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SOCIETY

Summer skies and roses,—and commencement exercises everywhere in the land! In the high school and the college, in the noble university, in every locality where there is an institution of learning, the interest of the community is centered for a few brief hours upon the young men and maidens who are completing the one line of work which they have attempted, and are now looking forward to other fields, and other struggles, and the widened experience which years alone can give. In the grammar school and the university the same idea prevails. The underlying principle is that of conquest, and whether the enemy has been weak or mighty, the consciousness of victory is the same.

The little roll of blue-ribboned parchment, innocent in appearance, has an almost hypnotic effect upon its recipients. Not one of the thousands of graduates this week can receive it unmoved; and the particular emotion excited in each student's breast largely depends upon the size of his bump of egoism. To many this occasion is indeed a "commencement," marking the accomplishment of the first stage of life's journey. To others—and the list is not short—it celebrates the acquisition of all knowledge necessary for this world and the next, and is tangible evidence of the superior quality of twentieth century brain-matter to that which was considered creditable fifty years ago. There is a tendency among young persons, when they begin to experience some mental quickening, to imagine that their pond of thought is a shoreless sea, and to believe there is something peculiar in the penetration and grasp of their minds which qualifies them to challenge all traditional or hereditary beliefs at sight.

At no time in a man's life does he feel his individuality more strongly than on his graduation day. To the audience there is a strange monotony in the rows of black-coated, white-robed victors, but to each man and woman of them the difference is very great indeed. In the heart of every one is the unspoken conviction that his particular life will be of most advantage to the world, that his aims are the highest, and that his achievements will be the most lofty of all the class. For the encouragement of these hopeful ones we can only say, in the words of Lowell: "No power can die that ever wrought for good."

The world of society has felt a responsive thrill from the festivities at the high school and university. Class reunions and fraternity meetings have been the feature of the week, and the beautiful homes of Lincoln have been opened freely for the entertainment of the student-guests.

Sixty-five members of the association of collegiate alumnae were entertained by Miss Helen Harwood on Tuesday afternoon. An interesting talk on "Social life at Oxford," was given by Mrs. W. G. L. Taylor. Mrs. Taylor considers the English hostesses more tactful, though less graceful than their American sisters. Simplicity characterizes even the large English parties, but the strongest feature of social life in England is the afternoon tea. "University life in Berlin," was Miss Chamberlin's subject. Women are allowed to attend lectures on presentation of a diploma and passport, but it is exceed-

ingly difficult for a woman to enter for a degree. Of the four hundred women in attendance last year only one was working for a degree. Miss Pound's experience at the University of Heidelberg differed slightly in the fact that fifty women were studying for the doctor's degree which had already been granted to several other women students. The final examination in a Heidelberg student's career is attended with great ceremony. It is oral and lasts about two hours; the women usually are dressed in black, while the men appear in dress suits and white gloves. The program was closed with a talk on "The educational features of Oxford life," by Miss Tremaine. Women are allowed the use of the fine reference libraries and are admitted to the lecture rooms, but no degrees are given them. A business meeting followed the program at which Mrs. H. H. Wilson was elected president, Miss Dunbar vice president, and Miss Harwood secretary-treasurer.

The celebration of ivy day, common in eastern colleges, was inaugurated in the University of Nebraska by the class of 1901 on Tuesday afternoon. The seniors marched from the Soldiers' memorial hall to the library building at four o'clock, where the following program was given under the direction of the class president, Mr. Swenson: Song, "Nebraska;" introductory address, Professor F. M. Fling; ivy oration, Mr. N. M. Graham; university hymn, "Alma Mater of the Plains;" ivy poem, Miss Louise Van Camp; planting of the ivy by the president, Mr. Swenson. The trowel with which the ivy was planted was given to the president of the junior class.

Miss Wilkinson entertained the class of '98 at luncheon on Tuesday afternoon. Twenty-eight members were present including Misses Frances Gere, Green, Corr, Sundean, Tuttle, Henry, Betts, Lytle, Sidle, Barber, Reynolds, Russell, Carscadden, Woodford and Lansing; Messrs. Burgert, Thatcher, Kieth, Bischoff, Pierson, Evans, Gilman, Pinkerton, Spencer, Deal, Barber, and Robbins. As this was the annual meeting the following officers were elected: President, Miss Jean Tuttle; vice president, Mr. Harry Evans; permanent secretary-treasurer, Miss Frances Gere; sergeant-at-arms, Miss Wilkinson.

Miss Emily Weeks entertained the class of '99 on Tuesday afternoon. In the absence of the class president, Miss Fox, Mr. Lansing presided. A card system was adopted for keeping definite record of the class members; a complimentary telegram was received from Ex-Chancellor MacLean, an honorary member of the class; Mrs. Mary D. Manning was made an honorary member of the class, after which the following officers were elected: President, Miss Emily Weeks; vice president, Mr. John L. Kind; secretary and treasurer, Miss Mabel Cleveland. The members present were: Mrs. Mary D. Manning and Mrs. Carrie Melick Kelly; Misses Cleveland, Post, Hartzell, Davis, Lewis, Shively, Stanton, Ellen Gere, Pierce and Chappell; Messrs. Lansing, Kind, Wilson, C. J. Warner, Carl Bessey, McCreery, Landis, Schick McGee and Bean.

The annual reunion of the class of '96 was held at the Lindell hotel on Tuesday. Luncheon was served and