

FIVE MINUTE TALKS.

"IN THE FOREST OF ARDEN."

Commencement Programmes at North Louisiana Institution.

Sweet Peas and Jessamines.

NOTES AND PERSONALS.

Dainty invitations from the Shakespeare Circle for Tuesday, May 25, read, "In the Forest of Arden, As You Like It."

The wide spreading, velvety lawn, the delicious air, the freshness, the fragrance, everywhere—surely no sport on earth could have been lovelier than this twentieth century, "Forest of Arden," the home of Mrs M F Smith, and no hostesses more charming than the gracious ladies whose thought had conceived the idea of a fête champêtre for their May gathering.

Souvenir cards inscribed with Shakespeare couplets and ornamented with sweet peas were presented to the guests. Out under arches of green, the leafy boughs of sycamore meeting overhead, and by hedges of sweet peas, this "goodie company" strolled and sipped nectar, loes being served on pretty tables on the lawn. Mrs Smith was assisted in receiving by Mrs Leon Smith and Mrs Milton Smith of Mexico, and the members of the Shakespeare Circle, as follows: Mrs J G Paty, president, and Miss E B Rand, W F Taylor, J B Foster, H H Prescott, Whitfield Jack, George Hearse and Miss Walters.

Club Entertainments

Miss Kate Jones, president of the Merian Club, entertained the members at her home, Tuesday afternoon. Miss Jones is one of the most gifted young women in the State, and it was a pleasure for these literary young workers to assemble at the invitation of their leader for an evening of social intercourse. Games and refreshments were enjoyed under the beautiful oaks.

Mrs Will Igersoll was the gracious hostess of the Century Club, Thursday afternoon. Despite the lowering sky the club's members were all present, and several guests of the club. Delicious refreshments were served at the close of the games.

Choir Boys Entertained

The boys of St Mark's choir were entertained by Mrs M H Williams, at her home, Friday afternoon. A number of pretty games were played and the evening passed merrily. Refreshments of cream and cakes were served. Mrs Williams was assisted in entertaining by Mrs G G Nesbitt and Miss Edith Spearling and Louise Dean.

Dr Spearling and Prof Phillips were among the guests and contributed largely to the pleasure of the evening.

Commencement Week

The past week has been notably a week of school commences over the State. The State Normal School closed the most successful session in its history, May 29. Gov Heard and State Superintendent Calhoun were present. Gov Heard awarded the diplomas.

Louisiana Industrial Institute

We are indebted to the graduating class of the Louisiana Industrial Institute for an invitation to the commencement exercises which will be held in the Institute Chapel, Tuesday morning, June 4, at 11 o'clock. The following programme will be rendered:

PROGRAMME.

- Hy an..... Prof Carson
Prayer..... Miss Agnes Calhoun
Oration—A Plea for the Intelligent Home-maker..... Jane Estelle Pitts
Music—Overture..... Misses Manning
Oration—Southern Development, Demands, and Possibilities..... Elmo F Lee
Music—Double Quartette, Solo.....
Address to Graduates.....
Gov Beaton McMillan
Music—Piano Solo..... Miss Manning
Presentation of Diplomas.....
Gov W W Heard

Louisiana State University

The commencement exercises of the Louisiana State University and A and M College, will be held in Gary Hall, June 5, at 10 o'clock.

Twenty-two young men will receive degrees, as follows:

GRADUATES.

- George Worthen Agee, Jr, B.S.
David Arthur Blackshear, B.A.
Thomas Duckett Boyd, Jr, B.S.
Daniel Cohn, B.A.
James Marvin Cunningham, B.A.
William Robbuds Goynes, B.S.
Braxton Honore Guilbeau, B.S.
Robert Daniel Harp, B.S.
Joseph Gabriel LeBlanc, Jr, B.S.
Andrew Arthur McBride, B.S.
Robert Herman McCas, B.E.
Gilbert Collins Mills, Jr, B.S.
John Joseph Munding, B.S.
Frederick Fisher Pillet, B.S.
Charles David Raymond, B.S.
Walter Bailey Robert, B.S.
Charles Ernest Schwing, B.A.
Ivan Henry Schwink, B.S.
Henry Skilpwith Singletary, B.S.
Mack M White, B.S.
Ralph Farham Rhodes, C.E.
Luther Archibald Youngs, O.E.

Mansfield College

Closing exercises of Mansfield College will begin June 6 and continue through the week.

PROGRAMME.

