

are clicking away. Captain Thorn comes in and sits down at one of them and lights a cigar. Ah, that inevitable Gillette cigar! It has become a stage tradition like Della Fox's little curl. An important dispatch is brought in from the secretary of war. Thorn sends all the men out on various errands, writes a fake dispatch and tears the signature off of the original, affixing it to his own message. All this time Miss Varney and Arrelsford are on the balcony watching him. He begins to send the dispatch that will cause a shifting of the Confederate forces and leave the weakest part of the defense unguarded for the Federal attack. While he is at the instrument Arrelsford fires and shoots him through the hand. He calls the guards, but when they arrive Gillette says coolly, "Arrest that man!" and they do it. The thing works up to a climax, and just as General Randolph is about to put Gillette under arrest. Miss Varney enters with the commission from Davis appointing him to the head of the telegraph department. As she goes out, she faces Thorn and says slowly: "I did this to save your life. I trust to your honor as a gentleman not to send that dispatch."

When she has gone, Thorn orders his subordinate to send the message. Suddenly he catches the man's arm crying, "Recall that dispatch, every word of it; I refuse to act under this commission!" Curtain.

In the last act Thorn is sentenced to be shot, pardoned and made a prisoner of war. But the great feature of that last act is a mere mechanical effect. The scene is laid in the Varney mansion. It is eleven o'clock and the final attack on Richmond is beginning. I don't know how it is done, but outside these windows the dogs of war are let slip. You are in a besieged city. You actually hear thousands of men marching under those windows. No bands play now; this is not the picturesque side of war; they are going out silently in the dead of night, as the Carthaginians went out to die upon their walls. You hear the cannon rolling through the streets with the horses straining at their tugs, you see the light of the lanterns and the flashes from the bursting shells. Then the church bells begin to ring calling out the reserves, young men and old, to die before their city, you hear them going, and their wives and sweethearts hear them too. The seventeen-year-old son of General Varney, who has been wounded, gets out of bed to go to the front, and you begin to realize what that last stand of the Confederacy meant, to realize how truly Virginia "dared all, risked all, and today has lost all." No wonder she slent afterward for twenty years; it might well take a century to recover from that last night of Richmond, from the magnificent abandon of such a passion.

I saw the play Thursday night, and at the close of the third act a man of our staff went to Mr. Gillette's dressing-room to inform him that two hours before, his friend William Terriss had been stabbed to death at the door of his theatre in London, just as he was going to "make-up" for Captain Thorn in the London production of "Secret Service." He assures me that Gillette did not take it quite so calmly as he receives bad tidings on the stage. He was visibly shaken by the news, and from his dressing-room sent a cable to Mrs. Terriss and to the Adelphi theatre.

PITTSBURG, PA.

Lovers of art should not fail to see the Haydon Art club exhibit at the State University picture gallery.

CLUBS.

ANNIE L. MILLER, EDITOR.

The permanent and practical work of the state federation of woman's clubs was never more fully shown than in the program arranged by the committee for the Nebraska State Teachers' Association. The rapid growth of our cities and the many philanthropic and reformatory problems arising therefrom the absorption of men in business affairs—make it imperative for children to be trained to meet intelligently the demands made upon them.

These demands require from women alert and well disciplined minds. The woman's club is the logical outcome of these needs. It is the mothers training school. But there must be unity of purpose between mother and teacher. The latter has struggled long for that end. It has been the work of the club to accomplish it.

The first educational meeting of the Federation of Women's clubs in connection with the teachers' association was held on Tuesday afternoon at the university in Delian hall. The room was scarcely adequate for the number who wished to hear the program, for it was crowded to overflowing, and many stood without the doors in the hall. The chairman of the educational committee, Mrs. Harriet H. Heller of Omaha, presided most gracefully. After a pleasing piano solo from Miss Lottie Clark—pleasing in spite of the fact that the piano had long since lost youth and tone, Mrs. Heller gave a few introductory remarks on the *raison d'être* of the meeting. The committee, she said, felt that it was an experiment, but they were trying to make their work practical. Twenty seven of the state federations had organized this educational work, and all of these were holding meetings this winter. It had been thought by many that to bring the club women into direct contact with the teachers, at the meetings of their association, might point a way of greater usefulness to the clubs, by thoroughly acquainting the members with the present educational methods. The subject for the afternoon was, "What Can the Woman's Club Do for the Schools?"

The first speaker introduced by Mrs. Heller was Mrs. C. D. Schell of Beatrice who presented this general topic "Upon the Physical Plane." She spoke of the responsibility of mothers extending beyond the home to the schools, of the friendly relations that should exist between parent and teacher, and of the great work already accomplished by the general interest in child study.

Mrs. P. T. Buckley of Stromsburg then spoke upon the "Intellectual Plane." Education is viewed too much as a means of livelihood, or as a hope of scrid gain, it should be sought for itself alone, for the mind that would be happy must be great in aims and elevation of purpose.

