

engagement, but he never doubted that it was a fact, and sometimes tried to persuade himself that she was already married and he had in some way missed seeing the announcement or hearing of it. When Richards, in the course of his usual gossip as they drove up from the station, informed Mike that Miss Norah had a young lady staying with her, he did not somehow think of Beattie, though Norah's acquaintances were certainly limited. But when the groom went on to say that "a prettier young person, he'd never set eyes on," and "she looked for all the world like one of them pictures in the illustrated papers," the heart of his master began to beat rather uncertainly.

"What's her name, Richards?" he asked.

"That I can't rightly tell you, sir, though I have heard it; but it's something like Marchsome or Marketson or that. She've been up at the Hall once with Miss Norah, and James, who've been in a good deal of society in town, say he've seen many a duchess less elegant."

Mike thought it very likely, but though he smiled at the servant's criticisms, he was more uneasy than pleased at the knowledge that Beattie was near him, and that he would be able to look at her and speak to her at last. He would have to conceal his true feeling towards her, and be only polite and distant, for he doubted his power of being frank and friendly with her under the circumstances. There must be some constraint. His only chance was to see as little as possible of her, to keep away from the Rectory, and beg his mother not to ask her to the Hall during his brief stay at home.

His first remark when he was alone with Lady Anstruther was about her, and although he tried to speak unconcernedly, she detected the ring of anxiety in his tones.

"Mother, I hear Beattie Margetson is here."

"Yes, dear," said she soothingly; "she came with Norah the other day. I don't wonder you fell in love with her, Mike."

Mike pulled the ears of the dog which was nestling against him so hard, that the creature, who had never received anything but kindness from him, gave a sharp bark of remonstrance.

"When is she going to be married!" he asked rather fiercely.

"I don't know, dear. I have only seen her once, and then we had no chance of getting confidential. I have not been told that she is engaged yet."

"They are keeping it quiet a good long time, unless—unless— But that isn't likely; I saw them together, and besides—"

He began pacing the room restlessly.

"Do you think, mother—it is possible—nothing came of it after all?"

"Quite possible, dear. But I shouldn't build hopes on it. Beattie is very young, and there are often reasons for a private engagement. However, you mustn't let her spoil your last days with us, darling. Try and put her out of your thoughts. She and the Gilman will be dining here to-morrow, and you will have an opportunity to talk to each other."

"I rather think the best thing I can do is to keep out of her way, mother. But you are right; she shan't spoil our time together."

He followed his mother about all the next day in a way that amused and yet touched her. She knew he was longing to be off to the Rectory, and only kept near her for safety against his impulses. Once he did say: "I suppose they'll be thinking I shall look in this morning." And Lady Anstruther answered, "Very likely," in a tone which he knew to mean their expectations had better not be realised.

As the time for their arrival drew

near he became more restless, but when he knew they had come, he suddenly had a strong desire to escape from the drawing-room. As it was, he kept well in the background for a minute, but directly he saw Beattie, and met her sweet and friendly glance, his uneasiness and embarrassment vanished quite away. Never mind if she was engaged to somebody else—and he must not tell her that he loved her—she was at least the same Beattie as he had known all along; the same as he had seen in dreams many a time. As he held her hand in his warm clasp it seemed to him only yesterday that he and she had been together at Crabsley, before duty on his side and relatives on hers had brought about and continued a separation. Now they were together again, and for the present that was enough.

He had wondered what he could talk to her about at dinner, and dreaded the ordeal; but there was no need. Beattie was as easily interested, as stimulating, as natural as ever. He kept saying to himself, "She is just the same; and how pretty—I have not seen any one so pretty." Only once was there any embarrassment, but that was on Beattie's part. He was speaking to her of Margaret Raven, and Beattie suddenly remembered what Margaret had told her about the picture and about her conjectures concerning Michael, and she blushed crimson and turned her eyes away from his. He wondered why, and then supposed Miss Margaret—who was capable of anything—had been telling Beattie some story about himself. In the momentary pause in their talk, he looked down rather absently; and then, for the first time, he observed that Beattie's left hand was bare of any ring. And hope, which is so very hard to kill, again stirred in his heart. If she was free after all he might win her yet!