- Concert..... June 6, 8:30 p m
Entertainment..... June 7, 8:30 p m
Commencement Sermon..... June 8, 11 a m
Rev J B Moore.
Class Day..... June 10, 8:30 p m

Alumni Day..... June 11, 10:30 a m
Annual Concert..... June 11, 8:30 p m
Commencement Day..... June 12, 10:30 a m
Annual Address..... Dr S S Keener

GRADUATES.

- Miss Eugenia Dora Moore, M E L.
Miss Mary Arzalia Plokeis, M E L.
Miss Gertrude Belle Wemple, M E L.
Miss Bertha Maude Jay, A B.
Miss Mabel Pierce Jenkins, A B.
Miss Margaret Addella Calhoun, A B.
Miss Lizzie Sligh Calhoun, A B.
Miss Mary Ophelia Baker, A B.
Miss Ida Lula Priggle, A B.
Miss Nancy Antanette McCasland, A B.
Miss Elizabeth Lyles, A B.
Miss Stella Elizabeth Caraway, A B.
Prof and Mrs Sligh are among the foremost educators in the State, and their work at Mansfield speaks for itself.

The A M & F College

The Senior Class Exercises of the A M & F College, one of the best schools in North Louisiana, will take place Friday, June 7, at 10:30 a m.

Prof A M Roatan, who is at the head of the school, should feel justly proud of the splendid success of the year just closed.

PROGRAMME—SENIOR CLASS EXERCISES.

- Invocation—Rev Geo P Hooper, D D.
Piano Duet, Overture—Der Freischutz.
O M V Weber—Misses Marsalis and Rizer.
The Effect of Literature Upon Civilization—Miss Lizzie Belle Marsalis.
The Esquid—Miss Margaret V Theus.
Piano Solo—Au Matin, Gadard—Miss Ruby Oden.
Address—Prof H C Carson.
Piano Duet, Waltz—Die Schonbrunner.
Lantern—Misses Sue Allie Givens and Ruby Oden.
Granting Certificates—B Capers, President of Board.

For Literary Students

Here are some questions for high school students of English literature to answer:

- 1 What did William Tell?
2 Whom did David Swing?
3 What did Jane Cook?
4 What made Rider Haggard?
5 What did Charles Reed?
6 When did Julius Caesar?
7 Whom did Leigh Hunt?
8 What did John Steal?
9 Why did John Kilpatrick?
10 How long was Jane Short?
11 When did J I Painter?
12 What did Harriet Martineau?
13 What did Mary M Teller?
14 Why was Lawrence Stern?
15 Of what did Chas D Warner?
16 Where did John Strange Winter?
17 Whose ears did Franklin Pierce?
18 What made Lady Jane Grey?
19 Who-e fire did James K Polk?
20 Whom did Elisha Kent Kaese?
21 What was Charles F Worth?
22 What did Richard Marsh Hoe?
23 Where did Henry Cabot Lodge?
24 What did Mary Mapes Dodge?
25 In what water did Hamilton Fish?
26 Why did Henry Guy Carlton?
27 What made Hawley Smart?
28 What did Caroline Hazzard?
—Teachers' Advance.

Sweet Peas and Jessamines

Sweet pea culture has reached its height in Shreveport. The beautiful abundance of this dainty blossom has been seen in almost every garden, but the season is waning and soon they will be among the lovely things of the past. Just as they go the Cape Jessamine comes into full bloom. The most beautiful we have seen, and the first, were from the garden of our esteemed friend, Col C H Ardis.

American Women and Dress

The views on "The American Woman and Dress," expressed by Helen Watterston Moody, in The Ladies' Home Journal for June, are based on the marked differences in the way the different nationalities of women visitors at the Paris Exposition last summer treated the problem of clothes. The English women were gowned with the utmost regard for utility and comfort. The American and French women appeared in toilettes of silk and satin and lace which properly had no place whatever in the Exposition grounds. But while the French women's clothes were as beautiful as the American women's, and tulle of that indescribable charm called style, they were not nearly so easily. The cost of dressing grows greater every year, and the shifts of fashion are prompter and more imperative. Where the English woman goes plainly dressed with a serene mind the American woman "keeps up with the fashion," but lines her face with anxious thought as to how it shall all be managed. Our last season's gowns, perfectly fresh and just as pretty and suitable as ever, are altered and recut and retitled at the cost of many dollars and much time and hard work, not because they need it, not because we want to, either, but simply because Mrs Wood across the way, and Mrs Pope in the next street, are doing the same thing—and they are doing it because we are! The truth is, we American women not only lay too much emphasis upon dress, so that it takes quite too prominent a place in our scheme of life, but we also spend too much money on dress.

