

One Woman's Views.

THERE ARE ALL SORTS of ways in which we may achieve fame and distinction, the International Correspondence Schools, strikes, rip-off bills, christenings up the valley, ability to furnish candidates for all kinds of office and various other means may be employed in the case of Scranton. Among those in general use the attention may be directed to a description which is appended in an article in the current Century magazine Helen Churchill Candee discourses pleasantly on the subject of "Madame President and Her Constituents." It primarily refers to the Federation of Women's clubs and gives a brief review of certain clubs and their advantages, chief of which is considered the outlet through the narrow environment which hedges many a woman's life.

Oddly enough, the very piece of resistance of the article is the following: "But what is the good of the woman's club in public affairs?" asks an impatient man, groping in this enlightened age with his eyes shut. Well here is a case in point which illustrates what the practical club can do. Two years ago the water in Green Ridge, the court end of Scranton, became so thick and high flavored that comfortably thick soup could be made by the mere application of heat and the addition of salt. One day a woman's club of the place, after studying hygiene and sanitation, asked if the foul condition of the water was a necessity. Several members took upon themselves to examine the water shed of the city's supply and here they found the most revolting conditions. The final result was a stirring up of city officials, and the purchase and redemption of the water shed at a cost of \$600,000. This is the sort of thing that is accomplished by the woman's club when it undertakes practical work.

Now, the most surprising thing about this statement, which really reads very well in the Century, is that the above effort of the Women's club in question was really its swan song, so to speak. "The dog it was that died," in other words, the club was the innocent agent in a big water deal, which made a lot of money for somebody, not one cent of which accrued to the club, and then the said club, peacefully and unostentatiously, gave up the ghost.

It certainly did get a change of water, however. Every blessed member found out that her water rent was promptly raised.

It was rumored that some of those most interested in reform had been threatened with a water famine, when they ventured to remonstrate mildly about the market price of this commodity. The Home for the Friendless, which had paid about \$100 a year for its water supply, began to contemplate a disastrous end to its long and apparently useful career when the bills suddenly leaped up to sums ranging between \$25 and \$40 every month. The little inmates had suffered mildly with measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough and diphtheria, under the old and polluted water system, but they had diphtheria, whooping cough, scarlet fever and measles more or less discouragingly under the new and sanitary regime, and serious convictions were entertained by some members of the management that frequent bathing would have to be eliminated from the schedule on account of the expense.

There were residents in the Green Ridge section of the city who were just like residents in other places. They would rather drink water which contained lurking typhoid fever germs and other awful possibilities than to pay a few dollars a year more for that which was alleged to be immaculate and irrevocable in character. They twined. Their first cousins are in every town, who would rather have a capacious and convenient cesspool in the front yard than to pay a sewer assessment.

Then the club had a little excursion and basket picnic one day, and made up its mind that the water supply which they had yearned after and vouched for, and which they had innocently asserted to be as nice and clean as were the milk jars in a certain dairy establishment, was really, and truly like a lady with a past a little open to suspicion. Then there was more trouble, which included speeches, hurt feelings, explanations, a general house-cleaning and disinfecting all along the line and finally peace.

The peace has lasted in unbroken chunks ever since. Why? Well, for no reason on earth that could apply to men's clubs. Men don't read this column, and therefore I fear me greatly that the moral to the treatise under discussion will be lost. The true and only reason for the peace and harmony following the outbreak which has landed us on the 53rd page of the Century Magazine for October, is the natural modesty and unassertiveness of women. Nobody would be president of the club this year and accordingly it disbanded disconsolately. The reasons assigned were as varied and picturesque as were the excuses of the individuals in the Bible, who were bidden to the feast. (If that story had been anywhere else under the sun than in the Bible, I should have doubted its probability. I never knew a man yet who would allow such a trivial excuse as getting a new yoke of oxen or a wife to interfere when there was a banquet in prospect.)

The members of the club in question were obtuse in refusing the honor to secure which, women in other cities squabble and weep and tear down reputations. All of which goes to show how very different and very superior we are to the commoner of other cities. It is sincerely to be hoped that our friends and relatives appreciate us at our true worth.

Imagine a woman anywhere else than in Scranton admitting that she did not feel herself competent to conduct the affairs of such an important institution as this club had proved itself to be. Imagine any other woman confessing that her husband would not like to have her accept the position or that she felt her duty to her home and her church for her too little time for the proper consideration of the office.

The amount of the matter is this: Scranton does not seem to be a good ground for women's clubs. I am not sure that this is a compliment to our city. Neither is it a conclusive proof of untalented ideas and lack of progress. It is a little of both.

