

partments of the Omaha Woman's club, the women's clubs are inactive in summer. Individual members of the clubs utilize the prolonged sunlight of summer to study the subject they mean to lecture upon in the winter. In the east most clubs set themselves a summer task, such as the establishment of play grounds or recreation parks, and free kindergartens, the conduct of sterilized milk stations or the organization of fresh air excursions. Nebraska club women, as a whole, have not yet accepted the discovery that women's clubs are organized to accomplish reforms which individuals are not omnipresent and strong enough to effect by themselves.

This sixth annual meeting signalizes the growing sympathy between Nebraska club women. It has been a pleasant experience to see again the faces and to hear again the voices of the women of Nebraska from all over the state, assembled to celebrate their unity of purpose and interest in culture and humanity. In the immediate past "fellow citizenship" has not been celebrated by women, but these state meetings are a demonstration of a larger state and national citizenship that can not fail to strengthen unity by proving it. A common language, acceptance of the same form of government, and the struggle for a livelihood under the same conditions unite a people, but it deepens sympathy to come together and talk about it.

A full report of the Federation, with extracts from the papers read, will be published in next week's Courier.

Flower Pieces.

Miss Mary E. Wilkins' writing a series of short stories called Flower Pieces. The second one, called "Prince's Feather," has just appeared in Harper's Bazar. Prince's Feather is that brilliant amarantine flower that is sometimes called Love lies-bleeding, because its heavy red head bends the stem down to the ground at the point where it issues from the earth. It has a tough and fibrous, though slender, stalk. It has no flexibility, and does not bend in the middle, gracefully and bowingly, as all mortal plants should, but from the point of contact with the earth, this flower bends as a knife blade is shut into the case. Frost, snow or lack of moisture do not effect its color. When the lovely rose is rotted, the amarant, retains its shape and cheerful color.

Miss Wilkins' young man is an amarant, a scentless absorbent of sunshine and moisture, but unaffected by their absence, a human amarant of perpetual, indomitable, gaiety and brightness. Miss Wilkins' artistry in the telling of a story is apparent to the casual reader, but the persistency of the impression her stories make upon the mind is testimony to her workmanship. Over and over again her characters recur and the mind trots along after them till stopped by the end of the story.

The Army Canteen.

Before condemning President McKinley for refusing to destroy the canteen system, it is customary among the just to examine it. The canteen has been operated since 1889, and succeeded the "post trader," who had taken the place of the sutler. This last person is familiar to all the veterans of the civil war. It is more than likely they will remember a very disagreeable person who sold adulterated liquors and foods at a profit of a hundred per cent. The post trader established his store at the regular army stations and sold to whom and as much whiskey as he chose. Under

the present system every military post has a canteen now, which is established "at the discretion of the commanding officer, and carried on in accordance with certain regulations of the war department, under the direct supervision of an officer of the army and a board of officers known as the post-exchange council."

The officer in charge buys the goods and pays the bills, and upon his discretion and good judgment depends the success of the post exchange. "But in the exchange as in every other business undertaking, the wants of the patrons determine the kinds of stock carried." Privates in the regular army are not the worst kind of men, but, as a general thing, they are not recruited from the most cultured classes. They are in civil life unskilled laborers on farms and streets and city lawns. They are ditchers and diggers. They drank beer and whiskey until they joined the army and yielded to the temperance of the "canteen." Absolutely all the profits from the canteen are devoted to the comfort and recreations of the enlisted men. The canteen is called "the enlisted man's club." And it is. Although the privates buy at the canteen, sandwiches, pies, etcetera, handkerchiefs, ties, clothing, groceries, fruits, candies and beer at the market price in the region where the post is located, the profit on this merchandise ranges from twenty to one hundred per cent, and it is all returned to the privates in reading matter, billiard and pool tables and bowling alleys. All gambling is prohibited, and in the bar-room no one is permitted to carry away any beer, which is the only liquor sold. Only a limited quantity can be consumed by one soldier. There is no temptation to sell an intoxicating quantity to one man, for the penalty is severe, and the seller profiteth not.

Almost all the officers in the regular army have stated officially that to do away with the canteen would encourage disobedience, for the men will have beer, and they assert that the canteen has lessened the number of courts-martial for such offenses as absence without leave and drunkenness. Prohibition will not prohibit unless a majority of the prohibited favor total abstinence.

The Sixth Annual Meeting.

The Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs met for the sixth time on the ninth, tenth and eleventh of this month of October, in Lincoln, in the auditorium of the First Congregational church.

The Federation is the guest of the federated clubs of Lincoln, viz: the Lincoln Woman's Club, Sorosis, Lotos, Fortnightly, New Book Review, Century and Hall in the Grove. The local board of arrangement and reception is composed of the presidents of these clubs, and Mrs. H. M. Bushnell, president of the Woman's Club, is chairman of this board.

The members of the New Book Review and Century clubs met the guests at the train and conducted them to the First Congregational church, where they were registered and received their badges. Committees from the Woman's club were at the church to greet the strangers and to give any needed assistance. Sorosis, with Mrs. M. D. Welch, chairman, arranged for the housing of delegates. Many Lincoln women, not members of clubs, assisted in the entertainment. Lotos and Fortnightly, Mrs. C. H. Gere, chairman, were in charge of the reception given on Wednesday evening at the governor's mansion.