(To be continued.)

## AFTER-SCHOOL EDUCATION IN AMERICA.

By DORA DE BLAQUIÈRE.

"A CLUB," says a recent American writer, "was man's first weapon. It represented nothing but physical force. To-day, 'clubs' are women's forces; and they represent ethical values, the finest side of social life, culture, intellect, the march of progress, and the highest types of the development of a womanhood, which is the very flower of our civilisation."

I have headed this article with a quotation, for I am very anxious to make my readers comprehend the place taken in America to-day by the clubs for women; that is, clubs founded by, carried on, and governed by women, for special purposes of various kinds. It is said that Boston, of all the cities in the Union, possesses the most; ranging from the exclusively society one, to the exclusively "crank." It would be difficult to mention a cult that is not represented. But everywhere they appear to rule with an ever-increasing power. In Boston, Browning clubs are in great force, but all Bostonians seem to be members of some club, for the study of

literature or art, and classes and lectures appertain to most of them for the advancement of the education of the members.

The mother of women's clubs in America is the famous Sorosis of New York, which was founded by "Jennie June," known in private life as Mrs. J. C. Croly. This is a purely literary club, and entertains and introduces all the literary and feminine lions who visit New York. It was founded in the early seventies, and still remains the leading club of the United States. Twenty years ago, nearly all the women's clubs in America were purely literary or social, or both; but to-day, after occupying every field of art, history, music, literature, archæology, philosophy, science, ethics, religion, and aesthetics, they boldly reach out into channels of work hitherto appropriated specially to men, such as sanitary legislation, tenement-house reform, and much-needed improvement in the management of jails, penitentiaries, and asylums. Political science, charities, kindergarten, educational, manual

training-schools, free public libraries, courses of lectures, are all subjects in which the club-women of the United States are interested; and in all current topics they have a practical interest and free discussion.

The clubs of the southern states are almost all literary and social, while those in the western portion of the Union are the most progressive in practical work and in studying current events throughout the world, and the East seems to be following in the same direction. The following is a list of classes held and lectures given and discussed last year: Parliamentary law, physical culture, millinery, German, French, whist, voice-culture, library, science, current events, and first aid to the wounded, the money issues of the presidential campaign, hygiene in the home. Then there was a story-teller's month, when Authors read their stories aloud, and a literary symposium. This may be described as a club conducted on broad lines, to which musical study may be added as well.

The number of clubs throughout America is very large, New York alone showing about a hundred, while the entire number of club-women in the United States is estimated at considerably over a million. There is a great system of organisation, called the General Federation of Women's Clubs, which holds a superior position. This was formed in 1889, and it now numbers between seven and eight hundred individual clubs, and its total membership is very large.

Besides this, each state has its State Federation, that of Michigan, for instance, numbers ninety-seven clubs, and these are all members of the General Federation. All clubs are self-governed and self-supporting, the membership fee varying from two dollars up to twenty-five, or more. Each club pays a fee of about two dollars to its State Federation, and the General Federation is supported by annual dues of ten dollars from each club numbering one hundred members, and twenty-five dollars from each State Federation numbering one hundred clubs, and half of these sums from clubs or federations which do not number so many as one hundred.

I imagine that the officers of the clubs are entirely unpaid. They consist of the president, or chairman (not chairwoman), vice-presidents, recording and corresponding secretaries, and treasurers. Much care is taken to carry on the meetings in practical parliamentary fashion, each member being bound to acquaint herself with, and to conform to, the rules of parliamentary procedure. Clubs, it is considered, should develop in women the highest qualifications for all the work they find to do in life, and all good qualities are intensified by membership in them.

