

ENGLISH STYLE OF DEBATING

By RICHARD T. ACLAND
A Member of the Oxford Team

The following article, given to Prof. E. E. Anderson, head of the forensic department at Gustavus—Minnesota Gamma—was compiled and submitted by Mr. Richard T. Acland, a member of the Oxford team which visited Gustavus late in October. It is a very clear presentation of the style of debating used at Oxford University, and partly accounts for the difference in the American style and the English style of debating.

THE OXFORD debating society—called the Oxford Union—is entirely controlled by the students, although some of the professors are members. Any student can join the society. Besides debating the society provides its members with reading rooms, tea rooms, and writing rooms. It also possesses one of the best libraries in Oxford. The debates are held once a week, generally among the members of the society. On only three occasions every year does the society debate against a visiting team—once against Cambridge, once against the American team of the year, and lastly against some colonial team. Approximately twice every term the society will ask some prominent public man to speak in the debate, but at all the other debates the only speakers are members of the society. Every conceivable subject is discussed, except religious subjects which are barred, from the most serious to the most flippant. "That this house has confidence in the present government" is a very frequent subject, and produces fiercely contested debates, as the three parties in recent years have been represented by roughly equal numbers in the debating society. Against this and similar serious subjects the house frequently debates such questions as "That the salt of the earth has lost its savour," "That brown bread is better than white," and these produce first rate debates, even though most of the speeches may wander rather widely from the immediate question under consideration.

The Society meets at eight o'clock and first transacts such private business as the adding of books to the library, and the questioning of officers relative to the discharge of their official duties. This latter provides a unique opportunity for the wits of the society as it is rare indeed that any question has any relation to the official duties of the officers, and it is more likely to have reference to some episode in the private behaviour of the officer during the past week; but everything is taken in the best spirit. Th's business being disposed of, the debate is opened by four speakers who have been chosen in advance by the president and who have pre-

pared their speeches with a certain amount of care,—but usually without very deep research. The president seldom informs a member that he will be required to speak more than a week before the debate takes place, and most members would not spend more than 5 to 10 hours in preparing what they had to say. These first four speakers, as well as the officers, wear tail coats and evening dress. They speak for a quarter of an hour each. When all four have spoken, the debate is thrown open to the rest of the house. It now becomes necessary to consider the lay out of the debating room.

The hall is thirty yards long and fifteen broad, and the president and other officers sit on a raised platform in the middle of one of the ends. The hall is divided into two halves. In the half nearest to the president there are two sets of benches, running lengthwise of the hall and facing each other across a narrow gangway. On these benches sit those who support the negative (on the president's left) and those who support the affirmative (on his right). In the part of the hall farthest from the president the benches run across the width of the hall, and there sit those who are impartial to the question, or who have no intention of joining in the debate. Now when the debate is thrown open to the house, those sitting on the affirmative longways benches who wish to speak immediately, rise to their feet. They have in addition sent a note to the president, during the course of the opening speeches, informing him of their desire. He calls upon one by name who then speaks for not more than ten minutes. When he has finished, intending speakers on the negative benches rise in the same way, and so the debate goes on for about two and a half hours after the end of the fourth prepared speech.

Usually the president has to cut down the time of the later speeches from ten to five minutes and sometimes to three in order to fit everybody in. The opening speaker has a right to reply, but he rarely exercises it. Those who speak from the house have seldom devoted any long time to the preparation of their speeches, although for a beginner some preparation is advisable. They usually have one minor point prepared and rely on the remarks of previous speakers to give them material for the remainder of their speeches. These speeches are of vital importance to those who make them. As there is no debating coach in the society it is only by the impression he makes in these speeches that the beginner can make a start. The house is very sympathetic and encouraging to those speaking for the first time, and it is the president's duty to watch carefully for any speaker who shows promise. The first time a man speaks it is unlikely that he is called upon before about 10:30, when many people have already gone home, which is not very encouraging. But if he makes a good speech the president will call on him earlier next time when more people will hear him and when it is easier to feel confidence in oneself. The next step is for the president to ask the rising speaker to make one of the opening speeches. This rarely occurs before the speaker has been speaking "from the house" for about two terms

(though of course it would not be necessary, nor indeed proper, for any rising speaker to take part in every debate,—to take part in one debate in three would be about the usual average for one who aspired to success).

