

DRAMATICS

Regulations for the dramatic contest provide that all plays chosen to be entered in the contest must be reported to the district chairman and then to the secretary of the Association. Few plays have been so registered to date. Those schools interested in dramatics should read carefully the November News Letter. Note especially that each business manager for a dramatic contest should have at hand the mimeographed report blank and judges' ballots.

To date, April 8, 1930, the following reservations for plays have been received by the secretary:

Ashland	The Valiant
Ashland (Ondossagon)	Hearts to Mend—A Pierrot and Pierrette Play
Chetek	Pirtle Drums It In
Cumberland	Undercurrent
Glenwood City	Good Medicine
Horicon	The Monkey's Paw
Ripon	The Florist Shop
Superior (East)	Nevertheless

Many other schools have registered for dramatics but the secretary has not yet received information relative to the reservation of the play from the district chairman. This is essential since the same play cannot be presented by more than one school in a district.

OTHER CONTESTS

Full information regarding the four other contests—declamatory, oratorical, extemporaneous reading, extemporaneous speaking—is found in the Yearbook for 1928-29 and News Letters for September, November, and February. These publications have been sent to all member schools. If these publications are not now available to you write to the secretary and so far as possible additional copies will be supplied.

MAY CONTESTS

The Interscholastic Track Meet is scheduled at Madison for the same week end. Many special entertainment features have been arranged for Mothers' Day. **PLAN TO COME TO MADISON FOR MAY 22 AND 23.** As in former years all participating contestants will be entertained from Thursday afternoon to Saturday afternoon.

HOTEL: Special arrangements have been made with the management of the Park Hotel for rooms at \$1 per person per night when two or more persons occupy the same room. There are several large rooms with private baths which will accommodate a number of guests. Make reservations with the management.

There are now 356 schools in the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association, a gain of 18 over last year. If you have not yet sent in your registration for this year do so at once. Even though you do not participate in the contests this year, you will receive the thirty selections supplied by the Association to member schools.

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

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Additional copies available to member schools at five cents each.
Copies available to other than member schools at ten cents each.

SCHEDULE FOR FORENSIC AND DRAMATIC CONTESTS.

March 1—last date for entering league.
April 26—last date for league contests.
May 10—last date for district contests (including dramatic).
May 17—last date for sectional dramatic contest.
May 22 and 23—state contest.

MESSAGE FROM MR. WALTER ELA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY FORENSIC BOARD

When an outsider looks at the work of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association, he must realize what an extensive and valuable project is being carried out. The number of High School students who are being encouraged and aided in debating throughout the entire state is astounding. The particular proof of the success of the Association, it seems to me, was given during the Championship debates held in Madison in March. Six debate teams, winners in their own sections, came to the Capitol, and entered into a series of debates which were of the caliber of University Intercollegiate debates. An enthusiastic audience of Madison people and visiting guests proclaimed the evening a complete success and heartily voiced their appreciation of the project sponsored by the Association.

We students at the University who are interested in promotion of debating are delighted at the number of Wisconsin High School students participating in debate, not only because we realize the splendid training these debaters are getting, but also, from a rather selfish motive, I suppose, we realize that our University teams may be benefited should these debaters attend the University.

We quite naturally hope that every boy or girl who has participated in High School debating will come to the University; the Forensic Board, a student organization, will see that there are provided forensic exercises which may be entered before he or she is eligible for the Intercollegiate squad. But whether or not the High School debater comes to Wisconsin, we hope he will keep up his forensic activity wherever he may be, for it is universally recognized to be one of the most valuable forms of competitive exercise.

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

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PROF. A. T. WEAVER,	MISS ETHEL THEODORA ROCKWELL,	
Adviser in Speech	Adviser in Dramatics.	

OUR STATE DEBATE

Professor A. T. Weaver,
Chairman of the Speech Department,
University of Wisconsin

During the high school debating season just passed, it has been my pleasure and my privilege to serve as critic judge of perhaps a dozen debates between Wisconsin high schools. As I have listened to the work of the boys and the girls on these teams I have been very deeply impressed with the serious preparation which they have made for the contests and the excellent training which they have received at the hands of their coaches. To say that the work this year has been of an exceptionally high caliber is to stay well within the facts. Everywhere I have gone I have found a remarkable spirit of generous sportsmanship toward opponents and a sincere realization of the fact that the real values in the contests are by no means restricted to the winning of decisions, medals, and banners.

