

produced one of the finest effects I have seen anywhere.

I see Mrs Manning has been giving a reading from Browning, and I warrant it was good. Those who have heard her read Browning know how intelligently she interprets him and how smoothly she gets over the alarming difficulties of his metre and sudden transitions. Mrs. Manning is a Boston school of oratory graduate, I believe, and I have about decided that the methods of that school are the best in use. Find them where you will, people trained in that school seem to have a higher respect for the inner meaning of their lines than the pupils of the New York schools, who seem to care chiefly about the most effective manner of reading them. It may be in the atmosphere of the classic city on the Charles, but some way the school of oratory people always seem to be better versed in general literature and more successful in their endeavor to reach the author's conception that lies behind the lines than the pupils of other schools of elocution.

While there is life, there is hope, even with Vesta Tilley and her "Imperial Co." in town. Be sure to pronounce it "Vester," by the way, she does. Now I had heard so much of Miss Tilley down in New York, that I went to hear her with joyful anticipations. Take my advice, and never expect anything when you go to the theatre. If the performance happens to be good, take it humbly as the gift of God; if it be bad, bow your head as to the storms of adversity and murmur not. Be particularly sure not to expect anything when you go to hear "Vester" Tilley, "London's Idol," the "English Yvette Guilbert," etc.

But first as to her "Imperial Co." I was quite willing to take the word of the man who played the intermezzo from "Cavaleria Rusticana," that he is an "artist," and that of the two gentlemen who played the xylophone that the results of their combined efforts was music. It is well to be both trustful and credulous where variety artists are concerned; you are happier so. I preferred, however, the acrobatic feats to the dental intermezzo. Messrs. Reno and Richards did some very clever tumbling. But the thing which seemed to captivate the audience was not their skill as gymnasts, but a pair of pink flannel pjamas which one of the gentlemen, got up to look like the missing link. wore. It has always been a mystery to me, that naive glee which people seem to feel at seeing absurd and unlovely costumes. There must have been people in that audience who had troubles of their own, who were hard up, or had recently lost grandmothers, but they forgot these things, together with the fact that art is brief and life is long, in a rapturous abandonment of joy over those pjamas. Talk not to me of misanthropy or melancholia! I am perfectly convinced that earth has no sorrows which pink pjamas cannot heal.

At last Miss Vesta Tilley, "London's Idol," appeared, dressed as an Eaton boy who is showing his aunt about the town. She sang half a dozen different songs in as many different costumes, which, as the program assured us, were made by the best London tailors and of the latest London cut. Despite the fact that Miss Tilley wore masculine attire, I kept thinking I was at a church concert in Red Cloud, so proper and so stupid and so wholly without individuality was she. And yet her boys were all nice, bright, clever little chaps, who ought to stay on their own side of St. George's channel and take care

of their illusions. Being an English concert hall singer and "London's Idol," Miss Tilley naturally invites comparison with Mlle. Anna Held, that milky "star of Paris." Nice, bright, clever little boys ought to be more attractive than feline bacchantes, but they are not. Not one of her songs has the persuasiveness of Mlle Held. "O, won't you come and play with me, play with me, play with me—O, won't you come and play with me, play with me all the day long?" Such inoffensive words; a child might sing them at school! I really don't know what it is about Mlle. Held that takes hold of one so. She is as beautiful as Gautier's *Musidora*, but she is a great deal more than that. When she springs upon the stage it is not Titania riding on a moonbeam that you see, but a bacchante fresh from the revelry of Eleusis, leaping in the relentless glare of the calcium lights.

But come, let us forget the shimmer of the white calciums, and of shoulders that are whiter, and those eyes that "teach the torches to burn bright," and that smile like the daemon women who went to tempt St. Anthony, or Circe when she mixed the drinks, and let us take the children and go to hear nice, English Vesta Tilley in her nice English clothes and her dull English songs.

PITTSBURG, PA.

KEEPING LENT.

"Be ye not as the hypocrites are."

My mind this year is fully bent
On keeping Lent:
Not in an ostentatious way,
Like hypocritical Miss Gray,
None shall my self-denial know
From outward show.

Farewell to parties, cards and balls!
I'll make church calls!
(No invitations will be sent
For entertainments during Lent!)
That stylish girl who sits near me
I'll go and see.

I'll give up coffee, also tea,
Alas! Poor me!
(I was just last week the doctor
said
They caused that trouble in my
head.
Though it is much against my
will,
I'll try my skill.)

The course at dinner I'll omit,
(And save by it.)
Papa will make a scene, no doubt,
'Twill save him, though a fit of gout,
And pay besides—I'm sure it will—
My Easter bill.

I'll wear my last year's dresses, too,
(They look like new.)
Besides subdued in color—quite
Becoming, too—come in just right!
To wear my new would be poor
taste,
And such a waste.

I'll go to church once, every day.
(What will Ned say!)
I'd like to have our rector know
I care for something else than show;
He is so handsome, good and true;
He's single, too!