At the end of each term the society elects by a written ballot lasting over two days, a president, librarian, treasurer, and secretary, as well as five members to serve on the standing committee (executive) and five more to serve on the library committee. It is naturally the ambition of the rising speaker to progress by popular vote through membership of these committees to the position of president of the society, and it is this desire which ensures that everyone will use his best endeavors to make amusing and intelligent speeches.

The manner of selecting teams to tour abroad will perhaps also be of interest. Any member of the society may be proposed for membership of a team. The selection from the names proposed is made by the standing committee and the officers, together with any ex-presidents who may be still in residence at Oxford, and of course without the assistance of any officer or member of the committee who may be a candidate for membership of the team.

As to the nature of the speeches it is of course hard to generalize. On a political subject, a carefully reasoned and vigorous speech with a certain amount of fighting spirit in it is always sure of a popular reception. But if the subject is more flippant, say "That this house regrets the discovery of internal combustion" the house will not approve of a careful analysis of the advantages of motor travel ungarnished with wit or epigrams. The house will always listen with pleasure to wit and epigrams, especially the latter, even when they have little relation to the subject under discussion, and there have been occasions when a speaker has won applause by his ability to talk humorous nonsense! But an anecdote, introduced with "that reminds me of the story of the . . ." must be very good and very new and very clearly appropriate to the subject under review in order to win approval, as the house recognizes that little skill is required in telling an anecdote, but there may be some merit in finding a really good one which exactly fits the question. One must be very careful in introducing such anecdotes, as, if 10 per cent of the audience has heard it, they will express their sentiments in low groans. The highest approval of all is reserved for the man who can put over rational arguments by the medium of jokes and above all epigrams. Such men are rare and generally become presidents of the society.

The manner of deciding the result of a debate is by popular vote of the audience. As each member leaves the hall he passes to the right or to the left of a post in the middle of the door, and so is counted by a teller who sits beside the door during the course of the debate. After the last speech those who remain in the hall take their seats on the lengthwise benches, affirmative or negative as they desire. The tellers count the numbers and add them to the totals of those who have voted by leaving the hall, and the president declares the result. In voting one is supposed to express one's opinion on the question, not on the merit of the speeches. But the result of the debate is not counted as a matter of any great consequence.

SEE YOU AT WICHITA!

Number of Delegates Reported to December 15.

California	
Univ. of Redlands	5
College of Pacific	4
Colorado	
Agricultural College	6
Teachers College	8
Western State	5
Idaho	
College of Idaho	3
Illinois	
Wesleyan University	3
Monmouth	8
North Central	8
Carthage	3
Iowa	
Wesleyan University	4
Central	8
Simpson	9
Parsons	3
Coe	3
Buena Vista	2
Drake	3
Penn	5
Morningside	6
Kansas	
Kansas State Agri. College	8
Southwestern College	10
Emporia Teachers	8
Pittsburg Teachers	10
Baker University	8
Hays Teachers	8
Ottawa	5
College of Emporia	14
Sterling	14
Kentucky	
Centre	3
Louisiana	
Centenary	3
Louisiana College	5
Maine	
Colby College	3
Michigan	
State College	6
Kalamazoo	5
Olivet	5
Minnesota	
Gustavus Adolphus	6
Hamline	5
College of St. Thomas	4
Missouri	
William Jewell	6
Culver-Stockton	6
Warrensburg Teachers	8
Park	8
Montana	
Intermountain Union	2
Nebraska	
Wesleyan Univ.	8
Hastings	8
Grand Island	4
Doane	15
North Dakota	
Jamestown	3
Ohio	
Baldwin-Wallace	6
Oklahoma	
Okla. College for Women	2
Oregon	
Linfield	4
Pennsylvania	
Grove City	3
South Carolina	
Wofford	3
South Dakota	
Huron	6
State College	6
Augustana	6
Wesleyan	6
Tennessee	
Tusculum	3
Texas	
Howard Payne	2
Texas Christian Univ.	6
Baylor University	5
Sam Houston Teachers	3
West Virginia	
Wesleyan College	6
Washington	
College of Puget Sound	2
Wisconsin	
Carroll	4
Virginia	
Farmville Teachers	3
Total from 66 schools	370

THE FORENSIC OF IN THE CONVENTION CITY

The Municipal University of Wichita was created by a referendum vote of the people of the city of Wichita, April 24, 1926. The commissioners of Wichita on April 30, 1926, elected four citizens of Wichita to the Board of Regents. On May 3, 1926, the Board of Education of Wichita elected four citizens of Wichita to the Board of Regents. These eight, together with the mayor, constitute the Board of Regents of the University.

