

when, after many years, the time came to secularize music, the Netherlands had lost their former supremacy. Taine claims that they retain their love for music, that even among the common people one finds the ability to sing in parts, and that the laborers in general sing in chorus and in true time while at work and on the streets going back and forth. In opposition to this is the testimony of De Amicia, who says he never in the course of all his travels in Holland, heard a voice in the streets humming a tune.

In a sketch of Dutch music mention should be made of the famous organ of Christian Mueller in the cathedral of Harlem. It is said to be the largest organ in the world and covers one wall of the cathedral from roof to pavement, and has four key-boards, sixty-four registers and 5,000 pipes. Not the least of its glories is the fact that it was played on by Handel and by Mozart when a boy of ten.

Holland not only contributes little to modern music, but she has furnished little inspiration to other musicians and it is seldom that they find in the Netherlands a place of action for their cantatas or operas. The action of Wagner's "Flying Dutchman" takes place entirely in the North seas, and Lohengrin and The Prophet are, as far as I know, the only operas having their scene of action in Holland.

To have been the "first white child" born in a new state, to bear the coveted title of "oldest inhabitant" or to have been the first boy to see an apple fall, has caused many a wordy war and occasioned many a gun not supposed to be loaded to go off with a bang which scattered consternation and attracted attention by the noise though no other purpose was accomplished.

Who would have dreamed there were so many aspirants to the honor of belonging to the "First Literary Club of Lincoln?"

We come this week to present the claims of another club and raise aloft the banner of "The Homely Folks' club" year 1875. Its history is as follows:

Early in the autumn of 1875, several young people living in the city, most of whom were new comers and who had been active members of clubs and society in their eastern homes, met to organize a Reading Circle for purposes of culture and improvement, this first meeting, if memory serves aright, being at the home of Mrs. Irwin, on F street between Ninth and Tenth streets, and a plan of work outlined for the winter.

The personnel of the club was Misses, Madge Hitchcock, Lizzie, Emma and Ada Irwin, Jennie McLouth, Kate Hatch, Helen Candee, Hattie Hurd, Emma Powell and Mrs. Parks.

Prof. Gilbert Bailey of the State University, and brother Wayland Bailey, T. H. McGahay, Jno. Dodds, C. M. Parker and G. M. Lambertson.

The scope of the club was far reaching. Each one had ample opportunity to aid any pet scheme or fancy, for the club was good humored and liberal. It began with Shakespeare, then discussed Carlyle's "Heroes and Hero Worship" and finished the winter by reading "Lady of the Lake." In addition to this a half hour was set apart at each meeting for miscellaneous topics, music, reading or paper on any subject suggesting itself to the one selected for this task. Meetings were fortnightly. There was no constitution and no president or officers, a leader being chosen for each meeting, also a committee on program, all questions being settled in the committee of the whole. The selection of a name for this club promised at one time to be a difficult task. "Shakespearean," "Clonian," "Cosmopolitan" and several high sounding and appropriate (?) titles were suggested by a competent committee and during the discussion which was

somewhat animated, one of the gentlemen remarked that a certain lady (outside the club) had said, "It was an awful homely lot of young folk," and he moved it be called "The Homely Folks' Club." G. M. Lambertson, without waiting for a second, put the motion. It was carried unanimously and the name "stuck." It was never possible to change it.

Good work was done and many pleasant memories cluster around those meetings which were continued into the following year when the "Centennial" attracted some away, a few removed to other homes and several entered the great company of "young married people" and having other cares "The Homely Folks' Club," languished and died to be resurrected in other and later clubs in the city. MRS. C. M. PARKER.

[I have heard of other "first clubs" and as a matter of interest and history, should be very glad to publish an account of each of them.—Editor.]

