

CLUB NOTES

THE WEEK'S REVIEW

with the leather lungs of grown up people, it is the protest of gossamer lungs against the foul, heavy air which is the only available atmosphere for the infant whose selfish, ignorant mother has brought him into it.

No theatre at all is better for children than any theatre however well arranged for their amusement. But if children must go to theatres, and they must, for every theatrical performance includes among the audience a fair proportion of children, a play written for them and in which the cast is composed of children, is least harmful. The manager of the children's new theatre in Boston, Miss Margaret Eager, has dramatized or arranged Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" and "Alice Behind the Looking-glass." A hall on the ground floor has been fitted with appropriate decorations especially pleasing to the eyes of children, a smallish stage erected and scenery painted with direct reference to the child's very different standard. Performances are held in this hall on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and the curtain rises at four o'clock. On Saturday afternoons the curtain rises at half past two. The scenes of "Alice" are very effective. Her support: Tweedle-dum and Tweedle-dee, the talking garden of flowers, among whom are the tiger lilies, daisies, roses, violets and other royal members of the flowery kingdom; the white rabbit, the white and red knights and all the other in-memorial characters to whom Lewis Carroll gave a life that will last as long as children love fairy tales which is to say forever. The wholesomeness of the plays that will be put on for children alone recommends them to the parents of children. If Miss Eager's venture succeeds, in many of the larger cities a children's theatre will doubtless be established. In London at holiday time the theatres for a number of years have been exclusively devoted to the amusement of children. The Christmas pantomimes are as inevitable as plum pudding or as the presents. A London child of fortune would feel aggrieved and defrauded if he were not taken to the Christmas pantomimes. They are a part of the season.

Returning.

You see the flags and banners fair,
The sabres flashing in the sun,
The golden spoil, the smoking gun—
I only see a vacant chair.

—Douglas Malloch,
in November Lippincott's Magazine.

The Army and Its Work.

With the new century it has a new and greater task before it. During the last 125 years it has been the instrument by which our independence was gained, the Union preserved, our territory extended, and this territory made habitable. It is now the instrument by which all resistance to the lawful authority of the United States in distant lands is suppressed; and it will hereafter be the strong arm upon which the civil power will rely for support as it introduces among alien races which have come under our charge those principles of self government, of liberty regulated by law, of honest dealing and fair play, under which we have so long been happy and prosperous, but the benefits of which our new wards have never known.

From Lexington to Peking the record of the army is one to be proud of. The Republic has not had and has not now in any branch of its public service a more devoted and faithful body of public servants, animated by intense loyalty, by splendid courage, by the highest sense of honor and duty.—From "The United States Army," by General F. V. Greene, in the November Scribner's.

The Lincoln Woman's club held its regular meeting on Monday afternoon. Following the parliamentary drill by Mrs. Plummer, two vocal solos were exquisitely rendered by Miss Bessie Turner. Miss Turner is a vocalist whose talents go far beyond the mere possession of a rich vocal equipment. Her voice and temperament are peculiarly adapted to the interpretation of sweet and tender songs. "I'm Wearing Awa', Jean," was given with a keen perception of its vocal and poetic sides. Words were made to mean something, and the voice sighed and grieved through the measured phrases until the audience was hushed and moved into sympathy and approbation. An inspiring address was then given by Mrs. Van Vechten, treasurer of the National Federation of Women's clubs. Her subject was one of intense interest to Lincoln club women, and contained valuable suggestions for the solution of the domestic problem which so imperatively demands attention just now. From statements of vague theories by sociologists, the subject of home economics is rapidly becoming personalized and placed on a practical basis. From this intelligent analysis of conditions and causes, conclusions similar to those of Mrs. Van Vechten have been drawn by club women throughout the country. Extravagance and wastefulness are direct results of ignorance, declared Mrs. Van Vechten, and are the enemies to home-making which should first be avoided and counteracted. To this end the systematic teaching of household economics in the public schools deserves serious consideration. That this idea is not a new one to members of the Lincoln club was shown conclusively by the spirited discussion which followed the address. The other woman's clubs in the city will be asked to co-operate at the time of the next school board election, when a change in the public school curriculum will doubtless be the point in contest.

Work in the different departments of the Lincoln Woman's club is starting with a rush. With the advantage of excellent leaders, unlimited enthusiasm and an evident intention to derive profit as well as pleasure from the season's work, the prospects are unusually promising. The history department held an enjoyable meeting on Thursday afternoon.

On Friday afternoon the literature department met for the first time under the leadership of Miss May Whiting, whose services have been secured to take the place of Miss Towne, who was obliged to resign on account of other duties. Next week Tuesday the French department will meet from 9 to 11 a. m.; the home department will meet on Wednesday from 10 to 11; the art department on Wednesday at 2:30 p. m.; the current topics department on Thursday at 2:30; the literature on Friday from 2 to 3:30. All department meetings will be held in Walsh hall.

The year book has been sent to press. All members wishing their names to appear in this year book are requested to report to Mrs. H. P. Eames, the treasurer, not later than Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Henrotin, former national president of the G. F. W. C., dealt the time-honored custom of perennial office-holding a death blow in her address before the Illinois state federation this year. She said the advantages of the federation are educational, but there is a tendency to accord those advantages to the same person time after time. When a woman has had them once or twice, if she is capable of education, she ought to have got all there is out of them. Give to the new women the advantages of these meetings. The

new women give the assembly much that is new. After she has been there two or three times she has given about all there is in her. The biennial needs new leaven and gets it in the new women. The assembly listened quietly to the simple words. It was the silence of understanding, and no handclap came until Mrs. Henrotin had taken her seat. Then the approval of the entire body found expression—a storm of applause that suggested the joy of deliverance. This idea of Mrs. Henrotin's is most commendable, because it is for the good of the many rather than of the few, thus embodying a fundamental principle of club organization.

