

on exhibition and Mrs. Stoner gave an account of her visit to the art exhibit at the State University. Refreshments followed, after which she favored the class with a vocal solo, and Miss Miller gave an instrumental solo. Fourteen were present and all reported a delightful evening.

The Woman's club of Seward held its first business meeting according to the program, January 5th, 1901. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Teresa M. Carey; first vice president, Mrs. Frances Miller; second vice president, Mrs. Phoebe Callender; recording secretary, Mrs. Florence Dickman; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Nellie Keefer; treasurer, Mrs. Herman Dirrs. Leaders of departments: Art, Mrs. Alice B. Manning; Household Economics, Mrs. Teresa M. Carey; Literature, Mrs. Emma K. Schemel.

Mrs. Stoutenborough's letter was read in regard to setting a date for a library meeting. The club decided to observe January 26th, and give a library program, instead of their Art meeting.

The Secret of Mark Twain's Success.

Mark Twain's literary hold on the world is so innocent of all tradition and logic that the challenge to explain the situation is an irresistible one to those who talk about him or write about him, though it does not particularly worry people when they read him. The gentlemen who have made a study of such matters have said his literary style is naught; that his stories are ill-constructed, according to the esthetic standards; that his travel sketches are inconsequential and scrappy; that his historical novels do not create the atmosphere of their time, and so forth,—yet these same gentlemen do not deny that he is a great writer, nor do they pretend to withstand his fascination. Indeed Mark Twain is curiously fortunate in his ability to hold the attention of the men who make books and writing their business, as well as men who have no interest whatever in books or reading except when the interest is compelled by such an irresistible person as Mr. Clemens. This can not be for the mere reason of Mr. Twain's humor, although such inimitable humor is a platform on which very varied types and grades of intellect may meet congenially. It must be because the keynote of everything Mr. Clemens writes is his enmity to sham, hypocrisy, and pretense—a note vibrating the fibers of manliness in every reader—and because, whether he is a good novel-writer or not, he is a born story-teller, with the highest art of the typical American raconteur, with all his intuitive and acquired knowledge of human nature, his cool mastery of climaxes, and his audacity. It is his distinction that he is so thoroughly the American. There is no meridian of his country that he does not know, whose people he does not understand, whose life he has not lived. He comes to his subject, be it a European cathedral or a village schoolboy, or an absurd sentimentality, with the cool, healthy, vigorous bearing of a man born and bred in the atmosphere of work and fact, where trifling or falsehood means disaster. It has been remarked more than once how suggestive of the American eagle are Mr. Clemens' bearing, his piercing eye, his falcon profile.—From "A Sketch of Mark Twain," in the American Monthly Review of Reviews for January.

His Malady

Mrs. Talker—I saw Dr. Osem going into your house this morning. Is anyone sick?
Mrs. Fanning—My husband. He just got home from his vacation.—The Bazar

ENGLAND IN CHINA.

The Large Hold that the British Have Gained at Important Points in the Celestial Empire.

Great Britain is further in China already than any other power. The facts are sensational when taken together. The British have most of the trade in strong ports where they have put up handsome buildings, and they have most of the concessions. It is the expectation that British capital will play the largest part in the modernization of China. Mr. Frank G. Carpenter, who has been in that part of the world for some time, contributes to this week's issue of The Saturday Evening Post an article giving the most recent facts of the situation. He says:

"The English are doing the most of the foreign banking for China. They get a percentage on the greater part of the quarter of a billion dollars used in its foreign trade. They have made the Chinese government loans up to the last four or five years; the first two loans at the close of the Chinese-Japanese war, each amounting to \$80,000,000 having been placed with the English and Germans. There is one English bank in China which has deposits of \$80,000,000. It pays six per cent on deposits, notwithstanding this, declares big dividends. In a recent transaction it made a clear profit of \$2,000,000, and its stock is now two hundred per cent above par.

"There are, in round numbers, about 13,421 foreigners in China. I do not include the soldiers called in by the present war. Of these foreigners more than 5,000 are English, 2,000 Americans, 1,000 Germans, 900 French, 160 Danes, 400 Spanish, 150 Italians, 1,000 Portuguese, and 1,700 Japanese. More than two-thirds of the Americans are missionaries.

"A look at what the English are doing at the different ports will show whether they are profitable or unprofitable servants. They surely have not wrapped their talent in a napkin and buried it in the sand. They have made the open ports modern European cities. They are every where the leaders in society, education and business."

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Miss Kritick—Did you notice the lobster in that "still life" picture of Dobbley's picture?"

Miss Porkand (of Chicago)—No; who was it?—Town Topics.

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