One of the very natural discussions that has arisen in America, as well as amongst ourselves, is, "What constitutes a 'clubbable' woman?" A woman may be possessed of all the virtues, may be clever, and beautiful, well-dressed, and fascinating, but she may lack the qualification for being "clubbable." Apparently people have arrived at the conclusion that a woman must be one of two things: either a capable leader, or be willingly led; the latter by no means meaning that she is a nonentity, nor that she has no mind of her own, but merely that she is satisfied to follow those who are capable of directing with force and good judgment.

Judging from the accounts of the various centres, the American woman is better off than the English in that she appears to possess a greater command of money. Here, in England there is always the lack of means to contend with, and in every public matter it is the same thing where our sex is concerned. Indeed, in America I find that only women who are rich and leisured can undertake the highest offices in the clubs, as there is no remuneration attached to the vocation, nor money allowed for travelling expenses. I notice too that the fees for membership and entrance are low, so that few people need decline to join.

Our article has to deal to-day with the literary clubs, which are apparently performing the work of the higher education of women. That part of teaching and learning which has to be performed by the Englishwoman at home by reading and research on subjects which interest them. We are also fortunate in having lectures, museums, and picture-galleries, and we are consistent globe-trotters, every one of us, according to our powers. The lending-libraries, notably those of Messrs. Mudie, and Smith, and the many small ones in every town are well patronised; and perhaps, where the American would learn by going to an evening at her club, we should obtain our teaching by getting a book out of the library. We have so many organisations dealing with home education, and girls' societies of all kinds in aid of the same thing.

Many of the American clubs meet only during a certain number of months, from October to May, or from November to April; and though in some clubs meetings are held every week, or even twice a week; in others once a month is sufficient; and a woman may belong to a dozen clubs if she like, although this tendency is said to be decreasing, as the clubs grow larger.

I shall here give several plans of club work. The first is a very interesting one, *i.e.*, for the study of Italy; which is in the calendar of the Wednesday Morning Club of Rome, New York. This club meets weekly; the alternate meetings being devoted to the discussion of current topics and special subjects. The provision of subjects is made for thirteen meetings; the numbers before each subject showing the order in which they come.

I. Introduction of Greek Literature into Rome, beginning of Roman Literature (240-63 B.C.) Roman theatres, comedy and tragedy.

II. Cicero. Orator, Philosopher, Poet; the Caesars.

III. Augustan Epoch; or Golden Age of Roman Literature, 63 B.C.-15 A.D.; Virgil.

IV. Decline of Roman Literature under Tiberius A.D. 15. Seneca, his relations with Nero, Pliny and Tacitus.

V. Marcus Aurelius, Constantine, first Christian Emperor; Rise of Papal Rome, A.D. 800.

VI. Revival of learning begun by Petrarch and Boccaccio; Songs of Petrarch; Universities in Bologna, High Schools, Mediaeval Libraries, Manuscripts and Printing.

VII. Concerning Dante: The Inferno, Underworld of Homer, Virgil and Dante.

VIII. Paradiso and Purgatorio, Angels, Milton's and Dante's.

IX. House of Medicis, and Patrons of Learning; Florentine Academy, Science of Alchemy and Astrology.

X. Naples; Vittoria Colonna, Tasso. Introduction of the Opera.

XI. Italian Art, as seen in Rome; Michael Angelo, Raphael.

XII. Florentine art, Giotto, Cimabue, Leonardo da Vinci.

XIII. Art in Venice. Bellini Family Titian and Tintoretto.

This club being a typical one, I will just indicate a few particulars about it. It is purely a literary one, the membership being limited to sixty-five active, and ten honorary members, with a waiting list. The work of the club is divided amongst thirteen committees, each taking charge of two meetings in the year. Special attention is paid to the current topics department, which is an open parliament for the entire membership.

This discussion of current topics appears to form a large portion of the meetings and to engage much attention. It is a most useful point, and enables women to speak and listen intelligently, and thoughtfully, on all the topics of the day; from bimetalism to cremation, smoke consumption and sugar bounties, gold-mining, and strikes, co-operation, and suffrage for women. All these topics have been discussed by these clubs during the past winter, and it is not difficult to see how women will acquire through it a wider range of thought; and a community of interests with husbands and fathers, brothers and sons; to the great increase of happiness and mutual pleasure.

