



Life, Literature and Education.



Mr. G. A. Putnam.

Superintendent of Farmers' and Women's Institutes.

PEOPLE, BOOKS, AND DOINGS.

The great Jamestown Tercentennial Exposition of last summer resulted in a debt of \$2,500,000.

William Thomson (Lord Kelvin), the greatest scientist in the world, died in London, Eng., on December 16th. He was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1824.

Some weeks ago German excavators found certain papyri in Egypt which indicate that the ancient Jews had a temple there, as well as in Jerusalem, and that in it they worshipped Jehovah under the name of Yah. It is thought that the recovered MS. may be a lost chapter from the book of Nehemiah.

The increase in the British mails with Canada, on account of the reduction in postage on magazines, periodicals and newspapers, has been phenomenal. From May 1st to October 31st, last, the number of British mail bags received at Canadian ports was 16,591, as compared with 6,288 during the same period of 1906, or an increase of 10,303 bags.

Some years ago there died in Sweden a wealthy dynamite-maker, Sir Alfred Nobel, whose name was destined to live, henceforth, in the famous "Nobel" prizes. These prizes, five in number, are made up from the income of the deceased baronet, and are awarded annually to "those persons who shall have contributed most materially to benefit mankind during the year." They are divided as follows: One share each to the persons who have made the most important discoveries in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine; one share to the person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most distinguished work of an idealistic tendency; one share to the person who shall have most promoted the fraternity of

nations and the abolishment or diminution of standing armies, and the formation and increase of peace congresses." The prizes, each of which now amounts to a little less than \$40,000, are awarded by the Swedish academies of science and literature, with the exception of the peace prize, which is placed by the Norwegian Storting. This year, Professor Michelson, of the University of Chicago, has been awarded the prize for the greatest discovery in physics; Sir William Crooks, of London, England, that for chemistry; Charles Louis Alphonse Laveran, of Paris, France, that for medicine; and Rudyard Kipling, that for literature.

OUR LITERARY SOCIETY.

Our Literary Society for the winter of 1907-8 has made a most auspicious beginning. Many of our old members have already appeared, bringing with them several new ones. To all, we accord a hearty welcome.

In our first study, the word-filling contest, the first places have been won by "L. E. H.," Simcoe Co., Ont.; "L. M. C.," Kent Co., Ont.; and Miss Jane McFaden, Wellington Co., Ont.

The Honor Roll is made up as follows: "Elic," Huron Co., Ont.; K. McDiarmid, Russell Co., Ont.; "A. E. B.," Renfrew Co., Ont.; "Pansy," Grey Co., Ont.; "Son of Erin," Grey Co., Ont.; N. K. Gothorp, Waterloo Co., Ont.

We are sorry that lack of space prevents criticism in detail, but may state that, while nearly all of the reconstructed passages made "good sense," and in some cases presented even picturesque scenes, several mistakes in rhythm were made. The rhyme was, as a rule, good, although one competitor tried hard to make "fill" rhyme with "swell."

The poem, taken from a translation of the Persian poet, Nizami's "Laili and Majnun," is, it will be noticed, composed chiefly of iambic tetrameters, a trochee appearing only at the first of lines 2 and 19.

The test in word-values was to fill in the blanks in the following:

"A — of damsels ruby-lipped,
Blooming like — of Samarcand,
— bowed to her command.
She glittered like a — among
The — of the starry throng,
With lovely forms as Houri's bright,
Or Peris glancing in the —;
And now they reach an — spot,
Beside a cool — grot,
And soft — beneath the —,
By a delicious rose-bower made;
There in soft —, sport and play,
The hours unnoted glide away;
But Laili to the Bulbul tells
What — grief her bosom —,
And fancies, through the — leaves,
She from the garden breeze receives
The breathings of her own true love
— as the cooings of the dove."

As translated, the passage stands:

"A train of damsels ruby-lipped,
Blooming like flowers of Samarcand,
Obedient bowed to her command.
She glittered like a moon among
The beauties of the starry throng,
With lovely forms as Houri's bright,
Or Peris glancing in the light;
And now they reach an emerald spot,
Beside a cool sequestered grot,

And soft recline beneath the shade,
By a delicious rose-bower made;
There in soft converse, sport and play,
The hours unnoted glide away;
But Laili to the Bulbul tells
What secret grief her bosom swells,
And fancies, through the rustling
leaves,
She from the garden breeze receives
The breathings of her own true love
Fond as the cooings of the dove."

