

## CLUBS.

[LOUISA L. RICKETTS, EDITOR.]

The Northwestern declares that women clerks must go. January first all women stenographers, clerks and operators who have not been in the employ of the company for at least two years are to be discharged. The vacancies are to be filled with men. The rule applies to every office connected with the system and will affect over two hundred women. The management admits that the women have not proved inefficient, but that they are a bar to the company's carrying out its policy of promotion of employees from lower to higher positions. An officer of the road said to a reporter: "Can you imagine a woman as general superintendent or general manager of the affairs of this great railway system? I think not. But just so long as we have women in the clerical positions the source from which to draw officials in the future is narrowed to small limits." It is very evident, that the Northwestern has heard a faint rumor that women are crowding men from legitimate lines of business, and by this precautionary move they intend to head off the possibility of the management of their road being captured bodily by women. It is a very serious question what shall be done with these aggressive women, but by this bold stroke for liberty no doubt the Northwestern has saved its road from being run into the ground.

Music has always gone hand in hand with intellectual and aesthetical culture, and has always been counted a divine art, as well as an acknowledged force in moulding character. The more general attention that is being given to the study of music by clubs, is a step in the right direction. The Women's club of our city, once each year, gives a musicale for an open day program. Last Monday afternoon was set aside for this purpose and a most enjoyable musical treat was arranged by Miss Maude Risser. The program was varied, included some of the sweetest vocalists and best musicians of the city. The cornet solo by Mr. E. N. Wehn was much enjoyed as were also the piano selections by Misses Risser and Haywood. The names of the vocalists are assurance of the rich treat enjoyed by those fortunate enough to be present. The contralto solo by Miss Holmes was perfect, and Mrs. Woods and Mrs. O'Neal never appeared in better voice, while the sweet sympathetic tones of Miss Raymond touched the heart as they always do. The following is the program:

Piano solo—(a) Poem, Macdowell; (b) Murmuring Zephyrs, Jensen-Nieman, Miss Maude Risser.

Vocal solo—(a) Thy Beaming Eyes, Macdowell; (b) Japanese Lullaby, W. Neil, Miss Eleanor Raymond.

Cornet solo—Theme and Var, Raelinson, Mr. E. H. Wehn.

Vocal solo—(a) 'Twas April, Nevins (b) The Story of the Christ Child, Shepperd, Mrs. S. M. O'Neal.

Trio for piano, violin and violoncello, "Wohlfahrt," Messrs Hudson, Burky and Babcock.

Vocal solo—Reveries, Neidlinger, Mrs. Mark Woods.

Contralto solo—"Dost Thou Know That Sweet Land?," Thomas, Miss Lora Holmes.

Piano solo—(a) Etude, A flat, (b) Waltz, E minor, Chopin; Miss Lucy Haywood.

The members of the Plattsmouth Woman's club were greatly entertained on Friday evening by a parlor lecture delivered before the club by Dr. Freda Lankton of Omaha, subject, "Heredity." The doctor is well known as a speaker

of ability and from her experience as a practicing physician furnished many incidents of her own observation relative to the subject. At the conclusion of the lecture the doctor announced herself as ready to answer any questions that might be propounded and quite a number took advantage of the permission to ask various questions regarding the transmission of traits, etc. At the beginning of the evening a musical program of four numbers was rendered, Miss Baird opening with a piano solo played with great delicacy. Mrs. Anna Britt and the Misses Patterann and Sullivan each favored the audience with vocal solos most charming in selection and execution.

The parlors were beautifully decorated for the occasion with chrysanthemums and the national colors and presented quite a festive appearance unusual in our sober woman's club.

New Year's eve will be reception night and the executive board as reception committee are expected to receive the gentleman friends of the club in a most hospitable manner at the residence of Mrs. H. Y. Streight.

This little poem should have a sponsor. We mistrust the name of its modest author would go to swell the list of Lincoln's poets.

## The Grave of the Lonely Woman.

The lonely woman—  
where did she go?  
With wistful eye  
and laggard feet  
She lingered adown  
the crowded street,  
Seeking for some one  
that she might know.

I watched her afar—  
with gentle air  
And distant smile  
she passed close by  
Another sister with  
wistful eye  
And hungry soul—  
but she did not care.

Alas she saw naught  
but features strange  
And missed the appealing  
and soulful look.  
I lost them both. In  
secluded nook  
And busy mart my  
steps now range.