The following is an interesting plan for club work, including a study of Egypt for six months.

First month. (1) The Land of Egypt, Origin of the Egyptians. Their ancient neighbours. (2) Mythology. The Gift of the Nile. System of Government.

Second month. (1) Abydos, Heliopolis, Bubastis. General Characteristics of Egyptian

Pyramids. The Great Pyramid and the Sphinx. (2) The Hieroglyphic Alphabet. The Rosetta Stone. Ancient Painting and Architecture.

Third month. (1) Memphis, in prosperity, in ruins. Menes and his successors. Dynasties XII. to XVIII. (2) The Hyksos. Bible Stories corroborated by Egyptian History. Queen Hatsua.

Fourth month. (1) Thebes. Sati I, and his works. Story of Father Ai. (2) Rameses II., life and character, wars and achievements. The Ramesseum.

Fifth month. (1) Ethiopia in Egypt. Persia in Egypt. The Last Pharaoh. Karnac and Luxor. (2) Cairo and the Caliphs. Saladin. Mamelukes.

Sixth month. (1) Bonaparte, and the Battle of the Pyramids. El Mahdi the False Prophet. England in Egypt. (2) The Khedive. Egypt of To-day. Modern Research in Old Egypt.

The sheet on which this plan is arranged bears the Egyptian flag, and the lotus flower and leaf, and also the famous quotation from Bunsey, "Egypt is the monumental land of the earth, as her people are of history."

A club plan for miscellaneous work, prepared for the Cosmopolitan Club of Springfield, Vermont, is as follows:—

Oct. 11th. Biographical sketch of Robert Burns. The famous songs of Burns, review. "Cotter's Saturday Night," solo. (Burns' song). Quotations.

Nov. 1st. Dutch settlements in America. Peter Stuyvesant. Dutch manners and customs. Five minutes' reading from Washington Irving.

Nov. 22nd. The Gypsies.

Dec. 13th. Sanitation, ventilation, disposal of garbage.

Jan 3rd. Original contributions from members.

Jan 24th. Child study. Sketch of Fröbel. The dull boy.

Feb. 14th. The French Revolution, as seen by the Americans of the 18th century.

Mar. 7th. Musical.

Mar. 28th. Debate. Resolved that transmitted characteristics are more potent, than environment in the formation of character.

April 18th. Mexico. The Mexico of To-day. Remains of Aztec Civilisation.

This club is a mixed one, with two-thirds of its officers women; and no man is allowed to belong unless he can produce a wife to chaperon him. It is considered an excellent model for small towns, where the clubbable element is sure to be small. The limit of members is seventy. The meetings are held once in three weeks, on Monday evenings at 8 o'clock. The dues of the club are one dollar a year, with an entrance fee of half a dollar. The general routine of the meetings is, first, a principal paper occupying about twenty minutes to read, followed by short talks, or papers on subordinate topics; these being restricted to seven minutes in length. A general discussion of half-an-hour, divided amongst the members in the proportion of not more than five minutes to each speaker, follows, and concludes the evening's work.

One very excellent plan for club-work, is that adopted by a literary one of Elgin, Illinois, and is on French History. It is intended for a seven months' session, from October to May.

Oct. 2nd. Francis I., 1515. Claude, daughter of Louis XII., and Eleanor of Portugal.

Oct. 9th. Henry II., 1547. Catherine de Medici; Diana of Poitiers. Francis II., 1559; Mary Stuart. Charles IX., 1560; Elizabeth of Austria. Henry III., 1574; Louise de Vaudemont.

Oct. 23rd. Henry IV., the Great, 1589; Marguerite de Valois, and Marie de Medicis.

