

The College Girl

One day last week Miss Ester Alonzo, delegate from Spain to the W.C.T.U. Convention, visited the college, and about half-a-dozen undergraduates had the pleasure of meeting her and listening to a very bright and vivid description of university customs at Madrid. American girls generally get the credit of being able to start on a trip round the world on short notice, but the Spanish girls are not behind them. Miss Alonzo started on her trip from Madrid to Toronto with but two hours' notice; when she reached New York Mrs. Gulick who was to have met her was, by some mistake, not there. So this plucky little Spanish girl who had never talked English till she reached America, made her way to Toronto all alone.

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We think we have a hard time at our examinations, and in other columns there are discussions as to whether we should have our examination system abolished; but those of us who listened to Senorita Alonzo know that our luck is not as hard as it might be. Fancy sitting with all our fellow-students in a large hall waiting our turn; and when that turn came, marching up to the platform, facing the professors there assembled, and drawing three balls from an urn, submitting to an oral examination on a set of questions bearing the same numbers as the aforesaid balls. Then, truly, we would think our condition wretched.

But the ordeal for the final degree, that of M.A., is still worse. Coming to the University the candidate again draws one of these fatal balls. Corresponding to the number on the ball is a list of two or three subjects of which the candidate must choose one, and with whatever books he requires must submit to be locked up in a small room till the examiners are ready—sometimes it is necessary to remain even so long as forty-eight hours. The hall of the university is open to all who wish to attend, and when his turn has come the candidate appears before the judges who have been selected from the most learned men of Spain. He must there before this audience, upon the subject he has selected, deliver an address of at least half an hour's duration, and must submit to an oral examination on all his subjects of study. And as I listened to Miss Alonzo's vivid description of her feelings on that memorable occasion, I thought to myself, there were far worse things than our May ordeal, and I was glad I do not live in Spain.

Miss Alonzo is the first girl graduate from the University of Madrid, and at her final examinations last summer was so very fortunate as to obtain standing in the first rank—a thing much rarer than here. She told us there were now thirty girls in the Preparatory College, and so it would seem that in Spain also co-education has become established.

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The attention of the college girls is called to the Editorial Box which the editors of *Sesame* have placed in the reading room. All who are at all so inclined are asked to contribute to this box. It is not at all necessary in this way to disclose one's identity as it is not required that the articles shall be signed,—so the genius who wants to keep herself unknown may under this arrangement give *Sesame* the benefit of her ability.

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The usual meeting of the Y.W.C.A. last Wednesday

afternoon was of a rather unusual but not the less inviting character. It partook of the nature of an informal reception to the first year, all the years, however, being included in the general invitation. Among the large number assembled we were pleased to note Mrs. Hardie, the wife of our missionary, Dr. Hardie, and also several graduates, Misses Darling, Rutherford and Miller. Miss Hurlburt, convener of the Membership Committee presided, and opened the meeting with a scripture reading. Sentence prayers were offered by several of the Membership Committee. Miss Menhennick kindly officiated as pianist. Several new members were proposed and accepted. The various postponed elections then took place. After some little excitement, owing to the non-presence of ballots, (it is a remarkable fact that at the elections of the various societies this year there has been an unaccountable scarcity of these necessary bits of paper) the president and secretary succeeded in supplying the need, only to see all the offices filled by acclamation. A motion was carried to the effect that a clause be added to the constitution incorporating the class for missionary study into the Society. A solo was rendered in a most pleasing manner by Miss McConnell. Miss Alexander, '99, then read a well-written, thoroughly instructive paper on "Remember the Sabbath Day." The fragrant odor of coffee now being perceptible, this part of the meeting was brought to a close to be followed by another not less interesting.

The girls established themselves in various cosy corners or formed bright animated groups, while the committee proceeded to disburse an abundant supply of coffee and cake. All things, even good things, however, must come to an end, and so this enjoyable reception concluded with a hymn and with the repetition in concert of the Mizpah benediction. The guests wended their way homewards, with the exception of a few who most kindly remained to help the committee wash dishes. Their kindness was much appreciated, and this opportunity is taken of thanking them.

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Under the very able leadership of Mr. W. F. Robinson the Ladies' Glee Club are progressing rapidly in the preparation of songs for the annual concert. Mr. Robinson has expressed himself as well satisfied with the work the club is doing, and the committee are hoping that the second public appearance will be a most successful one. The music chosen by the conductor and the committee jointly is exceedingly pretty and well adapted for a ladies' chorus, most of it is by well-known composers whose names are a guarantee of the good quality of the music.

Arrangements for the concert are about completed and it is expected that it will take place on Thursday, December 9th in Association Hall. The committee have engaged Mr. Harold Jarvis of Detroit to assist at this concert, and no effort will be spared to make it a complete success.

CARR, '98.

"COLLEGE TOPICS."

On Tuesday morning a new student publication made its appearance in the corridors. It is a neat newspaper, bearing on its first page the title *College Topics*, and on its editorial page the name of F. D. McEntee, '99, as the editor-in-chief.

College Topics is certainly entering upon a new field of college journalism. It aims to give in brief, bright form, the news from the various educational institutions in the city. That this aim is realized in the initial number is the verdict of all who have seen it, and if it may be taken as an earnest for the future, *College Topics* seems to have a bright and prosperous course marked out for it.