SPRING COSTUME.

In silver gray face cloth, trimmed with narrow rouleaux of sapphire blue velvet; vest and collar of sapphire blue velvet.—(From Madame.

THOMAS NELSON PAGE.

"HE SHOWS THE SENTIMENT IN THE NEGRO IN DISTINCTION FROM THE HUMOROUS."

MRS. HENRY J. GIELOW GIVES THE LAST OF A SERIES OF PLANTATION FOLK-LORE INTERPRETATIONS.

Mrs. Henry J. Gielow gave, yesterday morning, as the last of her series of plantation folklore interpretations, readings from the works of Thomas Nelson Page. These were preceded by a short biographical sketch of the author and his work, in which the lecturer depicted the early home, the childish and boyish life of hardship during and immediately following the war, and the latter days of literary success and financial opulence.

"Among the many Southern writers," said Mrs. Gellow, "Mr. Page stands forth as a representative Virginian. His early boyhood was spent at Oakland, the family homestead, built on ground which was included in the orignal grant from the crown of England to the 'Colonial Magnate, Thomas Nelson.' Here he lived the life of Southern children before the war, being taught by the cultivated, refined women of the family, and playing freely with the young negroes of the plantation. He had a reputation for quickness in acquiring knowledge and for a retentive memory, the latter showing itself in his repeating the collects from the prayerbook after reading them over once. The misfortunes of war were felt by the boy's people, so that at its close, like many others, he was compelled to fall to work on any kind of odd or rough job. He worked the fields, milked the cows and in the evenings devoured books. Later on he was sent to school, and ultimately to college, being graduated from Washington College, now Washington and Lee University.

"The idea of becoming a public speaker developed at this time, and was influential in persuading him to enter upon the study of the law. 'Unc' Gabe's White Folks,' in verse, written in 1877, three years after he had finished his law course, was accepted by the Scribners and won immediate attention. The next literary attempt was 'Marse Chan,' which was founded upon an incident of the war. A friend showed Mr. Page a letter which had been taken from the pocket of a dead soldier—a Georgia private. Ill-spelt and almost illegible, the story it told was of the man's love for a girl who was waiting for him and who hoped he would have a furlough that he might come home, but, she said, 'get yer furlough, fer unless you come home honorable, I won't marry you.' The soldier had gone home—honorable.

"This story was accepted when sent to the publishers, but did not appear for three years, the editor explaining that he knew the merit of the tale, but that the war was still too recent to allow of its publication. Eighty dollars was the sum received for 'Marse Chan.' It created little enthusiasm until it came out in book form, when the author's reputation was thereby thoroughly established."

Mrs. Gielow told some amusing anecdotes of Mr. Page's absentmindness. On one occasion he was scheduled to lecture to a large Philadelphia audience. Over $400 worth of tickets had been sold. The day and hour arrived, the audience assembled, but the speaker did not come. At last the people had to be dismissed and their money refunded. At 6 o'clock that evening Mr. Page appeared at the home of the organizer of the lecture, and said he had no apology to offer. The indignant woman said that such was indeed the case, but could not cherish displeasure when the distressed man acknowledged he had forgotten all about the engagement until he by chance saw the announcement in a newspaper while he was still many hours distant from the city.

The lecture did come off, an audience being summoned in haste, but $300 was lost in consequence. To the audience Mr. Page excused himself by relating an incident in the experiences of Mark Twain, who had agreed to take this Christmas dinner in company with Eugene Field. Forgetting the engagement, Mr. Clemens had eaten his last bit of plum pudding before he realized that his contemporary must be waiting at the hotel for him. Thither he immediately repaired, but the card he sent up was returned, as also the note he then wrote and dispatched, and in despair the humorist was turning away, when he met a friend at the door.

"Riley," he implored, "go and see Eugene Field for me and tell him I am a — fool."

The reconciliation was thus effected, and the Philadelphians to whom Mr. Page told the anecdote pardoned him, also, on the spot.

Mrs. Gielow concluded the morning by readings from Mr Page's works, and gave, by request, a lullaby of her own, "Blow, Little Breezes, Blow."

This course of dramatic readings will be continued, with examples of East Tennessee mountain vernacular and selections from Charles Egbert Craddock, and the Creole dialect as given in the stories of George Cable.

Among those who were entertained were Mrs. May Banks Stacy, Mrs. Lizzie McNeil, Mrs. Rose Lincoln, Mrs. William Tracy, Mrs. C. Burroughs, Mrs. Frank Sullivan, Miss Alma Connell, Mrs. Beard, Mrs. C. J. Wright and Miss Lawrence.

TO AMEND THE SUFFRAGE LAW.

A delegation of New-York State women appeared last week before the Judiciary Committee of the Assembly at Albany at a hearing appointed on the resolution introduced by Assemblyman Otto Kelsey to amend the suffrage law of the State Constitution by omitting the word "male" before citizen; this concurrent resolution to be referred to a vote of the people after passing two Legislatures.