Personal

Mrs Edward Gregg, of Marshall, was the guest of Mrs T Alexanders last week. Mr Will Mason of Alexandria was in Shreveport Thursday, the guest of his aunt, Mrs Josephine Ford.

The many friends of Mrs Agnes Doncho, who have been so grieved at her recent severe illness, will be delighted to know that she is better.

We regret to hear of the illness of Mrs Amanda McDowell, at the home of her niece, Mrs H Rogers.

Miss Julia Pickett, accompanied by her cousin, Miss Pauline Rogers, and her friends, Misses Inez Boney, Althea Montgomery, Julia Steere and Julia Steer, returned home Friday morning from Harrodsburg, Ky., where they have been attending school at the Beaumont College. Mrs John McCabe, accompanied by her

little daughter, Mary, left yesterday evening for Kentucky, where she will visit her mother, who is ill.

Mr Herman Boetz of Pueblo, Colorado, and his wife, leaves this evening from their home after spending a delightful week in Shreveport visiting relatives.

USEFUL CLUBS FOR WOMEN

THE members of the clubs I have in mind never quarrel, so far as they have been heard from, and they are almost the only clubwomen of whom this can be said. The reason is they are working for the helping of their fellow citizens and the beautifying and improving of the localities in which they live and not to get themselves elected presidents.

The clubs I mean are the rural improvement societies among women. The old style rustic village and railway station were blisters on the face of the earth. The horror of them comes over me now as I sit and write this. I see still the piles of ashes, the foul remnants of the tobacco habit, the desolate, weed grown grounds, the vacant lots covered with things unspeakable. It was a credit to the young women and men of such a town that they got away from it as soon as they could. In that old style town children ran riot, and brutal drivers beat horses at will. These are the things the women's village improvement societies are changing. Let us take one, as an example, in an eastern state. Here are some of the things that club has done:

It has brought about that vacant lots are no longer to be used as dumping grounds for rubbish and disease breeding debris. It has made the railway station in particular as clean and pret-



IMPROVED VILLAGE STREET.

ty as a private house with a flower and shade tree lawn about it. It has attended to the beautifying of public parks and walks, to the cleaning and paving of the streets and the drainage and general sanitation of the whole place. Wherever in the vicinity there was natural scenery of an attractive character those women had it preserved and cared for. They divided themselves into committees, each one taking a particular topic to itself and attending to that. The farms about the village have caught the impetus and are cutting away the weeds from their fence lines and removing the pigsties from their front door vistas. The earth is becoming a thing of beauty for miles around where these blessed women live. They have created a public sentiment for better things.

There is a women's improvement club in the far south, at Lake Charles, near New Orleans. Here 18 ladies took on themselves the task of redeeming the rural aspects. They planted splendid live oak trees along driveways; they placed flowering shrubs along park walks. Attached to their village, as there is to most country places, was an abandoned cemetery, with its rank weeds, sunken graves and broken tombstones, a dank, nightmare spot, suggestive of suicide and ghost riding. The women had a hard task with that—one which tried all their powers—but they reconstructed the frightful old place, and they see that it is kept in order.

They turned their attention to the schoolhouses. They cleared up the grounds about them, planted trees and made the grass grow and taught the young ones to take pride in having a beautiful lawn around the building outside and artistic wall and other decorations inside. Besides that they obtained by subscriptions some valuable books for the public school libraries.

It is well usually to have men as members of these village improvement societies, to assist with their experience and money. But the business work of the organizations must be in nearly every case be done by women, because men cannot spare the time for it.

Whether farm life and village life shall be made attractive depends on the country women. If they do what is in their power, they can so improve and beautify the landscape as to raise the price of real estate in their neighborhoods. What is more, they can prevent to some extent the deplorable exodus of young people from the country to the cities. JANE STORY.

SUMMER FURNITURE.

Hints For the Woman Who is Opening Her Country House.

