

presence of the people, where noble chorus and orchestra can roll out Wagnerian music in unconfined volume, where even annual meetings of societies like the Christian Endeavor can be held, is a worthy object to strive for. The projected auditorium may bring the citizens together to work for a common object. Completed it will be of great use to us. Building it, we may be taught again our reliance upon each other, our common interests.

A notice from the David City newspapers to look out for pick-pockets and burglars who accompany Ringling's show made Lincoln house keepers and store keepers more than usually careful not to leave house or store unwatched while the circus was here. The usual procedure of the chief of the thieves that circus owners license, as they do the side shows, is, to visit the chief of police the first thing in the morning. With him the pirate captain makes an arrangement which enriches the chief, to a larger or smaller extent. Under the conditions the pick-pockets are to be allowed to run their business without police "interference." These arrangements are not confined to any city. The head thief is in the habit of making them with the chief of police of every city in which the show appears. Notwithstanding his opportunities he does not make much more than an honest living, because he has to divide with the proprietors of the show and with the police, who, of course, must each receive in turn a trifle from the chief to pay them for silence and looking the other way when anything is going on.

The revelations made in the investigation of Policeman Dill show that the guardians of property should be excluded from the rooms they are supposed to protect. The naivete of the policeman's explanation that he had a pass key to many of the business houses of his beat and that he had been in the habit of turning in to Holm and Reed's to sleep during the hours of the night he is paid to keep awake, is striking. It has been a matter of regret that the police were too few in number to protect the city. In the light of recent developments it is just as well that there are no more. The citizens are awakening to the fact that the city government, from humblest officer to highest (always excepting members of the council, which is legislative rather than executive) is for sale. They took the office for revenue only. The idea that "public office is a public trust" is the uncomprehended and Quixotic phrase of an unpopular president. The city officers are the "what are we here for" kind. The ring that has run the city for so long is in full and unquestioned control.

THE GOURIER is the only unpartizan paper in Lincoln. It dares to make these charges against the city administration because it is out of politics. It addresses the best and the most intelligent people of the city and the state and as many as read its pages are going to know the character and conduct of the city officers. Taxes would be paid with greater readiness if the taxpayers were sure that they were assessed to pay the salaries of devoted and able city officers, to pay for durable paving, pure water and adequate fire and police protection. But the people pay their taxes as helpless travellers, detained by bandits, pay their ransoms, because they must. The city treasurer's office is the place where a lot of sulky, suspicious but helpless people pay the tribute of citizenship. To remedy this state of things there are the primaries from which the plain, preoccupied citizens

stay, and afterwards grumble impotently at the nominees. THE GOURIER is hoping that there will be a citizen's ticket this fall that will give honest men an opportunity to rebuke the ring that offer the city for sale every day.

The Great Blue Heron.

Within a few miles of Lincoln, on Oak creek, there may be found at almost any time during spring, summer and early autumn, a large bird of a dull ashy blue color with white eyes, standing motionless in the shallow water near the shore of the stream.

In the uncertain light caused by the shadows of the overhanging trees he might be taken for an old decaying stump of a tree. Knowing the habits of this stately bird whom we have been seeking, we have approached his haunts cautiously. Not close enough for a good view of him, we carefully divide the dense, sweet perfumed wild cucumber vines and move a little nearer. Now we have our first good view of the great blue heron. Not a motion, not a sound does he make. A ripple on the surface of the shallow water marks the course of an unsuspecting fish. A gleam of the bright golden eye, and quick as a flash his head has disappeared in the water and out comes the fish for Mr. Heron's meal, then raising his head and stretching out his long neck and gulping, down it goes. Now raising one of his long legs he carefully draws one toe through his lance shaped bill just as if he was picking his teeth. An unguarded step, and the snapping of a dry twig, he is off with a hoarse croak. The great blue heron is a very shy bird, making it difficult to approach him. His food consists entirely of fish, frogs and mice found in marshes. Herons strike their prey just back of the head and when it is large they kill it by striking it against a stone or stump. Early in May they begin to mate, and build a large coarse looking nest of dry sticks. The eggs, never more than three in number and usually only two, are of a dull pale blue color, and are about the size of a small hen's egg.

During the incubating period male and female share the nesting cares alternately, and receive food from each other, the total length of an old bird from bill to toe is 63 inches and when the wings are spread they measure 72 inches from tip to tip. They usually fly in a straight line, the flight is strong, even and graceful. Like most large birds they do not appear to move very rapidly but their strong wings soon carry them out of view. The male and female in full plumage are much alike, the young birds being of a rusty gray blue color, until they have attained their third year, when they assume the brighter colors of the old birds. In ancient Greek literature there is a beautiful legend describing the origin of this handsome bird. It says that out of the ashes of a burnt city arose the great blue heron.

AUGUST EICHE.

Gold was first discovered in the vicinity of Sitka by Frank Mahoney, Edward Doyle and William Dunley in 1873.

The first American traders to engage in the Yukon trade were members of the Western Union Telegraph expedition.

"A man often says: "My business is different from any other kind; it's almost impossible to advertise my business." That remark shows a misunderstanding of what advertising is. It is making a business known to those who ought to know it. This can be done with any business.

CLUBS.

Officers of the State Federation of Woman's Clubs.

