect from the full transcript of the source material.

From the Secretary's Desk

District Chairmen Elected

Special elections were held in newly created districts as well as in other districts to fill vacancies and these were chosen. Their names should be added to the Board of District Chairmen published in the September *Rostrum*.

Northern Illinois—R. A. Deabler, La Grange.

Eastern Pennsylvania—G. W. DeLawter, Allentown Preparatory

Kansas—J. Edmund Mayer, Topeka.

South Dakota—C. C. Jacobson, Rapid City.

Western—Orville Turnbaugh, Moscow, Idaho.

The District Standing

For the new readers of the *Rostrum* we print again this brief explanation of the District Standing appearing on the next page. It is a listing of the Districts in order of rank based on the average number of active members and degrees per chapter in that district. It shows the change in rank from last month by noting the number of places the district went up or down in the column. The leading chapters named are those having the largest number of active members and degrees in their respective districts at this time.

Chapters can advance standing of their district by enrolling all qualified students as early as possible; by procuring advanced degrees for all members entitled to them; by helping suspended chapters to become reinstated; and by organizing new chapters in schools strong enough in speech work to meet the requirements of the charter committee.

A Visit to Memphis

The Western division of the Tennessee State Teachers' Association was kind enough to invite your Secretary to speak to the English group at its meeting in Memphis on Oct. 22. In the afternoon the four Memphis Chapters, Central, Humes, Messick and Technical joined in a tea to honor their speaker and District Chairman John R. Hovious of Nashville. A surprisingly large number of members and neophytes were present. Memphis is a strong NFL center and much of the credit goes to Mrs. Lottye K. McCall, Tennessee Chairman last year and now head of the English group in the Teachers Association.

Thank You, Friends!

The Secretary wishes to express a very sincere appreciation to the scores of Chapters who have patiently tolerated delay in caring for their needs at this office. The distractions of home building are now about 98% past (the plumbers forgot a few items). Presently your secretary hopes to sit down to devote an uninterrupted afternoon to looking after your needs. We'll get this office into high gear not only to make up for past neglect, but to set a new standard for service. NFL Chapters comprise the finest group of people anybody could work for and when they are so fine about long delays there is a double desire to do the best we can in return. This is especially true of our District Chairmen. Well, thanks again, and let's go!

Statistical Page

Rank	Up or Down	District	Members per Chapter	Leading Chapter	Members & Degrees
1	+5	Southern Illinois	17.9	Granite City	51
2	+2	New York	12.6	Poughkeepsie	62
3	-2	Wisconsin	11.9	Mayville	39
4	+2	Northern Illinois	11.6	Maine Township	56
5	0	Ohio	10.6	Wooster	42
6	+1	California	9.9	Beverly Hills	32
7	+2	Indiana	9.5	Columbia City	20
8	-6	Nebraska	8.8	Norfolk	35
9	+2	Colorado	8.2	Fort Collins	35
10	-7	Texas	7.8	Dallas North	40
11	-3	Western Pennsylv.	7.5	Monessen	69
12	+1	Missouri	7.2	Joplin	43
13	+1	Iowa	7.0	Hawarden	44
14	+1	Kentucky	7.0	Mt. Sterling	24
15	-5	Oklahoma	6.4	Enid	36
16	+1	South Dakota	6.0	Lennox	27
17	+2	Michigan	5.8	River Rouge	22
18	-8	Tennessee	5.7	Memphis, Messick	23
19	-3	Kansas	4.8	Wichita, East	36
20	-2	Minnesota	4.7	Mpls., Roosevelt	27
21	-13	Eastern Pennsylvania	4.3	Catasauqua	10
22	-1	New England	4.0	Portland	18
23	-3	Washington	3.3	Logan, Utah	17

Our Decade of Leaders

Coaches

L. D. Schreiber, Charleroi	909
Kathryn Moran, Joplin	853
J. Edmund Mayer, Topeka	780
R. P. Hibbs, DuQuoin	746
Hazel A. Hatch, Enid	724
Levi Oosterhuis, Minneapolis	721
Mary Blackburn, Gran. City	691
Lucile Stephens, Poughkeep.	643
T. C. Bond, Niles	574
R. S. Cartwright, Elgin	609

Students

Bill Murphy, Aur.-West, Ill.	557
Tom McElin, Aur.-West, Ill.	504
Virginia Allen, DuQuoin, Ill.	413
Jack Cohen, E. Palestine, O.	341
Eleanor Bishop, Abilene, Tex.	292
Wm. Butler, Jennings, Mo.	269
Ruth Lee, DuQuoin, Ill.	250
Alf. Waldrop, Abilene, Tex.	246
Robert Henson, Shawnee, Ok.	241
Wilma Rains, DuQuoin, Ill.	240

Going Up

	New	Total
Chapters	0	480
Members	55	17,534
Emblems Ordered	18	9,245
Reports of Contests	131	65,968
Degrees of Honor	27	7,279
Degrees of Excellence	15	3,998
Degrees of Distinction	6	2,162

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