

Barrett and Robert Browning and other writers who have been identified with Florence.

Mrs. J. F. Saylor gave a talk illustrated by charts, on the "Formative Influence of Early Roman Character."

A piano duet, Weber's "Invitation to the Dance," was played by Mrs. A. R. Mitchell and Mrs. J. W. Winger. Mrs. I. N. Baker gave the result of her investigations of the life of the "American Artists in Rome." She had found difficulty in collecting material for this topic which had been assigned her, but there was much of interest in her short paper. Mrs. G. W. Noble sang Gunner's "Staccato Polka" most sweetly, and later gave "Heart-throbs."

At the close of the program refreshments were served. The members of the Century club endeavor to entertain their friends from other clubs at least once each year at an open meeting, and this one proved fully as enjoyable as usual.

With a Woman's club at every little hamlet and four corners in the country, and club women cemented into a network of organization that can fairly support the world, it is difficult to create the atmosphere that made of club life a martyrdom; yet such was the atmosphere in which that pioneer of women's clubs, Sorosis, now strong and famous and with a thirty years' splendid record behind it, drew its first breath. Ridicule, open and pronounced, and hostility thinly veiled, from the prominent citizens of the community, men and women whose good opinion it is difficult to forfeit, misunderstood on all sides—amid such trying surroundings did Sorosis begin.

"It took courage of no mean order," says Mrs. Croly, "to admit one's membership in the club"—a change indeed from today, when Sorosis is recognized as the light that shone to guide the feet of women along the many present paths of club life.

The history of Sorosis' founding though well known, is always interesting. The incident of the famous Dickens dinner in March, 1868, which purported to be a compliment to the author, tendered by the leading journalists of New York, and the refusal of the managers to admit representative pen-women who wished to be present, has been regarded as the prompting impulse of the club. It is true that this vivified and touched into life the woman's club impulse, but it is also true that the idea was something more than an indignant resenting of an unnecessary slight.

Following the free discussion of the dinner matter at the next Sunday reception of the Misses Alice and Phoebe Cary, Mrs. Croly met during the succeeding week Miss Kate Field, and proposed to her, in the course of their talk, the idea of a woman's club. At this encounter really was Sorosis born. Miss Field liked the idea, and asked the privilege of discussing it with Mrs. Henry M. Field, while Mrs. Croly undertook to secure the co-operation of Mrs. Botta. The friendliness, too, of Mrs. Charlotte B. Wilbour, an intimate friend of the Cary sisters and the wife of a prominent New York editor, was counted upon, and on the next Monday, at the meeting or consultation at Mrs. Croly's house, these five ladies were present. Nothing definite had been decided upon except the want, as Mrs. Croly expressed it, of unity and secular organization among women. "Many women," she said, "were hungry for the society of other women whose deeper natures had been aroused to activity, who were interested in the thought and progress of the day and in what other women were thinking and doing."

There was no definite plan of work, no special basis of organization suggested beyond this cry for communion among earnest and thinking women. It was

agreed that an invitation should be sent out to a few women who it was thought would be interested, and the second meeting was appointed at the same place one week from the date of the first. Between the two Mondays, however, some serious happenings took place. Mrs. Field withdrew from the project on the ground of an early and indefinite trip abroad, and Mrs. Botta also retired, because her husband opposed her connection with the scheme. Miss Field had been summoned to Boston, and only Mrs. Wilbour and Mrs. Croly were left.

At Mrs. Wilbour's residence the Sunday afternoon preceding the second meeting these two ladies prepared a platform and brief constitution to offer such ladies as might appear the next day. As a refutation of one of the bitterest obstacles with which Sorosis in its early days had to contend—the idea that it was pledged to woman suffrage—a part of its first constitution is worth quoting: "The object of this association is to promote agreeable and useful relations among women of literary and artistic tastes. It is entirely independent of sectionalism or partisanship. It recognizes women of thought, culture and humanity everywhere, particularly when these qualities have found expression in outward life and work. It aims to establish a kind of freemasonry among women of similar pursuits, to render them helpful to each other, and bridge over the barrier which custom and social etiquette place in the way of friendly intercourse. It affords an opportunity for the discussion among women of new facts and principles, the results of which promise to exert an important influence on the future of women and the welfare of society."