The properties of Fairmount College were formally transferred to the city of Wichita pursuant to a former declaration of the board of trustees of Fairmount College and were accepted by the board of regents of the University of Wichita on June 2, 1926, on the college campus.

The chairman of the board of trustees of Fairmount College, H. W. Darling, tendered deeds to all properties to the chairman of the board of regents of the Municipal University, George Hamilton, who accepted in the name of the city of Wichita.

The institution thus turned over to the city of Wichita was organized in 1892 as Fairmount Institute by a number of public spirited citizens of the city who were anxious to establish in this commercial center of the southwest an institution of higher learning and strong religious standards. The school was chartered as



DR. HAROLD W. FOGHT
President Municipal University
of Wichita

Fairmount Institute and conducted its work as an academy until 1895.

With the promise of support from the Congregational Education society, the college was chartered in 1895 as the Fairmount College of Wichita. The first college class was graduated in 1899 with seven members. Successive classes were graduated annually until the close of the college year 1925-1926.

The University of Wichita now comprises nine divisions, namely the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Business Administration and Industry, the College of Education, the College of Fine Arts, the Graduate School, the School of Journalism, the School of Aeronautics, the Summer Session, and the University College.

The faculty and administrative staff numbers well over one hundred and there are more than 1100 students enrolled for regular classes.

Dr. Foght is a lecturer and educator of international reputation. He was formerly Chief of the Rural Division of the United States Bureau of Education, is Vice-President of the National Education Association, and has conducted numerous statewide surveys. He represented the United States as special lecturer to the Japanese Government and conducted a survey of Japanese schools in 1924. He is author of several text books, bulletins, and books of travel. Dr. Foght has been President of the Municipal University of Wichita since 1927. He is a firm supporter of the forensic program, and is much interested in the coming National Convention of Pi Kappa Delta.

THE 1929 UNIVERSITY ORATORICAL ANNUAL

Professor Evan E. Anderson of the Department of Speech and Prof. Benj. E. Youngdahl, of the Department of Sociology of Gustavus Adolphus College, are editors of "The 1929 University Oratorical Annual," which is as its name suggests, winning orations of last year. We quote from the preface of the book:

"The editors of this volume are of the opinion that the best speeches in the field of modern college oratory are deserving of permanent record. There have been previous compilations of winning orations. No attempt has been made, however, to include in one volume the representative orations of each current year. This series of annuals aims to preserve and make available to the general reading public the best in college oratory.

"The compilers will make no attempt to evaluate the merits and demerits of the hundreds of speeches prepared each year for intercollegiate competition. They will leave this important task to the members of each oratorical association. The organizations, through their judging systems, have set up and accepted certain criteria for determining the 'best.' The editors will not endeavor to over-ride the decisions resulting from these systems. The speeches declared winners in each contest will be considered the 'best' speeches. They are reprinted in this volume VERBATIM ET LITERATIM as submitted.

"The orations included herein have been declared winners in the respective intercollegiate contests during nineteen twenty-nine. As they represent the 'acceptable,' they should reflect the tendencies and changes in the field of modern public speaking. The standards of these volumes will rise and fall with the changing standards of college oratory. May the curvature be upward!

"The compilers are cognizant of the fact that several oratorical associations are not represented in this first volume. However, it will be their purpose to include, ultimately, the winning speeches of every state and sectional oratorical contest in the country."

eT cœet[Ra—an] The iKE— An^D so FOr|h

You have doubtless heard of the "four blind men from Hindustan." You remember that in their aimless wanderings they accidentally came in contact with an elephant. One of them touching the elephant's side remarked, "The elephant is like a wall". Another, touching his ear, said, "No, he is like a fan". The third, accidentally touching the elephant's tail, insisted that "the elephant is like a rope." Another, colliding with the elephant's leg, argued that "the elephant is like a tree."