The hearing took place in the Assembly library, which was well filled with supporters of the amendment, among them being a number of Senators and their wives.

The delegation consisted of Mrs. Mariana W. Chapman, president of the New-York State Woman Suffrage Association; Miss Harriet K. Mills, State organizer; Mrs. Mary E. Craigie, president of Queens County Suffrage Association; Miss Margaret Livingston Chanler, president of the Dutchess County Suffrage Association; Martha A. B. Conine, formerly of New-York, but now a member of the Colorado State Legislature, and Mrs. Mary H. Lomes, corresponding secretary of the Brooklyn Woman Suffrage Association and chairman of the committee.

Mrs. Chapman spoke on the basis on which the right to vote rests, and Mrs. Conine told of the workings of woman suffrage in Colorado.

After the New-York delegation had been heard the Rev. William Brundage, of Albany, spoke on the desirability of submitting the amendment to the people.

THE DAY'S GOSSIP.

Dean Emily James Smith will give a reading on "The Greek Novel" to-day at 3:30 o'clock in the Ella Weed Memorial Room, Barnard College, One-hundred-and-nineteenth-st. and the Boulevard. This is the second of a course of five readings given under the auspices of the Associate Alumnæ of Barnard College for the Ella West Memorial Room Fund.

"Life in the English Colonial Period" is the subject of Miss Lalla Baldwin Morton's lecture to be given in the Assembly Room of the Waldorf-Astoria this morning at 11:30 o'clock.

Miss Ada Webster Ward will begin a series of Lenten talks at the home of Mrs. James W. Pinchot, No. 2 Gramercy Park, this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

A course of lectures, entitled "The History of Music," will be given on Tuesdays during Lent by Miss S. C. Very. The first one will be "Survey of the Art," and will take place at No. 11 East Fifty-fourth-st. at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

A paper on "Abraham Lincoln" will be read by Mrs. J. C. Morton before the Society for Political Study this afternoon at 3 o'clock at the clubrooms, the Tuxedo, Fifty-ninth-st. and Madison-ave.

Scenes from "The Prisoner of Zenda" and selections from "Dolly Dialogues" will be given by Miss Saidee Vere Milne at the Waldorf-Astoria at 3 o'clock this afternoon. There will be singing by Mr. Waterous.

Miss Georgina Roberts will lecture on "A Divided Household" (Austria-Hungary) this morning at 11:30 o'clock at Sherry's.

A lecture on "The Philosophy of the Dance," illustrated by music and dancing, will be given by Elizabeth Biloen Duncan this afternoon at 3 o'clock at No. 18 West Seventy-second-st.

At a lecture-concert, to be given this evening under the auspices of the Ushers' Association of the Central Presbyterian Church, Marcy and Jefferson aves., Brooklyn, Miss Mary Proctor will lecture on "Flowers of the Sky."

Recitations from "King Henry IV" will be given by Locke Richardson at Sherry's this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

The Motley in England Club will meet this afternoon at the home of Mrs. Gleason, No. 168 Ross-st., Brooklyn. A paper on the "Lake District," Windemere and Ambleside will be read by Mrs. Gleason, and Miss Alice Dean will give an article on "Derwentwater and Coniston." The discussion to follow will be opened by Mrs. MacVey.

Mrs. Chambers-Ketchum will give her third lecture on "Creation and Civilization" this morning at 11:30 o'clock, at Mrs. J. B. Read's home, No. 917 Seventh-ave. China, Babylon, Phoenicia and Egypt will be considered in their early development, together with Hebrew, Persian and Hindoostan advancement in thought.

Nurses of the New-York Red Cross Hospital and Training School, at No. 233 West One-hundredth-st., are in readiness to leave for Cuba should war be declared against Spain. Before Dr. A. Monae Lesser departed for Cuba he vaccinated several of the nurses and bade them prepare to start should they be needed. Two hundred nurses could be sent to the field at once.

Two centenarians have just died whose long lives have both ended in New-Jersey, one at Matawan and the other at Trenton. "Aunt Lize," Eliza Wallen, reached her 100th birthday, the anticipation of which, it is said, kept her alive until she saw its dawn. Anna Janie King, who was born a slave 104 years ago, was buried on the same day. Each of these old women retained her faculties to the last.

The mass-meeting called by the sympathizers of the New-Bedford strikers, and which met on Sunday afternoon at the Grand Central Palace, was convened chiefly at the instigation of the women members of Branch No. 12 of the Socialist-Labor party.

The establishment by Consul-General Lee of an asylum in Cuba for the destitute little orphans of that country has touched the hearts of patriots of the Island. His assurance to the State Department that money sent for the purpose will be used to procure food for the waifs is comforting to the lovers of humanity, whether or not they are Cuban sympathizers.

