

the liberal response made by the citizens at their meeting, not to give the entertainment at present but to have in preparation a program to be given in the near future. The same urgent need for assistance will probably continue for some months and the club hope to prepare a program that will furnish a pleasant evening's entertainment and bring in some money to expend for the necessities that they hope to provide. The remainder of the evening was spent in discussing topics of interest and the department of household economics will hold their adjourned meeting next Friday evening.

The growing fondness for whist among women all over the country is of course largely attributable to the formation of the Woman's National League, whose head is Mrs. Emma D. Andrews, of Philadelphia. That staid city may be said to be a veritable hot bed of scientific whist, sixteen flourishing clubs existing there. The annual meeting in that city of the league in April is to be a brilliant affair, and will differ from the ordinary convention of women's societies in that the election of officers is a simple episode of the three days' session, and will occasion little excitement. The real interest of the convention centres in the play, and arrangements are being perfected to make of this a really imposing showing. The beautiful horticultural hall will be the card room of the session, and in the evening players and lookers-on will be in evening dress. The old slur upon women's whist-playing has lost its salt, for there are hundreds now whose knowledge of the game is impressive. It is whispered in Philadelphia that whist devotion is carried to excess, and that two or three cases of nervous prostration are traceable to a too steady pursuit of the game. It is played there, as demanded by all votaries of the modern game, in absolute silence and with great deliberation. A quartette of women engaged in playing out a set of duplicate boards presents a picture of serious study and thoughtful effort that quite remove it from a scene of pleasure. The pleasure and interest, however, are keen, and, it is asserted by the participants, not to be found in many other forms of entertainment.

A lady who is a whist expert and devotee has had a card room fitted in an upper floor of her beautiful new home in a neighboring city. The room is finished in hard wood, and is used for no other purpose than that for which it is provided. The chairs were made to order to suit the tables, which are all alike, and of a convenient height. They are of polished wood covered with felt, and to obviate the slight unpleasant feeling experienced by many who draw their hands over felt, each table has a plain cover of fine linen, beautifully laundered, and tied on firmly by ribbons that pass under the table. These are renewed after every meeting of the card club of which the chatelaine is the capable president. One of the circles in the aristocratic and exclusive ladies' club in Washington known as the Washington Club is the Cranford Whist club. It was a happy thought to take the name of the home of those redoubtable players, and the Washington ladies have further typified it in their large score-card which hangs in the club room. Pictures of the four immortals of Cranford are shown with a skill that admits of their easy recognition.—Margaret Hamilton Welch, in Harper's Bazar.

The question of the next president of the National Federation of Women's clubs is receiving too little attention, I fear, from Nebraska women. In the first place the Nebraska clubs will not have nearly their proportionate representation unless they immediately take the preliminary steps to join the national federation. The Biennial convenes in

Denver the last week of June, and before then there is time for the clubs of this state to join the federation and send to Denver a delegation as strong in numbers as it is sure to be in culture and character. Such a delegation should be prepared to vote with intelligence on the subject of the national president. The two most prominent candidates are Mrs. Breed of New Jersey and Mrs. Platt of Colorado. Though the latter is prevented from announcing her candidacy because she is the president of the hostess' club, she is eminently well qualified for the place. Of unusual executive ability and dignified presence, she made a most favorable impression on eastern women at the Louisville convention. Other things being equal a western president is desirable and of all the candidates Mrs. Platt seems to be the most expedient. Mrs. Henrotin does not favor Mrs. Breed's candidacy and is very earnest in her desire and efforts to have the right sort of western woman put at the head of the federation. The better class of women in New England feel just as Mrs. Henrotin does. The fact is the western club women outnumber the eastern club women fifty to one and the two sections will probably be represented in that proportion at the Biennial. So that if the west has any kind of a clear idea as to what it wants there is nothing in the way of attaining it. As to Mrs. Breed an eastern correspondent says that she "is making a great handling of the fact that she is an eastern woman and deserves the loyal support of the neighborhood. At the same time she is working Illinois and the middle west by saying she is an Illinois woman and has never been fully in sympathy with eastern women." My correspondent says further that "Mrs. Breed is a handsome, stylish and pleasant lady, but the general feeling among those who have the best interests of the federation at heart is that she is not broad enough to succeed Mrs. Henrotin. Either Mrs. Ashley or Mrs. Platt would suit the majority of women in this part of the country better than our eastern candidate does. At the same time I cannot tell you how they will vote, because some of them feel that it is better to vote against their own convictions rather than be disloyal to their state, which is all nonsense. Mrs. Breed has gone to Japan to be gone all spring. If the western women can unite on a candidate they can elect her without question."