"L. E. H.," whose work was considered the best, wrote as follows:

"A troop of damsels ruby-lipped,
Blooming like roses of Samarcand,
Gracefully bowed to her command.
She glittered like a gem among
The radiance of the starry throng,
With lovely forms as Houri's bright,
Or Peris glancing in the light;
And now they reach an embowered
spot,

Beside a cool inviting grot,
And soft repose beneath the shade,
By a delicious rose-bower made;
There in soft slumber, sport and play,
The hours unnoted glide away;
But Laili to the Bulbul tells
What mournful grief her bosom swells,
And fancies, through the whispering
leaves,

She from the garden breeze receives
The breathings of her own true love
Soft as the cooings of a dove."

Simcoe Co., Ont. L. E. H.

"Roses," in line 2, it will be noticed, upsets the rhythm somewhat. Yet this was the word chosen by nearly all of the competitors, "L. M. C." being the only one to fix upon the right word, "flowers." "An embowered" is also rather awkward, but conveys a pleasing idea.

For information regarding the next competition, kindly refer to "The Farmer's Advocate" issue for November 14th; and remember that, in sending essays, etc., the full name and address, including county, should be given. No fees are necessary in becoming a member of the F. A. & H. M. L. S.

ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR THE WOMEN.

It is perfectly astounding that so much misapprehension still exists regarding the aims and work of the Women's Institute. A few months ago, in reporting the organization of one of the branches, we had occasion to state that some of the people of the neighborhood referred to were of the impression that it was "a sort of religious institution." Equally astounding is the conclusion of one of the dailies which reported the big convention of Dec. 11th and 12th, that it has been formed "for the purpose of keeping the young women at home on the farms!" Truly, this might be a laudable object, and occasionally the Women's Institute does touch upon it; it would scarcely be human nature—rural human nature, at least—to stand quietly by and see rural young women drift into the cities, to work in stores and factories, at \$5 a week, without uttering a word of protest now and again; but, that the Women's Institute owes its existence and is directing its tremendous efforts to such an object alone!!! From such misapprehension as this, deliver us!

As we understand it, the Women's

Institute originated as an offshoot of—or, perhaps, more properly speaking, its possibility was suggested by—the Farmers' Institute. At first it was designed chiefly for the benefit of the farm women of the Province, but as time went on, its programmes proved so attractive that village and town women came in in ever-increasing numbers, so that to-day the institution may be said to be fairly cosmopolitan, being made up of country women and town women, of representatives from all the churches, and from every political party—of women gathered to consider, pre-eminently, one common and vital subject, The Home.

When the breadth of this subject is considered, the wonder that the Women's Institute grew up in consideration of it may be lessened. "The Care and Training of Children in the Home," "Literature for the Home," "The Sanitation of the Home," "Illness in the Home," "Domestic Economy," "The Beautification of the Home and its Surroundings," "Home Dairying," "Bee Culture," "Gardening,"—these are but a few of the topics dealt with by this, to a great extent, marvellous institution. "For Home and Country," is the motto; but does this addition, "and Country," more than emphasize the fact that the "country" is but made up of all the units, each one a home, that dot the vast Dominion from the salt waves that wash the shores of the Eastern Provinces, on and on, through the habitant districts of Quebec, across Ontario, with its garden farms, then over the vast, busy prairies to the mountain stretches that mark the western limit of our home-land? Raise the homes of a nation to the highest type, and you have produced a country of the highest type. This the Women's Institute realizes, and this is the ideal towards which it strives.

THE BIG CONVENTION.

Once a year the Women's Institute of Ontario holds a big pow-wow at Guelph. (Pardon the term—it is meant in all reverence.) At this pow-wow, all the chiefs and chieftainesses gather, war-painted with enthusiasm, with quivers full of shafts to be directed against every abuse or shortcoming in or about any of the homes the country over. Needless to say to those who have been there, that the big chief of all—and naturally so—is the indefatigable Mr. G. A. Putnam, Superintendent of the Association, whose heart must surely swell with pride as he looks down upon the sea of faces upturned toward the speaker's platform of Massey Hall, and which speak, by force of numbers, as well as enthusiasm and expectancy, of the success of the work which he has been so largely instrumental in accomplishing. . . The audience this year numbered upwards of 600 women, representing 80 electoral districts, and 400 societies.

Guelph has been chosen for the place of meeting for two reasons: First of all, because it is the arena of the annual winter stock show for the Province, and consequently many of the women may be accompanied by their husbands and sons en route; secondly, because of the educative influences which must be felt in visiting a city which is the seat of such