Aaron M. Powell, president of the American Purity Alliance, and Mrs. Anna Rice Powell, corresponding secretary, were appointed at the meeting of the Executive Committee held March 1 as representatives to the international congress to convene in London in July. This congress will be held under the auspices of the International Federation for the Abolition of State Regulation of Vice, of which organization Mrs. Josephine E. Butler is honorary president.

Eva A. Wood, of No. 56 Johnson-st., Brooklyn, was sworn in yesterday by Mayor Van Wyck as topographical draughtsman in the Department of Taxes and Assessments.

The Bedford Political Equality League held its March meeting last night at the home of Mrs. P. P. Hackstaff, No. 282 Jefferson-ave., Brooklyn. There were addresses by the Rev. Frank Wheat, Mrs. Catharine P. Wheat, of Woodhaven, and Mrs. Harriet May Mills.

The annual meeting of the Urban Club will be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock at the home of Mrs. A. J. Perry, No. 30 First Place, Brooklyn.

Mrs. Franklin A. Merriam and Mrs. Elwood Carpenter, of Mount Vernon, gave a large whist party last week for the benefit of the Bureau of Charities. The game lasted from 2 o'clock in the afternoon until 5, and fifty-two people participated. The prize-winners were Mrs. Daniel De Witt, Mrs. C. A. Young, Mrs. Z. W. Reeves, Mrs. Horace Grannfield, Mrs. F. A. Coleman, Mrs. G. Hamilton, Mrs. Thomas Dennison, Miss Sadie Wheaton, Miss Morehouse and Miss Lattimer. Refreshments were served during the game, and a musical programme was carried out. The affair was a great success, both socially and financially.

WHERE RUSKIN IS WRONG.

MR. BROOKS DOES NOT LIKE HIS ATTITUDE ON THE WOMAN QUESTION.

John Graham Brooks discussed Ruskin yesterday in his usual Monday morning lecture before the League for Political Education, in the Mendelssohn Glee Club Hall. He began by enumerating what he considers the defects of that writer, and among them he mentioned his "glaring inconsistencies," his "constant exaggeration," his "aristocratic exclusiveness," and his "attitude toward the woman question and machinery."

"Nowhere," said the lecturer, "does Ruskin sink lower than in his passages on the position of women."

Regarding the machinery question, Mr. Brooks said he thought that Ruskin did not really want to do what he said he did, and was of the opinion that he might even have spared the city of New-York, if he had had an opportunity to destroy it, as he said he would have liked to do.

In spite of all this, however, the speaker said that there was much to be learned from Ruskin. We need not share his hatred for machinery, but we should subdue it to proper uses, and this, he thinks, is already being done.

"Even out of the railroad," he said, "are coming some of the things that Ruskin wanted. On some of our older roads, which twelve years ago were altogether hideous, we now have beautiful stations, with vines climbing over them and beds of flowers around them; and in many places there are indications that we may yet get this great ugliness clothed with beauty."

The lecturer also commended Ruskin's doctrine of wealth and some of his utterances regarding the popular craving for quantity and magnitude, and said that there may not be so many advantages as we think in travelling as fast as we now do. "There certainly is none in a fifty-page newspaper," he added.

MISS FORD PORTRAYS THE POET.

"POETIC VISION CANNOT TAKE THE PLACE OF COMMON-SENSE," SHE SAYS.

Miss M. E. Ford's lecture on "The Poet versus the Man of Action" yesterday morning at Sherry's was inspired chiefly by Alfred de Vigny's "Stello" on the literary side, and by the experiences of certain poets in France and England on the life side.

The fate of the poet who attempts to shape events in the political world was illustrated by De Vigny's portrayal of the failure of the French poet Gilbert, under the Bourbon monarchy; Chatterton, under the limited monarchy of England, and André Chénier, under the French Republic.

Miss Ford said in part: "The poet's familiarity with the world of ideas where events take place without friction, where there are no limitations of time and places, unfits him for the struggle in the field of action. The uncommon sense of poetic vision cannot take the place of plain common-sense in the management of the world's affairs. It is his province to remain in the inner temple and keep the altar fires burning. The poet is the inspirer of progress, but the man of action is the maker of history. We do not always find the man of affairs a man of action solely; he is often, in his degree, a poet, a lover of the beautiful and the true; but every Saul of action has his David of poesy. Many men are ready to wait and to suffer for the principles of progress, brotherhood and patriotism, esteeming the individual only as it expresses the life universal. Such men stand with the poets who speak to the infinite intelligence and sing to the everlasting sympathy."

Next Monday Miss Ford will give a second treatment of the same general theme, based on Dante, Sordello and Edgar Allan Poe.

Y. W. C. A.'S BUSINESS MEETING.

THE DEPARTMENTS REPORT A HEALTHY FINANCIAL CONDITION.

