

in a peaked cap and a long coat. The general public associates the water-wizard with hocus-pocus work; and however Mr. Burns may modify his proposition, it will be difficult for him to convince the voters that he can manage the water works system better than a biennially elected representative of the people.

According to Mr. Burns' proposition the city would still continue to need the services of a water commissioner and the same clerks, engineers, and firemen now employed. If Mr. Burns can demonstrate to the city that it will pay him and pay the city to conclude a twenty years' contract for supplying the city with water at so many cents per thousand gallons, the mayor, council and water commissioner should be able to plan an equally paying plant. Buying the water according to his proposition, the plant must support two establishments with the usual number of figure-heads and extra men employed by the city. This combination of municipal and private ownership involves a foolish loss of energy, it duplicates establishments. It would pay the city to ignore the municipal ownership sentiment and rent the concession of selling water to the city at a stipulated price per thousand gallons to Mr. Joseph Burns and let him collect the charges from the people directly. The compromise proposed means nothing tangible to the city. It is intended to soften the opposition of office holders, actual and expectant, whose fears of the cutting off of jobs are easily aroused. If two establishments can be supported according to Mr. Burns' plan of enlarging the system, it is up to the mayor, city council and water commissioner to propose an equally economic scheme for the municipal operation of the present plant. If they cannot do this the council would better turn over the entire management of the plant to Joe Burns or some other wizard and charge them a stiff rate for the concession to sell water to the people of the city of Lincoln. Of course this would mean the abolishment of the office of water commissioner and some of the firemen of the different pumping stations would lose their jobs, as under an economical regime the different plants would be consolidated into one where one fireman would be enabled to do the work of several. For this reason it is not likely that the city will be able to supply water to the people any more cheaply or in a more sufficient volume than at present.

CLUBS.

Edited by Miss Helen G. Harwood.

Last fall Tyna Helman, a little Russian girl, entered the Wells school in Boston without knowing a word of English, and was placed in the lowest grade. Last week she was graduated from the school, having gone through all the grades in one year. She will go to the Girls' Latin school, and then to college.

Mrs. Lillian M. Beach, secretary of the Syracuse Woman's club, reports that Thursday, June twentieth, was indeed a "red-letter" day to the club women of Syracuse. At the reception at Mrs. Horn's in the afternoon a large number of guests from home and abroad were made welcome. Representatives from six of our neighboring villages were present, Mesdames Rood and Gillman from Talmage; Sweet and Winkleplect from Palmyra; Porter, Unadilla; Ward and Tubener, Burr;

Buck, Berlin; Miller and Miss Ewyart from Douglas.

The lawn was beautifully decorated with blue and white, the Syracuse Woman's club colors and the Federation yellow. We were honored by a representation of three from the executive board of the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs: Mrs. Smith, pres.; Mrs. Stoutenborough, librarian, and Mrs. Page, auditor. It was impossible for any one to feel other than welcome after the opening remarks by our local president, Mrs. Schneider. In closing, she said that she had not the authority to turn over the keys of the city, but everything in the possession of the S. W. C. was at the disposal of the guests for the day.

Mrs. Smith was introduced and gave the address of the afternoon on "The Good of Women's Clubs," with hints as to organization and work. She said of women's clubs—which is true of all organizations—that each individual club must be judge of what it most needs and adopt that particular line. She said, too, that existing for a purpose is the soul of women's clubs. She gave the S. W. C. honorable mention and attributed our strength of organization and high standing among clubs to our concentrated efforts in the interests of the Syracuse public library and reading room. Her strongest appeal was to mothers and for mothers' meetings. A quotation from Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, which she always uses in every talk, sounded the keynote. It was something like this: "The problem of the child is the problem of the nation." And where can the nation find support if not among the mothers?

After Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Stoutenborough was presented. She spoke especially of the S. W. C. from its beginning to the present time and, as Mrs. Stoutenborough organized the Syracuse club, all felt the worth of her sincere words of commendation.

Mrs. Page closed the program part of the afternoon with additional words of welcome and many wishes that each might both bring and take a blessing.

An informal reception followed and every one was made acquainted with every other one. After refreshments of ice cream, wafers and punch, we bade each other adieu until evening. Mrs. Stoutenborough delivered the evening lecture, but Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Page gave short, interesting and hopeful remarks. Mrs. Stoutenborough's lecture was on library work. She told us of many very old and wonderful libraries of long ages ago, following down the line of years to our own great library in Washington, D. C., which contains two copies of every book published. She then spoke of the marvelous influence of good reading, upon the minds of the young especially. She encouraged school libraries, public libraries and reading rooms, and urged particularly that the children shall attend these places, for in their hands rests the future of the nation. She, too, quoted Dr. Hillis, when he said: "The problem of the child is the problem of the nation," and cited the library and reading room as contemporary with the mother's influence. Great caution was urged in the selection of books, that only good books be put upon the shelves. Mrs. Stoutenborough further said that Nebraska, with all her educational renown, was sadly in the rear in public library work, but now, with our new library bill, shall come a new state of affairs and soon every city and village will own and support its own public library.

A word of thanks to those who assisted in the music of the day and to our ever willing orchestra whose efforts are most highly appreciated. This closed a day long to be remembered by the Syracuse Woman's club and we trust by those who were our guests.