One warning perhaps ought to be sounded again and again in connection with these speech contests in the high schools. They do indeed furnish a splendid type of training for the talented and the gifted but when they absorb all of the attention which the school is able to give to speech training they leave the great mass of those who need the training most outside the pale of its influence and untouched by its benefits. We need remedial speech correction work for those who are crippled in speech; we need regular classroom work for those who are normal but not particularly gifted in speech; and then, upon these foundations we may safely build a program of extra-curricular activities in debating, public speaking, and dramatics for that superior group of students capable of profiting from such unusual opportunities.

DEBATING CONTESTS IN 1930

Although many of the schools debating this year did not deem it advisable to enter the contests, of the eighty schools participating the following made the subsectional debates:

NORTHERN SECTION—including Eau Claire, River Falls, and Superior Districts.

Baldwin	Hayward	**New Richmond
*Chippewa Falls	*Ladysmith	Stanley
Eau Claire	Menomonie	Superior

CENTRAL SECTION—including La Crosse, Oshkosh, and Stevens Point Districts.

Edgar	Marshfield	Tomah
Granton	Shawano	**Viroqua
*Kaukauna	Sturgeon Bay	*Wausau

SOUTHERN SECTION—including Milwaukee, Platteville, and Whitewater Districts.

Baraboo	*Fort Atkinson	*Milwaukee (Washington High)
Columbus	Hartford	Monroe
Deerfield	**Mayville	Richland Center

The schools (*) made the sectional debates and are given honorable mention. The schools (**) made the state debate and were awarded banners for winning a sectional championship, and participated in the state debate. The champion team was awarded a trophy cup. The state debaters were also awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals according to the rank of the team in the State Debate.

STATE DEBATE, 1930

	Affirmative %	Negative %	Judge
Assembly..... Viroqua	98	Mayville	100 Miss Gladys Borchers
Hearing Room. New Richmond. 100	Viroqua	89	Carl Taylor
Senate..... Mayville	100	New Richmond. 98	Raymond Barnard
Mayville.....	State Champion.		
New Richmond	2nd place.		
Viroqua	3rd place.		

DEBATING IN 1931

In accordance with the constitution of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association, the question for 1931 will be announced after September 1. Schools are urged to send to the secretary suggestions for next year's debate question before May 22. Many schools are arranging dual and triangular debates this spring, suggesting a debate as a special program feature for a Parent-Teacher Association, League of Women Voters, or Civics Club program. The Department of Debating and Public Discussion will suggest questions of timely interest upon which reference material is available.

From the interest shown in debating it is anticipated that many more schools will participate in the state contests next year. Debating in our high schools affords a training essential to effective citizenship. More and more is debating becoming a factor in the formation of an intelligent public opinion.

SUGGESTIONS FOR JUDGING DECLAMATORY CONTESTS

Gladys Borchers, Assistant Professor of Speech,
University of Wisconsin.

With the close of the debating season thousands of high school students in the state of Wisconsin are turning to other types of reading and speaking contests. In one of the most popular, the speaker presents to an audience a declamation. The term is used by the Forensic Association to mean a story, prose or poetry, of either serious or humorous nature.

Speaking is such a complex process that the declamatory contest judge has great difficulty in dividing the performance into its elements. He is forced to judge largely by his general impression of the student's grasp of subject matter and his skill in giving that thought to the audience. After all, the real test of good speaking is just that! Did the speaker make his listeners understand and feel exactly what he wanted them to understand and feel? In determining this the judge will not only watch the speaker, but he will watch the response of the audience to that speaker. If the speaker succeeds in accomplishing his purpose, it is because he knows the meaning of the selection; because his posture, movement, and gesture help him depict the thought accurately; because his voice in quality, volume, rate, and pitch is at all times appropriate; because his pronunciation, enunciation, and articulation do not call attention to themselves; and because the declamation has been selected with wisdom.