

OUR TRAVEL CLUB, AND HOW WE MANAGE IT.



THE papers in the July and August parts of the "G. O. P." last year on "Books before Travel" suggested the idea that a short account of our "Travel club, and how we manage it," might be interesting to your readers. We are now entering upon the fourth year of our existence, so we feel qualified to speak from experience, and some of our members have gone to travel in Europe over the very route that we had taken in imagination, and they bear witness to the great advantage it has been to them. The Club consists of about twenty young women, married and single, and we meet one afternoon each week at the houses of the members in rotation in the afternoons.

We are supposed to be, and try to imagine we are, a party going to travel in some foreign country, which we have previously decided upon. (We have already travelled in Spain, Italy, Germany and France, and we hope soon to visit England and Scotland.) The plan of our meetings is as follows: The Club is divided into Committees; every member must be on one Committee at least, and may be on more than one. There are a Business Committee, a Literary Committee, a Musical and Art

Committee, and an Entertainment Committee. This last is not required until the end of the season, and is chosen from the others. We have also a President, on whom much depends of the success of the Club. She should have some experience of travelling, and a good deal of bright, intelligent tact, to keep the members up to their work; then we have a Recording Secretary, whose minutes of the previous meetings are a marvel of accuracy and interest. The various Committees are supposed to meet before the meetings to arrange their business, but in a small town as this is, the young people meet so frequently that, as a matter of fact, there are very few formal meetings held by the Committees. The work of the Business Committee is to get all possible information about the route to be taken, in order to make the best use of our time and see the most interesting things in the country. In order to do this, they borrow or otherwise obtain Baedeker's, and the railway time tables which can always be obtained by application to Cook's tourist offices. They then find out and put down exactly the best route to be taken, the expense of the trip, the most comfortable hotels, and any other information of a strictly business character. This is read by the convener of the Business Committee immediately after the roll-call at our weekly meetings.

The Literary Committee find out all that is most interesting and worth seeing in the cities and towns in the country, and read papers from magazines and any other information about them. They also prepare papers on various subjects of interest connected with the country. Thus we had an excellent paper on Spanish literature, and many excellent papers on the celebrated men born in the various towns we have visited.

The Art Committee then tell us all they have been able to find out about the architecture, pictures, etc., in the place, and our President, who is herself an artist, gives us some general and most interesting information about art, which is a great help to all in their endeavours to appreciate the pictures and other objects of interest. If anyone has or can obtain good photographs or engravings of any pictures, they are brought and shown.

The Musical Committee not only tell us about the music and musicians, but give us practical examples of their work. At every meeting we have an instrumental and vocal piece of music, if possible connected with our country. But in the case of Spain this was difficult, as there was a difficulty in obtaining suitable Spanish music.

The Musical Committee also write papers. There was a most interesting paper on Chopin, which was beautifully written and practically illustrated by playing some of his waltzes. After this programme is over, we have a social cup of tea and very slight refreshments, about which we are very strict. At the close of the season, usually in May, we have an open meeting, to which every member has the privilege of inviting two friends, and we entertain them by a short *résumé* of the work of the season. To begin with, every member answers the roll-call by a short sentence, telling something that struck her particularly about the last place we visited. The President then gives her address, the Recording Secretary reads a condensed account of every place visited, of the books read, the music played, the objects of interest observed, etc. The musical members play and sing, one or two poems and papers are read, and the whole winds up with the usual tea and cake.

One great help to keeping up the interest in a Club of this kind is to insist upon everyone doing her share. It is wonderful how the timid girl who could not bear the sound of her own voice in reading aloud, becomes quite brave, and after a time will help in a discussion over some knotty point. It is also very desirable to do everything in a business-like way, even if there is only a small attendance at any particular meeting, and to keep strictly to the programme. This paper is written with some detail, because it is hoped that it may lead others of our sisters in the old land, who have far more leisure than we have, to go and do likewise, assuring them of a rich reward in the interest they will feel in other lands, even if unable personally to visit them, and still more benefit, if they are so fortunate as to be able to travel.

C. L. G.

AN AMATEUR DINNER.

By "EVE," Author of "Little French Dinners."



WHEN girls first leave school they often take up cookery as their next study, and after they have had time to attain a certain amount of proficiency, there is

nothing which will cause such pride and pleasure to all parents as to be able to give a little dinner-party cooked entirely by one or more of their daughters. With the following dinner the little amateurs can, if wished, join the guests in the dining-room and leave the dishing up of the dinner to quite an

inexperienced cook, as all the dishes have the advantage of being able to be almost entirely prepared before the dinner-hour.

MENU.

Potage Dubarry
(Cauliflower Soup).
Soles aux Crevettes
(Soles with Shrimps).
Poulets à la Bonne Femme
(Chickens with White Sauce).
Escalopes de Veau aux Epinards
(Collops of Veal with Spinach).
Croustades à la Marjorie
(Cheese Croustades).
Gâteau aux Abricots
(Apricot Gâteau).

RECIPES.

Potage Dubarry.—Melt two ounces of butter in a large stewpan, mix with it thoroughly two and a half ounces of flour and a little salt and pepper; stir over a slow fire, then add very

gradually and slowly three pints of white stock. When on the point of boiling, add two medium-sized cauliflowers broken up into small pieces. Let the whole cook for forty minutes, then pass all through a hair-sieve into a clean basin. Re-heat the soup about a quarter of an hour before serving, and just at the last add two or three tablespoonfuls of boiling cream. Hand round with the soup small square *croûtons* of bread fried a golden colour.

Soles aux Crevettes.—Take two medium-sized soles, fillet them, chop up the bones and the trimmings and put them into a saucepan with a pint of water, one or two sliced onions, a bunch of sweet herbs and some whole pepper. Bring to the boil and then simmer for an hour or more. In the meantime take a pint and a half of pink shrimps (the brown ones will not do), pick out all the meat from the tails, put them on one side and pound half a pint of the shells in a