

### PROS AND CONS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL LITERARY SOCIETY.

In a recent issue of *School and Home Education*, there is an interesting report on the weaknesses and advantages of a high school literary society.

The weaknesses reported are:

1. Lack of attractiveness of literary work in comparison with athletics.
2. The exclusive spirit which turns societies into fraternities and sororities.
3. Of the one third of the schools which give no credit for the work, many state that the societies would be worth more if they could effect an organization awarding credit for graduation.
4. Teachers, already overburdened, have too little time for supervision of the societies.
5. Programs were reported by the majority as weak and unorganized.

The advantages reported were:

1. Value of parliamentary drill.
2. Thinking and delivering of thought before an audience.
3. Development of a sense of responsibility from committee and program work.
4. Development of initiative, originality, executive ability, charity, tact, loyalty, self confidence, poise, a critical sense of leadership, and skill in the use of the library.
5. Creation of interest in other forms of literature.
6. Laboratory for all phases of "Better Everyday English."
7. Ninety per cent of reports indicate the work worth while.

Recommendations offered were:

1. That English teachers having charge of the societies be given one less class
2. That teachers of "practical public speaking" be employed.
3. That a committee be appointed to prepare a syllabus for a year's work for literary societies, so that the giving of credit would be justified.

The college and the community.—Students in the division of applied accounting in the University of New York make free audits of charitable, civic and social agencies.

### BRANDES ON IBSEN.

"Ibsen's name was the greatest of the literature of the three Scandinavian countries. The intellectual life of three centuries culminated in him. And he was, during the last years of his life, the dominating personality of the literature of both Europe and America.

"It is, as a rule, a curse for an author to be born in a small country. It is easier for a third-rate talent who commands a world language to win general renown than it is for a man of the highest type dependent upon translations. And this does not apply to poetry only.

"Besides, when a man's works are translated it is often found that while admirably adapted to his own community, they are out of harmony with the great world. His works have been molded to suit his surroundings; they abound in references, allusions, mannerisms which the outside world does not appreciate or understand.

"If Ibsen surmounted all such obstacles, and despite everything set his stamp on the literature and thought of the world, it is first of all because his plays are written in prose, in sharp, crisp, meaty dialogue, of which not too much is lost in translation. And secondly, because as Ibsen developed and unfolded his art, he ceased writing for the North alone, but worked with the public of the world in mind."—George Brandes, in the *February Century*.

### LITTLE ARTISTS.

In summer-time, we play that we  
Are artists great and grand,  
And then we draw a picture  
Of the sandman on the sand,  
In winter-time, we play that we  
Are sculptors great, and so,  
We have to build a statue of  
The snowman on the snow.

But though we work so very hard  
All through each summer day,  
The whitecap waves are sure to come  
To wash our work away;  
And though in winter-time we strive  
So hard to gain renown,  
The sun *will* melt our statue,  
Or the wind *will* blow it down!

—Mabel Livingstone Frank, in the *January St. Nicholas*.