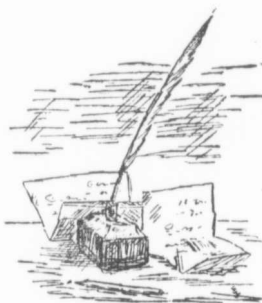




OFFICERS OF LITERARY CLUB.

THE YOUNG LADIES' LITERARY CLUB.



Yes, we girls have a literary club, and a good one too! If you have happened to glance at the English course for this year, especially that laid out for the "B" class, the thought may have crossed your mind that it contains about as much literature as ordinary mortals can stand in one year. Well, it most certainly does, but, for all that, we continue having a literary club.

In our club, we run counter to all methods of study hitherto known in the Academy. We do not care anything for text-books written, perhaps, a score of years ago and full of inaccuracies. We do not try to cram, cram, *cram* facts, without any notion of what they mean or what relation they hold to one another. No! all we try to do is to understand a few things. We know it is a very old-fashioned method and one which is largely tabooed in the present system of education. But still we like it, somehow. We feel that we are out of date and far behind the times, but, I repeat, we like it. Please be patient with us for being so unreasonable. We are very young,—only two years old.

We meet every Friday in the Academy Assembly Hall. We have different ways of spending the afternoons. Some days we have a mixed programme, with piano, violin, and vocal solos or duets, recitations, etc. Other days we have debates on subjects appointed and studied up beforehand. The mixed programmes are very pleasant for the non-performers, and do the performers a great deal of good. The girls with ability have to sing, play, recite, or speak. At first they were as nervous as possible, but now many who used to go up to the platform actually trembling, and with hearts beating like trip-hammers can, calmly and comfortably, do whatever is necessary, thus showing that the Club has helped some of us to learn one of life's most difficult lessons—self-control. The debates also help us in this respect, and teach us to be quick-witted. You may have your opening speech all ready beforehand, but you have to refute your opponent's arguments on the spur of the moment.

Then, again, we have afternoons with standard authors. We take one at a time, study his life, discuss his works, and read selections. We have had Scott, Holmes, Mrs. Stowe and others, and our next is to be Dickens.

Sometimes we have a "paper." The girls write articles and send them in to a committee. The best ones are read at the Club, and perhaps are printed in our "Annual."

Once in a long time we have an open session, prepare an extra good programme, and invite the teachers and the young men of the Academy.

But the afternoons we most enjoy are those when some lady, well-known and distinguished for some special reason, is invited and kindly comes in to address us on an interesting subject. The first lady who came was Mrs. Leonowens, who gave us a most delightful talk about Siam. Then we had Dr. Maria Angwin, who gave us a lecture on Hygiene. We enjoyed it very much, and none the less that she told us some rather "scareful" truths. Then Mrs. Slayer kindly spoke to us in a very entertaining and interesting way about life in Germany. We found out some things about Germany that we never thought