

SOCIAL EVENTS

Choral Club Praised.
The current issue of the Musical Courier contains an article from Clarksburg concerning the Marcato Choral Club, together with a reproduction of a photograph of the club taken at the First Methodist Episcopal church.

The article is as follows:
Over 1,000 musical people greeted the initial performance of the Marcato Choral Club, March 14, at the First Methodist Episcopal church. The good spirit which existed among the singers was imparted to the listeners, whose thorough enjoyment of each and every number was evidenced by the repeated encores of the well selected program sung by the chorus of sixty voices, conducted by Mrs. W. Lee Williams. This concert showed to a remarkable degree the talent and interest in music that Clarksburg possesses and which has been brought to light by the efforts of Mrs. Williams and the Marcato Music Club.

Too much praise cannot be given Mrs. Williams for the able manner in which she conducted the chorus. In fact, the accuracy and zest with which the chorus sang was due to her artistic interpretation as well as her personal magnetism. Mrs. Homer Williams, a talented musician of the club, played the difficult accompaniments in a sympathetic and artistic manner. Miss Cora M. Atchison, president of the club, read a well written paper on the aims and purposes of the Marcato Music Club, which was well received.

Those who assisted the club were Genevieve Elliott, Harriet Lippman, of Weimar, Germany, a cousin of Miss Elliott, who has lately arrived in this country, and Dr. Charles L. Moore, of Pittsburgh.

The program was opened by a well played organ number (prelude in B flat, by Ed. Read) by Mrs. Ray Cupet, followed by the "Tannhauser" chorus, "Hall, Bright Abode," Miss Elliott's bell-like voice was heard with great pleasure in a group of three songs—"Welcome, Sweet Morn" (Cadmant), "Goodbye, Sweet Rose" (Harting), and "Fairy Pipers" (Brewer). For an encore she gave "Jean," by Spross.

Dr. Moore sang "The Toreador Song" from "Carmen"; "The Muleteer of Zarragona," by Henjro, and for encore he gave the "Blandiere," by Stewart, and "The Chip of Old Block," Dr. Moore endeared himself to the hearts of Clarksburgers, as was evidenced by the great applause and the encores he was obliged to give. Miss Lippman sang "Ich Liebe Dich" (Grieg) and "Florin's Song"

(Godard). The last she was obliged to repeat. Miss Elliott and Miss Lippman sang three duets in a beautiful manner, "Wanderer's Night Song" (Rubenstein), "The Angel" and "The May Belle and the Flowers," by Mendelssohn. The full chorus sang "The Miller's Wooing," by Fanning, and "Italia" ("Luceria"), by Donizetti. The ladies' chorus sang Nevin's "Little Boy Blue" in a sweet, tender manner. The "Soldiers' Chorus" from "Faust" was sung in a masterly manner by the male chorus.

The Marcato Music Club has done a good work in giving to Clarksburg a chorus that will mean so much to the musical life of the community.

Flower Luncheon for Spring.

A flower luncheon is a form of post-Easter entertainment that can be made as gay and festive as the sweet spring itself. To carry this entertainment out successfully the house—or at least the reception and dining rooms—should literally be decked out in flowers. Easter lilies are good enough in their way; but, remember, they are a heavy tropical plant and not half so suggestive of our April showers and sunshine as are daffodils, arbutus, tulips, crocuses, snowdrops, jonquils or even pansies and violets—any of the sweet faint-scented blooms of American spring time.

The table decorations, of course, should be all in one flower—at least in one color combined with white or green. Jonquils and daffodils, with their own stiff, waxy green leaves; pale purple hyacinths standing stiffly as a centerpiece, with a bunch of violets at each place; arbutus trailing over the table with ferns—these are suggestions for pink, violet and yellow color schemes.

The place cards should be flower-trimmed, of course. Cards cut and painted to represent flowers may be used, or if you are following out the violet-decoration scheme, a dainty white card to which three or four violets are tied with a tiny bow of lavender ribbon makes a suggestive place card.

Nothing is prettier for favors at this flower luncheon than a handful of flowers laid at each guest's place, and these, of course, help decorate the table. Small boxes of bonbons trimmed with paper flowers are also pretty favors.

The menu should be as crisp and dainty as possible. There should be no heavy, highly seasoned dishes, and much attention should be paid to a fresh green salad. Nowadays flowers are sometimes used to decorate the food we eat. As a perfect blossom of flower used for the table decoration would not be out of place on the salad, it is needless to remind the hostess that it should be as thoroughly washed as lettuce or water-cress or any other green thing that goes on the table.

