

CLUBS.

ANNIE L. MILLER, EDITOR.

[The account of the Lotus club, which appeared in last week's COURIER, is reprinted in this issue because of typographical omissions in last week's number which make it inaccurate as history. In response to my urgent request Mrs. L. C. Richards wrote the review and in reading the proof did not notice that her own name had been overlooked. In my opinion it is due to Mrs. Richard's more than to anyone else in the Lotus club that it is the oldest club holding continuous meetings from its origin to the present time, in the city. Others have happened to be absent at those periods which come to all clubs when the disintegrating effects of time seem about to destroy the organization. At such times Mrs. Richard's steady love of culture and strong personality have stimulated and held together the other members. With her name missing from the membership list the history is incomplete and unsatisfactory, which is reason enough, if there were no other, for republishing her faithful History of the Lotus Club.—EDITOR COURIER.]

The late Haydon Art club exhibition reminds some of the older citizens of the first exhibition given in Lincoln. In 1880 an association was formed with the ambitious name of Lincoln's Society of Decorative Art. Mrs. McConnell was chosen president, and the vice president was Miss Richardson, who was at that time teacher of art in the State university. This society had a lengthy constitution and by-laws and the membership dues were \$2. A downtown studio was fitted up in a room on the north side of O street, midway between Tenth and Eleventh. The articles forming this exhibition were collected by some of the ladies now interested in the late Haydon art display. The homes of the people were robbed of valuable heirlooms, old and new pictures, ancient and modern china, Japanese and Chinese draperies, fancy embroideries and old and rare laces, everything of value in the city was loaned and a very creditable display was the result. It aroused great enthusiasm at the time and was quite an aid and inspiration to Miss Richardson and her University art classes. In the midst of these pretty surroundings November 12, 1880, the Lotus club was organized. The ladies that formed it had for three years been reading in small groups in different parts of the city, but at this time came together and formed an organization of seventeen members. Mrs. John L. McConnell was elected president, which office by unanimous vote of the club she has ever since held, and some three years ago was elected to fill that office for life.

The charter members were Mesdames John L. McConnell, L. C. Richards, E. S. Dundy, S. F. Rouse, David Baum, E. E. Edwards, C. E. W. Struve, A. J. Marshall, George E. Church, Charlotte Delaney, R. O. Phillips, C. H. Gere, Charles B. Koor, E. M. Fox, John R. Clark, Lewis E. Cropsey and Miss Sarah Harris.

The club decided to study Shakspeare under the leadership of Prof. George E. Woodberry, then teacher of English literature in the State university. The name chosen was the Avon club in honor of the man whose works we were to study. Every two weeks the professor gave an essay or talk on the play selected, the ladies reading or discussing the parts of the play with him. This course was pursued two years with much profit to all. The third year Goethe's Faust and a few selected poems were studied, then by a vote of the club the Meisterschaft system of studying French was taken up. During this year a number of changes came to the club,

Mrs. Dundy removing to Omaha, Mrs. Rouse to Denver, Mesdames Edwards, Church and Delaney to California, Mrs. Koon to New York, Mrs. Struve to Hastings, Mrs. Cropsey to Chicago, and Mrs. Fox to Wisconsin.

Miss Harris found that her club work interfered with her University course and two others dropped out on account of not wishing to study French. This left five charter members. They faithfully studied the language a year as an introduction to French history and literature.

At the beginning of the fifth year (1884) the club was enlarged by the addition of three new members, Mesdames Dales, Harwood and Stewart, and as poetry and language were to be dropped and history and literature taken up, it was decided to rechristen the club History Circle. Two years were devoted to French history and literature, Guizot's history being used as text book for home reading, but all authorities obtainable (source or otherwise) were consulted. At the close of 1886 two new members were invited to join the club Mesdames Bessey and Manatt, and it was also decided to study Spain. Beginning with its early history and that of the Basque, the poem of the Cid, the Roman, Gothic and Moorish invasions, architecture (the building of the Alhambra and other noted buildings) and ancient and modern painters and their master pieces.

At the close of this course, which occupied two years, Egypt was selected as the new field of study, covering its history, literature and architecture. On this subject we spent four years, beginning in early '89 and closing in late '92. The club members became so interested and enthusiastic over the subject that they could not resist renaming the club in honor of Egypt and so the symbolic name of "Lotus" was chosen, it having been the wish of some of the members from the first that the club should be so named. During this course, in 1890, three new members were elected, Mesdames Weeks, Wing and Lewis. One of this number has since been removed by death, we refer to our much loved and honored Mrs. Wing. Daily we are reminded of our loss. It is to be remembered that out of a club membership of twenty five and in the course of eighteen continuous years' association, only one member has been removed by death. The study of Egypt was finally dropped, not exhausted, and Greece was naturally chosen to follow. The years '93, '94 and '95 were spent in the delightful study of art, architecture, history and literature of this interesting country. Mrs. Manatt once a member, but at that time residing in Athens, Greece, as the wife of our American consul, sent some fifty fine photographs on Grecian art that were of great value and assistance in our work. The year '96 was occupied by a variety of topics. Each lady being privileged to select her own subject. Some of the topics were Sanscrit literature, P. Marion Crawford and his works; Max Nordau's "Degeneration;" Ruskin's Life and Writing; Ancient and Modern Armenia; The Transvaal, Psychics; The Swan Songs of the Poets; Anthony Hope's "Prisoner of Zenda;" Barrie's Little Minister and Ian McLaren's Beside The Bonnie Brier Bush. Two fine musical programs were given during the year by Prof. Menzendorf and Mrs. and Miss Dales. The following year (1897) was spent on studies in German literature.

