EXERCISES IN PUBLIC SPEAKING YESTERDAY

Subjects Were Ably Dealt With and Were of Considerable Interest.

The exercises in Public Speaking Thursday, at 4 o'clock, showed encouraging improvement in the work of the speakers. They were now on the third and final round of speeches, and began to show the effects of practice. The delivery is, on the whole, rough, as would be expected, considering the short time which can be given to preparation. At the same time it is generally effective, and most of the speakers on Thursday held the attention of the audience in a gratifying way.

The subjects were of considerable interest. Mr. Munro spoke on labor unions from the manufacturer's side, and on the condition of this problem in Los Angeles. Mr. Hurst gave a direct and practical talk on the development of will-power, the power "to force yourself to do the right thing at the right time." Mr. Robinson, in dealing with the topic of direct and indirect taxation, was under the necessity of condemning a large subject into a brief talk, but he introduced considerable humorous illustration, and seemed to have his hearers with him. The speech by Mr. Kennard on Alpine climbing was most interesting where he gave the story of his own ascent of the Breithorn, and spoke in detail of the expenses of a summer of climbing. Mr. Pratt's talk was a selection of late statistics from the most reliable authorities on Alaska, the most difficult speech of the afternoon to give, and one of the most interesting.

The second set of speakers will be heard on Thursday, January 4, at 4 P.M.

POWER PLANTS.

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Collins found that the introduction of mechanical stokers in a plant using 700 tons of coal a day made a saving of $1600 a month, although the stokers were originally installed to avoid labor troubles. In some cases a poorer grade of coal when burned under the right conditions effected quite a saving. In one plant the coal was found that 14 per cent. of the boiler refuse was combustible matter, and by reclaiming some of the coke by hand a saving of 20 per cent. a year was possible. The handling of coal can be cheapened from 17 cents per ton to 3 cents per ton by using machinery instead of shovelfuls. The use of oil fuel, now practical in Texas and California, solves this problem of handling, and makes the elimination of smoke possible.

Attention to the temperature of the feed water and to the protection of steam lines effects a great saving in coal. The condensers ought to be examined for leaks which may spell the vacuum. The gauges registering this vacuum, as well as those measuring the steam pressure, need frequent calibration.

A program of dates when the various parts of the engines are to be inspected was made by preventing accidents. He told how large steam engines should have a very well arranged system of oiling, for large savings can be made. The dynamo ought to be kept clean and cool by having filtered air through them.

The report on the furnaces record of the plant is the most certain indication of faults and losses in efficiency. This record also allows the engineer to send out intelligent specifications for new apparatus. Samples should be cut over a dozen types of machines were distributed among the members, and a discussion of the contents and purposes of these concluded the afternoon.

These are busy days at the Gym.