

that club women seek to so understand the science of the home that theirs shall be ideal homes, where the strife of the world is without and a wealth of love within, where the gracious manners of the mistress shall bring to all who come within the home a message of comfort and good cheer. The talks for the afternoon, "The Relation of the Club Woman to Household Economics," "The Poverty of Housekeeping," "Harmony at the Hearth," brought out many excellent ideas and showed that home interests are very dear to the hearts of club women.

Dr. Warren Perry was expected to speak to the club on "Foods, Their Chemical Significance and Value," but was, on account of business, unable to be present. The club hopes the pleasure of hearing him soon.

Fairbury was very gay during the holidays. The university students came home, and to help in the merry-making, all brought friends with them, some bringing two and three. So there was fun and frolic for every day and night.

The North Bend woman's club kept open house on New Year, and their headquarters resounded with greetings for the new year. Their friends responded in large numbers to their invitations. The rooms presented a pretty appearance, with their graceful decorations of yellow and white, the club colors. As the guests came from the reception room, they wore a bit of holly, to which was attached an incomplete sentiment. The floding of the minus part on one of the opposite sex gave them a passport into the dining room, where a prettily decorated and well filled table awaited them. The ladies served coffee, while the guests served jests. In the auditorium there was mirth and music. Piano solos, a quartet by our young ladies, and Mr. Dowling kindly gave a few selections on a graphophone. In one corner of the room under our beautiful motto was a massive punch bowl in a bed of holly, from which two young members served delicious fruit punch. It is an open question whether it was the refreshing beverage or the fair and graceful buds who presided that caused the crowd to linger. Judge Strong delivered an able address, in which he paid high tribute to the ladies of the present day, assuring them they were on the right track, with their work well in hand, and bid them Godspeed. As the guests departed the club women received many assurances of their success in their efforts towards a social inauguration of the New Year, or is it new century?

At a called meeting of the Fairbury Woman's club the committee appointed to devise ways and means for establishing a public library presented their report and the resolutions offered were adopted with but little opposition. The club pledges itself to raise during the club year one hundred dollars in money and in addition one hundred volumes of books. It was further recommended that until such time as the city can take and maintain the library that it be established and supported by subscription. The minimum subscription to be one dollar per year.

Another recommendation provided for a board of directors four from the club and three from the community at large whose duty shall be to receive subscriptions, purchase books and take charge of donated books, with power to accept all or receive any that in its judgment may not be suitable for a library. The club intends to go to work in earnest now to do all possible towards establishing a library in Fairbury.

[This plan for starting a library is one that can be worked in any town where a woman's club exists. I am pleased to call the special attention to

it of every club in the state. The time has come into the club movement for women to show what they can do in some such way.]—L. L. R.

At the home of Mrs. Apperson on last Wednesday afternoon another club was organized. Tecumseh Sorosis was instituted with twenty-five charter members. Mrs. Pollock, president of the city federation was present. The club will at once join the General, State and City federations. Officers elected are: Mrs. C. M. Scott, president; Mrs. J. S. Harman, Secretary; Mrs. B. F. West, Treasurer. A fine miscellaneous program is arranged for the remainder of the year.

The "Friends in Council" held a very pleasant meeting at the home of Mrs. Hill Shaw. After current events, The modern American writers were assigned one to each member with Mrs. Merri-man as leader.

The following writers with their best known works were thoroughly discussed: James Lane Allen, Kate Douglas Wiggin, Paul Ford, Octave Thanet, Lillian Bell, Hamlin Garland, Richard Harding Davis, Weir Mitchell, Sarah Orne Jewett, Ruth McEnery Stewart, Winston Churchill and Nelson Page.

Refreshments and social time completed the afternoon.

#### Children's Reading.

It is said that every age has its trademark stamped upon it by the years as they pass. Geologists have discovered with precision and classified these trademarks in the ages before man was. The silurian age left its trade-mark in fossil mollusks, the devonian in fishes, the carboniferous in coal plants. It is so in history, architecture, sculpture and painting, language, customs and manners. The most lasting mark of our age is the influence and importance which childhood has attained. Children's books and magazines and "children's columns," in the papers, and "children's sermons" and "children's Sundays" are features of the last fifty years.

Mrs. Stowe, seeing the tendency of the age, prophesied serial stories for the nursery. "We shall," said she, "have charmingly illustrated magazines, 'The Cradle,' 'The Rocking Chair,' 'The First Rattle' and 'The First Tooth,' with successive chapters of Goosy, Goosy (Gander, Hickory Dickory Dock and Old Mother Hubbard extending through twelve or twenty-four or forty-eight numbers." We realized years ago the truth of her prophecy.

Robert Louis Stevenson, Rudyard Kipling, Joel Chandler Harris, Frank Stockton, Hawthorne, Alcott and many others are writing or have written for children.

It is well for each child to have a paper or magazine addressed to himself and to encourage each child to gather a library of his own. Among the endless number of books, to make a list for which preference should be given is not an easy task, and the mother who has a good knowledge of literature will be the best judge.

The Bible comes first in importance. To be ignorant of the Bible is to lose the virility and beauty of the most ancient and the most enduring literature in human language. We do not know of any method by which children can be instructed in the Bible and made familiar with its contents that does not involve considerable labor by parents. Teach the child the beautiful passages, the poetry of the psalms, the pleasant stories of the lives of the patriarchs. With the mother they can learn the Psalm xxiii., "The Lord is my shepherd," Christ's sermon on the mount, the Lord's prayer, chapter xiv. St. John, "Let not your heart be troubled;" how

soothing to earth's weary ones—even to a child. Teach them among the beautiful passages in Ecclesiastes the one, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." If they do not remember their Creator in youthful days they will forget him always.