A large number of women gathered at Walsh hall Monday to listen to an address by Mrs. Van Vechten, the treasurer of the national federation of women's clubs on "Home Economics." Mrs. Van Vechten has made a special study of this subject which so deeply concerns all and her talk was helpful and suggestive. She named as the essentials of a home order, cleanliness, the preparation of wholesome food and continual cheerfulness. She closed with an appeal that household economics be taught to both boys and girls in the public schools. The discussion was animated and was participated in by a large number of members, many saying that something else in the curriculum should be dispensed with and household economics taught in the schools, if there was not time for both. Mrs. H. H. Wheeler proposed that an effort be made by the club women of the city to elect the next school board on that issue.

Before the address Mrs. Plummer gave a short parliamentary drill, and Miss Bessie Turner sang "I'm Wearing Awa', Jean," by Arthur Foote, and "Recitative and Sicilliana" from L'Allegro, arranged by Robert Franz.

In addition to her numerous public duties, Mrs. Rebecca Douglas Love, president of the National Federation of Women's clubs, enjoys the distinction of being one of the best housekeepers in the south. With a vital interest in everything relating to woman's progress, Mrs. Love's club life began in earnest about six years ago, when the Atlanta Woman's club was formed and became the nucleus of a state federation which now includes forty-five clubs. After serving as president of the state organization, she was elected president of the national federation at the Denver biennial in 1898. To this exalted position she brings marked executive ability, tact, social prestige and a thorough knowledge of parliamentary law which, with a familiarity with recent developments in club movements and methods, render her services especially valuable as the supreme officer of the federation. Her re-election after steadfastly refusing to be a candidate for a second term was an acknowledgment of her wise and successful administration.

The saying has become trite that this is an age of specialists, but its truth is evident in every line of business. To be able to do one thing very well is the secret of success in all commercial enterprises. Especially is this true in the case of young women dependent upon their own exertions for a livelihood, and the ones who are quick to appreciate a demand growing out of some passing whim of fashion, or a permanent need of society devotees, and who are clever enough to successfully supply this demand, will not lack employment. In a New York department store the special work of several young women is bow making. These employees receive much better pay than their associates who are engaged in selling the ribbons they so deftly

handle. They also are looked upon as important personages in the department, and are seldom idle. Though seemingly a simple thing to fashion a piece of ribbon into a bow, it is in realities of a specialist if the best results are to be secured.

The industrial committee of the general federation is sending out letters to the federated clubs asking each to give at least one program during the coming season to the consideration of one or more of the problems, "Women as employers and employes in the home;" "Women and children as employes—conditions of labor in stores, factories, sweatshops, telegraph, telephone and messenger service;" "Factory laws and school laws affecting women and children;" and "Working women's clubs." The chairman of the committee, Mrs. Florence Kelley, will be glad to receive copies of papers which have been especially helpful.

Mrs. H. H. Wilson of Lincoln gave a parlor talk before the members of the History and Art club of Seward last Saturday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Langworthy gave a 6 o'clock dinner the same day in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, at which informal addresses were given by the superintendent of schools, Professor Stoner, Mr. G. Babson and Mr. Wilson. A humorous recitation was given by Mrs. D. C. McKillip, and piano solos were rendered by Mrs. Will Langworthy and Miss Mabel Marsh. The house was elaborately decorated in the club colors, yellow and white.

Sorosis met on Tuesday with Mrs. Hinman. The leader, Mrs. A. S. Tibbets, gave an interesting and clever address on the subject of "Specializing." In her opinion girls are given a smattering of too many subjects, with the inevitable tendency toward superficiality. It would be better to concentrate time and effort on fewer subjects, attaining a greater degree of proficiency in each. Throughout the address were witticisms and flashes of humor, rendering the occasion most enjoyable as well as instructive.

At the meeting of the Michigan state federation at Ann Arbor this week, distinguishing badges are worn by all the members. The local woman's league have adopted blue badges with black lettering, the ushers wear yellow ones with black lettering, while those of the delegates are white with blue lettering. Attached to the top of each badge is a narrow pasteboard card on which is written the name of the wearer, serving as an informal introduction among the members who are strangers to each other.

In addition to granting two rooms in the college buildings as permanent headquarters for the women's graduate club, Columbia university has created an office called "Adviser for women students," which is to be held by a member of the graduate club elected by the club members. One of the duties of the adviser is to find suitable positions for graduates, who cannot afford to devote their whole time to work for higher degrees. Mrs. E. F. Bryson, member of the class of '94, has been chosen to fill this position.

The New York state assembly of mothers, which from a modest beginning has become a powerful organization, held its annual meeting in Rochester last week. The thirty-four mothers' clubs of Rochester had made admirable arrangements for the convention, which closed a successful and enjoyable meeting with the re-election of Mrs. Mary Grinnell Meers to the office of president.

The Century club met Tuesday with Mrs. A. L. Candy.

Mrs. S. H. Atwood read an interesting paper on "Persecution of the Christians, 194 A. D."

Mrs. M. H. Garten gave a delightful talk on Kipling and his works.

Mrs. W. C. Phillips was elected a member of the club.

The home department of the Lincoln woman's club will meet next Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock in Walsh hall. Miss Kyle will speak of the problems of young women.

The New England Woman's club of Boston opened its season on Monday evening with a reception to its president, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe.