

The State Oratorical Contest

ABOUT thirty-five loyal Kalamazoo students represented the Orange and Black at the state oratorical contest held with M. A. C. on March 4th. Judging from the attendance both by the colleges and by the M. A. C. students the contest was most successful. In the following lines we shall not pass judgment upon either the orations or their delivery as "The Echo" (Olivet College) has done in most cases adversely. To say that the majority of the orations were artificial in delivery indicates either an uncommon definition of oratory or else a prejudicial mind. The decision awarded in the men's contest we believe was a popular one. Indeed it scarcely could have been otherwise since Albion won with such a wide margin. Of the girls' contest much cannot be said, for according to the judges' marks it was exceedingly close and popularly might have been decided differently.

We take off our hats to Albion! Whatever her secret of successful oratory is, for she certainly has one, the other colleges have been able neither to discover it nor invent one of their own. To win the men's contest for three years in succession, in a field of orators by no means easy to win over, tells a tale the ending of which is not in sight. To win twice in succession may be an unhappy coincidence (for the rest of us) but to win three times in succession puts aside the coincidence subterfuge and places the case on the basis of plain fact. However we abide by the result cheerfully for Albion won in straight heats and there is no controverting the subsequent decision.

M. A. C. deserves full credit for the able manner in which the large delegations were handled. After the girls' contest supper was served by delegations in the different clubs about the campus. Programs containing necessary information, lists of judges and names of contestants were distributed.

THE GIRLS' CONTEST



MISS EMILY CARDER
Kalamazoo's Contest Representative

According to the M. A. C. Record over a thousand people were in attendance at the afternoon contest. This was far better than when the contest was held at Kalamazoo, there being scarcely half that number present in the afternoon. The contest was held in the newly finished Agricultural Building being the finest building on the campus. Very pretty decorations transformed what was a stock judging pavilion a few hours before into an attractive hall.

The contest with minor exceptions was closer than the men's contest in the evening. Kalamazoo feels very proud of her representative and has a right to. Placed at the end of a list of five contestants, Miss Carder compelled the attention of the whole audience. No one received such prolonged applause even though the end of the contest was at hand. The Kalamazoo delegation was assured on all sides that their representative of the afternoon was certain of first place. So persuaded were they of this that when after the evening contest the president announced that Kalamazoo had won second place in the girls' contest not a peep came from them so dumfounded were they. However the people in attendance were certain that Kalamazoo is far from experiencing a dearth in college girl orators.

THE MEN'S CONTEST

Beginning at seven o'clock the M. A. C. band started off the series of "noises" from each college noise box. For over half an hour the various delegations did their best to drown out the rest. Albion's "Io Triumphe" and Hope's siren, performed better than by Kalamazoo last year were quite the features of the yelling. However when a

typical yell master leaned far out from one of the balconies and yelled, "Hello! M. A. C. Have you got any voices left? Let's give it to 'em then" a deluge of noise from all the galleries, every window sill and the inconspicuous places throughout the hall made the visiting colleges think of the old days when M. A. C.'s athletic teams brought so many humiliating defeats upon their lesser rivals.



S. J. WILLIAMSON, Our Able Contestant

The program was carried through without a hitch, there being not a single unpleasant feature in the whole contest, in fact. M. A. C. as the entertaining college started off the list of nine speakers. When Albion's turn came all were conscious that Howe was giving a good speech. Kalamazoo came last, a hapless position. However, Williamson was at his best and held his audience even though tired from long sitting better than did the two previous speakers. He received a rousing applause from the whole house when he had finished. He succeeded in impressing the judges also for he received two firsts in delivery, as many as were awarded to Albion. When the president announced the decisions the fifteen hundred people learned even what they had guessed before that Albion was the winner. Hillsdale, presenting possibly the best all around orator won second place. But one who took a peep at the final markings discovered that Kalamazoo came next although the crowd did not know it.

We have no reason to be discouraged for since Gordon's time when he carried off state honors Kalamazoo has never ranked higher. Summing up the ranks of both contests Hillsdale comes first with a first and a second, Albion comes second with a first and third and Kalamazoo third, with a second and a third. This makes the total very close indicating an exact one, two, three order. We are approaching the goal. Let's reach it next year.