The Young Women's Christian Association held its regular monthly business meeting yesterday morning in the Association Building, No. 7 East Fifteenth-st. The president, Mrs. Clarence E. Beebe, presided, and reports from all the different departments were read. Mrs. R. D. Dorman, president of the international organization, reported for the International Board. The departmental reports were as follows:

Employment bureau, 178 employes and 275 employers registered, and 187 places filled.

Library, 6,699 books loaned, and an attendance of 2,680 in the reading-room, including 120 new readers.

Needlework, 162 orders taken, 120 fancy articles and 70 garments sold, and $325 paid to seamstresses and $1,206 to consignors.

Board directory, seven new housekeepers registered, 347 applicants for board, 300 of whom were provided for.

Margaret Louisa Home, every department taxed to the utmost.

Treasury, $2,188 42 on hand.

In reporting for the Margaret Louisa Home the superintendent, Miss I. P. Cattill, spoke of the great and increasing need for women's boarding-houses, and said that the Home Committee rejoiced in the plans now maturing for a woman's hotel.

ART IN INDIA.

MRS. S. K. HARNETT TALKS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSIONAL WOMAN'S LEAGUE.

The Professional Woman's League gave its regular "literary day" yesterday afternoon, at the clubrooms, No. 1,509 Broadway, and listened to a talk on "Art in India," by Mrs. S. K. Harnett. Mrs. Harnett began with Hindoo music, about which she said: "The singer who can hold her notes the longest is the prima donna of the stage. The Hindoos ascribe the origin of the scale to the different calls of birds and animals. When singing they always sit down—at least, they never stand if they can help it—and when singing they sway the body to the time of the music."

Mrs. Harnett next went on to say that the people are nearly all uneducated. Only 30 per cent have any knowledge of reading. Only the best people take part in their plays. She gave some idea of their costumes, saying they have worn the same style for a thousand years.

After Mrs. Harnett finished her talk Mrs. Julia T. Cole showed to the club a market costume, such as the higher classes in India wear, the Hindoo wedding ring and charm jewel. The charm jewel is a half moon of rubies; in the centre of the setting is a floral design of diamonds and emeralds, and suspended from this are seven oblong pearls. The Hindoo wedding ring consists of two diamond rings, the stone set in heart shape and worn one on the little finger and the other on the third finger; these rings are connected by a ruby on which is the word "Allah."

WAYS OF WOMANKIND.

Mrs. Dorothy Howard, who died at Jeffersonville, Ind., last summer, was one of the most eccentric women in the State. She was seventy-five years of age and dressed as youthfully and gayly as a girl of fifteen. At her death she had one hundred and seventy-five gowns of the finest quality, innumerable skirts, waists and other wearing apparel. There was a large crowd at the auction sale of her effects, and the bidding was lively to secure some of the handsome silk gowns, which had never been worn. Her mania was to spend her entire income for costly clothing.

Mrs. Jessie Benton Frémont, widow of the "Pathfinder," is living at Long Beach, Cal. She still retains her early charm of manner, and keeps an active interest in the philanthropic work to which much of her life has been devoted.

Mrs. Garner Wright, who died in Brooklyn recently, was said to be a full-blooded Indian of the Montauk tribe, which belonged to Long Island in Colonial days. Mrs. Wright remembered something of her early childhood when she lived with her own people. When a child of four years she was adopted by the Gardiners, who were early settlers on Long Island, and from their home married her husband, who was an Englishman. He died within a few years, and his widow made her home thenceforward in Brooklyn. She died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Striker, No. 856 Atlantic-ave.

Mrs. Joshua Speed, of Louisville, Ky., gave $40,000 recently toward the building of a new Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church. Only $25,000 more is needed, and it is thought that the munificence of Mrs. Speed's gift will stir others to give that much and thus add another beautiful church building to the Southern city.

The resignation of Miss Emily McElroy as teacher in the Sunday-school of the Embury Methodist Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, has been unanimously accepted by the trustees of the Sunday-school. It will be recalled that Miss McElroy gave a euchre party at her home, in McDonough-st., several weeks ago for the entertainment of the eight young women who composed her Sunday-school class. This caused some disturbance in the congregation, and the superintendent of the school labored over the matter with Miss McElroy, who declared that she was not at all sorry over what she had done. She then tendered her resignation.

A report comes from Great Falls, Mont., that Major Fuller, agent of the Blackfoot Indians, has issued an order prohibiting Mrs. Garret White from living on the reservation. Mrs. White will be remembered as the white woman who a month ago, while teaching in the Fort Shaw Indian School, eloped and married a full-blooded Piegand Indian. A return to the school was forbidden, and the teacher accepted a place as waitress in a hotel at Dupuyer in order to support herself and her husband. She is a sister of the Rev. C. C. Bateman, Army chaplain at Fort Belknap.

TRIBUNE SUNSHINE SOCIETY.

GOOD CHEER.

Have you had a kindness shown?
Pass it on.
'Twas not given for you alone—
Pass it on.
Let it travel down the years,
Let it wipe another's tears,
Till in heaven the deed appears—
Pass it on.