A resounding rebuff has just been administered to a certain pushing member of one of the many mushroom societies modeled upon the Colonial Dames, Order of the crown and similar organizations. Someone had been hoaxing this far descended lady, until she fully believed herself the rightful heir of an English peerage, described in "Burke" as having been extinct for over 200 years. With this notion firmly embedded in what she thinks her brain, she resolved to found a new chapter of her particular society, said chapter to be wholly reserved for American claimants to the peerages and other titles of Europe.

Now such claimants are few enough, and, as a rule, their pretensions are flimsy or ill-founded. But there happens to be just one person, resident in America, whom the cautious records of Dodd, Burke, Debrett and Forster unite in hailing as a British peer. This is Lord Fairfax, of Prince George county, Md. As is well understood among his friends, Lord Fairfax does not assume his title, primarily because he has no property in England upon which to support it, and secondly because it is only a Scottish barony, not conferring upon its holder a seat in the house of lords save by election as a Scottish representative peer.

The credulous heir presumptive to an extinct title wrote to Lord Fairfax in-

ving him to assume the presidency of her embryo order. It was to be called "The Exclusive Cult of Unassailable Nobility," or something of that sort, and a typewritten prospectus announced that "the Right Honourable John Contee Baron Fairfax," was to be "permanent president and grand chancellor."

No answer was received from Lord Fairfax, so the pushing lady wrote again. This time she did actually receive a reply. It contained her typewritten prospectus with the name of the "permanent president and grand chancellor" crossed out and the following unkind words:

NORTHAMPTON, BLADENSBURG, Prince George Co., Md., March, 1808. DEAR MADAM: As I have never formally claimed any British title, I have no desire to seek an American one. I must therefore decline your doubtless well-meant offer to give my name a prominence which I neither seek nor admire.

You ask me if I approve of the objects of your association. Frankly, I do not. "Good wine needs no bush," and man of long or distinguished ancestry has no need to advertise his family history.

Believe me, etc.,

JOHN C. FAIRFAX.

This letter was a crushing blow to the descendant of nobility, but she did not despair. She wrote to a British baronet long domiciled in the vicinity of Canandaigua, N. Y., asking him to take the place of Lord Fairfax. From this gentleman she received a brief answer, to the effect that a baronet was "not strictly a nobleman," and that therefore the writer was ineligible to the "Society

of Unassailable Nobility.

Since the female pedigree society boom began the public libraries have been crowded every day with ladies eager to qualify for some of the many organizations of dames or daughters. Hard-working librarians have a terrible time of it in consequence. Only last week a stout woman, arrayed in gorgeous apparel, descended from her carriage outside the Astor library, and went puffing up the steps toward the librarian's railing.

"I wish to see everything you have about the Jones family," she panted, "and please hurry, because I've only got twenty minutes."

On another occasion a really charming young miss tripped into the American ancestry section of the Lenox library and startled the bashful attendant by a request that he would "assist her in looking up her gynaecology!"

The Lincoln Woman's club had the smallest attendance of the year, on Monday, owing to the fact that the program had not been advertised.

The absent members missed the brightest meeting of the season, replete with witty sayings, and mirth-producing argument. There were no papers.

In the first place the club were rejoiced to have their president, Mrs. A. A. Scott able to preside once more.

Miss Young opened the program with Raff's beautiful "Spinning Maiden" for the piano; the meeting then passed into the care of Mrs. Richardson, the leader of parliamentary practice who conduct-

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