Mrs. Candee says there are classes of people who regard women's clubs with indifference. They are the so-called society women, who do not feel the need of interests and amusements to fill in their time and who have many individual charities which respond to the inner desire for work which may help others. This is not altogether true of our city. The society women are the ones who seem most to recognize the need and advantages of certain kinds of clubs.

The real difficulty in the way of making Scranton a club woman's city is the hopelessly steadfast habit our women seem to have of minding their own business. They are not enthusiastic over reforming the entire world. They are capable society leaders, are interested in church and charity work, but primarily they look well to the ways of their own households and do not seem to find much leisure for taking care of other people's affairs. They are little interested in politics, and if it were announced that the city officers were to be filled with women it is very doubtful if enough candidates could be found to make it interesting, and they would scarcely represent the intelligence and culture and executive ability of the community. But as far as that goes, the majority of offices in any community aren't filled with such representatives.

The scrapping and wire-pulling and heart-burnings which are evident at the Federation of Women's clubs, such as that at Reading this week, do not appeal to our women as they seem to appeal to women in most cities. Most of these gatherings of women are characterized by incidents as questionable as those which animate a fusionist convention, or any other assemblage of professional reformers. It would be a great honor to hold an office in the state Federation, or to have a free trip as a delegate to the General Federation in Los Angeles, but we cannot seem to keep a club together long enough to secure any of these plums.

There is a field in this city for a woman's club, one that will not try to do everything from inventing a patent to utilizing yellow dogs, to solving the Chinese problem—but one that will be in its way a civic club and yet which will have certain aspirations toward the world of literature and art. Such a club could start in a humble way to improve the city by placing galvanized iron receptacles at street corners for waste paper, and by patiently and perseveringly working at plans to beautify the river front and make it something better than the symbol of a noisome pestilence.

It is a thousand pities that the Green Ridge Women's club has disbanded, for it had an excellent organization of forces which would have accomplished many things in this city. It should be revived, with a wider scope, to take the dignified place it deserved in our community. Saucy Bess.

THEATRICAL NEWS.

LYCEUM.—"Miss Bob White." Afternoon and night.
ACADEMY.—Bennett & Moulton company. Afternoon and night.
STAR.—May Howard company. Afternoon and night.

"Miss Bob White."
Willard Spencer's latest opera, "Miss Bob White," was seen at the Lyceum last night, and will be presented again this afternoon and tonight. The opera is in three acts, two located at the farm house of a Quaker and the third at a summer home on the Hudson. The story of the opera deals with the trials of two wealthy club men, who, to pay a bet, have to live as tramps for two months. In their wanderings they happen on a farm and are put to work doing chores. The humor is derived from the efforts of the supposed tramps to evade work. The fiancée of one of the tramps learns of the bet and goes to the farm disguised as a milk maid. In the end the couple are reunited and the millionaires return to their homes. Several other matrimonial alliances are carried to a finish and every one is happy as the final curtain falls.

The music is radically different from that which has marked and in some instances marred the comic opera of the last few years. It is sweet and captivating and in some instances very catchy, but there is little of the bare and noisy that of recently has been a feature of the marches so generously introduced into comic opera. Several of the numbers sang last night will be sung and whistled extensively about town during the next few weeks.

Mr. Spencer is fortunate in the company which is presenting his opera. Miss Ethel Jackson, who appears in the title role, is of charming appearance and possesses a beautiful voice. Her work was generously endorsed last night. Alice L. Campbell, Mathilde Perville and William E. Philip were among the other good voices of the company.

The two amateur tramps were impersonated by Richard F. Carroll and Frank Deshon, comedians of more than ordinary cleverness and intelligence, who get laughs galore without descending to horse play. The chorus sang well and was most discreetly costumed. All three of the acts are staged in an exceptionally fine manner. The opera was enthusiastically received last night. At the end of the second act a speech was demanded from Mr. Spencer, but he failed to respond.

"Dangers of New York" Tonight.
Today will be the last of the Bennett & Moulton company's engagement here for this season. This afternoon they will present "Out in the Street," and tonight's bill will be "Dangers of New York."
Both plays for today called forth many kind words of praise from the audiences that witnessed their production last week and will undoubtedly attract the many who have not yet seen them. This popular play house this afternoon and evening.

"The Girl from Maxim's."
One of the most important events of the season will be the first performance of "The Girl from Maxim's" at the Lyceum next Monday night. This is the famous French farce which is pronounced to be the best ever written and produced in Paris, the home of the farce. The comedies even seen on the stage. It was first seen in this country at the Criterion theatre, New York, where it played a phenomenal engagement.