Fashion Paragraphs.

Aprons and smocks are still worn for gardening—or for gathering the fruits of the garden, floral or edible, which is what most women's gardening consists. At all events there are some charming little gardening aprons, with deep pockets at the knees, that are quite as practical as they are becoming. They serve not only to keep the frock beneath clean, but they give a place to carry scissors, pruning shears and other small garden accessories.

A sort of criss-cross fastening at the front of the blouse is attractive—that is to say, the buttonholes alternate, first on one side then on the other, of the blouse, and are worked in little points or tabs to extend in criss-cross fashion over the other front.

Changeable taffeta is smartly used in afternoon frocks. Yokes are featured in some of the new frocks. They are sometimes called guilms, but they really give the effect of yokes. They are round, square and pointed in outline.

Aprons, usually of lace are featured in many new frocks. They are capable of decidedly decorative treatment.

Pockets fascinate us all, and those in silk frocks, lined with a shirred lining of chiffon in contrasting color,

are especially pretty. Some of them are almost like bags in form.

Balls or tassels on the ends of sashes for coats, frocks and negligees are used.

The irregular lower line is maintained by many skirt hems. Sometimes there is a regular scallop, sometimes the skirt is in deep points and sometimes it is simply looped up a bit at the sides to dip down back and front.

Velvet ribbon is used for sash ends.

There are many possibilities of prettiness in long, transparent sleeves. They are invariably finished attractively around the hands.

Married at Parsonage.

Edward D. Smith and Miss Elsie Louk, both of this city, were married at 3:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon at the parsonage of the First Methodist Episcopal church by the Rev. W. D. King.

Song Recital.

There will be a song recital under the auspices of the Katherine Doan Club in the First Presbyterian church at 8:15 o'clock Friday night, May 5, with the following program:

- Lillian Brandon Spang, soprano.
- Clarence Everett Spang, baritone.
- Jessie Renshaw, accompanist.
- Duet—"I Know a Bark Whereon the Wild Thyme Blooms".....Charles E. Horr
- Maesuhia.....Rermet Macmurrough
- At Dawning.....Charles Wakefield Cadman
- The Nightingale's Song.....Ethelbert Nevin
- Miss Spang.
- The Morning Wind.....Gena Brancoski
- Wind Song.....James H. Rogers
- Out on the Deep.....L. W. Lohr
- Mr. Spang.
- Duet—"Wanderer's Night Song".....The Hunter.....Anton Rubinstein
- The Angel.....H. R. Bishop
- Blid Me Discourse.....Miss Spang.
- Aus meinen grossen Schmerzen.....Robert Franz
- Licht.....Christian Sinding
- Gut'Nacht.....Anton Rubinstein
- Mr. Spang.
- Duet—"Passage-bird's Farewell".....Eugen Hildach
- Kein Feuer-keine Kohle.....Cyril Scott
- A Little Maiden Loves a Boy.....H. Clough-Leligher
- A Spirit Flower.....Campbell-Lipton
- Miss Spang.
- Blondina.....Fr. N. Lohr
- Where My Caravan Has Rested.....Herman Lohr
- The Pipes of Gold.....William G. Hammond
- Mr. Spang.

SOIL SURVEY OF TWO COUNTIES IN THE STATE

As Recently Made by Federal Government Shows Most Interesting Conditions.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—A report of the soil survey of McDowell and Wyoming counties, recently conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture and the West Virginia Geological Survey, has just been published by the federal government. This report covers thirty-two printed pages and includes a large map showing in colors the various soils found in the county, also location of railroads, highways, streams, churches, schools, etc.

In McDowell county, says the report, the development of the coal fields has led to a decline in farming. At present the land suitable for agriculture consists largely of the flatish ridge tops, the hillsides being in general too steep and rocky for cultivation. On these hilltops, and on the few remaining patches of bottom lands, many farmers are profitably engaged in supplying the demands of mining towns for truck crops and fruits. General farming and stock raising are engaged in by only a few. Most of the stock is grazed upon the open range, small quantities of grain and hay being fed during the winter.

Different in Wyoming.
In Wyoming county the conditions are different. The coal fields are not so extensively developed, and most of the bottom lands are given over to general farming and stock raising. A large acreage is in pasture and the open range affords good grazing. The distance from markets is usually too great to permit of commercial trucking being profitable.