Communications have been received from G. G. M., M. W. P., Mrs. M. B. Bliss, T. S. S. Member, A. F., E. C. L. Conklin, Mrs. J. H. Appleton, D. F. A., Mattie E. Gammons, Mrs. M. E. Hinds, "R.," M. D. F., Mrs. V. L. Tenney, Mrs. W. H. C., Miss S. C. Dumm, Gertrude L. Skinner, Ida James, A. D. M., Mrs. Belle W. Lincoln, S. R. M., Henry S. Howard, E. D. Savage, E. M. Bailey, Mrs. Anna Serviss, Mrs. O. M. Knapp, Elizabeth A. Shultz, Mrs. R. L. Massemean, Miss Alma A. Appleton, M. E. Morss, Mrs. Spencer Stekmond, A. P. B., F. M., George Snow.

The following contributions have been received: Reading matter from Jennie S. Childs; papers and silk scraps from A. J. S.; four pairs of nice, warm mittens from Mrs. Adah L. Holcomb; a cap and several cards from A. M. U.; a unique hairpin cushion from Mrs. H. E. Newcome; a booklet made of several cards with quotations written on them—it is called "A Woman's Prayer." A generous contribution of $5 came from M. W. P., and $1 from M. E. Morss.

DARE-THE-WIND.

"Western people have a proverbial saying that the blue-grass springs up wherever an Indian has stepped."—J. J. Piatt.

Blue-grass dancing to your shadow,
Lightly swaying o'er the sod,
Do you spring up in the meadow
Where an Indian foot has trod?

And is this the mystic sun-dance,
Feathery-crested Dare-the-Wind?
Or the thank-reel for abundance
Of tall maize in stacks to bind?

Doughty brave, afraid of no man—
Ha, your blade is tipped with red!
'Tis the blood of dusky foeman
In some old-time battle shed.

Light and lissome, tall and slender,
Plumed chieftain of the soil,
Ay, you dance the war-dance furious
Ere you dash into the broil!

Silent, Dare-the-Wind, and sulky?
Come, your secret have I found?
You're the ghost of Indian warrior
Sent to guard yon Indian mound.
—(Alice Williams Brotherton.

Sent by Mrs. F. O. Wilson.

GUESSING TITLES.

President-General of the T. S. S.: I send a description of a book I have lately seen. The making of one might help pass the time of any "shut-in." The book is called "Guessing Titles."

Materials—Water-color paper for the leaves, cardboard for covers, pictures cut from fashion magazines, illustrated papers and daily newspapers.

Let each page represent a title of some noted book, thus: "The Lady of the Lake," by a picture in one corner of a lady, a lake in another, and the words "of the" between the pictures.

Such titles as "Pilgrim's Progress," "The Lady in White," "Looking Backward," "The Lady or the Tiger" and very many others could be used, making altogether a handsome book and a useful game for an evening's entertainment of friends. Leaves to be placed loosely inside covers, pictures neatly cut out and pasted in with library paste; covers can be decorated to suit maker; let each page tell its own story with as few words as possible. Truly yours, Mrs. THEODORE L. DE LAND.

Washington, D. C.

THE NEXT THING.

Many a questioning, many a fear,
Many a doubt, hath its quieting here;
Moment by moment, let down from heaven,
Time, opportunity, guidance are given;
Fear not to-morrows, child of the King!
Trust them with Jesus—"Do the next thing."

Do it immediately, do it with prayer,
Do it reliantly, casting all care;
Do it with reverence, tracing His hand
Who hath placed it before thee with earnest command;
Stayed on Omnipotence, safe 'neath His wing,
Leave all resultings—"Do the next thing."

Sent by Katherine Phillips.

The following clever and pertinent lines were written by a T. S. S. member—a principal of one of the public schools of this city:

THE EXPLODED DEVIL.

Men don't believe in a devil now, as their fathers used to do;
They have opened the door of the widest creed to let His Majesty through,
And there isn't a print of his cloven foot, nor a fiery dart from his bow,
To be found in earth or air to-day, for the world has voted it so.

But who is mixing the terrible draught that palsies heart and brain?
Who loads the bier of each passing year with ten hundred thousand slain?
Who blights the bloom of the earth to-day with the fiery breath of hell?
If the devil isn't and never was, won't somebody rise and tell?

Who dogs the steps of the toiling saint? Who digs the pits for his feet?
Who sows the tares in the fields of time wherever God sows the wheat?
The devil is voted not to be, and of course the thing is true,
But who is doing the terrible work which the devil alone should do?

We're told that he does not go about like a roaring lion now,
But whom shall we hold responsible for the everlasting row
To be heard in Church and State to-day, to earth's remotest bound,
If the devil by unanimous vote is nowhere to be found?

Won't somebody step to the front forthwith and make his bow and show
How the frauds and crimes of a single day spring up? We'd like to know.
The devil is voted not to be, and of course the devil's gone,
But simple people would like to know who carries his business on.

C. E.

MRS. DAY SAYS SHE LOVES CUBA.

WAS DR. DIAZ'S SECRETARY AND KNEW MANY WAR SECRETS.

Mrs. Rachel F. Day, who was private secretary to Dr. A. J. Diaz, the Cuban patriot, for some time, and was thus drawn into close touch with the revolutionary movement, said a few days ago, in the course of an interesting talk with a Tribune reporter at her home, No. 13 West Twenty-second-st.:

"At the time that I was with Dr. Diaz he was engaged in establishing the American headquarters of the Cuban White Cross Society at Atlanta, Ga., as, owing to some international complications, our own Clara Barton had been debarred from the privilege of extending the merciful offices of her society to the wounded Cuban soldiers. Dr. Diaz established on the field many hospitals, and it was in this work I was most closely associated with him. It was my privilege to drape battle-scarred flags above the door of our offices, and to hold in sacred touch letters from General Maceo.

"To tell of the thrilling reports that came to us direct, of the hopes and the fears that flashed over us, and of the keen watch for Spanish spies would take too long. We did have one interesting spy, but he was found out in a short time, and sent away in a rather disconsolate condition.

"I came near getting a whiff of battle smoke myself, as it was the wish of Dr. Diaz that I should accompany him to Cuba as special correspondent of an American newspaper. We were to make Jamaica our headquarters, and to get news direct from Gomez by mounted couriers. Indeed, we were in correspondence with Gomez, as well as with the President of the Cuban Republic, Cisneros, receiving many letters with the official insignia of that executive. It was a tempting offer to one of my adventurous temperament, and the salary was not bad, but there were peculiar difficulties just at that time besetting the various filibustering expeditions, and I decided not to make the trip.

"Of course, as my work was confidential, I cannot be explicit, though I might tell a great deal—in fact, I was sometimes possessed of information that was almost oppressive in its importance, but, although a woman, I did not 'tell.' Many horrible stories of Spain's cruelty were brought to us by eye-witnesses. I love Cuba, and look forward with much anxiety to the near future, when the Dons will have to leave the people they have wronged and oppressed so long."

SOCIETY FOR WEAKLY CHILDREN.

A good work is being carried out in London by the Childhood Society among the dunces and weakly children, who otherwise would be unable to make any show in their classes, would sink into the background and grow up practically uneducated. It is founded principally to promote the study of educational methods of children during the years of school life, and the environment best suited to insure their mental and physical development, especially those who are feeble, either mentally or bodily, and unable to advance with the others. Its business is also to "supply information" and diffuse knowledge on points connected with the mental and physical status of children and to promote the training of teachers especially qualified to deal with such little ones. This society is doing good service to the State as well as to the children themselves, and makes capable working men and women out of what would otherwise be helpless paupers.

TRAVEL A FACTOR IN EDUCATION.

PROFESSOR ALDEN DOES NOT FAVOR "PERSONALLY CONDUCTED TOURS."

The regular monthly meeting of the Froebel Society of Brooklyn was held yesterday afternoon, at Froebel Academy, Mrs. Charles Underhill presiding. The programme was under the direction of the Educational Committee, Mrs. J. N. Wright, chairman, and the lecturer for the afternoon was Professor E. K. Alden, of Packer Institute, who spoke on "Travel as a Factor in Education." Professor Alden said in part: "Travel is most educational in that it causes one to acquire a vast amount of new facts, it works directly on the faculty of observation, which is quickened, and it necessarily develops the habits of concentration and reflection. Closely allied to these come the increased faculty for comparison, the developing of breadth and the elimination of provincialism. No one can travel without acquiring greater culture." Professor Alden illustrated these points by anecdotes.

"Teachers are benefited by travel," he said, "for in no other occupation is one so apt to fall into a groove, and drop into narrowness, as in this.

"Travel is also absolutely indispensable to the special student, and to scholars of all classes it is most beneficial. This is perhaps recognized more fully in Germany than in any other country. There small classes of about ten boys take periodical trips to famous places with their tutor, and their minds are trained to take in and preserve the points of interest."

The popular "personally conducted tours," the lecturer thought to be too hurried to be a help to travellers.

Among those present were Mrs. William C. Redfield, Mrs. Charles Adams, Mrs. E. K. Alden, Mrs. A. E. Barlow, Miss Murphy, Mrs. F. J. Barrett, Mrs. J. E. Beatty, Mrs. W. D. Munson, Mrs. C. N. Fairbanks, Mrs. Howard Wood, Mrs. C. W. Binkerd, Mrs. Charles N. Chadwick, Mrs. D. L. Buckman, Mrs. J. N. Gilbert, Mrs. Charles Underhill and Mrs. Benjamin.

The next meeting will be held in the rooms at Froebel Academy, Lafayette-ave., on Monday, April 4.

WORK OF THE CIVITAS CLUB.

MANY MEETINGS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED AND PRIZES HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO MEMBERS FOR THE BEST FICTION AND ESSAYS—A RECEPTION TO JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS.

The next regular meeting of the Civitas Club, Brooklyn, will be held to-morrow afternoon in Association Hall, Fulton and Bond sts., and John Graham Brooks will deliver the last of his series of lectures on "Ideals of a New Society." His subject will be, "William Morris, the Poet; Beauty and Life." The club will tender a reception to Mr. Brooks on the evening of March 16, and a large number of representative citizens have accepted invitations to be present. Among expected guests are ex-Mayor and Mrs. Charles A. Schieren, ex-Mayor and Mrs. Frederick W. Wurster, Judge and Mrs. W. J. Gaynor, Judge and Mrs. Willard Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Orr, the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Lyman Abbott, the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. A. J. F. Behrends, the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Thomas B. McLeod, the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Duryea, Dr. and Mrs. David H. Cochran, Dr. and Mrs. Charles H. Levermore, Dr. and Mrs. Truman J. Backus, Dr. and Mrs. Caskie Harrison, Miss Christina Rounds, Miss Katharine Woodward and Miss Clara Colton.

The next members' day will be Wednesday, March 23, and a meeting will be held at the home of Miss Katherine L. Maltby, No. 160 Joralemon-st. The programme is being arranged by the Committee on Government and Social Science. Among the speakers will be Miss Leonora O'Reilly, of the Working Girls' Union; Mrs. Archibald Sessions, of the Consumers' League, and Miss Edna Stilwell Doughty.

A special meeting of the Art and City Improvement Committee is called for the afternoon of Friday, March 25, at the home of Miss Marie Planten, No. 44 Eighth-ave. All the members of the club are invited as guests of the committee, and an illustrated stereopticon lecture will be given by Woodruff Leeming, one of the young architects of the city. His subject will be "The Possibilities of Municipal Art in Our City." Last week's meeting of the Art and City Improvement Committee was held at the home of Miss Adele Page, No. 397 Grand-ave., and papers were read by Mrs. T. Alfred Vernon, Miss Helena M. Faris, Miss Laurabel Hart, Miss Caroline D. Camp and Miss Marion Richardson.

Two prizes have been offered by the club, one for the best piece of fiction, and the other for the best paper on an historical, literary or sociological subject, or on travels. The contest is open to club members, and the work is to be handed in before the end of this month. A committee of judges has been appointed, composed of Mrs. Tunis G. Bergen, Mrs. Frederick Truslow and Mrs. Glentworth L. Butler. The prize story and essay and some of the other pieces will be read at the last meeting of the year, to be held in April.

STORIES OF THE STARS.

Miss Mary Proctor gave an illustrated lecture for children last night on the "Stories of the Stars" at the Church of the Holy Innocents, Hoboken, N. J. After referring to the well-known Grecian legends she told many quaint modern legends with regard to the Great and Little Dipper; the seven fair daughters of Atlas, the Pleiades, and myths of the Milky Way. According to the American Indians this is the "Path of Souls" leading to the villages in the sun. Along the pathway travel the spirits of the dead, and the brighter stars are the "campfires for their night encampments on their solitary journey to the land of the hereafter."

The Japanese term the Milky Way the "Silver River of Heaven," and tell a pretty legend of the Spinning Maiden, who crosses this river once a year on a bridge made of doves. On the other side of the river she meets her Shepherd Boy, and the "meeting of the star-lovers" is celebrated alike by young and old throughout Japan. According to a Swedish legend, the Milky Way was built by two unfortunate mortals, who while on earth loved each other, but after death were doomed on different stars, far, far apart, to dwell.

She was Salami the Fair—
Bold Zulamith was he.

The bright idea occurred to them of making a bridge of light, spanning the space from star to star, till they reached each other.

They toiled and built a thousand years
In love's all-powerful might;
And so the Milky Way was made—
A starry bridge of light.

And when the bridge was completed, we are told that Salami the Fair and Zulamith the Bold

Straight rushed into each other's arms
And melted into one;
So they became the brightest star
In heaven's high arch that dwelt—
Great Sirius, the mighty sun
Beneath Orion's belt.

MISS JULIA C. VARICK'S FUNERAL.

The funeral of Miss Julia C. Varick, who died on Saturday at her home, No. 258 Fourth-ave., at the age of seventy-six years, was held yesterday at the house. T. R. Varick writes to The Tribune to say that the statement in the obituary notice of Miss Varick, that she was "the last member of a family which has been prominent in New-York and American history," is not entirely correct, as, although she was the last of her generation, many descendants of the family are now living in New-York and other places, including the family of the late Cornelius Van Santvoord, the Pell family of Brooklyn, the Varick families of Poughkeepsie and many others, and that the late Dr. Theodore Romeyne Varick, of Jersey City, was a great nephew of Colonel Richard Varick, and left children.

INTREPID AS A WHEELWOMAN.

The champion non-professional wheelwoman of America is a resident of the staid and conventional city of Worcester, in the prim and decorous State of Massachusetts. Her name is Mrs. A. M. C. Allen, and her record for 1897 is 21,026 miles, ridden in 266 days. This is 10,206 miles more than any other woman's record in the United States. In the record, 117 centuries are included. For the information of those who do not understand the technique of wheel language, it may be mentioned that a "century" is a ride of one hundred miles in a day.

The recital of the dangers Mrs. Allen has passed is almost as thrilling as Othello's "hairbreadth 'scapes." Dog bites, a sprained ankle, a dislocated foot and such trifles were disregarded as far as possible, and the plucky "bicyclienne" pushed on with a determination and ardor unknown even to many men.

SOROSIS ELECTS OFFICERS.

Sorosis held its annual election yesterday morning at the Waldorf, and chose chairmen of standing committees for the ensuing year. There were two tickets, but the regular one was elected without any "scratching." It was as follows:

Ways and Means, Miss Hannah Allen, re-elected; musical director, Mrs. Gertrude F. Hess; Reception, Mrs. Lydia R. Coffin, re-elected; Literature, Miss Nellie Kingman; Art, Mrs. Emily Palmer Cape; Drama, Mrs. Mary L. Bergholz; Philanthropy, Mrs. Emily E. Williamson; Science, Mrs. Florence De Graff Shaw; Education, Mrs. Sarah Conant Ostram, re-elected; House and Home, Mrs. Margaret Hugh Dean, and Current Events, Mrs. Minnie Croly Douglas.

THREE ILLUSTRATED LECTURES.

GARRETT P. SERVISS TALKS OF SPAIN AND WILLIAM FREELAND OF NORWAY—MR. HOLMES CONTINUES HIS COURSE.

An audience of flattering dimensions greeted Mr. Serviss at the Lyceum Theatre yesterday morning, and in other respects also his Lenten course of lectures at that place of entertainment was happily initiated. The speaker remarked at the outset that the political complications which just now involved the relations of this country with Spain could not impair the interest of cultivated people in the wonders of Gothic architecture, the marvellous Moorish civilization, the deeds of valor performed in the redemption of the peninsula from Saracenic rule, and a host of other historic, romantic and picturesque elements inherent in his subject. Faith in the reality of the great Spanish hero, the Cid, was affirmed, and popular incredulity in regard to such characters was earnestly deprecated—sentiments which elicited hearty applause. After a hasty résumé of the story of the Moorish invasion of Spain, and of the successive steps by which the Christians recovered the land, Mr. Serviss led his hearers from Burgos, in the north, past Escurial, through Madrid, Toledo, Cordova and Seville, to Granada, in the south. The salient features of the more famous cathedrals and palaces were pointed out. Glimpses of market place, tortuous street, graceful and ancient bridge and beautiful olive orchard were afforded. That great Spanish institution, the bullfight, was so vividly described that one could almost hear the toreador's rousing song from "Carmen" even while one shuddered at this revelation of human cruelty. The glories of the Alhambra also received much attention. Graphic, handsomely colored slides illustrated the lecture. The operation of the lantern was effective, realizing Charles Lamb's ideal of "swift and silent service" at dinner. After all, though, the two chief attractions of the talk were its fine literary quality and that charm of manner by which Mr. Serviss always, unconsciously to himself, wins the hearts of an audience.

A new lecturer, William Freeland, appeared at Wallack's Theatre yesterday morning and began a course, or, rather, a pair of courses, for the benefit of the Chapel Hill Fresh Air Mission. The audience was smaller than the interest of the lecture and the excellence of the object deserved. The subject was "Norway." The lecture was illuminated by a fine set of pictures, with excellent coloring. The opportunities for picturesqueness which the country offers are, of course, great, and Mr. Freeland took good advantage of them. He described and illustrated scenes, objects and people from Stockholm to the North Cape, ending, as such a lecture naturally does, with the midnight sun. The lecture will be repeated, as the first of Course B, this afternoon at 3 o'clock. The second lecture of Course A, on "Spain," will be given to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

E. Burton Holmes lectured on "Oases of the Algerian Sahara" at Daly's Theatre yesterday morning, and the richness of his subject provided an abundance of variety to the views which were exhibited. When the eyes of the audience were not searching long vistas of sand, they were rested in fertile groves of the date palm or on the cool gray of the Algerian dawn. Algeria was described as a new and fascinating playground, where the great desert lies like a sleeping ocean, beckoning with an irresistible fascination. The picturesqueness of the views suggested the appropriateness of the description.

The methods of travel over the great wastes, the simplicity of the natives and the achievements of French engineers in the gorges of Chabet were dwelt upon by the lecturer, who also gave a description of La Telegraphe Optique, by which a message was transmitted to Chicago from Tougourt, in the heart of the Sahara Desert. At intervals of thirty-five mi