

interest, bringing out many practical suggestions. This year the State Federation has charge of one program which will be given in the University chapel Tuesday afternoon, December 27th. There will be papers by Mrs. Towne of Omaha and Miss Austin of Pender. Much interest will be centered around a debate upon the question Resolved: "That the public schools afford a natural and adequate preparation for citizenship." There will be two ladies speak on each side of the question after which it will be open to the house. There has been much discussion of this subject already and club women are anticipating a spirited debate. There will be music also and a most enjoyable afternoon can be assured all visitors.

On Monday afternoon the annual musicale of the Woman's club was given to a moderate but enthusiastic audience at the club rooms in the Salisbury block. Miss Maud Risser arranged the program, departing somewhat from the traditions of ladies clubs in going outside of the club for numbers on the program, even invading the realm of masculinity and securing Mr. Earle Wehn for a cornet solo number which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Miss Risser took part of the program under her care and with Miss Lucy Haywood did excellent service at the piano. Vocal work was done by Mrs. J. M. O'Neal, Miss Dora Holmes, Miss Eleanor Raymond and Mrs. Mark Woods. All of the performers received the hearty commendation of the audience, which was made small by the mountainlike weather which prevailed throughout the afternoon.

The York Amateur Musical club met Monday afternoon in the club rooms at the usual time. The history lesson on the beginning of opera and oratorio was led by Mrs. McConaughy, after which the following program from American composers was given:

- Florence Waltz..... Liebling
- Mrs. Sedgwick.
- a. If I Were a Bee..... } Gaynor
- b. Sleep Song..... } Miss Allen.
- a. Elf Dance..... Tapper
- b. Fairy Fingers..... Mills
- Edith Lang (Student.)
- Clover Blossoms..... Rogers
- Mrs. Maud Woods.
- Die Lorelei..... E. B. Perry
- Miss Cobb.
- a. Protestations (violin ob.)..... Norris
- b. Rosary..... Nevin
- Mrs. Zulia Bell.
- O, Let Night Speak of Me.... Chadwick
- Mrs Sedgwick.
- a. Allegro Pathetique..... Sherwood
- b. Spring Song..... Liebling
- Miss Carscaden.

Last Tuesday afternoon Mrs. E. L. Holyoke entertained Sorosis and a few invited guests in a very pleasant way. It is the custom in this club for each member in turn to furnish the program. Mrs. Holyoke's turn coming at a time when she was too busy getting settled in her pretty new home to prepare a topic, she was fortunate enough to secure for the entertainment of her friends the reading of Browning's *Colombe* by Mrs. Manning. By intelligently leaving out certain parts, Mrs. Manning was able to bring the reading of this pretty little play within the hour and a half limit and still not mar its coherency. Chocolate and wafers were served at the close of this enjoyable afternoon.

Newspaper reporters do not occupy a very enviable position. No matter how far they may be from their own convictions, they must report those that please the public, else, with all possible grace, step down and out, to make room for a more tactful successor. While we may deplore this state of facts, yet we must

recognize its existence. The very natural result, from the bread and butter standpoint, is that the reporter must make careful study of what to say and what not to say. The reaction from this system of repression and suppression is strikingly illustrated in a paper read before the recent convention of the Ohio State Federation by Josephine Woodward of the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune. Her paper on "Womans Clubs from a Reporter's Point of View" is printed in *The Club Woman*. In the opening sentences she congratulates herself upon the prospect of being "permitted to speak the truth for twenty minutes," and in the following breath, assures her audience that "malice has no place in her heart." It is difficult to accept this last statement, as we read on and on, and find the scathing, bitter, almost vicious denunciations tumbling over each other for utterance as she warms to her subject of arraigning womens' clubs. She says, "once a long time ago, before club women taught me how to lie cheerfully and glibly, and before I taught myself the value of silence, I undertook to give in print my honest opinion of some club proceedings, or other. I have never tried it since. The truth crushed to earth that day, now rises for the first time." She adds, "since that tragic day I have made it my practice in reporting club proceedings to find out what the president of the club or the chairman of the department would like to have said, and then say it."

"If the lady who reads the paper for the day has an account of it already prepared for publication, I gladly accept her contribution to club literature. It usually reads something after this fashion: 'Mrs. B's review of Tolstoi and his works was the most brilliantly comprehensive essay it has been our good fortune to hear in many a day. This gifted woman is probably better qualified to speak of the great Russian author and what he has written, than any other critic in this vicinity, since she has the most beautiful silver samovar in town, and invariably takes lemon in her tea, even when she is alone.' In the same acrid strain she shows how women encourage club sisters "who need encouragement; for instance, Mrs. C. delivers a paper. The encourager says, 'Poor Mrs. C! So unfortunate you know; just look at her clothes! I'm going to encourage her.' So without the formality of an introduction, she pats poor Mrs. C. on the back saying, 'Good for you, I'm glad you belong to our club; I'm glad I know you. I'm coming to call on you.'" Miss Woodward scores another against clubs by declaring there are not "very many poor little Mrs. C's. in the club. They can't get in." Our reporter here shows her ignorance of the democratic influence of womens' clubs, especially of the western clubs of whom we can speak intelligently, and we have reasons to believe that the same influence prevails among eastern clubs. They are not aristocratic in their tendencies and they have been the greatest levelers and most broadening influence among women of the past decade. Mrs. Woodward's experience must have been unfortunate when she imagines that "the average club woman goes into a club for the sole purpose of keeping some one else out;" that clubs claim to be democratic but have built up aristocracies; that they pose before the world as seeking the accomplishment of great good, and when they see themselves in print they are willing to believe that the good has been accomplished. She finally refers to womens clubs as "a body of women banded together for the purpose of meeting together." It is not necessary to quote farther from this unique paper to convince you of its lack of appreciation of womens clubs, and the benefits derived therefrom, on the part of its author and also to raise



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the question of the lack of good taste on the part of any one invited to address an assembly who makes it the occasion of indulging in criticism of so acrimonious a character that the chance of doing the good that might have been accomplished by giving a criticism in the proper spirit is lost. Just and proper criticism should always be invited, but it is rare that any real good is accomplished by sinister criticism.

It was a great innovation of the customs of the past for the empress dow-

ager of China to receive the wives of the foreign ambassadors and ministers of Peking. It was necessary to overcome numerous difficulties before this audience could be granted. That it was granted at all shows the long distance the Chinese nation has come toward modern civilization the last few years. Ten years ago it was considered a great victory in the line of the emancipation and elevation of women for a missionary woman to be admitted to their homes only as a physician. Now, we are told

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