Corn has always been grown on an acreage slightly larger than that occupied by all the other cultivated crops. On the uplands the yields range from ten to fifteen bushels per acre, and from twenty to twenty in good seasons. On the bottom lands the yields are much higher. Sorghum is grown in nearly all sections of the area, usually in small fields. Most of it is planted on terrace land. Grasses do not thrive well on the majority of the soils in the area. Good blue grass sod, however, can be obtained by seeding. If the sod gives out in the course of five or six years it is best to reestablish it by using the land for cultivated crops before reseeding. Lime or manure is beneficial. The area sowed to clover and timothy mixed for hay is over half as large as that sowed to timothy alone. The ordinary yield is slightly less than one ton per acre. Cowpeas are grown to some extent for hay and usually are harvested with a volunteer crop of crab grass. The yield is heavy and the combination makes good hay. Lespedeza grows luxuriantly in abandoned fields where the

soil is not too sandy or the drainage too poor, and gives some pasturage.

Tobacco Would Pay.

Tobacco, the report continues, could probably be made a paying crop on the small farms, as it is grown successfully upon the soil types in other parts of West Virginia. Irish potatoes are grown for the local markets, but are not produced on an extensive commercial scale. The climatic conditions and soils seem to be favorable to this industry, however, and it might be made one of the best paying in the section. The yield of sweet potatoes on the sandy bottom lands are fair, but the potatoes are not of the best quality. Beans, peas, cabbage, turnips, tomatoes, onions, pumpkins, kale, carrots, spinach, radishes, green peas and cucumbers are the vegetables which are grown most extensively for local markets. An early truck crop may be succeeded by corn, or after a late crop a volunteer growth of crab grass may be allowed to take possession of the field, and later cut for hay.

There are a few commercial apple orchards, but those of the apple orchards which are well cared for bring good returns. Peach orchards also are rare, and pears, plums and grapes are not grown on a commercial scale. A large number of persons devote a great part of their time to gathering wild medicinal herbs and roots.

Beef Cattle.

The raising of beef cattle is more important than any other form of animal husbandry. Many of the cattle men have pure bred or good grade Shorthorn bulls. The sheep which are used for mutton are mainly scrub stock and little attention is paid to breeding. This is true to a certain extent of hogs, though many farmers keep pure bred boars and breed to grade or native stock sows. The Poland China crossed with the native mountain hog produces a type that is a good ranger and can be fattened when confined.

Little attention is paid to the adaptation of the various soils to particular crops. Much of the corn crop, for example, is grown on soil that produces not more than ten bushels per acre, and that would give much better returns if put in grass and grazed. Leguminous crops are not generally grown, although cowpeas, soy beans and vetch would do well over most of the area.

Peanuts for Hogs.

Sweet potatoes and peanuts, which do well on the sandy bottom lands, could be grown to advantage for fattening hogs. The ridge soils are well suited for Irish potatoes, and with moderately heavy applications of commercial fertilizer good yields can be obtained. Most of the soils of the area are in need of lime, which is within easy reach of the farmers of this area.

No special form of rotation is practiced, and some farmers grow one crop year after year in the same field. A rotation which has proved successful in other counties with similar conditions is corn; oats followed by cowpeas; wheat, timothy and clover; hay two years; buckwheat. If pasture is desired, blue grass may be sowed with wheat following buckwheat.

Soils.

Twelve distinct soil types are found in Wyoming and McDowell counties, classified according to their color, origin, and general characteristics into five soil series. Two of these series occupy the uplands, one the second terraces, and two the bottom lands of the area. The upland soils belong to the Dekalb and Uphur series. In addition, there is an area of rough stony land occurring on the steep slopes along the streams.

The Dekalb soils have gray to brown surmaces with yellow to yellowish brown subsols. Five types are found in this area—the fine sandy loam, the stony silt loam, the loam, the silty clay loam, and the silt loam. Of these, the stony silt loam is by far the most extensive, occupying seventy-two per cent of the total area and approximately eighty per cent of the uplands. The area covered by this type is steep and broken and the soil is of little agricultural value. Its best use is for forestry or pasture.

Over the western half of the two counties it covers almost the entire uplands. On the small portion that is under cultivation, corn is the principal crop, yielding from ten to forty bushels to the acre. Wheat, buckwheat, oats, and hay are not grown to any important extent because of the difficulty of harvesting. Brier berries grow wild and abundantly, and undoubtedly could be very successfully grown under cultivation. Tobacco is grown in small patches for home use. On this soil in other counties in West Virginia, Burley tobacco of excellent quality, is produced.

