

away, and that he wished to say adieu. She looked at him without seeming to hear. At length she said in a friendly tone:

"Well! it surprises you to see me, don't it? Yes, it's true I threatened to strangle the first of my family who went down again, and here I'm doing it myself. I ought to strangle myself, oughtn't I? Well, I would do it if I hadn't the old man and the little ones at home."

"Does Jeanlin work?"

"Yes, the gentlemen have found him outside work. He earns twenty sous."

"Oh! I don't complain, the chiefs have shown themselves to be very good. The boys twenty sous and my thirty, that makes fifty sous. . . . There are six of us to feed. Estelle eats now and the worst is that we'll have to wait four or five years before Lenore and Henri are old enough to go down in the mine."

Etienne could not restrain a sad gesture.

"They, too."

The wan cheeks of la Mahue reddened while a flame seemed to light up her eyes. But she shrugged her shoulders as if under the burden of destiny.

"Cervicaly, they're after the others."

"They haven't all lost their lives yet, it's their turn now."

So Etienne went forth upon his journey, giving up forever the problem of the equilibrium of empty stomachs, knowing himself to be the prisoner of poverty, and realizing that if he should wander to the world's end he would only change his prison house.

* * *

A new writer of promise has come up in England in the person of Mr. Eden Phillpotts. His new book, "Children of the Mist," has been pronounced by some critics the novel of the year, though I think it should scarcely be rated above "Number 5, John Street." One of the most daring innovations of M. Rostand's novel "Cyrano de Bergerac" was its astonishingly long list of dramatic personae. Playwrights have found that a drama can be worked out very well with a dozen characters, or even fewer, and that this economy of time gives an opportunity to develop the really important people of the play more fully. The same change has taken place in the novel in France, in Russia and in England. Mr. Howells and Henry James enjoy fewer characters in a single novel than did George Eliot. As the drama has grown more like the novel, so the novel has taken upon itself more and more the limitations and direct methods of the drama, and contents itself with situations which involve all the characters concerned. But Mr. Phillpotts has returned to the older manner, and his book takes up the lives and fortunes of an entire Dartmoor community. His novel deals not with a few persons and a problem, but with many people and the universal, ever present problem of getting through the world somehow. He considers the life of a town, the influence of the environment upon the people, of the people on each other. His canvas is wide enough for comedy and tragedy. He takes up the village hero, the village belle, the village scholar and the village clown and follows them through the checkered drama that they play. I am not sure that this is worth doing quite as well as Mr. Phillpotts does it. I am not sure that his rich and exhaustive writing would not be more effective if it were governed and tempered by a little artistic discretion. The novel is not closely knit together, it seems not to have been carefully planned. Scenes of noble pathos lose their force because they are followed by chapters more or less irrelevant. The comedy is not always tactfully placed and is persistently placed, sometimes to the extent of being *de trop*,

like the later comedy of Dickens. The current of the story is split up into so many channels that one somehow loses the force of it and scarcely realizes how splendidly the whole thing is written. A man with a much narrower range, without half Mr. Phillpotts' wide grasp of divergent types of life, without half his vividness and richness of style, by a more skillful arrangement might have made his joints better. In "The Mill on the Floss," George Eliot had much the same problem to confront. She too wrote the drama of an entire community, she too wished to make a complete picture of country life and took a large canvas and brought a company of stolid, earthly people about her more feverish characters. But she knew when to lay all of them aside and saved herself for that one supreme dramatic moment in which she brought about her tragedy. The crescendo begins with Maggie's ride down the river with Stephen and from there on the dominant theme is brought steadily to the front. At the proper time she subordinates every interest to one, throws all the lesser characters of her book into the shadow, destroys the scaffolding by which she built this tragedy and leaves Maggie lulliver's cross and expiation above and supreme. The tragedy rises like the black flood that came down the Floss, engulfing field and hamlet and town and mill, leaving those two figures for a moment before they sink into the flood. "The boat reappeared, but brother and sister had gone down in an embrace never to be parted; living through again in one supreme moment the days when they had clasped their little hands in love, and roamed the daisy fields together." And so the reader, in one great moment of illumination, sees the whole of these two lives, as a man sees a whole city by a flash of lightning. Ah Heavens; when will the man or woman be born who can write like that again? Perhaps sometime Mr. Phillpotts, whose career began not long ago, may give us something as full of nature and truth as his "Children of the Mist." Yet fashioned with a more rigorous and compelling hand. He has the temper from which all health in literature springs. He sees the world freshly, as though it had been made but yesterday, and he ceases not to wonder at it. His book is full-blooded, free from literary affectations, lusty and wholesome and full of joy in out of door life, with roots that reach deep into the soil and a florescence pale and beautiful as the Dartmoor Mists.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Under the old plan of having men teachers for the boys, and young ladies for the girls, things at the Sunday school had been going from bad to worse. The children were all glad enough to go, not for the spiritual good they were to receive, but for the jolly good times they were sure to have. As a last resort someone suggested that the men should take the girls, and the young ladies the boys. This was tried, and the girls were a little better, but the boys were worse if anything. Finally one of the teachers—she was the prettiest girl in the school—after a vain attempt to make her class of boys see that they ought to behave themselves and study their lessons, because it was "meet, right, and their bounden duty" so to do, determined to try the value of a direct personal appeal. So she drew up the very worst of her boys, the ringleader in all the mischief, and holding him by the hand and looking deep into his eyes, she said,

"Won't you learn your lesson to please me?"

"Why, cert." was the prompt reply, "but who's your steady?"

CLUBS.

[LOUISA L. RICKETTS.]

The following are the officers of the General Federation of Women's clubs: President—Mrs. Rebecca D. Lowe, Atlanta, Ga.