"As to Aesthetics—Art," was given by Mrs. Largworthy of Seward, and was an eloquent plea that the love of the beautiful be early introduced into the education of children; which she thought as important as a knowledge of spelling. The speaker saw unmistakable signs of growing culture in the useful and beautiful side by side; with the Greeks all things were beautiful as well as useful. Children should be led to a knowledge and love of nature, through pictures and art in the schoolroom, and when possible through nature's own wealth of flowers and scenery. The vivid imagination of the child mingled with admira-

tion would soon teach him that love of beauty which is one of the divine attributes of the human mind, the love of nature which is akin to thought of God. Mrs. Largworthy closed with the following lines from Tennyson which embody the philosophy in nature:

"Flower in the crannied wall
I pluck you out of your cranny,
If I could know what you are
root and all, and all in all,

I should know what God and man is."

"As to Aesthetics—Music," followed from Mrs. F. W. Ford, of Omaha, and proved to be an extremely practical and interesting talk. Music was asserted to be a universal means of expression, musical tones would be noticed by babies under a year's age, and children should be as carefully educated by sounds as by sights. Mention was made of the permanent injury to the delicate hearing of children in the use of the wretched pianos commonly found in schools and which are never in tune. In one school the speaker had seen the scholars march out to the strains of a brass band in which no two instruments were tuned together, and what hope could there be for the musical ear of those children.

"No person can be considered well educated," said Mrs. Ford, "who has entirely left out a knowledge of music;" and she judged that this knowledge was within the capacity of all to acquire. This may be true, but Browning says somewhere in reference to musicians, "God has a few of us whom he whispers in the ear," and it is doubtful if he thought these "whispers" could be woced simply through education. Mrs. Ford closed with the importance of having music taught in the public schools.

The president of the State Federation Mrs. Stoutenborough of Plattsmouth, gave the closing talk "As to Ethics." Much stress was laid on the need of moral education, and the danger of allowing it to be crowded out by mental and physical training. Clubs should endeavor to keep good teachers in the schools, who influence arouse the pupil towards his better self, for intellectual weighs light compared with character. The attention of the clubs was called to the circular letter lately sent out by the educational committee, and the hope expressed that each club would carefully study the aims expressed therein.

The program closed with two charming vocal solos from Mrs. D. A. Campbell "Were I Gardener" by Chaminade, and Nevin's "O that we two were maying."

An informal hour followed in which many lingered to speak to the visitors.

It was a distinct misfortune that the paper of Mrs. Grace Mason Wheeler upon the "Relations of the Mothers to the Schools," was given at the same hour as the woman's club program in another department. Many who heard it pronounced it the finest given at the association.

The origin of the club movement in Lincoln seems fraught with so much interest that an effort has been made to trace it to its source. Many bright and cultivated women came to Nebraska in the early days, who naturally gravitated towards each other in little groups of congenial friends who met together to read or study, but this was not called club life. Some of these women kept diaries, as we all did before the busy

rush of the present crowded out all hopes of retaining the past, and it is largely to these diaries that one must turn for exact information concerning the earlier clubs. The earliest record known to the writer dates back to December 1838, when a club was organized in Lincoln whose history will be given next week in THE COURIER, written by one of its charter members, Mrs. J. L. McConnell. Anyone possessing authentic records referring to the literary life of that earlier period of the city, would confer a favor by sending them to this office, as it is desired to thoroughly investigate the subject. There seems to have been a lapse of eleven years between the organization of that first club in '63 and the Shakespere which came into existence on March 5, 1879, thus antedating the Ingleside by about six months; for the members of the Ingleside united in the fall of '79 and regularly organized with a name on February 4, 1880.

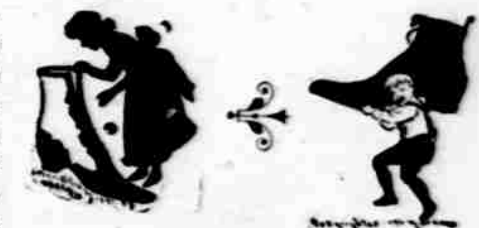
The Shakespere passed out of existence in 1886, but during its seven years of activity it exerted a strong influence both socially and intellectually. Much was done for the amusement of the younger generation, in the evening entertainments, at which plays were often given with the assistance of the gentlemen. The club was dissolved for the reason that no subject could be found to replace the original one in the hearts of its members, and seven years had exhausted the club possibilities of Shakespere. The Lotus still ranks as the oldest living club, and its history, as well as that of other early clubs, will be given by a charter member.

The Athenca is one of the many clubs of Lincoln which shun publicity, preferring to keep its plans and experience sacred to the few rather than to be drawn into the general club movement. Its conservatism is also shown by the fact that but one president has served the club during the years of its existence, Mrs. W. A. Green who was chosen for that office at its organization.

The outline of work for this year provides for a comprehensive study of art, from early Christian times to the present day. A list of names is arranged of forty-five famous painters, representing Italian, Flemish, Dutch, French and English schools; and three of these names are assigned for each meeting, the talks or papers followed by photographs of the artist's greatest works which are discussed in detail. In common with most of the other clubs, no program was given during the holidays, and the next regular meeting will be January 14th with Mrs. Talbot, when the lives and paintings of Rubens, Murillo and Rysdael will be studied. Although the interest in this art course has proved very great, it is doubtful if the subject as planned can be finished this year. Two artists and their works (instead of the three on



Remember a pretty
PAIR OF SLIPPERS
Make a nice
CHRISTMAS PRESENT
We have them.



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