Extensive Soil Type.

The Dekalb silt loam is the second most extensive soil type in the area. It occurs upon the hill tops and ridges over the eastern half of the territory and small strips in the western half, occupying altogether about sixteen per cent of the area. The drainage is good and the soil is easily cultivated, requiring only comparatively light draft stock and equipment. Altogether not exceptionally strong, it is readily susceptible to improvement. The principal crops are corn, oats, wheat, buckwheat, hay, sorghum, and vegetables. It about this soil that most of the truck sold in the mining towns is grown. Cabbage, beans, turnips, beets and sweet corn are the principal market products. All fruits, but especially apples, do well. Burley tobacco in other parts of the state produces good yields of an excellent quality on this type. Very little commercial fertilizer is applied, stable manure being hauled from mine stables. This appears to be sufficient for the present, but in order to continue the production of heavy crops of vegetables, the use of commercial fertilizers may become necessary.

The other types in the Dekalb series are extensive. The silty clay loam, however, is regarded as the strongest upland soil in the area and is better suited to grass, wheat and clover than the other soils. It is found on ridge tops along the eastern boundary of the area.

Upland Soils.

The second series of upland soils is the Uphur. Only one type is found in the area—the stony clay loam. This is dark brown to reddish

brown to a depth of about six or eight inches, where it grades into a subsoil of Indian red clay loam to clay. Both soil and subsoil are friable when dry, and plastic when wet. The steeper slopes are usually thickly strewn with rocks. This soil is found in the southern part of the area, occupying the lowest slopes of the stream valleys. Its steepness and its large content of stones prevent its being of much agricultural value. A large part of it is in pasture. On the cultivated portion corn is the principal crop, and good yields are usually obtained. The harvesting of oats, wheat and buckwheat is difficult. Fruit trees do not seem to thrive, but small fruits and brier fruits could be successfully grown. The soil, it is said, can be utilized for stock raising. It supports a good grass sod and clover does well.

The Holston silt loam and fine sandy loam, which occupy the second terraces, have yellowish brown to brown surface soils and yellow subsoils. They are neither of them extensive. In McDowell county most of the fine sandy loam is occupied by towns or coal fields, although there are a few highly developed truck gardens. In Wyoming county the greater part of the type is cleared and under cultivation. The soil is easy to cultivate and responds readily to the use of stable manure and the growing of legumes. Practically all of the silt loam is cleared and used either for the production of hay and cultivated crops or for pasturage. One acre is sufficient to pasture one steer. From an agricultural standpoint, the soil is one of the best in the area. The most extensive stretches of it are those along Clear fork of Guyandot river. This soil could be advantageously used for trucking. It lies too low for fruit production on a commercial scale, but there are home orchards on it. This soil remains wet longer than the lighter sandy soils, and it plowed when too wet undesirable clodding results.

Fine Sandy Loam.
The first bottoms are occupied by the Huntington and Holly soils. Of the two types in the Huntington series the silt loam is a strong soil, producing good crops of corn, hay and sorghum without the use of fertilizers. The largest area lies along Clear fork of Guyandot river and the tributaries of that stream. The fine sandy loam, while fairly extensive, is occupied for the most part in McDowell county by towns, coal mines and coal dumps. In Wyoming county the greater part of it is under cultivation. It responds readily to applications of fertilizers and stable and green manure.

The Holly silt loam is grayish on the surface and underlain by a heavy silt loam that is mottled gray, drab and yellow. This soil is subject to overflow, and, owing to its compact and impervious subsoil and level surfaces, the drainage is poor. It furnishes excellent pasturage and produces good grass even in very dry seasons. Probably three-fourths of it is in pasture and probably one-half of the remainder is used for hay. The drainage is too poor for orchards to succeed and better drainage is the first requisite in improving the type. The application of lime and the incorporation of organic matter would probably be beneficial also.

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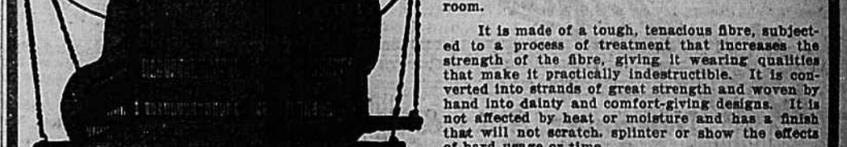


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