

of pleasure in reading the notes in the current number. Now, for example, that paragraph on Milton's attitude in the Baconian question is really not bad. We hope Mr. Hutton may continue to improve on his style, for, verily, his need of improvement is great.

Another of Miss Amelie Rives' matchless prose poems appears in this number. Miss Rives is a genius; she has a line of thought and ways of expressing it that are peculiarly her own. It is possible to imitate any literary style, and some one may be found who is able to imitate Miss Rives'; indeed, she herself may be an imitator surpassing her models. Her thought, however, is exclusively her own, and she needs fear no rivalry from any source. She does not see in people what we do not, but she has the rare natural endowment of clear vision where others see but as in a mist. The delicate thread of her woman's instinct and human sympathy leads her without difficulty through those most complicated of labyrinths, the acts and feelings of rare types of humanity,—persons that do exist, but are met with once in a lifetime. "Virginia of Virginia" will be pronounced an impossible character by such of the critics as consider it a critic's duty to be cold-blooded; but few indeed will read her story and not be reminded of some one they have at some time known, though they may have been of unconscious of her worth, of her joys and her sorrows as was Mr. Roden of Virginia's. The particular one we have met may have been tempered by the levelling influence of a contact with society, yet the leonine spirit will assert itself when the proper occasion offers. Moreover, we are not so privileged as to be permitted to say that the character is overdrawn. We do not know what kind of people Miss Rives may have met in her Virginian early home, and so her inferences as to the possibilities of Virginians are not to be judged by us. We can say that the acts and words of "Miss Fagina" are consistent throughout, and that is enough.

In all the stories of this author a strong bent towards the pathetic is noticeable. This is not to be condemned, for it certainly is a great relief from the sickly comedy some writer in these dialects. They are not at all fitted for comedy, a fact which even Charles Egbert Craddock sometimes loses sight of, but Miss Rives, never. In "Inja," in the December number, the close seemed unnaturally sad. The plot would have been no less real, and it would have been infinitely more pleasing, had the end not been so sorrowful; but in Virginia's story we would have been loath to give credence to a happier ending.

The meeting of the State Historical Society in chapel last Tuesday night was a success though the attendance might have been larger. No doubt more of the students would have attended if they had understood that it was an entertainment. It was not announced in chapel and only a few of the students knew anything about it. Mr. Cox, one of the earliest settlers in this county, read a paper on the early history of Lancaster county. He told many interesting stories of pioneer life in this county before the town of Lincoln was heard of. History of Art in Nebraska was the subject assigned to Miss Moore, but as art in Nebraska is too young to have much history she extended the subject and spoke of the means by which art will make the greatest progress in this state and in the United States. Mr. —, of Omaha, then told some interesting stories about the early French settlers in the territory.

COMMUNICATED.

Oratorical contest by students of the Nebraska Central College at the opera house of Central City, Dec. 21st. Exercises began at 7:45 o'clock with a song by the college chorus entitled "Greeting Glee," followed by prayer by Bro. Hilton. Then followed five orations by Messrs. W. H. Wilson, W. G. Fowler, W. F. Chase, J. L. Combs and Miss Evaline Brown. Instrumental music by Miss Jesse Benton entitled, "Twittering of Birds." This was followed by five declamations by Messrs. Albert Wilson, Henry Chapman and Misses Jennie Olinger, Ccra Webster and Mamie Fowler. Vocal music entitled, "We'll Have to Mortgage the Farm," by Miss Laura Leedom, June Hilton, Maud Winder and Messrs Herbert Ross and Fred Morrill. Following were six more declamations by Messrs Bert Persing, Herbert Ross and Fred Morrill, and Misses Lillie Johns, June Hilton and Laura Leedom. The exercises were closed with a cornet and piano duet, by Mr. Fred Morrill and Miss Anna Thurston. The decision of the judges was then given in favor of W. H. Wilson for the first and W. F. Chase for the second prize on orations, in favor of Lillie Johns for the first and Albert Wilson for the second prize on declamations. The evening's entertainment was good and the productions were all well delivered, showing a great deal of hard study and faithful attention to their duties on the part of the students. The prizes were \$5.00 and \$3.00 for orations and \$3.00 and \$2.00 for declamations.

H. T. U.

NEW SPECIES OF NEBRASKA FUNGI.

The department of botany in the University of Nebraska began practically with the employment of Prof. Bessey. Since that time, three years ago, a large herbarium has been collected, representing nearly every country in the world, and including many sets of authentic specimens, some of which cannot be duplicated. There has been added also much apparatus and a quite extensive botanical library. We are not yet inclined to brag, for we are modest. But in all confidence we invite comparison in regard to our work and appliances, believing we will not suffer by such comparison. Under the direction of Prof. Bessey the flora of the state is being worked over and catalogued, and, undoubtedly, we will soon have a complete list to present to collectors entering our state.

Among the many features of the interest in our flora is the occurrence of two species of Earth Stars, (*Geaster*). These interesting little plants were formerly supposed to be limited in their distribution to pine regions. It was a surprise, then, and a new feature in their history to find them in abundance here in our prairie region. Specimens of each were sent to A. P. Morgan, of Preston, O., who pronounced them new to science, and upon request, characterized them as follows:

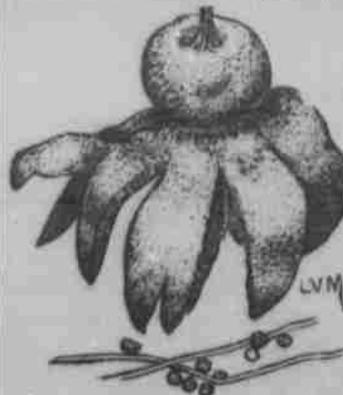


FIG. 1.

Geaster campestris Morg. (Figure 1.)—Outer peridium thick, multilobed; the segments, (eight to ten) reflexed, whitish below, rufescent within. Inner Peridium globose, subpedicellate, verrucose, gray, or brownish, the mouth conic, sulcate-plicate, in a circular, marginate disk. Spores globose, verrucose, brown, .0055—0.007 mm. in diameter.

Inner peridium $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in diameter, the expanded segments one to two inches. The outer peridium is concave or vaulted underneath, with the segments often inflexed at tip, as in *G. bryantii* and *G. limbatus*; it also has the same