These four travelers were greatly limited in their powers of observation. They had only the immediate impression which came to them from their limited opportunity to observe. They did not start out in the first place to find an elephant, and when they accidentally found him, they weren't prepared to "take him in".

Now, we don't want to moralize, but isn't it a fact that life is more or less like that? We start out seeking nothing in particular and then accidentally "bumping into" obstacles, draw impromptu "snap judgments".

Anyone who travels should read of the route over which he expects to go, in order to learn of the worthwhile things to see, and to know more intimately of the various possibilities of interest along the way.

As we anticipate the National Convention at Wichita, would it not be well to interest ourselves in places and peoples that may come under our observation enroute? At least, we should learn of our convention city and university school. Note in this issue of The Forensic and in the coming March issue, the Convention Chairman's Page.

Let's prepare not only to "tell the world" about the disarmament issue, but also (as Prof. Pflaum, our Convention Chairman puts it) to have "a whale of a time."

We owe it to Wichita and the Municipal University of Wichita as well as to ourselves to carry back to our respective communities a complete impression, not a limited one such as the "four blind men from Hindustan" might give.

See you in Wichita!!!

MORE OR LESS PERSONAL

Professor Floyd W. Lambertson, formerly head of the Department of Speech at Dakota Wesleyan University (South Dakota Alpha), now doing graduate work at the University of Iowa, in his review of a book, "Debating in Our High Schools," by H. Adelbert White, comments as follows:

"The author, by an extensive questionnaire, set out to 'study the organization, popularity and results of debating in the high schools.' This questionnaire was sent to the Extension Division or some other agency in every state in the Union. Answers were returned from 24. A summary of the returns is as follows (the number in each case represents the question in the questionnaire): (1) Most of the states have a high school league with headquarters at the state university; (2) Questions for debate tend more toward the political and economic. (3) After a series of elimination contests the district winners meet at the state university for a final tournament. (4) Interest has been maintained through prizes (eight states), newspaper publicity (six states), or speaking before local organizations. (5) The audiences range from 100 to 4,000. 'Seven states note a gradual increase from year to year.' (6) The matter of judges is a perennial problem. (7) The trend is toward the single, critic judge system.

"What is the result of all this work in high school debate? The writer adds, 'Whether the high school debaters are making much of an impression on their home communities can hardly be determined. Yet, out of the hundreds of debates on the McNary-Haugen bill or the Curtis-Reed bill or some other national education measure, undoubtedly there has been no little sublimation of popular opinion.'

"These data are significant as indicating the value and influence of secondary school debating. They do, however, raise the other question of the method of the high school 'coach' in turning out his product. As a teacher of freshman speech in college, one sometimes wishes that some of the methods of the high school director were a little less extreme and a bit more effective in the art of communication."

FLOYD W. LAMBERTSON, University of Iowa.

Alvin E. O'Konski, formerly a member of the Wisconsin Gamma Chapter, is now a member of the Department of Public Speaking at Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon. Mr. O'Konski has made a reputation for himself as instructor in forensics on the west coast. He has been very successful in interesting a large number of students in forensic activities. In 1927 there were 16 men out for debate, in 1928 the number increased to 90, and

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“We Have With Us Tonight—”

ANNOUNCING

“FUNNIEST EXPERIENCE” PRIZE CONTEST

What is the funniest platform experience you ever had? Perhaps you have not had any funny platform experiences. They may have all been tragic. Doubtless you have witnessed some if you have not had them. In either case, you may enter the Pi Kappa Delta “Funniest Experience” Prize Contest.

Now what is the contest? You simply write, stating as briefly as possible, your “funniest experience,” or that of someone else, naming the character in case the person is well-known. It must be based on a real experience; we do not want an imaginary story. The best of the “funniest experiences” will be included in a later issue of *The Forensic*.

What is the prize? Since we have not consulted the national officers on this matter, we cannot offer any cash awards or other prizes that cost money. Then too, being Scotch, we are more practical than to suggest such an arrangement. As editor, we are interested in copy. We propose, therefore, that the prize or prizes in the “funniest experience” contest be given in the form of retelling your experience and giving credit to you by way of personal publicity. You may later want to run for high office in Pi Kappa Delta, or to become a political candidate, or seek other honor and will find this publicity worth more than mere money. Who knows?

At any rate, get busy now and send to the Editor of *The Forensic* the story of your “funniest experience,” or that of some other person, you having witnessed the same.

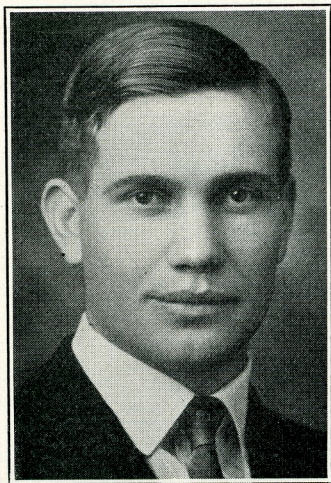
Prominent Pi Kappa Deltans

Last year we suggested that the chapters send to the Editor information concerning prominent members of Pi Kappa Delta. We were interested particularly in getting information concerning members of Pi Kappa Delta who hold the position of student association president. It has taken some time to collect this information. No doubt there are members of Pi Kappa Delta who hold this high position in their respective schools of whose achievement we have not been informed. It would be interesting to know how many students there are in our one hundred and thirty chapters who this year have the honor of being student association president. We can not inform you. The best we can do is to give you herewith the information which we have of Pi Kappa Deltans so honored.

WINNER PACIFIC CONFERENCE ORATORICAL AND DECLAMATION CONTEST

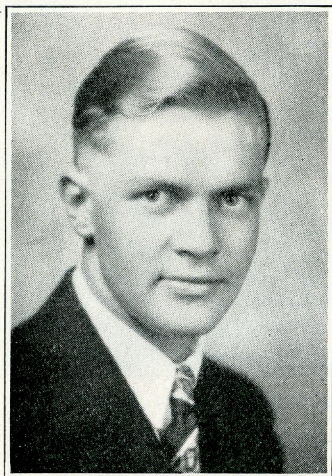
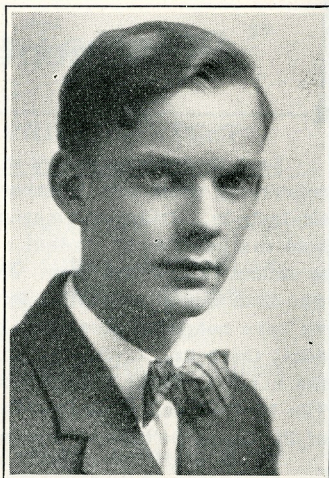
Roy C. McCall, a senior, is the president of the University of Redlands Associated Students.

He attended the convention at Tiffin when a sophomore and represented Redlands in extempore at that time. He will be at the next convention, either as orator or as leader of the debate team or both. McCall is recognized as one of the best debaters in California. In addition to debate honors he has won the Southern California oratorical and reading contests, and stood high in the conference extempore. He has been reader for the Redlands Glee Club for two seasons, and has taken part in the dramatic activities at Redlands quite extensively, having played in "The Goose Hangs High," "The Patsy," a number of one-act plays, and is now rehearsing as "Shylock" in the "Merchant of Venice." Mr. McCall expects to do graduate work in speech and prepare for college teaching in speech. He is making a fine record as president of the student body, and will be succeeded next semester by a member of Pi Kappa Delta, the two prominent candidates being both members of the debate squad and quite likely to appear at the convention.



ROY C. MCCALL

Robert Pearson is president of the student associaion at Yankton College (South Dakota Gamma). He has been active in forensics since entering college as a freshman. He represented his college at the province convention held at Buena Vista, Ohio, when he was a freshman. As a sophomore, he represented Yankton College at the National Convention held at Tiffin. He participated again in the provincial convention at Huron College last year. Besides being president of the student association, he was last year editor-in-chief of the college year book. He was president also of the Campus Club, and an officer in the Y. M. C. A. Mr. Pearson now holds the Degree of Special Distinction in Pi Kappa Delta.

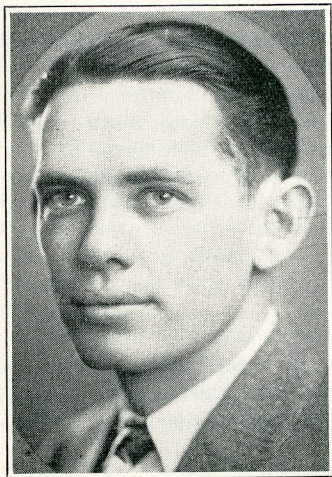
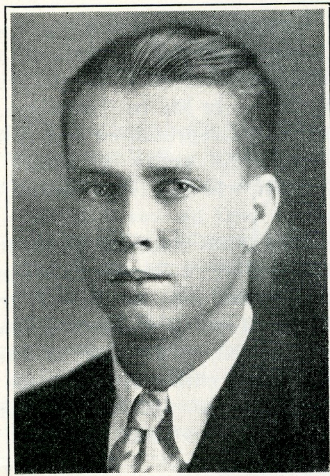


Paul Ottens is president of the student association at Colorado Teachers College (Colorado Beta). Mr. Ottens has had two years experience in college debating. He was junior class president last year, and is secretary of the local chapter of Pi Kappa Delta. He was winner of the freshman trophy, 1927; winner of sophomore scholarship, 1928; was representative to the Student Volunteer Conference in Detroit in 1928, and representative at the National Student Federation of America at Columbia, Missouri, 1929. Besides these honors he holds various other honors on the campus. In addition to attending to these responsibilities, he has found time to work his way through college.

There are other honors which might be enumerated for Mr. Ottens. We feel that this one should not be omitted. He attends the college which has the honor of having in its faculty Professor George W. Finley, national secretary-treasurer of Pi Kappa Delta.

Leroy Lewis, besides being president of the student association at Oklahoma City University (Oklahoma Epsilon), has been selected to the Ron Ohro Ines Scholarship and Activities fraternity. Mr. Lewis has had wide experience in forensics. He has won fifty of sixty varsity debates, has traveled through fifteen states and covered ten thousand miles in doing it. He is president of the local Pi Kappa Delta chapter. He has won the local forensic prize for the most outstanding debater, and second place in an essay contest for the Department of Religious Education.

Word has just come to the Forensic editor that Mr. Lewis has had a rather stormy time as student association president. It was almost necessary for him to face an impeachment court. We are informed that the trouble has been temporarily ironed out. It would seem from the gubernatorial difficulties in Oklahoma that those in high office must naturally expect impeachment, so that we feel sure there is no disgrace in the connection with Leroy Lewis' difficulty in the high position which he holds.



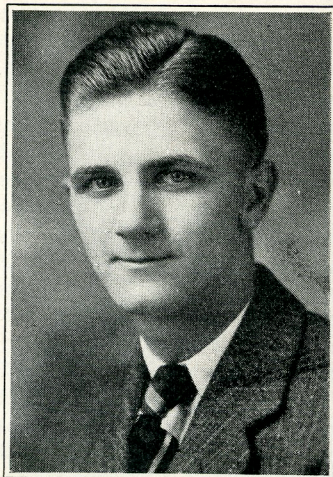
George Kerr is the president of the Monmouth College student body. He holds the degree of Special Distinction in Pi Kappa Delta. He has had much experience in debate, this being his fourth year. Last year Mr. Kerr was a member of the championship debate team in the Illinois province.

In addition to his forensic activities, Mr. Kerr is president of the Ichthus Club, an organization of students planning to enter christian life service. George Kerr has not only worked his way through college the past three years, but has gone home each June with a surplus.

The student association presidential election at Monmouth was apparently an interesting affair. Mr. Kerr won out over Edwin Leader, also a prominent debater,

by only a small margin. The honor of the office of president of the student association would have gone to one active in forensics whether Mr. Kerr had won out or not.

Wayne Reitz, of the State Agricultural College (Colorado Alpha), is the president of the student body, and of the College Y. M. C. A. In his freshman year at college Mr. Reitz represented the college in oratory in the Rocky Mountain Oratorical Contest, winning second place. In his sophomore year he was a delegate to the Pi Kappa Delta National Convention held at Tiffin, Ohio, where he participated in oratory. Last year he placed first in the Rocky Mountain Oratorical Contest with his oration, "The Star of Justice." Mr. Reitz was editor of the Aggie Year Book for last year. He is a senior this year, and is still active in forensics.