Oh, yes! This year I'm quite in-
tent
On keeping Lent.
'Twill be a struggle, I confess,
In this sad age of worldliness.
I hope 'twill show forth in my face—
My inward grace.
—Mary Day Harris.

Dr. Phycik—Has your husband ever exhibited any signs of neurasthenia?
Mrs. Brush—I don't know, I'm sure; but he has been painting patent medicine signs for the past year.

CLUBS.

ANNIE L. MILLER, EDITOR.

THE CLUB REPORT.

She has conjured her brain
an hour or less,
Has inked her thumb
and wrinkled her dress.
What brilliant thought
would wing its flight
From her brain to the
waiting world of light?
A paeon in praise
of heroes slain
In a mighty war
with faithless Spain?
A careful study
of psychic lore
When man delves deeply
to find life's core?
A final review of
the critic's art,
Man's great need for soul,
or simply more heart?
The innermost meaning
and palpable trend
Of literature's art towards
its ultimate end?
All this she has done
many times before,
Can do it again
and even much more.
Not these from the point
of her ink-dripping pen
Will dazzle the brains
of the slow-thinking men.
She writes (with what pain
the truth I exhort,)
What was done at her club—
a simple report.

—Annie L. Miller.

The Century club will meet Tuesday with Mrs. C. I. Jones, 1634 D street.

Mr. Waite will give a paper on "St. Peters and the Vatican," and Mrs. Milton Scott will speak on the "Literary landmarks of Rome."

Mrs. Scammon of Kansas City, president of the Missouri State Federation, keeps closely in touch with club matters in Nebraska. Why is it that Nebraska clubs are not better represented in the National Federation?

The Columbus Woman's club meets semi-weekly, and gives a monthly program to each of the following subjects: Current events, literature, music, art and household economics. Under music is included chorus work, and this section is now preparing to join the May Festival at Lincoln this spring. The meetings—this week are devoted to literature and music.

The open meeting of the Beatrice Woman's club met with Mrs. M. V. Nichol, Friday, March 11th. A miscellaneous program was rendered. The first a piano duet by Mesdames Smith and Mason. This was followed by a very comprehensive review of "The Martian," by Miss Nichol.

Two papers on education, written by teachers who could not be present, were read by our president, Mrs. Deutsch, followed by reading and music by Mrs. Nichol and Miss Minnick.

The Falls City Research club met with Mrs. Kate Thomas with most of the members present. All of the papers on the program for the afternoon were prepared and discussed. The topics for this and the following weeks lead up to the German Reformation.

The "Rise of the Albigenses" was the

subject of Mrs. Warner's paper. Mrs. Gilligan gave a biography of "John Wycliff" which was followed by a paper "The Lollards," (who were followers of Wycliff,) by Mrs. J. R. Cain. Mrs. Thomas read a very interesting paper on the life and teachings of John Hues.

A report from the current events department completed the program. Adjourned to meet with Mrs. W. W. Abby, March 5th.

Friends in Council of Tecumseh, met March 9th, with Mrs. Merriman. Roll call was responded to by each member with favorite quotations. The first part of the session was devoted to a short study of the life of the late Francis Willard, and many of the important events in her beautiful life were recalled.

The subject for the day was the Trans-Mississippi and Paris expositions. The walls of our host's home were hung with pictures uniquely illustrating the subject under discussion. An excellent paper was read by Mrs. Brundage giving a clear and general description of the Trans-Mississippi exposition, while Mrs. Burnett read a very interesting paper on the Paris exposition. These were followed by descriptions of the music and art department by Mrs. Lee Chamberlain; the Nebraska building by Mrs. Howarth; the children's building by Mrs. Tracy; the historical features by Mrs. E. Chamberlain; features of amusements by Mrs. Fitzsimmons; Egyptian Pyramid by Mrs. Merriman. Light refreshments and the social hour followed, adjourned to meet March 22nd with Mrs. A. Shaw.

The Woman's club of Fremont, Neb., has been in existence now for five years. Its programs for this year show great variety and originality. The club motto, "Striving toward all that will enrich and ennoble life," allows wide latitude of subject. The order of topics is the same for each month. The meetings are held on Saturdays, and literature, history, literary amusements and miscellaneous topics form the general subjects. If there is a fifth Saturday in the month, it is called "President's Day," and a special program provided.

An especially attractive feature of the year book is the appropriate series of quotations heading each program.

On March 5th the topic was "Literature," as follows:

"A poem's life and death
dependeth still
Not on the poet's wits,
but reader's will."

The Poets Laureate from Chaucer to Ben Jonson.

The Poets Laureate from Ben Jonson to Austin.

Selected Reading.

On March 12th the program was devoted to the following "Topics of the Time":

"Put not your trust in money, but put your money in trust."

"The groves were God's first temples."

National Bank System.

American Forestry.

The meeting of the Woman's club on Monday was in charge of the department of physical education, Miss Anna Barr leader.

The ladies met at the university gymnasium at 2:30 p. m. They were welcomed in a pleasant speech by Chancellor MacLean, who said he wished a closer bond could exist between the uni-