

the enforcing of certain laws already on the statute books, as the child-labor law, compulsory-education law, and others mentioned. The committee on literature advises critical attention to the preparation of club papers, and offers further useful advice under the heads of Children's Books, Reading in Schools, Home Influence and Club Influence. The committee on art indicates courses of study that will be along artistic lines and still convey practical lessons. Some of these are Principles of Design and Decoration, Great American Buildings (as the Boston and Congressional libraries,) Decoration of School rooms, etc. The committee on music is equally practical, urging the application of a knowledge of the history, literature and theory of music, to the actual benefit of the community, through its relations to school, church, working girls' and newsboys' clubs, etc.

The Illinois Federation is distinguished for its splendid work. To epitomize from the address of the president at its last annual meeting, the federation, through its clubs, has been instrumental in founding public libraries, in aiding in the selection of good books for city, school, and Sunday school libraries, in giving free lectures and concerts, or, at a minimum cost, in encouraging and often giving financial aid that has been the sole support of University Extension courses; the putting of plants and replicas of works of art in schools and orphan asylums, the free exhibition of fine arts, the circulation from house to house and from city to city of art collections, the giving of churches for free organ concerts, the voluntary lending to schools of works of arts from private homes, and the beautiful ministry of many amateur musicians among the club members in the service of schools and hospitals.

Mrs. Alice Bradford Wiles, the president of the federation, was born in Boston, of Puritan ancestry. She is a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants, the D. A. R., and the Colonial Dames. Her education was pursued at Mount Holyoke and Cornell, earning the special distinction at the latter college of being the first woman appointed a Woodford orator. Her public service began in Freeport, Ill., to which city her marriage removed her residence in 1891, when, as vice-president of the Illinois Woman's Exposition Board, she assisted largely in securing the memorable exhibit of the industries of the women of Illinois. During the World's Fair she served with distinction on one of the important committees. Later Mrs. Wiles became, through a handsome majority in a hotly contested election, a member of the Board of Education of Freeport, her services being fruitful and brilliant. The large and successful woman's club at Freeport, Ill., was organized mainly through the efforts and influence of Mrs. Wiles, who was its first president. Her active club interests were afterwards transferred to the Chicago Woman's club, on the removal of the family residence to that city.

The Falls City Research Club met this week with Mrs. W. W. Abby. At the last meeting, instead of assigning subjects for papers or talks, the president gave each member a slip of paper on which the following questions were written:

- 1 Who was Emperor of Germany at the time of Luther's schism?
- 2 Who was Frederick the Wise, and how did he aid Luther?
- 3 Who was Pope at this time? Tell something of his characteristics.
- 4 What was an indulgence?
- 5 Who was Tetzel, and what act of his brought about the reformation?
- 6 What was the state of the church at this time?
- 7 What was the relation of the church and state?

8 How was religious argument carried on at this time?

9 Who was Ulric Von Hutton, and what did he do for the reformation? These questions, following the topics of the last meeting are preparing the way very thoroughly for the study of the life and character of Luther and his great work.

Everyone seemed much interested, and the answers and discussions were spirited, showing how carefully the members had studied Luther's surroundings, and the conditions of church and state at this period.

It was voted to help the library fund of the Federation by a contribution, but the amount was to be left undecided until our next meeting.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. J. R. Cain.

Another New Club.

On Saturday a week ago, the ladies of Auburn met to organize a woman's club. In response to special invitations, about forty-five women assembled in the Y. M. C. A. hall during the afternoon of that day, and a permanent organization was effected. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Mrs. B. Frank Neal, president; Mrs. John C. Bousfield, vice-president; Miss Carrie Leach, secretary; Mrs. W. C. Langford, treasurer. A program for last Saturday's meeting was outlined to consist of discussions concerning "Cuba and its relations to the United States" and the "Evolution of the oyster," the first subject being under the leadership of Mrs. S. W. McGrew; the latter of Mrs. W. B. Harman. At this meeting, though the weather was very inclement, forty of the members were in attendance. An outline of the proposed year's work was made to be as follows: Current events, domestic science, critical study of literature, music and art. Meetings are to be held hereafter every two weeks, starting from Saturday, all meetings to be held in the Y. M. C. A. hall lecture room. The ladies of the city are very enthusiastic over the prospects which promise well. It is contemplated that the organization will comprise a very large number of the ladies of Auburn, the intention being to make it popular rather than exclusive in its membership.

