

PUBLIC SCHOOL MATTERS.

Home Teachers Discussed at Ciceronian Literary Society, Friday Evening.

There has for some time, been much talk of a meeting of the colored school patrons of Kansas City. It is claimed by some of the best citizens that principals have not shown the interest in regard to the employment of home talent they should. It is also claimed that too much favoritism is shown in the appointment of teachers. There seems to be a disposition on the part of some of the principals to ignore home talent. There was a meeting of the Ciceronian Literary Society Friday night to discuss pros and cons of this matter. Speeches in favor of home talent were made by Messrs Woods, Wilson and McGee, who were the instigators of the meeting. Several young men undertook the task of explaining to the people that the schools were all right, but they met with such a rebuff that they quietly sneaked away.

Professors Yates and Damel tried hard to define their position but only succeeded in convincing the audience that there were good grounds for complaint. Prof. Yates argued that he believed that home talent should be employed if competent. The Prof. also stated that oft times the board of education does not in all cases elect the teachers the principals recommend. The audience knew only too well that, as a rule, the board recognizes the recommendation of the principal in such matters.

The Hon. C. H. J. Taylor made a few remarks and showed himself in favor of home industry.

He also explained that whether persons own a foot of land, if they are voters, citizens, etc., they had as much say in public matters as any-one. His remarks were received with great applause.

The meeting was a success in every way and was highly entertained by Milton B. McGee, of the *Times Observer*, who caused the wily professors to lay down their hand.

Mr. McGee claims that the people have allowed their rights to be trampled upon in regard to school matters; that too much favoritism is shown in selecting teachers and that competence of employment of teachers is ignored. Prof. Damel for saying that he would not do to keep the young lady now substituting in the high school. He gives no specific reasons. Mr. McGee claims that there are teachers in the ward schools fully competent to hold the position as assistant in the high school that if Profs. Gresham and Damel were very anxious to employ home talent they could easily secure one of said teachers and have the young lady mentioned above transferred to one of the ward schools. Then, again, it has been stated that graduates must have at least one year's experience as teachers.