Oct. 30th. Louis XIII., 1610; Anne of Austria, Richelieu, Mazarin, the Fronde. Louis XIV., 1643., Maria Theresa of Spain La Vallière.

Nov. 6th. Louis XIV.; Madame de Montespan, Madame de Maintenon.

Nov. 20th. Palace of the Tuilleries, Versailles, Champs Elysées. Hotel des Invalides.

Dec. 4th. Louis XV., 1715; Marie Leczinska, daughter of Stanislas.

Dec. 18th. Administrative and judicial condition of France at the death of Louis XV.

Jan. 8th. Louis XVI., 1774. Marie Antoinette.

Jan. 22nd. Revolution of 1789. National Convention, political salon, Robespierre and Danton, Marat and Charlotte Corday. Louis XVII.

Feb. 5th. Republic 1792. First Empire, Napoleon I., 1804. Josephine and Marie Louise of Austria, King of Rome.

Feb. 19th. Restoration. Louis XVIII., 1814.

March 4th. Hundred days' war, Waterloo; Charles X., 1824. Marie Theresa of Savoy.

March 18th. Revolution of July. Louis Philippe, 1830. Republic 1848.

April 1st. Louis Napoleon III., 1852. Eugenie. *Coup d'état*. Second Empire.

April 8th. Third Republic, 1870. The presidents. Place de la Concorde.

April 15th. Present state of France, religious, political, social, financial, civil, artistic and educational. Boulevards.

I have given these plans and subjects of study, in order that my readers may see how thorough is the course; and how complete papers are written and read, and books consulted on all these topics; and in many cases, an appropriation of money is made from the club funds, to supply reference books on the topics for the year.

No article on this subject would be complete if I did not show you the most excellent and useful side of many of these clubs, that unite in furthering some stated object, philanthropic or social. For instance, the New Century Club of Philadelphia has a children's week in the country fund, a fresh air fund, a working

woman's guild, and a legal protection committee for the benefit of women. It has induced the municipality to supply police matrons, and has endowed several scholarships.

The Woman's Club of Johnsbury, Vermont, has supplied lawn seats for the public parks, watering troughs for the town, and several handsome drinking fountains. Many of the clubs interest themselves with educational movements, visit the schools, found kindergartens, cooking schools, and lectureships. Nearly all have some special end or aim that will help the national advance towards some important point. Many of them work in concert with some manly organisation, such as the Town Improvement Associations, which exist in nearly all American towns. One of these clubs has had cards printed and hung up in all the public schools of the state to help to make the boys good citizens, on which are printed all kinds of "Dont's." "Don't throw down banana nor orange skins in the street," or "Don't throw pieces of paper about," "Don't leave the yard untidy," or "Do bury all the old tin cans in a hole"—this last intimation showing that they have not taken to making tin soldiers and toys out of them as we have done in England. The high, towering vans which often pass one, filled to overflowing with old tins of all kinds, show to what an extent the collection goes on; and also how popular the tin toys have become. Still, the teaching of order and cleanliness is precisely what is needed for all children; and it is exactly what they do not obtain from any source, neither in school nor out of it. If we could only inaugurate something of the kind, it would indeed be well for us and ours.

Clubs, as we understand them in England, which have not only names, but local habitations, are not very numerous. Those we have been discussing are more what we should call by the name of societies, having, perchance, rooms for meeting, but no conveniences for feeding nor housing the members. This accounts for the smallness of the fees, and many of them meet at the houses of the members, all expense being thus avoided. But still,

the American club-woman does aspire to the acquirement of a club house ultimately, and some of the clubs are magnificently housed. The home of the Century Club of Philadelphia, cost £20,000, and its architect was a woman. The Literary Club of Grand Rapids, Michigan, saved the income from members' fees for eighteen years, and then built themselves a handsome home. The Ladies' Reading Club of Junction City, Kansas, has lately had a fine club house presented to it—the first instance in the United States Union of such a gift.

