

systematic training in debate a part of the regular curriculum. This is the outcome of an admirable system of Intercollegiate Debating that has prevailed for many years among the American colleges. In most cases a league is formed by two or more colleges and a constitution is drawn up, and rules laid down whereby all debates are governed. Different leagues have different regulations as regards the number of speakers from each college, time allotted, opportunity for rebuttal, and selection of subject. Respecting the last mentioned problem the rule is by no means uniform. Sometimes the challenging college submits to its rival a list of questions from which the latter selects one and chooses the side on which it prefers to stand; sometimes both these matters are decided by lot; while in other cases the associated alumni of the interested colleges arrange all the preliminaries. The judges are always men of note and of recognized ability. Great care is exercised in selecting the best speakers to represent the colleges and widely differing methods are employed. As a general rule, however, the opinion of the Faculty is obtained. No man is ever accorded a place on the team until he has thoroughly demonstrated his ability as a clear and concise speaker; and then a long period of training is required during which time the prospective debaters are on probation and are liable to be replaced by any who may do superior work.

In an Intercollegiate Debate each speaker as a rule is given only about ten minutes in which to adduce his arguments, and so it becomes necessary that every moment of the time be employed to good advantage. Mere verbosity counts for nothing; an attempt on the part of any member of the team to impress his audience with the magnitude of his oratorical abilities, while the weightier matters of argument and reason are neglected, must surely end in disaster. Nor must a speaker permit himself to be side-tracked by a vainglorious desire to demolish the speech of an opponent. Let him first establish his own case, and then, if there is any time left, it may be advantageously employed in rebuttal. A good debater must have the faculty of amassing material pertinent to the subject and of selecting only that which is of prime importance. He must arrange his arguments in logical order and make his points stand out clearly. To succeed in rebuttal, he must study the question thoroughly and view it from every standpoint in order that he may be acquainted with and prepared to meet the arguments of an opponent.

While it is unnecessary to defend debating in general, it may not be out of place to enter a plea for Intercollegiate Debating. In the first place great benefit accrues to those who participate in such a contest. Men who have attained eminence in their own society are sent to meet representatives from another, and in this way each has an opportunity to discover his own powers and limitations. The manner in which one side conducts its case will suggest to the other many defects in theirs. Again, intellectual skill is accorded an equal place with physical prowess. Should there be an impression abroad