Sam L. Meyer is student body president of Central College, Fayette, Missouri. In addition to this high honor, he also holds the position of president of the Central Christian Student Organization, an organization that combines all student religious activities of the institution. Mr. Meyer is president of Pi Kappa Delta this year, and captain of the debating squad. This is his fourth year of intercollegiate debate. He has represented Central College in the last two provincial Pi Kappa Delta tournaments. He was also a member of his college team at the last national convention at Tiffin, Ohio.

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last year there were 140 who participated. Mr. O'Konski not only secures participation, he has been very successful in turning out winning contestants.

Oregon State College has a chapter of Delta Sigma Rho, not a chapter of Pi Kappa Delta. However, because of Mr. O'Konski's personal membership of Pi Kappa Delta, and because of his interest in the tournament and the possibility of meeting Pi Kappa Delta friends, he will attend the national convention at Wichita.

IS DEBATING A LOST ART?

In answer to the question above, the students at Bethany College say decidedly "NO!"

This question was brought forcibly to their attention through a statement by a member of the faculty that "debate in this institution is no longer at the high standard of twenty or thirty years ago." We quote from the "Bethany Messenger."

"In the first place, no one can judge the merits of debate here today and that practiced here thirty years ago because they have no common rule whereby measurement can be made. In the second place, the person who made this statement was prejudiced for the old type of debating. We are prejudiced for modern debate. How, then, can comparison be made? By simply saying a thing doesn't make it so. So let's use some facts and see if debate at Bethany is where the professor would have us believe it is. The following figures were taken from a record of debates won and lost during the past five years as published in the 'Bethany Messenger' of April 17, 1929.

Year	Won	Lost	% Won
1924-25	7	8	46%
1925-26	12	14	46%
1926-27	31	18	64%
1927-28	21	14	60%
1928-29	30	12	71%

"The above table speaks for itself. There has been a great increase in debates won. There has been an increase in debates participated in. And remember that the above figures include debates in two national tournaments, in which the best teams in the United States were entered and also regional tournaments and invitation tournaments. The per cent of debates won last year is a very good record. That alone would disprove any statement made about Bethany forensics.

"Here are some more facts: Three years ago the men's teams won first and second places in the State Pi Kappa Delta Tournament and the women's teams won second, third and fourth places. Two years ago one men's team tied for sixth place in the national tournament with 86 teams entered. Another team won ninth place in the same tournament. Last year the men's teams won the state championship and the women's team tied for first in the province."

All honor to Bethany College for defending present day forensics. What could you say in defense of debating at your institution were you required to do so? Try the sort of comparison and argument used by Bethany in the case of your college next time someone says that "debating is a lost art."

Fifty-eight high schools will participate in the Bates Interscholastic Debating League this year. F. Brooks Quimby of Bates College is the director of the League. The League was organized seventeen years ago by A. Craig Baird, now of the University of Iowa.—The Platform World.

ST. OLAF SCORE CARD

The following score-card has been prepared by the Minnesota Beta chapter of Pi Kappa Delta. It will be used by the judge in the various debates and will be used as a basis for selecting the all-society debate teams.

	Organization 25 %	Argumentation 30 %	Delivery and Stage Presence 15 %	Refutation 30 %	TOTAL 100 %	TOTAL FOR TEAM
Speaker						
Affirm.						
1.						
1.						
2.						
Neg.						
2.						
3.						
3.						

Signed-----

Instructions to judges:

1. The judge's decision is not to represent his individual conviction on the question, but the relative merits of the two teams.
2. Under "organization" should be considered the speaker's knowledge of the question, his ability to analyze, to define terms, and to present issues logically and effectively.
3. Under "argumentation" should be considered the speaker's ability to use refutation in his constructive speech, to support his case by reliable evidence, and to avoid fallacies and inconsistencies in argument.
4. The column marked "refutation" is to be used in grading the rebuttal speeches only.
5. Each judge will turn in his score-card to the chairman.