Of the farmer's wife  
at her daily task,  
Is the lonely woman  
here? I asked—  
She shook her head  
and answered, "Nay,  
I must hurry my baking,  
we meet today,  
Our country club,  
at Farmer Brown's  
To treat of the ruling  
of country towns."

I stopped a woman  
with eager face  
Whom I saw in the city,  
and asked again  
Of the lonely woman.  
"I'm due at ten  
At the charity room  
and next I go  
To the history club,  
I'll let you know  
If we meet," she smiled  
and quickened her pace.

A buoyant form passed  
gaily by  
With a friendly nod  
and a sparkling eye.  
She vanished, "The Woman's  
Club" I see  
Over the place where  
she now must be.  
I asked of the woman  
at the door  
Of the lonely woman;  
"She's dead," she said,  
"We buried her deep  
beneath this floor."

The bright western girl is not apt to miss the opportunity for a little innocent fun. This fact was evident last Sunday evening at the Auditorium in Chicago, where Lieutenant Hobson lectured on "The Sinking of the Merimac." At the close, the audience pressed forward to greet the hero of the Merimac, hand-shaking and congratulations were in



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order, the interest culminating when a hundred and sixty three young ladies came forward and gushingly kissed the hero. Report says that the lieutenant met the assault bravely and even seemed to encourage it. It is said that at one of the State Federation meetings last fall a resolution was passed that any person mentioning Hobson's name should be fined. The young man is now making a triumphal tour of the West. He spoke at Kansas City Monday night where he received the usual osculatory greeting from two hundred and sixty seven ladies. Kansas City was not to be outdone by Chicago. He spoke at Denver Tuesday evening, and the Queen City of the Plains carried off the palm in this fun contest. From Denver he preceded to San Francisco whence he sails December 24th, on the City of Peking for Manila, where he expects to raise the three ships Dewey sunk.

Apropos, Mrs. Harriet W. Leighton of our city has just published a new book of poems entitled "Prairie Songs." It is always interesting to know what estimate one poet may put upon the work of a fellow craftsman hence the following from Mr. Bixby: "It must be said of her work that through it all runs a vein of hope, and faith in the Supreme Power, that refreshes the soul of believers and lends courage to those who struggle along in the darkness of unbelief. The only fault is a common one among verse-builders of occasionally sacrificing the rhythm for the sake of the sentiment."

It is little wonder that the home department of the women's club is in favor, for here you are taught not only how to cook different foods, but real cooking is done before the eyes of the members then treated to a luncheon. The one lesson given at the last meeting on how to cook various meats was especially instructive, and to learn how to make a round steak as tender and juicy as a porter house, was worth many times the yearly membership. No doubt there will be a boycott on the part of the members against this club department if the war go merrily on, so we can make beefsteaks tender, and stews out of the cheaper cuts. We are given for the work that we are strated so be sure and go prepared

a note book and pencil. Home economics is slowly but surely working its own evolution, and as 'tis said, the fate of a Nation hangs thereon, we shall let it work.

A most interesting and valuable organization along club lines was consummated last week for historical research and preserving Nebraska Folk Lore. The club will be known as the Nebraska branch of the National Folk Lore society, whose purpose is "to collect and preserve all the traditions of the Indians, Creoles and Negroes." In setting forth its objects the national organization says: "It may be confidently affirmed that no branch of American historical research offers a field for original investigation comparable to that presented by the traditions, rites, beliefs and customs of the aboriginal races." The Nebraska branch elected the following officers: President, Dr. Edgren; vice president, Miss Louise Pound; secretary, Mrs. F. G. Franklin; treasurer, Dr. E. L. Hinman. Dr. Henry Eames, Dr. L. A. Sherman and Mrs. F. G. Franklin were elected directors, with the understanding that they also act as program committee.

The Emerson club, which meets at Mrs. W. W. Holmes' Thursday mornings, proves to be a very entertaining organization. While its primary aim is to study Emerson, it does not confine its readings entirely to that author, but ranges through wide literary domains, discussing subjects and authors suggested by studies in Emerson. Such literary clubs, consuming only an hour or so a week, may be made valuable in literary studies, and if properly managed, may be as entertaining as any other. We wish there were more of them.—State Journal.

The Executive Board of the N. F. W. has just appointed an Educational Committee and instructing it to cooperate with the State Teachers' Association and the clubs at once in touch with the educational force of the state. The State Teachers' Association meets in Lincoln each year during the holidays. Last year this committee arranged one program for Association and the subject of which was "What do the Women's Clubs do for the state?" This subject was discussed at various points with a great deal of