

by a bell. One minute before the speaker's time is up, the bell should be struck, and the final stroke made imperative, even if it should stop him in the middle of a sentence. The idea is to cultivate conciseness. A debate ought to be finished in one night. One week might be devoted to a programme as follows :

Reading—prose.

do. verse.

Recitation.

Debate.

Critique.

The next week might be occupied with

Readings.

Essays.

Questions and Answers.

Critique.

The "Critic" is appointed by the chairman without the knowledge of the rest of the members. His office is to commend or censure the proceedings of the evening from beginning to end, wherever his critical eye chooses to rest. This office, if kindly filled, is a great boon to these societies. The Critic should not debate a question which occupied the evening, or give his personal opinions on the subject matter of an essay. He is more practically to praise and to blame (not flatter or bite) and to correct faults of manner and matter. Five minutes is generally his allotted time.

The "Questions and Answers" are simply a question written on a slip of paper by each member, tossed in a hat, drawn for, and answered impromptu. Some societies add a speech, definitions of words, analysis of compositions, &c. The readings are generally too long; and are read too fast—a fault of us all in beginning. Old pieces, heard a hundred times become monotonous. Some discrimination should be shown, and a rule made rather to read well than much. I would recommend after the study of Whately's *Logic and Rhetoric*, a work issued in London, entitled, "The Arts of Writing, Reading and Speaking. By Ed. W. Cox." Reprinted by Carleton, New York. Price \$1. 50.

Other practical points will suggest themselves. There is no attempt to exhaust the subject. Something might be said on the danger of the members of these societies over estimating their own importance, and bringing themselves too often and too prominently before the public. Impersonality in public or Church announcements should be the rule with members who are to take part in a debate, read essays, &c.

One word about the chairman. A little work entitled "Public Meetings and how to conduct them. By Saml. Neil," published by Houlston and Wright, London, defines his duties very clearly. "He should not unnecessarily occupy time; take no farther active part in the conducting of the business, except to put motions or amendments, preserve order, enforce the rules; he shall eschew advo-