

first meeting at the Lincoln hotel last week. The organization, which will be known as the Schoolmasters' club, has for its object the promotion of fellowship among schoolmen of the state, especially among the leaders in different lines of work. Much good should redound to the educational interests from such an organization. At this initial meeting many important questions were discussed, but the important paper was by Principal A. N. Waterhouse of Lincoln, on the "Aim of the High School." This paper showed careful thought on the best methods of holding the young people who drop out of the schools before finishing the course. Mr. Waterhouse suggested that something besides the old studies leading toward the learned pursuits be offered at this age; that there be a wider latitude in the courses. He recommended manual training, or commercial courses for the boys and girls who could not remain interested in their books. There is an opening for a household economic course also. This paper was followed by a very spirited discussion. The university men were disposed to stand for the old courses preparatory to university work, while the public school men were a unit for the introduction of manual training and practical studies in the high schools.

The regular program of the Woman's club next Monday, January 30, will be under the auspices of the civics department. It will be conducted as a debate. The subject is "Expansion," and each side will be presented by two members, when the question will be thrown open for general discussion. The subject is timely, as there is no question before the people today that is more talked about. The meeting Monday afternoon will no doubt result in a spirited debate.

The board of Temple trustees, which has taken up the work of paying for the temple dropped by the W. C. T. U. held its first quarterly meeting this week. Mrs. Carse, Mrs. Marion H. Dunham, Burlington, Ia.; Mrs. Lucie B. Tyng, Peoria, Ill.; Mrs. L. A. Hagans, Elmhurst, Ill., and Mrs. E. N. Graham, Newark, O., decided to continue the work of raising funds by the organization of Willard memorial circles. The temple stockholders elected these directors: Matilda B. Carse, Henry Dibblee, George Manierre, William E. Kelley, Robert Crane, D. H. Burnham and Frank O. Lowden. The trustees chose Mrs. Carse as president.

Last Friday evening the Hall in the Grove held its regular meeting with Dr. and Mrs. Stein. This club is studying Holland. Mrs. Garten read an interesting paper on "Dutch Painters of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries," mentioning in particular Jan Steen, Rembrandt and Rubens. Mrs. Adams read a paper on Delft and told of its potteries and how the genuine delf may be recognized. Mr. Hedges reported American current events, and Mr. Bancroft epitomized European current events, which were followed by a general discussion. Just before the circle broke up Mrs. Stein read an interesting letter from her "soldier boy," who is with the army in Cuba.

In the Paris exposition of 1900 women will be placed on a par with men, there will be no special woman's building. This shows how quickly exposition commissioners absorb the good example set by the Omaha exposition. Ferdinand W. Peck, United States commissioner to the Paris exposition, at a recent meeting of the New York board of Paris commissioners said: "Women will participate in the Paris exposition exactly on a par with men, and each article exhibited, whether by man or woman, will be installed in its proper group and class in

accordance with the French classification." He also said in many departments, as, for instance, in the textile department, the exhibit would probably represent woman's work more than man's.

The Amateur Musical club of York met at the usual time and place Monday afternoon. After an interesting lesson in musical history led by Mrs. R. McConaughy, and a short sketch of Italian opera by Mrs. Sedgwick, the following program was given:

La Sonambula.....Leybach
Mrs. Sedgwick.
Ave Maria.....Mascagni
Bertha Allen.
La Traviata.....Verdi
Mrs. McConaughy.
Drinking Song.....Mascagni
Bertha Allen.
Don Giovanni two pianos.....Mozart
Mrs. Sedgwick, Blanche Roberts.
Love's Embrace.....Bohm
Maud Rader.
The Swallow's Song.....Bohm
Amy Haggard.
Invitation a la Valse, two pianos.
.....Hunten
Blanche Roberts, Phila Sedgwick.

The Amateur Musical club has engaged Mr. Henry Eames, of the University Conservatory of Music, Lincoln, to give a lecture recital February 3. Mr. Eames has met with great success throughout the state in these recitals, and is an artist of more than usual ability.

The program of the Matinee Musicale Monday afternoon was devoted to Folk songs of all nations. Mrs. E. H. Barbour read a very interesting paper on the subject, illustrating some of the earliest airs on the piano and reading some translations. The musical part of the program was the early music of the different nations; French, German, old English, Swiss and Norwegian. America has no folk music except what is found in Mexico and among the Indians. Miss Ida Coder played a group of Norwegian folk songs by Grieg. Old English, French and German songs were sung by Miss Turner, Mrs. Jansen and Miss Louisa Miller, and a quartet composed of Mrs. Holyoke, Miss Oakley, Miss Reynolds and Mrs. Campbell sang a Swiss air and an "American Folk Song," which proved to be "The Old Folks at Home." Norwegian airs were represented.

A number of new names were added to the chorus membership, which is now practicing for the May festival. The next meeting on the evening of February 6, will be a lecture recital by Henry Eames. Active, associate and chorus members will be admitted on membership tickets.

"Jim Clancy's Waterloo," a story of life on the plains of Nebraska, brought the name of Elia W. Peattie suddenly into the minds and mouths of many people. It was such a story as only appears when the heart of some writer rushes out through her pen and forces the latter to sudden and unwonted eloquence. It was followed by a number of other and equally clever stories, and was reprinted, together with some others, in Mrs. Peattie's first book, "A Mountain Woman, and Other Stories." Since then have followed "Pippins and Cheese" and later "The Shape of Fear," a collection of tales, some of them weird, some of them tender, dealing with the supernatural. A short romantic opera, "The Love of a Caliban," was also published a little while ago, as well as a labor story, "Witch's Gold." Very shortly, it is rumored, a larger work than any yet published will appear.