Vice President—Mr. Sarah S. Platt, Denver, Colo.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. Emma A. Fox, Detroit, Mich.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. George W. Kendrick, Philadelphia, Pa.

Treasurer, Mrs. Phillip N. Moore, St. Louis, Mo.

Auditor—Mrs. C. P. Barnes, Louisville, Ky.

State Chairman—Mrs. Louisa L. Ricketts, Lincoln, Nebr.

Officers of the State Federation of Women's clubs;

President—Mrs. S. C. Langworthy, Seward.

Vice President—Mrs. Anna L. Apperson, Tecumseh.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. F. H. Sackott, Weeping Water.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. D. G. McKillip, Seward.

Treasurer—Mrs. H. F. Doane, Crete, Librarian—Mrs. G. M. Lambertson Lincoln.

CALENDAR OF THE CLUBS OF NEBRASKA

- September
1. The Gauls, Monday c., Wayne.
 2. Changes of Musical Notation, Mozart c. Plattsmouth.
 3. America Before Discovery, Mary Barnes c., Fullerton.
 4. William & Mary, Woman's c., Stromburg.
 5. "In His Steps" reviewed, Zetetic c., Weeping Water.
 6. Early France, Woman's c., Minden.
 7. Painting in Flanders, Political history of America, XIX Century c., Seward.
 8. Summer Reminiscences, Woman's c., North B.
 9. The Roman Empire, Woman's c., Dundee.
 10. Introduction to American Literature, Ladies' Literary c., Sutton.
 11. Vacation reminiscences, Woman's c., Auburn.
 12. Current Events, Macbeth, XIX Century c., Aurora.
 13. Holland, Century c., Lincoln.
 14. Business meeting, Sorosis, Lincoln.
 15. Hamlet, Sorosis, Crete.
- October
1. Miscellaneous, Ingleside c., David City.
 2. Peace Movement, Woman's c., Omaha.
 3. Reception and President's address, Matinee Musicale, Lincoln.
 4. Period of Henry VII, Hist & Art c., Albion.
 5. Sculpture, Social & Literary c., Crete.
 6. President's address, Vacation Reminiscences, Woman's c., Fairbury.
 7. Primitive Germans, Cozy c., Tecumseh.
 8. Eng. Lit., Friends in Council, Tecumseh.
 9. Hamlet, Woman's c., Schuyler.
 10. European Hist., 861-1492, Acme c., Tecumseh.
 11. Social meeting, Woman's club, Ashland.
 12. Macbeth and current topics, Mutual Improvement c., Crete.
 13. Current Literature, Woman's c., Fremont.
 14. Business Meeting, Woman's club, Columbus.
 15. Summer Reminiscences, Hist & Art, Seward.
 16. Washington Irving, Ment. Cui., 8 Auburn.
 17. Rec. & Pres. address, Woman's c., Lincoln.
 18. Characteristics of Victoria and Her Reign, Woman's c., Ashland.

With the purpose of increasing the interest in woman's clubs and the work they are doing, The Courier will attempt, with the co-operation of the clubs in Nebraska, to print each week a calendar of the state clubs, which will include the name and location of each club in the state and what it is studying. The success of this effort to serve the clubs depends entirely upon the general co-operation of the women's clubs of the state of Nebraska. There is no doubt that such a compilation will increase the sympathy and interest between clubs by placing each club in direct communication with every other club. Clubs studying the same subject may obtain hints and give them by a comparison of the course of study and the manner of developing it. The bonds between state clubs cannot be made too close and sympathetic, and the more clubs know of each other the closer will be the ties, and the closer the ties then the greater the sympathy and

helpfulness. To be included in this calendar it will be necessary for each club to send to the editor of this department its year book or mail a postal containing the date and subject to be discussed at least ten days before each club meeting. I hope that this effort in behalf of club work may meet with the cordial co-operation of the club women of the state and that it may prove helpful and suggestive in many ways.

Latest advices from Paris show that Mrs. Rebecca D. Lowe, president of the G. F. W. O., while on a vacation for rest and recreation, is still mindful of the interests of club work, she called a meeting of the honorary members of the federation who live in Paris, that they might confer on the advisability of organizing women's clubs there. She has also arranged that the details of the women's club exhibit at the Paris exposition shall be in the hands of a local committee which shall be in direct communication with the special committee appointed by the board of directors of the general federation to take charge of the Paris Exposition exhibit. Mrs. William Tod Helmuth was made the chairman of this committee and its plans will soon be completed and published.

As this number of The Courier will be sent to each federated club in the state, according to the year-book, and every other club whose name I could secure, it is an auspicious time for your state chairman of correspondence to present the question of joining the general federation to each club. The three questions that arise when considering this subject are: What is the expense? What are the benefits derived? How do we make application? The answers are: First, The annual dues for clubs shall be at the rate of ten cents per capita, which shall be paid annually the first of May beginning with 1900.

The answer to the second question involves the whole subject of the advantages of organization and may be divided into general and individual benefits, hence it cannot be answered as tersely as the first. Organization is the key note of modern success. We see it in religion, education, philanthropy, politics, and business, and it is but natural that women's clubs should feel and respond to this all pervading social force. The tendency of club life today is toward practical work, and the advantages which come from organization are too self evident to need recapitulation. The proverb that "In union there is strength" is too old and too true to admit of question. Hence the supreme benefit which comes from federation is the strength which comes of unity. In the G. F. W. O. there are today nearly a quarter of a million of women pledged not only to mutual improvement, but to the betterment of humanity by means of educational, philanthropic, economic, and financial agencies. Who among us can estimate the power for good of so mighty a force?

Men have long recognized the advantages of co-operation, but only in the

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