After the New York run it was seen in Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia and other large cities and it met with the same success that greeted it in New York.
Ryan Here All Next Week.
Daniel R. Ryan, who is said to be one of the best romantic actors in the theatre, will open a week's engagement at the Academy on Monday next in "Don Caesar's Return." His interpretation of "Don Caesar's Return," which is presented at here for the first time, is splendid, and those who witness the production of this piece will see an attraction usual to repertoire companies. "Don Caesar's Return" is interesting as produced from the original, but Mr. Ryan, whose earnest work has won for him a prominent position in his profession, has greatly strengthened the piece by the addition of the third act, of which he is author. This act, with its thrilling duel scene, and its exciting situations, puts a more finished touch throughout the whole play, and it is dovetailed into the piece just where it is needed.

On Tuesday evening he will present a mammoth scenic production of Dan Sullivan's great play, "O'Brien the Contractor." On Tuesday afternoon "The Fatal Wedding." Seats now on sale.

"Fads and Follies" Company.
The announcement for the coming week at the ever-popular Star is Bissell's "Fads and Follies" company, and those who wish to witness a good clean show free from double entendre jokes and stories will have an opportunity of seeing a performance that is out of the ordinary. The company is composed of artists of acknowledged ability, who will present two musical burlesques, and a high class vaudeville performance. The opening burlesque serves to introduce the

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Indies of the company in several catchy musical numbers and the olio is composed of what are termed in "the profession" as head-lines. The stage settings, costumes and all appointments will be, of course, as fine as ingenuity of the craftsman and artist can possibly make them. This company remains at the Star for the entire week, with matinees on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

STAGE NOTES.

Edward C. White is contemplating the production of a new melodrama next season. He has lately read a number of plays, and has two or three under serious consideration.

Manager Sam S. Shubert has engaged Edward J. Connelly for the principal comic role in "The Emerald Isle," the last opera composed by the late Sir Arthur Sullivan. As "The Emerald Isle" is not to be given an American hearing until next spring, Mr. Connelly will continue his well liked impersonation of Ichabod Bonson in "The Belle of New York" on tour this winter.

Miss Olive Oliver, who played the role of the adventurous last season with William Gillette, in "Sherlock Holmes," has been engaged by Messrs. Decher and Brennan to create a similar part in "Molly Pitcher," in which Miss Kathryn Kidder will be starred this season. One of the sensational scenes in "Molly Pitcher" is a duel, the contestants in which will be Miss Kidder and Miss Oliver. Both are expert swordsmen.

Julia Marlowe's magnificent production of "When Knighthood Was in Flower" comes to the Broad street theatre for a month, beginning Oct. 21. This will be Miss Marlowe's only engagement in Philadelphia this season—in fact, her only appearance in any Pennsylvania city, as her tour this year is more than usually brief. Aside from a month in Philadelphia, a month in Boston, and a month in Chicago, Miss Marlowe will play in only six American cities during the coming fall and winter. She was released from her Philadelphia contract last spring owing to the great success of "When Knighthood Was in Flower" at the Criterion theatre, New York, city, where she would now be save for the fact that fulfillment of previous contracts is now absolutely demanded by managers who surrendered their time last year. Miss Marlowe's portrayal of the role of Mary Tudor in Paul Kester's dramatization of Charles Major's romantic novel has proved the triumph of her career.

"Her Lord and Master," the new play which Herbert Keely and Etta Shummon are appearing in this season, is unique in that it contains no dialog. Martha Norton, the dramatist, evidently relied for the strength of the play on the force of scenes and a character study of American and English society. In their long line of parts these two players have never portrayed characters that are so peculiarly adapted to their individualities.

PECKVILLE.

Peckville Baptist church, Rev. J. S. Thomas, pastor. Services tomorrow at 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m. Morning subject, "The Earth Helping the Woman;" evening subject, "Christian Character, a Nation's Best Defense." The evening service will have special reference to the late President McKinley, by request of the Peckville lodge of the Knights of Pythias, who will attend in a body.

At the Baptist parsonage, last Thursday evening, David W. Carr and Miss Elizabeth T. Richards were united in marriage by Rev. J. S. Thomas. The bride and groom will make their home in Scranton. Their many friends wish them all happiness and prosperity.

Class 13, of the Baptist Sunday school, will hold a weight social at the home of Mr. Jefferson Warren, at Bell place, on Wednesday evening, October 23. An excellent programme is being prepared. A prize will be given to the heaviest lad, and one to the heaviest gentleman. Admission, 10 cents for those weighing 100 pounds or less; one cent for every five pounds over.

In the Methodist Episcopal church tomorrow the pastor, Rev. P. Gendall, will preach in the morning on "The Election of Joseph" and in the evening on "Christ on the Divine Willing."

C. F. Baker, of Jersey, will deliver his popular address on "The Rockies and the California Convention of the Epworth League" on Tuesday evening in the Methodist Episcopal church. Admission 25c.

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