But little business was transacted Friday evening by the Plattsmouth Woman's club, the time being devoted

to listening to a most excellent parlor lecture by Dr. Freda Lankton of Omaha. Dr. Lankton has spoken before the child study department before and always meets with a warm welcome from the young mothers who are endeavoring to rear their little children in the right way and according to the most approved method.

Dr. Lankton spoke of dress reform, the importance of preparing food for children, being careful to eliminate from the daily bill of fare all stimulating food and condiments, and furnishing things nourishing rather than stimulating to our boys and girls. The lecture was excellent throughout and furnished subjects for careful consideration to those having the care and culture of the young. The clubs have taken under their auspices Prof. Tucker's musical class and are rendering such assistance as they can toward interesting the children of club members to lay the foundation for a musical education. Prof. Tucker is a competent instructor and the class promises well.

Next Friday evening the ever popular current topic department will furnish the program and hope to report an interesting and profitable evening.

The Woman's Literary club of Stanton met with Mrs. A. A. Kearney, Thursday afternoon. The club is just starting in its third year of work and will have the following departments: American Literature, Study of Shakspeare, Household Economics and Current Events. The club limit is fifteen, and has fifteen members. The new officers are as follows: Mrs. A. A. Kearney, president; Mrs. Edith Underburg, secretary. The program was opened with roll call response. Current Events followed by a general discussion of the Question of Expansion led by Mrs. Huntly. Mrs. Kearney reviewed the Current number of Leslie's Monthly. Mrs. Young read a Character Sketch of Benj. Franklin. The program closed with a piano solo by Mrs. Underburg for which she received a hearty encore. A daintily served luncheon was a part of the afternoon's entertainment.

At the Auburn Woman's club Saturday afternoon of last week, the members were pleasantly entertained by a talk from J. H. Dundas and music from Allie Furlong and Ethel Reed. The next meeting will be held January 21st at 2 o'clock. The subjects to be discussed are Current Events, Economy in the Household and Pen Pictures of three American female writers. Subjects to be guessed by the members of the club.

Regular meeting of the Ashland Woman's club was held Wednesday, January 25th, at the home of Mrs. Will Scott. It was the first meeting of the last half of the club year, also the first of the Current Literature course. Under the genial leadership of Mrs. Scott, it could not fail to prove an interesting meeting. Anthony Hope Hawkins was the author for the day. A brief synopsis of "The Prisoner of Zenda" seemed to put the members in just the right humor for discussing the many startling situations in which the book abounds. Phroso and the Dolly Dialogues each in their way helped the time to pass all too swiftly. A breezy paper on Current Events completed the program.

Fore-sight.

"I think," said the statesman, who didn't have any great hopes any way. "that it would be a good plan to make these here campaign buttons of mine with eyes to 'em so that if the demand is smaller than the supply, I kin sell 'em to some overalls factory or something of the kind."

HIDDEN.

In each husk that hides the tiniest seed
Is a pattern we cannot see.
In each acorn cup is folded up
The plan of the great oak tree.

In each bud enclosed in its mask of green
Is a bloom that is yet to be.
In each body of clay is hidden away
An immortality.

—William Reed Dunroy.

AFRICA, ENGLAND, GERMANY.

Letter Wants the Forest in the Basin of the Upper Congo.

The object of Germany at the present moment is to connect her eastern and southwestern African possessions, says the Quarterly Review. To do this she desires to possess the forest in the basin of the Upper Congo—a region which is rich in copper. If she could obtain this territory from the Congo state and a narrow strip of land from Portugal she would realize her aim; and if she gets possession of the forests on the Lualaba and the Katanga copper mines her colonies may become to her a great source of wealth. England should definitely make up her mind as to the attitude she will assume toward this policy. If she opposes it Germany will become a persistent enemy. On the other hand, if she supports it Germany should agree not in any way to interfere with England south of the Zambesi and support her heartily in Egypt. The increase of German prosperity at home is also an advantage to us. As Germany becomes richer she will become a better customer and less jealous of the political position. The wages of German artisans must go up and consequently Germany will be less able to undersell us in the open markets of the world. We have now come to a state of things as regards the German empire when we must either come to terms with it or drift into a position which will certainly lead to danger. The Germans, if they are to maintain their possessions beyond the sea, must either be sure of the friendship and good will of England or else they will endeavor to break down her power on the ocean. Since the beginning of this year every corner of the empire has rung with the most violent denunciations of this country. The newspapers, with the almost solitary exception of the Weser Zeitung, have given expression to feelings of bitter hostility. Organs of opinion usually the most opposed have vied with each other in their violence of language. This ill feeling to Great Britain, as we have said, has not been a growth of recent times. It is now strengthened by a growing conviction that the position of England in the world is undeserved, artificial and cannot be maintained if it is seriously menaced. This view has been fostered by distinguished historians and men of letters, who exercise a powerful influence on the youth of the country, on the guides of public opinion, on writers in the principal periodicals and journals who indirectly shape the policy of the cheap newspaper, which is the gospel of the village inn.

Bad Debts for Charity.

The merchants of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, have conceived an ingenious method of combining benevolence with revenge. They have turned over their bad debts to the Woman's Missionary society of their city, thus relieving themselves of further responsibility for the prosecution of missions and subjecting their delinquent debtors to a series of runs from the eternal feminine.

Pessimism.

The pessimist is a freak. Pessimism is the child of a day or a mood, optimism is the great under current of human life. Pessimism is abnormal. It is a disease of the mind.—Rev. D. H. Overton.

Legal Item.

"What is a vested interest?" asked one of the lawyers who was examining a candidate for admission to the bar. "Well—er—I suppose you have a vested interest when you are compelled to pawn your vest," replied the candidate, who was somewhat impecunious."