At the meeting the next day the society was organized, under the name of Sorosis, with twelve members. Miss Alice Cary, to whom was offered the presidency of the new society, at first declined it, but was finally induced to accept it. The first list of officers of Sorosis is an interesting one: President, Alice Cary; vice-president, Jennie C. Croly; corresponding secretary, Kate Field; committee, Phoebe Cary, Ella Clymer, Celia H. Burleigh, Josephine Pollard, Lucy Gibbons and Ellen Louise Demorest; Charlotte B. Wilbour, recording secretary and treasurer. The first meeting of the club, as a club, took place at Delmonico's, then at Fourteenth street and Fifth Avenue, on Monday, April 20, 1868. The routine of proceedings, as it exists today, was there begun. A luncheon at one o'clock preceded the other exercises. No papers were presented at the first meeting, but a lively discussion was had over the choice of a name. Sorosis had already been suggested and accepted unofficially at the preliminary meetings, but it was now assailed, and the decision of the ballot was in favor of the other name proposed, that of the "Woman's League." During the month intervening before the next meeting, in May, a number of those who had voted for the name chosen, decided that they had been hasty, and one, Mrs. Clymer, brought into the May meeting a resolution of reconsideration. This gave an opportunity for a second ballot, and Sorosis was restored by a large majority vote. It is interesting, as showing how tentative the whole project was, that this action cost the club the co-operation of three prominent women, Miss Field, Mrs. Gildersleeve and Mrs. Gibbons, who resigned at once.

At this May meeting the president, Miss Cary, presided for the first and only time, her health rendering it impossible for her to continue. Sorosis was thriving, however, notwithstanding these various handicaps, and by the June meeting the original dozen had been increased to fifty, and the club was fairly started. After Miss Cary's resignation the club was without a president during its first year—a plan being

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adopted to elect a chairman at each meeting. Experience showed that this method could be bettered, and in March, 1869, Mrs. Croly was made president by acclamation, and the influential growth of the club began.—*Harper's Bazar*.

The open concert and reception of the Tuesday Musical club of Denver, was an especially enjoyable and artistic affair. It was given to a large audience of associate members and friends at the club rooms on Glenarm street. The afternoon was devoted to modern German composers and the programme included selections from a number of those most noted. While all did well, it is no disparagement to the rest to say that the contralto solo by Mrs. Minnie Peck, "Heaven Hath Shed a Tear," with violin and piano obligato (Miss Houghton and Miss Clark,) was most superb and inspiring. For a number of years past widely known in musical circles in Boston and the east, both in concert and oratorio, Denver is at present most fortunate in claiming her as one of its brightest musical attractions. About 400 were present.

The Art Department of the Lincoln Woman's club met Tuesday afternoon in the Matinee Musical room and listened to an instructive and highly prepared paper by Dr. Ruth M. Wood upon the life and works of Giovanni Bellini, the Giotto of Venetian painting; Giorgione, another pioneer of the sixteenth century, who excelled in the broad effects of light and shade; Leonardo de Vinci, author of that world renowned picture, the "Last Supper," executed while at the Court of Milan, and Cor-

reggio, whose power lay in creating the most beautiful forms full of tenderness and expression.

The Round Table discussion was upon the difference in style of these respective artists, and the American art topics of our present time.

Last Friday afternoon the Fortnightly club of Lincoln met with Mrs. Lambertson. Mrs. Ricketts, as chairman of the program committee, read an exhaustive synopsis of a course on Russia. After listening the club decided that the course would require two years and so voted. The committee was also instructed to have a year book published for next year. It was further instructed to prepare a larger number of topics to study than there are members in the club, in order that each member may have several subjects to select from.

Mrs. Lambertson then read papers on Holland Delft, Lace and Tapestry. Adjourned to meet with Miss Harris on March 4.

Mrs. S. B. Pound, state regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, has been presented with a handsome gold brooch, with the correct number of bars, and a set of resolutions expressing the appreciation of the chapter for her work in it. It is largely due to Mrs. Pound's enthusiasm that the chapter here is in such flourishing condition, and the members desired to express their appreciation.

The meeting of the State Household Economic association in Omaha last Thursday was little more than a form.

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