Dame Fashion not only says what we shall wear and how we shall wear it, but she wishes to dictate what kind of furniture we shall have in our city and country homes. What will do for one will not do for the other. In the first place, country houses—not the millionaires' palaces, but just the houses of the ordinary well to do people—must be papered with burlap, chintz or cretonne. Burlap makes a rich covering, and the designs are so artistic that no one can be blamed for liking it. Soft greens in old style designs and reds in several shades are among the handsomest. These are for the hall and dining rooms, but the parlors must have chintz in some old colonial pattern. The bedrooms are hung with chintz or cretonne in light and cheerful colors. The ceilings are decorated with a little stenciled pattern in the corners, matching as closely as possible with the chintz. A strip of gilt molding around the walls for pictures gives them brightness, and in some cases there are panels made with strips of the gilt molding. This makes it almost obligatory that the bed coverings, cushions and also the drapery of chimney and bureau all should be in some color to match. Where there are several rooms each is made to have a special scheme of color, and the room is then shown as the red, blue, pink or yellow one, as the case may be. All ribbons match, and much lace is used to edge all the different pieces, like counterpanes, pillowcases, etc.

For the dining room of the country house oak cane seat chairs are better liked than any, and, in fact, all the dining room furniture is of the same kind. It is cool and looks so. The parlor sets have the usual number of chairs, but this season they are upholstered in grass cloth and are finished in green and soft woody browns. There are tete-a-tete sets, two rockers, two side chairs, a couch and a pretty table, all made in the same way and upholstered in the cool and pleasing grass cloth. Matting is laid on the floor when any carpet at all is used.

But, after all, it is on the porch that the greatest care and style are found. Nearly all porches now are closed in by wire netting so fine that no mosquito can wriggle through it, and the vines are trained up outside of this. The porches are wide and roomy, and here is what fashion says must be put on them for the daily use of the family and visitors:

First, a porch set, consisting of table, two big rockers, one side and one arm chair and tete-a-tete. Hammocks are hung wherever there is room. Swinging couches and steamer chairs are also useful, as they can be folded like the Arab's tents. All these are upholstered in grass cloth and are made of weathered birch and finished in Flemish style. The women wire swing couches, covered as they are with the cool grass cloth, are ideally perfect. They sustain and rest one all over. There are bamboo tea tables, bamboo hanging racks and no end of other easy chairs, all made with a view to comfort and coolness. Besides all these things calculated to fill the summer days with coolness and pleasure, there are numerous devices for keeping the masculine element in the fold, chiefest



TRAVELING CLOAK.

among them being tables holding all sorts of things for the benefit of the smokers.

As everybody is on the wing now or soon to be I will end this letter by telling of a most excellent and sensible traveling cloak. This can be made of black taffeta silk, of poplinette or of serviceable mohair. No lining is necessary. The one in the illustration is of black taffeta and has a trimming made of ribbed mohair braid, with a couple of fancy steel and jet buttons at the bust. In the back the garment hangs loosely and has two rows of the braid down the center. This braid is the lightest made and the only kind suitable for taffeta. It is also suitable for mohair, which resembles silk so closely. The sleeves are loose, as they should be for a dust and traveling cloak. They are lined with plaid silk. HENRIETTE ROUSSEAU.

AMERICAN SILK COCOONS.

Women Can Produce Them Profitably All Over This Country.

Why is it that women in country homes in the United States have never followed up the silkworm industry that began so promisingly among us at the time of the World's fair in 1893? The mulberry and mock orange, on which the worms thrive, grow all over the Union. A Japanese expert who examined some of the raw silk reeled from American grown cocoons pronounced it superior to much of that raised abroad. The rearing of the cocoons costs practically nothing but a moderate amount of time on the part of women and girls at home, yet here are still American silk manufacturers paying annually a million of money to foreign countries when it could be and ought to be paid to American women and girls. During our World's fair



SILK CULTURIST.

Miss Ellen A. Ford of the Irish World, New York, who was one of the women commissioners, investigated this matter of silk culture thoroughly, and there was exhibited from Utah a rare collection of home grown raw silk and cocoons, so that all who saw marveled and were convinced that the industry here would be a magnificent success. Yet it lapsed. Women went on just as before. Absolutely silk culture will pay well. Cannot some woman who has a little time and can afford to spend a few dollars take this matter in hand for the benefit of herself and woman's home industry?

ORGANIZED FARM WOMEN.

Agricultural Union Among Colored Women of the South.

The saying that in union is strength is as old as the world, but the world has been a long time finding out how true it is. Among those in whom the genius of co-operation and united effort at length begins to move and thrill are the colored women of the south. This for them is the brightest sign of the future.

