

vanced which have made a favorable impression on the audience. These must be attacked and overthrown in order to win the debate. A vigorous attack on the chief argument will likely be more decisive than the numerous thrusts we so often are treated to at debates. The debater should prepare beforehand his reply, and will find that he will be able to give it much as he has prepared it.

He can do this because, in preparing for the debate, he must study both sides of the question so that he will know not only the arguments that support his side of the question but also the leading arguments on the other side. These latter he should be prepared to attack, for no doubt these will represent his opponents' chief case. To do this efficiently, he must be prepared. There may be some surprises launched by his opponents which, if damaging to his argument, must be replied to as best he can, but he should previously be prepared to deal with the obvious arguments. He should not leave his reply to the inspiration of the moment.

Careful Preparation Essential

Careful preparation of the debate is essential. How shall the debater prepare? After he has talked the subject over with others and read whatever is available, he should proceed to write out his speech. The writing of it helps to crystallize his thought. He should then read it over a few times to become familiar with what he intends to say. When this has been done he should make a synopsis, and go over the speech from the outline, referring to the written speech where necessary until he is sure he can speak from the outline. He should not memorize the speech so that he depends entirely on the very words used in the manuscript. There is no objection to having a few notes in the hand provided they do not take too much of the debater's attention, or interfere with the natural relation between speaker and audience. The speech must not be a recital of something written and memorized word for word.

Delivery

The winning of a debate or the success of a speech will not depend so much on the scope of the debater's reading on the subject as it will on the clear, forceful and attractive way in which he presents the arguments at hand. He must show that he is in earnest and has enthusiasm for his subject. He must speak in a clear voice, using, as a rule, short sentences and repeating the important points so that the audience will not lose track of the argument. He must be courteous and respectful to his opponents, never addressing them by their names but always as "my worthy opponent," or "the first speaker for the negative," etc. He should not minimize what his opponent has said, but should rather give him credit for having made a good case.

A definite time must be given for each speech and each reply, and the speaker rung down promptly when his time has expired.

If there are four debaters, ten minutes each is sufficient, and five minutes for each to reply. If there are six debaters, eight