The question of entertainment has

been satisfactorily settled by the assignment of delegates and out-of-town speakers to volunteering hostesses, who lodge their guests and give them breakfasts. The other two American meals of the day, called dinner and supper, or luncheon and dinner, according to the sophistication of the household, are provided by a hotel or restaurant or by a church society, and to serve the delegates at a nominal cost. This year's delegates were served by the ladies of the First Congregational church. The plan is much better than the old one of quartering the delegates and visitors on resident club women, and thus preventing them from attending the meetings themselves. The arrangements for the week included luncheons, dinners, the large reception in the gubernatorial residence and many smaller functions. By Friday most of the delegates had left the city, a happy, tired, but stimulated, regiment of women. The full report of the meetings is deferred until next week's paper in order that it may be comprehensive and more in accordance with the laws of perspective which govern reports as well as pictures. These laws require that an event like the meeting of the Federation be considered as a whole first. As The Courier forms are nearly made up before the meeting concludes, such a view is difficult to obtain this week.

Diplomacy.

The democrats of Baltimore complain that they can not secure a downtown room for headquarters, on account of the unwarranted prejudice of landlords against Bryan in that city. On the other hand Mr. Richard Croker, Croker of New York, has hired every hall in that city for every evening from the 16th of October to the 6th of November, so that the republicans cannot hold any meetings.

One of the Baltimore landlords, the president of a savings bank, when reproached for not renting his room to democrats, said according to William E. Curtis of The Record, that any McKinley organization could use it free of cost, but that he would not rent it to a Bryan club for \$1,000 a day. The committee met with a similar reception when they endeavored to lease what is known as the Hamilton Easter building. The owner refused even to consider a proposition, and told them that they could not have his building at any price. They next endeavored to secure a lease through an agency, but the owners suspected something and demanded to know the purpose for which the building was to be used.

Defeat or Dishonor.

The republicans of Lancaster county are at this time confronted with conditions which demand serious consideration. At the legislative session of 1-99, D. E. Thompson went into the republican caucus and there for nearly sixty days, by all the arts of politicians of his calibre, sought to become the party's candidate for United States senator. His ambition was not gratified, and immediately upon the action of the caucus being made public, he united with the fusion leaders, political enemies of the republican party, in an attempt to defeat the election of the caucus nominee, Honorable M. L. Hayward. Shortly after that attempt proved abortive, it was publicly charged that Thompson was a party to it. The Journal of March 10 1899 said: "Several men were seen yesterday who claimed to have held in their hands the proposition offered by D. E. Thompson to the fusionists if they

would make him senator. They claim that he agreed to practically everything in their platform, with the exception of sixteen to one, and besides promised to keep out of republican caucuses, to make Benton Maret his secretary, and to do all in his power to turn over the city of Lincoln and the county of Lancaster to the fusion party." Under that charge Thompson remained silent. What man who placed any value upon his honor would remain silent under such a charge if it was false? Never since the affidavits of fourteen reputable men were published last June to the effect that Thompson did enter into an agreement with the fusionists, having for its object the defeat of Judge Hayward, in which he pledged his solemn word of honor that if he was made senator by the votes of the fusionists he would oppose measures advocated by republicans and remain out of republican caucuses, has he published a word in explanation or denial. And now he is again a candidate for senator. Richard O'Neill, John J. Trompen, A. W. Lane, John H. Mockett, Jr., C. R. Tefft, E. J. Shellhorn and Charles J. Warner, legislative candidates from this county, are each and all pledged to vote for him. Resting upon such a pledge ought they to be elected? If, after his defeat, Thompson had exhibited loyalty, acquiesced in the action of the caucus to which he submitted his candidacy, and again become a candidate for senator, could he have asked more from the legislative delegation from this county than its united support? Having been a willing party to a perfidious attempt to defeat the party's choice as expressed by its regularly constituted organization, is he now entitled to the same reward from republicans that he might have asked had he supported the republican nominee?

Shall Rosewater and Thompson reserve to themselves the right to bolt party nominations whenever they choose and insist upon fealty whenever it suits them to become candidates for office? Are the lewers of wood and the drawers of water in the republican party, its rank and file, to be denied the right to denounce, to execrate, to punish by their votes, men whose personal ambition is their license for any and every act of treachery to the republican party; who never felt an impulse of party fidelity; who have no taste for the reality or an image or representation of political virtue? The time has come, as it may never come again, to confer upon such apostates, who care no more for the party than does a dog for the bone it gnaws, whose purpose is to ruin when and where they can not rule, their fitting reward. No self respecting republican who prizes fidelity above perfidy will vote for one of the legislative candidates whose purpose is to vote for D. E. Thompson for United States senator. To punish treason to the party now means more to the republican party of this county than the election of ten United States senators.

How Many Miss It!

At last, fortune rapped at his door. "Whoever it is, say I'm out," growled Hardupps, as he retreated to his private office.—Town Topics.

"You ought to be ashamed of yourself," said Mrs. Batson, indignantly, "You have been drunk every night but Wednesday."

"I know it," replied Batson, apologetically. "I was sick Wednesday."—Town Topics.