

PUBLIC SPEAKING AT LEWIS INSTITUTE



URING the year marked advance has been made in the art of public speaking at the Institute. That is to say, provisions have been made which provide for much more public speaking than ever before. The Institute has long required a certain amount of public speaking as part and parcel of the regular English work. One day a week is taken for this work, the recitation period being devoted entirely to speaking; each student is expected to deliver a speech in the sense that he must make a plea, and then endeavor to defend it, and to win his audience over to his side. Each individual's work is carefully criticised by the instructor in charge, such criticism being written out, so that the student may have it for private reference.

This plan of work brought about such excellent results that the Institute decided to give more prominence to public speaking. In accordance with this policy, it was announced that to the best three speakers in the Allen C. Lewis Society debates during a certain period of time three prizes should be awarded, to wit: the first prize, one year's tuition at the Institute; the second prize, two quarters' tuition, and the third prize, one quarter's tuition. This year these prizes were won by Messrs. Faust, Moulton and Servis, in the order given in the awards notice. It is understood that the same prizes will be offered annually by the Institute hereafter.

In addition to these features, and probably in some way as a result of them, public speaking has advanced in the debating societies of the Institute. The Collegiate Girls' Club has devoted considerable time to debates. The Current Topics Club has done much excellent work in its weekly meetings. Mr. George Faust, winner of the first prize in the Allen C. Lewis contests, is a member of the Current Topics Club.

In the Parnassian Society, which is the collegiate men's club, more work in debating has been accomplished this year than ever before, and it is thought that the standard of excellence has been raised considerably. One valuable feature was a compulsory debate held during the winter quarter, a contest which aroused wide interest in the society and which resulted in some excellent speaking. Messrs. Beezley, Hazlewood, Stickel and Juhnke were chosen as the representative speakers of the society.

Undoubtedly public speaking will receive much attention at the Institute during the coming year.