We were pleased to have them with us and bade them come again. These pleasant acquaintances formed cannot end here, but as a pebble thrown into the ocean starts into motion waves which never cease, so may this little gathering disseminate healthful fellowship and never-ceasing waves of woman's influence, which shall prove the blessings of women's clubs.

A condensed version of the Oberammergau "Passion Play" was recently given by the Indians at Chilliwack, in British Columbia. Several scenes from the life of Christ were portrayed, mostly in pantomime, but with an accompaniment of singing and an attempt at dialogue. The most impressive scenes were of Christ before Pilate, of Christ hearing the cross, and of the crucifixion. In the latter scene a lay figure was used and the flow of blood from the wounds was shown by means of a small reservoir of red fluid inside of the cross. The Indian is a natural actor, and there is a dramatic tendency in his oratory as well as in his religious ceremonies. In fact, the drama in some form has existed as long as society, and has been practiced by nearly all nations. In the south sea islands a rude kind of performance was discovered a long time ago, and in China its origin is remote. The waltzes of the Indian and African, with their pantomimic preparation for battle, their imaginary foe, their victory and the applause of the spectators are essentially dramatic exhibitions. This is histrionic art in its primitive form. In early Grecian times it is slightly improved in the dithyrambus, a pagan rite in honor of Bacchus, consisting of an ode accompanied by music and dancing. The genius of Aeschylus, five centuries before the Christian era, is entitled to the credit of perfecting the drama as we now behold it.

The objection to theatrical performance in the minds of many good persons is that its influence is not always on the side of morality.

This is not to be wondered at, however, when we remember that the church has always been opposed to the theatre, hurling against it its severest anathemas. The church, speaking of it comprehensively, is a great positive power in the world, and the drama, lacking its patronage, has been obliged to cater to the tastes of other than church people. It has been profitable for managers to bring out plays which church members must condemn. The audience must be pleased, and if a moral exhibition is not what it desires, the standard will be lowered to satisfy its needs. If unselfish, philanthropic men controlled the drama, their highest interest would be subserved by elevating the moral status of their auditors. Moral, Christian people need diversion as imperatively as bad people. There is no other time when men are so willing to receive moral admonition as when they are pleased; their moral receptivity is greatest at such times. Man is an imitative being, and dramatic representation must ever take a deep root in his nature. Yet the drama has been a follower, not a leader, in human progress. It is supplying food for an appetite as old as humanity. The drama, under the control of good men, might be made a most efficient agent in the work of human improvement. This view of the matter is not new. The Rev. Dr. Bellows of New York began its agitation half a century ago, meeting with success as is accorded most men who have the temerity to question the infallibility of hoary-headed dogmas. Old and indurated wrongs can never be removed by gentle reproofs and feathery invitations to take themselves away without noise or confusion. It needs trenchant blows, oft repeated, a fearless meeting of these goblin mischiefs face to face, an eye

calm with determination and a love of God and fellow-man looking therefrom, before the victory can be won. But men do not contend in this way. Doubtfully and hesitatingly the car of reform has been pushed along, while the reformer has been called a dreamer or an agitator, and often in the hour of his greatest need has been forsaken by his fairweather friends.

The drama is like a fertile field left to grow up with tares and thistles. Divine possibilities lie hidden in its soil, and what is needed is the enlightened husbandman to root out this obnoxious growth and to plant in its place the true vine. It is well worth the while of our reformers to look into this matter. It is a question that no man who loves purity and morality more than vice, can ignore.

The Mail and Times of Des Moines has been appointed the official club organ of Iowa. This is a merited honor, as the paper has a strong club department ably edited by Emilie Blackmore Stapp.

The Denver Woman's club recently passed a by-law according to which any member desiring to leave the club must send in a formal resignation. If she fails to do this, simply leaving her name to be dropped, she cannot be reinstated until all back dues are paid for the time she has been out. When her resignation has been received in due form, she may be reinstated without paying back dues. Residents of Denver who are not club members may be invited to the club only once a year.

Mrs. A. J. Harris is the busiest woman in Fairport, Ohio. She is collector of customs, the only woman in the United States holding that position, and is manager of the Postal Telegraph company, manager of the telephone exchange, is a freight agent and a writer.

Mrs. Laura Schwichtenberg, a wealthy young widow of New York, was appointed, at her own request, to the position of government inspector of hospitals in the Philippines. When visiting the leper colony on the island of Cebu her sympathy for the sufferers was aroused to such an extent that she has decided to devote her life to the lepers. She will necessarily make Cebu her home.

In Ems the wearing of trains by women is forbidden on account of the dust which they circulate which may be injurious to the invalid guests. Smoking also is forbidden by the men while the invalids are taking their daily walks.

Many young girls are employed as jewelry polishers in the large jewelry houses. They generally are taken at the age of fourteen, with papers signed apprenticing them until they are eighteen. While learning the trade a girl receives three dollars a week. At the close of her apprenticeship, when she is considered a skilled worker, she receives six dollars a week. The polishing is done with rapidly revolving brushes which remove all the scratches and file marks made in the modeling.

Miss Zipporah Joseph, a colored girl, carried off highest honors this year at the manual training high school of Denver. Three older sisters have also been valedictorians of their classes at the Southern University, an institution for the colored race located at New Orleans.

The Chicago Bureau of Charities sent forty-five children to Ridge Farm, Illinois, last week for a two weeks' vacation. One hundred and ten children a week will be accommodated at the