MATINEE MUSICAL.

The plans for the May festival of the Matinee Musicales are about completed. The famous contralto singer, Mary Louise Clara, and the Chicago harpist, Miss Mildred Webber, have both been engaged.

Miss Clary is a southern girl, who was brought out by Walter Damrosch a few years ago in "Samson and Delilah," and is now considered the greatest American contralto. Miss Webber is said to play exquisitely and the combination should provide a very attractive program for the artist's evening.

The other two concerts will be given by Nebraska talent. One will be a "flower program" and the other operatic, and both in costume.

The recital of organ and oratorio music given by the Matinee Musicales club at the First Presbyterian church on Monday afternoon was much enjoyed by the large audience present.

This is the first sacred concert given by the club during the Lenten season, and its success should encourage them to make it a feature of their programs another year.

Miss Givens opened the program with a movement from Hopkin's Sonata in A, for the organ; and Miss Rice gave later Guilman's "Nuptial March."

Owing to illness Mrs. Mark Woods was unable to sing, but beautiful oratorio numbers were supplied by Mrs. D.

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A. Campbell and Mrs. R. A. Holyoke. In the closing trio "I waited for the Lord," these two singers with the addition of Miss Grace Reynolds sang exquisitely—seldom are voices found to blend so harmoniously.

Two string numbers completed the program: A lovely harp solo, played by Mrs. Wurzburg; and a Haydn quartet for two violins, viola and cello, played by Miss Silence Dales, Miss Ensign, Charles Hagenew and Miss Eiche.

Mrs. P. V. M. Raymond has become so necessary a support for the singers that it seems almost superfluous to add that she was the accompanist.

The members of the club feel indebted to the trustees of the First Presbyterian church for the kindly loan of the church.

ROMANCE OF PETER THE GREAT.

No more interesting historical romance than "The Son of the Czar," by James M. Graham, which has just been published by Frederick A. Stokes, has appeared for a long time. Personally I like it as well as Weyman's "Shrewsbury," and better than Anthony Hope's "Simon Dale." An astute critic may find blemishes in it which are not to be found in these two romances, but the intelligent reader will not notice these blemishes, so absorbed will he be in the startling incidents and skillfully constructed plot of this fine historical story. A book which interests us so that we are reluctant to lay it down before we have finished it may not be faultless from the critic's standpoint, but it must surely have some element of greatness in it. After all, it is the reading public and not the critics whose decision is final in such matters, and I have not the slightest doubt that "The Son of the Czar" will win the suffrages of the reading public.

The scene of the story is laid in Russia during the time of Peter the Great, and the characters introduced are the men and women who played a leading part at the Muscovite court during that era. Most prominent of all is the great czar himself. We see

him in his home life; we witness his many futile attempts to reclaim his weak son, Alexis; we watch him as he deals out merciless justice to those who have plotted against his life and his realm, and we note with admiration his tenderness to the suffering, his single hearted devotion to duty and his inexorable determination to raise Russia to a lofty position among the nations of the earth.

Y. W. G. A.

Dr. Rowlands is to lead the gospel service Sunday. Special music will be rendered. All women and girls are urged to attend these interesting meetings.

Do not forget to plan for the committee tea and quarterly meeting April 5. Each member is requested to procure two new members before that time, thus increasing the membership. Omaha is working for 1,000 members before June 1, may not we work for six hundred?

A reception to the college and university Young Women's Christian associations is to be given at the city association this evening by the entertainment, musical and devotional committees. No pains will be spared to make it an enjoyable evening. A program and other entertainment will be furnished and a good time is anticipated.

The class in bookkeeping will take the international examination next Tuesday evening and the English class Friday evening, this being the time for the examination of the entire association of the world. The certificates, if obtained by the pupils, will be accepted in over thirty colleges of the United States, including, Harvard, Hillsdale, Pratt institute, etc. Eight of the pupils in Lincoln Y. W. C. A. are to try for these certificates.

Clothing cleaned, pressed and repaired. Gardner Tailoring Co.'s Sutorium.—S. W. Cor. 11th and O.

Next week THE COURIER will publish its Easter Edition.