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It was condensed into one year's work but proved one of the most interesting and profitable we have ever enjoyed together.

This winter the work has been made up of reviews of noted writers and the works that have made them famous. The program thus far has been the National Epic of Finland, "Kalevala;" the Persian poem, "Rubaiyat" of Omar Khayyam; George Eliot's "Middlemarch;" Oliver Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield;" and the Sanscrit poem, "Shakuntala," by Kalidasa; and translated by Prof. A. H. Edgren, of our State University. The subjects we have in prospect promise to be equally interesting. In this little sketch we can only give the briefest notice of the work really accomplished by this club, but it would be incomplete if we did not add that Mrs. McConnell is acknowledged by all as its special founder and leader.

The club has led a very quiet conservative life, always ready to acquire rather than display any knowledge or information they may have gained and have been persuaded to give this brief outline as statistics to be used in making the club history of our city complete.

The Wives of the Railway Postal Clerks club was organized October 10, 1885. To Mrs. John M. Butler, wife of the chief clerk, belongs the credit of this organization, which was planned for one year, but it has proved so successful that it has been continued indefinitely. This club meets at the home of the members on alternate weeks.

They have taken up no regular course of study but have a program committee which selects the subjects for the meetings of the year, aiming to keep step with the times. The subjects so far this year have been as follows:

"Homemaking as a Social Art," "Life of Queen Victoria," "Important Events of the Past Month," "City Improvement," "Famous Artists and Their Paintings," "Review of the Past Year," and "Life of General Grant."

Questions are given out on the subject and handed to each member, to be answered at the next meeting, thus each member is expected to take an active part, two or three times during the club year. Receptions are tendered the husbands of the members which are greatly enjoyed by all.

This club numbers twenty-two members, its officers being Mrs. A. M. Phelps, president; Mrs. I. M. Heckler, secretary; Mrs. C. W. Rusb, treasurer.

Mrs. Wise reports that the parlors of the Plattsmouth Woman's club were well filled last evening by members and guests of the club. The "Travel Course" always calling out a large proportion of the members. Before the leader, Mrs. Howland, who presided in the place of Mrs. Parmelee, detained by illness, took charge, the usual routine business was transacted and Mrs. Wise read as a sort of inspiration and encouragement to the club, the very interesting letter from the Denver correspondent in last week's COURIER. Some of the members expressed the

thought that when our numbers swelled to eight hundred, judging by the enthusiasm of the now fifty members, we might hope to vie with and perhaps eclipse our Denver sisters, until then we will enjoy and congratulate them on their prosperity and the splendid work they are doing.

Mrs. Atwood's paper on the "Old and New South" was a fine production and showed careful research and study of the subject. Mrs. Herold's on the "Resources and Advantages," and Mrs. Snyder's on the "Negro Question" were all subjects of great interest and the reading was listened to most attentively. The topics for the evening were New Orleans, Education, Jetties, Yellow Jack, Birmingham and the Gulf Stream. These were introduced by Miss Porter, Mesdames Cole, Newell, Snyder, Rawls, and Wescott and the discussion following each topic, participated in by other members of the club was spirited and showed some preparation and much enthusiasm.

"Child Study" will be the subject next Friday evening. Ten minute papers will be read by Mrs. Root and Mrs. Richey, followed by Mrs. Shipman and Mrs. Wise on the topics, Imagination and Companionship of children. Mrs. Heller of Omaha, is expected to be the main attraction of the evening, her visits, her talks, always being looked for with pleasant anticipations. Mrs. McMurphy will be with us in the near future and give one of her characteristic parlor lectures on household economics with practical demonstrations.

Anna D. Grimison of Schuyler reports: The Schuyler Woman's Club met at the residence of Mrs. D. C. Plattee, January 19, with Mrs. Mary W. Burkett president, in the chair. The roll call was responded to with a quotation from Emerson's Compensation, the essay being the subject of the day's lesson, under the leadership of Mrs. Plattee, whose interpretation of Emerson's philosophy was very acceptable. She is always prepared with a question and doubly prepared with an answer. A short time was devoted to current events. Topic: "The Annexation of Hawaii." The subject seemed to be comprehended

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