Longfellow, in his charming description of Hiawatha's childhood, has given a vivid picture of childhood's spirit of inquiry:

"At the door one summer evening  
Sat the little Hiawatha;  
Saw the moon rise from the water,  
Rippling, rising from the water,  
Saw the flecks and shadows on it."

This will captivate any child, and a little story may be woven from the "noon and shadow." A little further on in the poem an appeal is made to the love of flowers, which all children possess, and a child may be led on through this love to a delightful knowledge of flowers. Then read him Bryant's "Fringed Gentian," Whittier's "Flowers in Winter." The names of plants may be learned, the different woods, the shape of the leaves and a thousand other captivating things—all unconsciously a love of the science of botany will be acquired and the foundations of the future study laid.

In like manner natural history and botany may be studied also. Astronomy, beginning with "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," and carrying it forward until the heights are reached. Then science and beautiful thoughts may be wrought into the fiber of little ones.

Some one says, "Can this be accomplished?" Yes, by mothers who think more of child life and development than of minor matters. But what of the mothers whose time is too full of work? This may be managed by each one becoming interested in his own and his neighbor's children, as the walls of Jerusalem were restored by every man building over against his own house.

A child lives almost wholly in the imagination and the mother and teacher may do much to direct it. As the Greeks lived almost wholly in the imagination, give the children tales from Greek mythology.

Good stories make children more noble minded; they beget a love for truth and pride of the right sort. Biography is really better in its results than fiction, as it furnishes possible ideals.

Even Shakespeare we need not hesitate to introduce to the children.

All children are interested in bird life; read to them Bryant's "Waterfowl," "The Bobolink," Whittier's "Robin," Shilley's wonderful "Skylark" and Robert Browning's "O, to be in England when April's There." When there is a strong west wind, read Shelley's "West Wind." When the first dash of snow comes, read Longfellow's "First Snow" and Whittier's "Snow Bound." When the brooks begin to babble in the spring time, read to them Tenyson's "Brook." The music of Tenyson is entrancing to almost all children. A source of amusement, and profit as well, will be derived by changing these poems into prose and making a little story. On rainy days beguile the children into reading history.

"He sang his way to fame  
Through childish hearts, men say,"

And as long as "Little Boy Blue" is dear to the childish mind, Eugene Field will be remembered, and

"Perhaps he will seek out the wee ones  
In the heaven men call 'over there,'  
And will weave for them verses of childhood  
More wonderful, tender and rare."

(Read by Gertrude M. McDowell of Fairbury, before the mid-winter meeting of the N. F. W. C. at State Teachers' Association, Lincoln December, 1899.)

## ART HISTORY.

Outline of Work Prepared by Mrs. F. M. Hall, Chairman of the Art Committee of the N. F. W. C.

- (a) Architecture.
- (b) Sculpture.
- (c) Painting.

A.

ANCIENT ART.

- I. Egyptian art.
- II. Babylonian and Assyrian art.
- III. Persian, Phoenician, Palestine and art of Asia Minor.
- IV. Greek art.
- V. Etruscan and Roman art.

B.

Christian art to the Renaissance.

C.

Modern art from the Renaissance to the present.

- I. In Italy. II. In Germany. III. In France. IV. In Holland. V. In Belgium. VI. In Spain. VII. In England.

GENERAL REMARKS.

In ancient art architecture and sculpture predominated.

In early Christian art architecture and painting predominated.

In modern art painting predominates. Architecture and sculpture take second place.

#### LESSON VIII.

FROM ITALIAN RENAISSANCE TO PRESENT.

- 1. Causes that produced the Renaissance. (a) Discovery of America. (b) Invention of printing. (c) Religious reformation. (d) Spirit of individual freedom. (e) Revival of classic learning. (f) Greek art.

Note the rise of architecture, sculpture and painting as separate branches of the great art movement.

#### 2. Italian Renaissance.

1st period early Renaissance.

2d period high Renaissance.

3d period late Renaissance.

4th period Modern Italian art.

See De Forest's A Short History of Art; Early Renaissance by J. M. Hoppla (city library). Renaissance in Italy, by Symonds (university library). Pool's Index, Lives of Cimabue, Giotto, Angelica, M. Angelo and others.

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#### High School Notes.

The Browning Club gave an informal meeting on Friday evening. The labor expended in preparing the program was appreciated by a well filled house. The program was as follows:

- Selection by the Mandolin club.
- Ten minutes parliamentary law.
- Vocal solo—Mabel Hildebrand.
- Recitation—Selden House.
- Piano solo—Edith Burlingame.
- Short play—A Sewing Circle.
- Selection—Junior Quartette.
- Original poem—Marian Bell.
- Piano solo—Ina Finch.
- Society paper—Lillian House.
- Mandolin club.

The Hawthorne literary society met on Monday for the purpose of considering a challenge to debate sent them by the Browning club. The club decided to accept and the debate will take place very soon.

The Photerone society has divided into two clubs; the J. O. C's., and the R. A. L's. These clubs have a party every two weeks. The next one will be given by the R. A. L's., at the home of Miss Grace Trigg.

On Friday, January fourth, the C. D. S. had an initiation. At a very exciting point when the candidate was blindfolded and enveloped in gunnysack