- President, Mrs. B. M. Stoutenborough, Plattsmouth.
- Vice-president, Mrs. J. E. Keysor, 2724 Caldwell street, Omaha.
- Secretary, Miss Vesta Gray, Fremont.
- Treasurer, Mrs. M. F. Nichols, Beatrice.
- Auditor, Mrs. D. C. McKillip, Seward.
- Librarian, Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, Lincoln.

Lincoln Clubs.

NAME OF CLUB.	PRESIDENT.	SECRETARY.
Athena.....	Mrs. Will Green.....	Mrs. Belle Hamilton
Book Review.....	Mrs. I. N. Baker.....	Mrs. Kelley
Century.....	Mrs. M. H. Garten.....	Mrs. R. T. Van Brunt
Faculty Club.....	Mrs. Geo. E. MacLean.....	Mrs. P. B. Burnett
Fortnightly.....	Mrs. C. H. Imhoff.....	Mrs. C. H. Gere
Hall in Grove.....	Mrs. H. M. Bushnell.....	Mrs. Walter Davis
Lotos.....	Mrs. J. L. McConnell.....	Mrs. Lucy A. Bessey
Matinee Musicale.....	Mrs. D. A. Campbell.....	Mrs. J. W. Winger
Sorosis.....	Mrs. A. J. Sawyer.....	Mrs. J. E. Miller
Sorosis, Jr.....	Mrs. Wm. T. Stevens.....	Mrs. Fred Shephard
Wednesday Afternoon.....	The hostess acts as president.....	Mrs. Robert Wilson
Woman's Club.....	Mrs. A. A. Scott.....	Mrs. Kelly
Y. W. C. A. Magazine Club.....	Miss Wild.....	

OFFICERS OF THE CITY FEDERATION.

- President, Mrs. Geo. L. Meissner, 1512 D street.
- First vice-president, Mrs. Ida Kelley, 839 North Twenty-third street.
- Second vice-president, Mrs. H. H. Wheeler, 1517 H street.

The women of Seward are beginning to get ready for the fall and winter in their club work. The summer has been a rest for them and they have put in a little time in planning the programs for the season. The Nineteenth Century club has issued its program, which is very interesting. It is purely American in its scope and for that reason is more interesting and more sensible than others. When the women have learned all they can about America and the Americans then they may with profit turn to the old world and its decay. American authors and American subjects, with current events, and the daily history of the world's doings, will occupy the time of this vigorous club this winter. The History and Art club will as usual study what the name signifies. It is a cultured club and its meetings in the past have been of absorbing interest. Mrs. Langworthy, who has been its guiding star through these many years, will be assisted this year by Mrs. Dr. Potter. The Fin de Siecle club is also beginning to get ready for work. Taken in all the little town will be well clubbed this season and much pleasure and profit will accrue to the members and friends.

A member of the Zetetic club at Weeping Water sends the following sketch:

A brief summary of the Zetetics' work may not be amiss, although club news at this date is almost out of season, as most clubs have long since closed their doors, while their members have hied themselves away to cool resorts. Else they have betaken themselves to rest and quiet under their own "vine and fig tree," while the summer solstice holds high carnival.

The Zetetics found they had so much before them it seemed almost impossible to find a time to close and did not until July 10 h, when an adjourned meeting wound up the year, to be commenced again September 4th. A short vacation—but as its meetings are held at intervals of three weeks they probably give so more time to their programs than do those clubs who have longer vacations and whose meetings are more frequent.

The club year has been of unusual interest to some. The studies relating

to Germany have been not only instructive but of an entertaining nature as well. The papers show that more than ordinary interest has been felt in the work. The federation library was found of practical value to many throughout the year.

The club ought to feel that some advancement has been made along the line of parliamentary drill, as the practice in that direction has been most vigorous. The last in connection with a discussion of the "Scarlet Letter," added not a little to the interest and brought out on both sides (the question being, "Resolved, that the moral tone of the Scarlet Letter is elevating,") very decided opinions.

Two members have left the club by removal—one a charter member, the other of only a year standing—one only has been added, which leaves one vacancy yet to be filled.

Once during the year sorrow entered one home, taking from it a little one whose life had passed but little beyond the half year mark, long enough only to prove the love its coming brought ere it entered the blessed beyond.

The year has witnessed various social events, adding somewhat to the pleasure of those engaged in the work, also making a pleasant diversion from regular program work.

In summing up it might be said the past has been one of the best years of the Zetetic—only that it is generally conceded that each year is the best. The story of the year cannot be complete without mentioning the Plattsmouth affair—the joint meeting of the Plattsmouth, Ashland and Weeping Water clubs at Plattsmouth by invitation of their club; a happy thought, beautifully carried out, and a most enjoyable affair.

The programs arranged by the executive committee for the year '97 and '98 are ready for the printer. It embraces a variety of topics—it is hoped enough to satisfy all the varying tastes and ambitions of those who aid in its development. German history and literature will be one of the leading features. Three or four meetings will be given to parliamentary drill in some form, three will be devoted to some special line of literature under the leadership of some member; three to child study under the leadership of Mrs. Marley, one afternoon to be given to the children, a lawn party; in charge of Mrs. Race one Shakespeare meeting; the laws of Nebraska, especially those relating to women, will be in the hands of Mrs. Donelson.