

OTTAWA UNIVERSITY.

A. S. OLIN,
Department of English and Didactics.

Ottawa, Kansas, 188.....

That students take such ruinous short cuts to their life's work is due to ignorance of college life and its benefits, and we can never ~~so~~ clear up their ignorance while they are on the outside. Therefore any legitimate means which may attract them here, though apparently for a short-time is justifiable and commendable. But we must not out-normal the normal schools by furnishing short cheap courses, and sending out those who complete them with the university stamp of ^{approval} ~~completion~~. What will best conserve the interests of the normal department and of the whole college is a strong full course reaching at least through the Freshman year, and inviting to the fields beyond; or if the student then leaves the school, he will have ^{had} much of real and valuable discipline, and from the point of scholarship, be prepared to do the higher work in the schools of the state. Is such students the diploma of the university

may be given, and they would undoubtedly
be a source of pride and profit to
this school.

Respectfully Submitted

A. S. Olm

Report of
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English and Didactics

Board of Trustees of Ottawa University

Gentlemen: I herewith

present my report of work in the department of English and Didactics for the current year. During the year I have taught five classes daily, ~~comprising~~ ^{and Compositing} consisting of Arithmetic, Grammar, English Analysis, Study of Words, Rhetoric, School Management and Mental Science. The number enrolled in these classes have been Arithmetic 45, Grammar 42, English Analysis 22, Study of Words 12, Rhetoric 10, School Management 6, ^{Constitutional History} Mental Science 2. Total 141. Deducting names repeated on my class rolls 87. — Grammar is pursued throughout our general preparatory year, and the greatest difficulties are found in assimilating and unifying the mass of raw crude material which comes to us. You will understand that this must be so when ^{you know} I tell you that at least 25 per cent of those who come to us in this year ~~who~~ are unable ^{comprehend} to write legibly, read intelligibly, or thoroughly.

the ordinary simple English forms. These difficulties have been fairly overcome in the case of the present class, but the work would be much more satisfactory if it were possible to break our present large class into smaller ones, or if a more even grading could be secured by a slight raising of the standard of admission to this class. The English work in the more advanced classes is much more satisfactory, as students find it impossible to enter these higher classes until a good foundation for work is assured.

The department is in great need of reference books. At the beginning of this year the total number of books available for both branches of my department was three: the number has been increased by the kindness of Supt. Dicklow of this county. I would urge as liberal an appropriation ~~for~~ as your judgment will allow for the purchase of needed books and appliances.

The normal department has made a good beginning, and, ^{within} graduates one student from its four years course. - The prejudice which obtains in many colleges against the technical and practical as opposed to the ~~the~~ or coordinated with the disciplinary and theoretical is a feeling which must be ~~res~~ respected and resisted with great caution. - Where the technical and practical also give discipline there is no valid reason for rejecting it, and this view ~~is~~ must be accepted and acted upon in the colleges, especially in the West - would draw to their ^{halls} ~~doors~~ the yearly crowds which throng the doors of our normal schools and business colleges.