

For the Study of Social Science

A Women's Club With a Private Life and a Public Manifestation in Toronto

"ASSIST us to accomplish all our ends and sanctify whatever means we use to gain them!"

The quaint request devised by the playwright, Mr. Puff, in "The Critic," might be the prayer with impunity, in the opinion of the writer, of the Club for the Study of Social Science, Toronto. For the end—a departure in some degree from the orthodox aim of women's



"Three Times and Out" Being a Rule in the Constitution, Mrs. Plumptre, for Three Years President of the Club for the Study of Social Science, Toronto, Must Needs Retire from Office on May 19.

clubs, or, for that matter, men's clubs—is emphatically not publicity, but study. And a means, the preclusion by constitution (for no very occult reason) of newspaper women as such from attending the meetings, assures to the gatherings the vivid interest of unrestrained discussion—a study feature. The present information was, therefore, obtained by special consent, and is official.

The Club for the Study of Social Science does not stand for suffrage. Indeed, the balance is almost exact in the names of the suffragists and the antis composing the executive committee. The organization, as a matter of fact, has no propaganda, directly considered. In and of itself, it is educational purely. Indirectly, nevertheless, the club is promotive, serving as a sort of powerhouse to the activities of unions which are, in varying measures, propagandic. The local societies of social workers, almost without exception, are represented by leaders in the club.

The club's present membership approximates three hundred, two hundred being the average attendance at meetings. The beginning was just three years ago, when a handful of university women met in the studio of Mr. Wyly Grier and discussed the idea of organization. Shortly after, the club was formally launched at "The Brown Betty" thirty to fifty persons comprising the body. So instant was the growth of the club that after only the second meeting it was necessary to move to ampler quarters. The Margaret Eaton studio was adequate for a time, the capacity of which in turn being taxed by the growth of the organization, the Margaret Eaton Hall was had recourse to—the present quarters. Twice the effort to impose a limit to the membership has been made, but, strangely enough, on both occasions, the union already exceeded the limit figure.

Meetings, held monthly, are conducted under a system which numbers of women's clubs might adopt with profit. A year's programme on one subject, prepared with the utmost care and clarity of presentment, divides that subject into twelve phases distributed over the months, in logical order. Successive meetings are assigned to different leaders to conduct, each selecting her special group of supporters. These ever-changing groups are responsible for the meetings, at liberty to follow or not to follow the lines of study suggested by the programme. The suggestions have value, anyway, in providing a common ground of preparation. The year's subject for 1911-1912 was two-fold, "Problems of Housing and Immigration." For this year the subject discussed has been "Child Welfare." The programmes, ele-

gant in device as admirable in content, reflect the greatest credit upon the contrivers.

Despite the society's privacy of existence it is not at all to be thought a selfish body. It invited the public the first year to hear Miss Sylvia Pankhurst on "Problems of the Wage-earning Woman in England"; the second year to hear Mr. Torry of the social service; and the present year to hear Mrs. Kelly, Secretary of the Consumers' League. Mrs. Kelly, by the way, is an aunt of Mrs. Sydney Small, who is one of the members.

The annual meeting is soon to be, indeed, on May 19th. So that some slight differences will probably occur in the executive which at present stands as follows: President, Mrs. Plumptre; Vice-Presidents, Miss Campbell and Mr. Agar Adamson; Treasurer, Mrs. Graham Thompson; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Arthur Meredith; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. V. E. Henderson. Other members are: Miss Joan Arnoldi, Miss Elwood, Mrs. R. E. A. Laud, Mrs. Godfrey Lloyd, Miss Plummer and Mrs. H. S. Strathy. M. J. T.

Art in Miniature

[T is a poor rule which does not work both ways; it would be considered an honour to be related to the Hon. Martin Burrell, and at the same time I feel sure that Mr. Burrell does not resent travelling, sometimes in his cousin's reflected glory. I speak of Mrs. Louie B. Burrell, one of the foremost miniature painters of the day.

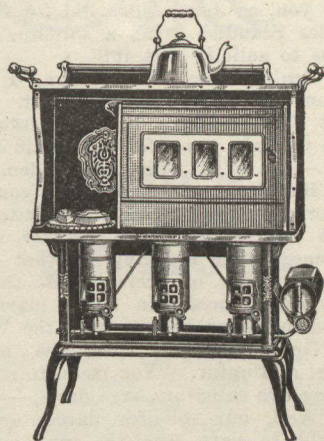
Mrs. Burrell is a member of the Associate Royal Miniature Society, the only one of its kind having a royal patron. She has painted Royalties, Governors-General, Ladies-in-Waiting, and dozens of hardly less well-known personages. One English paper said it was becoming a fad to be painted by her, a reasonable fad—unlike most fads—in that the gratification therefrom excuses the costliness of it.

Mrs. Burrell began her career as an artist in earliest childhood, modelling, caricaturing and illustrating, on anything handy from wrapping paper to wall paper. Then she spent three years at the celebrated Von Herkomer School, having a miniature accepted and hung in the Academy while still a student. Almost immediately upon leaving school



The Ottawa Miniaturist, Mrs. Louie Burrell, Who Sets a Price on Canadian Faces, Short a Bit of the Thirty-five Million a Liberal Speaker Was Recently Heard Object to.

the young artist married and went to South Africa, from which place she returned after three years to take up serious work in England. For eleven consecutive years Mrs. Burrell has had paintings in the Academy, not to speak of numerous smaller but scarcely less important exhibitions. Since coming to this country she has painted quite a number of prominent Canadians, and on her projected tour of the west she will doubtless gather much material for her facile brush. MADGE MACBETH.



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