

CLUBS.

ANNIE L. MILLER, EDITOR.

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A SONG FOR THE SORROWING.

April skies bend o'er me,
 Oh heart why sad?
 Sunshine and song of birds,
 Whisper be glad!

Look on yon mighty arch,
 Tenderly blue,
 Hear in the robbin's strain
 A messenger true.

God's love is everywhere
 Canst thou forget?
 Child of his fondest care,
 Why grievest yet?

All that with the years
 Seemeth to pass
 Eternally reappears
 His word shall last.

Shadows flee the dawning
 Joy comes after pain,
 Hope's bright bow of promise
 Shines through the rain.

Life, life is everywhere,
 In earth and sky.
 God's life for you and me
 Can never die.

Heart, filled with selfish grief,
 Doubting and lone,
 Wherefore mid tombs of earth
 Seekest thou thine own?

Christ the Lord is risen,
 Love and life hold sway,
 God's messenger of truth
 Rolls the stone away.

—Emma Shuman.

Nebraska City, April 14th, 1898.

The Gnosis club of Milford met with Mrs. Edwards at the Industrial Home last Tuesday evening. As usual when meeting with Mrs. Edwards royal entertainment was given.

Our club in connection with the study of Shakspeare as a literary man, has read two of his plays, Macbeth and Hamlet. In each the leading characters of the play were impersonated by members of the club and have proven both pleasing and profitable.

The Scotia L. R. C. met as usual on Tuesday. Topics of the day, especially war news, were discussed. The regular lesson followed, conducted by Mrs. Graham. The day's author was Mrs. Elia W. Peattie. An interesting biographical sketch was read and the author was considered as a newspaper correspondent, a story writer and a club woman. The story "Jim Lancey's Waterloo" was read by Mrs. Wright. A selection from William Reed Dunroy's poems was also read. The meeting closed with favorite quotations.

The child study department of the Plattsmouth Woman's club furnished the program for last Friday evening. Mrs. Atwood has led this department the last year most acceptably and there is always a large attendance at the meetings of her department. Mrs. Agnew read the opening paper, subject "Is there an infant psychology?" This rather abstruse and much disputed topic was discussed by her most ably and brought

out original thoughts and ideas. Mrs. Davis is always good and her paper on Education in the Sunday School, was excellent. Mrs. Clark's paper on Child study at the home, was equally good.

The department question was finally settled for the coming year, but four being admitted and the election of leaders resulting as follows: Literature, Mrs. Stoutenborough; current topics, Mrs. Fellows; parliamentary law, Mrs. Davis. These ladies are all good club workers and their election gave universal satisfaction. In my next letter I hope to tell you of the club reception at Ashland which a number of our ladies will attend and at which they are having a "perfectly lovely time" in anticipation. In consequence of this visit there will be no regular meeting Friday night.

Tuesday afternoon the Century club met with Mrs. Testers. Roll call was responded to by quotations. Current events were interesting and animated and savored much of the spirit of the times, patriotism and war news. Mrs. I. N. Baker had the principal part of the program and read an exceedingly interesting paper on "Lucca d' Pisa." After a very pleasant afternoon the club adjourned to meet with Mrs. Van Brunt May 17. The hostess served delicious punch and cake.

In the appointment of Mrs. H. H. Wilson as Dean of the women of the University of Nebraska, with instructions to bring the culture clubs of the state into more intimate relations with the university, we recognize the dawn of a new era. In this movement the women of our state may take just pride, for it is a recognition of the clubs as an element of value in university work and their affiliation will be a new and invaluable factor in the promotion of university extension. Our university authorities are to be congratulated on their wise choice of a leader to marshal the Women's clubs into the formal educational system of the state.

The university desires that there shall be a further co-ordination of its forces with all the educational activities of the state. It realizes the significance and importance of the work being done by the large body of women in the state, in their earnest and conscientious study in culture clubs and is desirous of recognizing this work by offering to these clubs the privileges and advantages of the university through university extension courses.

It is designed that the Women's clubs of a community shall constitute the "local centres" of university extension work. The general plan of work will be similar to that outlined in the general university extension courses with such modifications as may seem necessary to make the work possible and effective.

There will be special courses offered to Women's clubs and any club wishing to take any of the courses offered should arrange for the course of lectures according to the directions given under "local centres;" or if some other plan suggests itself as being better suited to local con-

ditions the club could follow out its individual plans in arranging for the expenses of the course.

If a sufficient number of clubs desire to take up this work in connection with the university there will, in time be provisions made for a travelling university library designed to co-operate with the State Federation Library of the clubs. This plan of university extension in connection with clubs should appeal strongly to the teachers of a community as it will enable them to become acquainted with university methods and prepare them to take up special work in the university if they should desire to take advantage of university credits offered in the extension work. Graduates of the university who contemplate studying for their master's degree could do much of the required work in this way.

This is the only country with enough women's clubs to form a federation, but omitting the reference to sex, we have not the honor of organizing the first union of literary clubs. A year book sent from Adelaide, South Australia, to the editor of this department gives the history and statistics of the South Australian Literary Societies' Union, from its formation in 1883 to the present time. The clubs of the Union exist in nearly every town and always have a mixed membership.

Until last year the women paid no dues or merely half that required for men, and were ineligible to office. In 1897 the women were admitted to full membership in all the clubs, but the report neglects to say if that includes

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the right to hold office. For several years the women have held a prominent place on the programs. They began by furnishing musical solos, recitations and poems, but have now, according to the year book, added essays, which we would probably call papers. The debates and addresses are accredited solely to the men.

An annual literary competition is held by the Union, preceded by preliminary competitions in elocution, prepared speeches solo and part singing, and dramatic scenes, held in four districts.

The winners in these are selected to appear in the real competition at the Town Hall of Adelaide. The highest number of societies at any time in the Union has been forty-one with a total membership of 2000, but this has been reduced nearly half. "The falling off can be attributed to several causes. First and foremost is the fact that so many of the young men of this Colony have taken their departure for Western Australia, and in consequence, the rolls of membership of most of the societies have been reduced to an alarming extent and in some instances the losses have been so great that the societies have had to be disbanded. The great interest, too, that has been taken in cycling during the past year or two has also tended to militate against the success of literary societies."

In many respects these Australian societies are of the nature of the University literary societies, though the former have an independent existence. Seventy per cent of the meetings are opened with prayer; in other cases the