Results of Questionnaire On International Debating In The United States

By RAYMOND F. HOWES, Washington University

THE QUESTIONNAIRE on which the conclusions of this report are based was sent to 128 American colleges listed in the Institute of International Relations and the National Student Federation, as having met foreign teams under their management. It was also printed in the "Gavel" of Delta Sigma Rho, the "Speaker" of Tau Kappa Alpha, and the "Platform World," so that it might reach other colleges not so listed. Ninety-four replies were received.

From the information furnished me by the National Student Federation and by the replies to the questionnaire, I estimate that approximately four hundred international debates have been held in the United States since 1922, American colleges having met Oxford, Cambridge, the Union of British Students, and teams from Australia, Canada, China, Porto Rico, the Philippine Islands, and other foreign countries and American possessions. The replies to this questionnaire cover 282 of these debates.

Conclusions

1. Debates with foreign teams, especially with teams from England, have had a profound effect on American debate methods. Seventy-one of the ninety-one understandable replies to my question on this point indicated that the influence of foreign debaters, combined with the approval of American debate coaches, has led American debaters, even in their ordinary intercollegiate contests, to work out more personal points of view for themselves and to respect more highly the points of view of their opponents; to be more informal, flexible, spontaneous, and humorous in presenting their arguments; to strive for the approval of their audiences by being more interesting and less dogmatic; to discard dry, cold logic and high pressure presentation of facts and figures for a more persuasive approach and keener realization of general principles underlying the discussion; to employ a looser type of organization in place of the "air-tight" case; and to enjoy discussion for its own sake rather than for the opportunity to win a decision. Of the twenty negative replies to this question, eight came from colleges that have had only one international debate, four from colleges where the debate coaches had striven to develop characteristic English methods before the international debates began, and the remaining eight from colleges where the debate coaches have fought the English influence.

As one of the coaches in the last group said, "We did not change our usual style of debate to meet the "hot-air" attack presented by the British. Why should we?"

In answer to the question whether experience in international debates has led to the use and approval of the audience decision or no decision, sixty-one replies indicated the general, or at least occasional, use of these methods. Twenty-eight favored the critic judge or three judges.

II. International debates have had only a slight influence on attendance at or community interest in ordinary intercollegiate debates. Crowds come to international debates largely because they like to hear speakers from Oxford or Cambridge, not because they have any particular interest in debating. Forty-seven schools have had no increase in attendance at ordinary debates, and a few of these even show a loss because of the unfavorable comparison between international debates and others. Forty indicate a slight increase in attendance, but many of the coaches attribute this rather to the more appealing methods of their debaters than to the direct influence of international contests. Similarly, forty-five colleges have found no increased interest in their communities. Forty-three have found some increase, but the only tangible evidence recorded is a larger number of invitations for community debates from clubs and lodges. Several coaches believe that international debates, especially when the home team wins, increase respect for debating as an activity.

III. It is difficult, because of the diversity of financial conditions at the various colleges, to draw a general conclusion from their answers to the questions: "Have you found international debates a heavy drain on your finances?" Forty-one colleges answered, "Yes;" fifty-one answered, "No." Of the latter group, thirty-six have been just able to cover expenses and fifteen have made money. The situation is complicated by the fact that in several colleges the international debates are financed by a lecture fund separate from the ordinary debate fund, and also by the fact that some foreign teams draw larger crowds than others. The replies indicate that Oxford teams usually draw the largest audiences, with Cambridge second and the other teams trailing in no perceptible order. Another factor is that colleges which have had only one or two debates find audiences still drawn by the novelty of the occasion, whereas colleges that have had a large number find the audiences steadily decreasing from year to year.

There is, however, a distinct feeling among a majority of debate coaches that the guarantees for international debates are excessive. One possible solution for this problem is that the number of foreign teams debating in this country in any particular season be cut down so that each team may have a larger number of debates. According to information supplied me by members of Oxford University teams, only the Union of British Students and the University of Sydney team have made money on their trips. Cambridge refused to send a team this year because the National Student Federation could not even guarantee its expenses. Those two teams had from forty to fifty debates, whereas the average number of debates for Oxford and Cambridge trips has been twenty-five. If this solution is to be adopted, Am-