The child study department of the Plattsmouth Woman's club furnished the program for the regular meeting Friday evening. Mrs. Atwood, leader of that department, is an enthusiastic club worker and always exerts herself to make her meetings interesting. The first number on a program was a paper by Mrs. Root on the "Companionship of Children." The paper was well written and listened to attentively. Mrs. Shipman led the discussion following in a few well-chosen words, giving bits of her own experience. Mrs. Richey read a paper on the "Imagination of Children" and closed with a very beautiful original poem. Mrs. Wise led the discussion with personal reminiscences of telling big bear stories to children and the after effects, closing with a humorous poem. Mrs. Heller was then introduced and gave one of her charming and characteristic talks on "Kindergarten Plays." Mrs. Heller is always a welcome visitor and especially so on this occasion. Her daily contact with little children has given her such comprehensive and broad views on education that she always furnishes something to think about to mothers and teachers of little folks. Several gentlemen were present by invitation last evening. The next club meeting will be in charge of the always interesting art department. Mrs. Snyder, leader.

At the meeting of the Woman's club on Monday afternoon, Miss Elliott presided on account of the absence of the president, Mrs. Scott, who is now in Chicago.

A motion was made that the club take one share of the auditorium stock at \$50 which was unanimously carried. The club with its 541 members has become such a prominent factor in the affairs of Lincoln, that all agreed its influence and assistance should be given towards the progress of the city. Sufficient funds will still remain in the treasury for the current expenses of the year, after deducting this share of stock and the \$25, subscribed to the traveling library of the state. Mrs. A. W. Field spoke of the children's paper, "The Hatchet," to be issued February 22nd, for the building fund of the Girls and Boys building.

An announcement was made that two lectures would be given on February 11th and 12th in the club room, by Mrs. Martha Moore Avery of Boston, on the subjects, "Economic Freedom of Women" and "Conscious and Unconscious Relations." The speaker comes most highly recommended, and the lectures are open to the general public on the payment of an admission fee of 10 cents.

The program opened with a pretty piano solo, a Tarantella, by Miss Myrtle Klock, followed by a short and interesting talk upon "Sir Walter Scott" by Mrs. T. H. Leavitt.

Miss Elta Oberlies sang "My Waiting

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Heart," and then came the chief feature of the afternoon, a brilliant address by Mrs. A. J. Sawyer on "The Woman who has Come." "We no longer speak of the 'coming woman,'" said Mrs. Sawyer, "for she is here."

Each club woman present must have been gratified by the exceedingly flattering picture drawn of her power and virtue, of the latter the following is a partial list: she has given up foolish pretenses; no longer deals with small things; not self-seeking; not a critic, in the sense of fault-finder; and is gaining a personal responsibility. Of this responsibility and the dangers to be avoided, Mrs. Sawyer spoke at some length, and in closing gave as a motto to club women, the famous words of Caesar: Verri, I have come; Vidi, I have seen, at the club meetings and through study; Vici, to be inscribed later on ones tablets when self-mastery has been attained, I have conquered.

The program closed with a baritone solo from Mr. W. F. Lint, "The Outlaw's Song."

The next meeting will be in charge of the department of literature.

Mary A. Scott, University Place, Neb., reports: Sorosis has recently been organized with membership limited to 25. Bi-monthly afternoon meetings for the study of Shakespeare, monthly evening meetings for the review of current magazines, with an occasional social evening constitutes the outline of Sorosis work for the present year. The Shakespeare department is conducted by Miss Jay, professor of the Wesleyan department

of English and every alternate Tuesday afternoon finds Sorosis assembled in the parlors of her pleasant home for an hour of hard study. The Magazine department was equally happy in its choice of a leader, Mrs. McPhenni. The members of the club cordially proffered the loan of their private magazines for the use of this department, thus furnishing a convenient and well selected circulating library of current magazines. The Social department was by common consent assigned to Mrs. J. M. O'Neal whose musical gifts and many social graces especially adapt her for the place. It is to be the custom of the club to respond to roll call with quotations, which the society will preserve in a Sorosis quotation book; thus embodying in permanent form the taste and sentiments of the members.

Crete Columbian club has held two meetings this year. One at the home of Mrs. I. D. Moore, the other with Mrs. J. W. Rhine.

After the usual program elegant refreshments were served. The main part of the work this year is the study of literature. The last hour being devoted to parliamentary law.

While Northbend women did not rap for admission to the Federation until last October, we have enjoyed and profited much from our various organizations; Shakespeare club, Winodausis, Chautauqua circle and other literary societies, which have developed into a very prosperous woman's club. We