And now I must tell you how the women contrived, with very small means, to build their club house. The club in question is the New Century of Philadelphia, which began in 1876 with fifty members, and at present numbers six hundred. The entrance fee is £5 (\$25), and the annual subscription is \$10 (£2).

In 1890, a meeting of the club committee was held to endeavour to provide funds for a club house, and in order to do so, the members formed themselves into a company, got a charter, and fixed the capital stock at \$50,000, which was divided into one thousand shares of \$50 each. Not all club members need to be stockholders, but all stockholders must be members. And with the capital so raised, they proceeded to buy land, and build, the architects being women. The building is, of course, large, and contains a spacious and beautiful hall; the letting of which to the general public has proved so remunerative, that the club company declares dividends to the stockholders, and has created a reserve fund. Of course, this club contains a large proportion of wealthy members amongst its names, but neither the entrance fee, nor the yearly subscription are very large.

I must tell you, however, that the women of America believe in the mixed club; the voluntary union of the best mental and moral forces of men and women, working together; and consider that the millennium of club usefulness will have come, when there are neither men's clubs, nor women's, but united organisation for work and general usefulness.

## A MINISTERING ANGEL.

By JOSEPHA CRANE, Author of "Winifred's Home," etc.

### CHAPTER V.

BURNS AND SCALDS, BATHS, ETC.

"THERE are several other things one can do to prevent anyone who has to lie much in bed getting sore in those places where there is pressure," said Maggie. "Air cushions, those made with a centre hole are capital things, and then there is another plan. Get some old soft washed linen or cotton and make some round cushions, filling them with cotton wool or tow which has been finely drawn out. I like the round better than the square, and the chafed part can be allowed to come just in the middle space thus avoiding all pressure upon it."

"We can make some for Ansell," I said, and so we did.

On our return home from seeing her Maggie and I had another nursing talk over our tea.

"I think that pulley arrangement is a capital plan," I said. "I told Aunt Elsie about it and now she wants one."

"When people are inclined to slip down to the foot of the bed," said Maggie, "a very good plan is to raise the foot of the bed a little. You can get two blocks of wood a few inches high and have holes made in the middle for the castors of the legs of the bed under which you place them."

"That is a capital idea."

"Yes, it is not my own, I heard of it from a nurse," said Maggie. "By the way, Nell, it is well to remember that in cases of heart complaint the patient should not lie low, and you should be careful that they do not slip down during their sleep?"

"Why?"

"Because it makes it more difficult for them to breathe," said Maggie.

"I remember when Tom had typhoid fever he lay very flat."

"Yes, that was natural and could not hurt him. As a rule sick people choose their own position in bed, the best, and that in which he has most comfort and least pain."

"Sometimes the bed-clothes must be very heavy, or rather feel so," I said. "Father had rheumatic fever once, and he could hardly bear the weight of the clothes touching any painful part."

"Was anything done to relieve him?"

"Yes, mother told me that she stretched a piece of strong twine under the bed-clothes cornerways from the head to the foot of the bed, tying it round the knobs of the bed."

"What a good idea. Come, Nell, you are giving me a hint," said Maggie laughing.

"I remember mother said that the effect was

then just as if the clothes were hung on a line, and as the sides were well tucked in under the mattress it was a capital plan."

"In exchange for that I will tell you how to keep the weight of bed-clothes off a sprained ankle or leg. Can you guess?"

I shook my head.

"Cut a hole in a band-box or card-box, large enough to pass over the limb. This is a good plan in cases of burnt or scalded arms or hands."

"I am so glad that you have mentioned the words burn and scald, for I wanted very much to make a few notes in my book about them."

"Very well," said Maggie, and I wrote down what she said.

### BURNS.

These are caused by dry heat such as an explosion, or a person catching fire. The following simple rules must be observed.

Lay the person gently flat on the floor, for flames will only burn in an upward direction.

Roll the person on to the burning part of his clothes to extinguish the fire, and throw any article, such as a carpet, hearthrug, tablecloth or blanket over him. If nothing of the kind is at hand and cold water is, drench him with it.