Some time ago negro farmers of Texas founded an improvement society, designed to foster thrift and scientific agriculture among their own people. Immediately the women of their race organized what is called the "Barnyard Auxiliary" of the Farmers' Improvement society. The object of the Barnyarders is distinctly and definitely to develop the live stock industry among colored women of the south. These earnest, brainy negro women finally understand and know that industrial training in the things they are doing, the business immediately under their noses, is what they need even more than literary and professional education.

Accordingly they will devote themselves to bee culture and to the rearing for market of poultry and domestic animals. Swine breeding will be included in their list, likewise dairying. First of all, they will make these industries pay—industries of which every one can be conducted at home. There the women will stay, not fooling after things they cannot reach, but cleaning up their barnyards, studying



A BARNYARDER.

the science and art of poultry and pig raising, of beekeeping and dairying. They will bring the best products in these lines to market and then shrewdly claim the best price. The negro men will attend to the mules and crops. The homekeeping women will rear and improve the small live stock and put on sale choice butter and milk. Already this noble union of women has a membership of 2,500. They have bought 50,000 acres of land in different places and possess a united capital of \$700,000.

Grilled haddock is a very tasty dish, but spoiled unless the fire is perfectly clear. First split a haddock open so that it will lie flat, wipe it thoroughly dry, smooth the flesh with a broad bladed knife, brush it over with oil and dredge dry flour over it. Broil upon a well greased gridiron, putting the skin side first to the fire; broil both sides, dish on a napkin.

SOME JUNE GOWNS.

CHARMING NEW MODELS FROM A FASHIONABLE TROUSSEAU.

Exquisite Bridal and House Gowns, Dainty Muslins—Smart Shopping Suits—Low Priced Corded Black Silk For Summer.

The June trousseau, now in the process of making, contains no more important items than wedding and house gowns. Some very charming designs, selected from Vogue, are here given. The wedding gown is described as made of heavy panne crepe over cream



BRIDAL AND HOUSE GOWNS.

taffeta. The foundation is finished with two plaited ruffles veiled with chiffon and lace. The panne crepe drop skirt has a deep, graduated, circular flounce tucked in groups and cluster tucks at hem. The applique designs on the skirt at the top and bottom of the flounce and crossing the hip to the point in front are of a heavy cream silk yoke and tucking above the girde, with lace trimming between. The elbow sleeves are finished with a double ruffle, and the lace stock is pointed in front.

The empire house gown is of net, renaissance lace and batiste over a pink silk princess foundation, veiled with pink chiffon, which is fitted by shirring at the waist and is ruffled at the bottom. The collarless yoke is of renaissance lace, and the elbow sleeves are finished with chiffon ruffles.

The summer gown at the left of the second cut is of white India linen. The skirt is laid in fine tucks to below the knees, where the fullness is let out and forms a flounce, which is appliqued with designs of yellow lace. The upper and lower portions of the bodice are tucked, with the fullness making a puff between the tucks. The collar and yoke are of yellow lace. There are elbow sleeves, the upper portion tucked; sash of green soft silk and knot of the same silk on the left of the bodice; flat hat of yellow straw trimmed with black and pale yellow roses and parasol of green silk with frills of white chiffon.

The other gown is of pink dimity striped with white. The three piece skirt is finished with a deep band of lace and a deep tucked flounce. The bodice, which fastens up the back, has the yoke and lower sleeves of lace over plain pink lawn the shade of the dimity. The ha is of white tulle trimmed with pink roses and black velvet.

Many are the foulards, chailles and etamines intended for the forenoon shopping suit for May and June, which is smartly made with open fronts pouched slightly over a belt, the back flat and belted in. There is a turnover



DAINTY SUMMER MUSLINS.

shoulder collar reaching to the shoulder seams and sleeves just over the elbow with upturned cuffs.

Among low priced black silks the variety called "corded" are summerlike in lightness and very good for a two season wear ordinarily.

Taffetas queen it over all the other silks for trimmings this season and are so covered with plain and fancy stitchings that one cannot always detect the silk beneath.

The narrowest ribbon finishes are in great demand—something between a ribbon and a gimp.

Dead gold trimmings are thought much smarter than those bright, shining, showy ones are.

What "Cookers" the Coffee.

"Not one queen in a hundred is careful enough not to allow coffee to boil, and boiling will queer the best coffee on earth. It must come just to the verge of boiling and stay there for few minutes, but never go beyond, for boiling brings out the tannic acid and not only injures the flavor and aroma, but makes the stuff positively injurious," says an expert.