

tables. "Ah! now see the lightning flash," and the little fingers, too, as they swiftly describe a zigzag line through the air. See the heavy clouds come, "low, low, lower, lower," and at last "down comes the rain," while the finger-tips go "pitter, patter, patter, drip, drip, drip," like the raindrops refreshing the "flowers and grass and grain." Oh! the "beautiful, beautiful, sparkling rain!" I think they like the shower best of all.

We end with Reinecke's charming air about the moon and her white lambkins. "Good-bye"—"good-bye," and all promise to come next week—even the one who nevers opens her mouth, nor utters a sound. I often wonder why she comes; but she seems to enjoy being one of the class, though mute. Last of all, to the sole-quickening strains of the Yale two-step, they march around the room two or three times, then out through the hall—and the lesson is over.

EMILIE LONG.

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### Summer Work at the Alumnæ House Library.

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On the last Thursday in June, the Library closed its doors, to reopen on the last Monday in July. In the intervening time much was accomplished. A morning was spent at the Aguilar Free Library, by two members of the Committee, and many helpful suggestions were obtained from the Chief Librarian of that institution; then a new system was adopted which has simplified the work to quite an extent.

The kindness of one friend has enabled us to have sixty books re-bound; from another we received the money to buy the necessary cards and slips for records; while many others gave valuable assistance in the work of mending, covering and cataloguing, often spending an entire day at the House. Our new catalogue shows that we possess six hundred and fifty books in condition for circulation—there are many others in our store closet, waiting for the necessary funds to pay for rebinding, etc.

The first morning that the Library was open only five children came, the next week nine, then thirty-five and at the end of the summer there were sixty children coming for books. It was quite noticeable that among these there were but few of the older boys, who are the best and steadiest readers in the winter. It is probable that many of them secured work for the vacation weeks. Fully three times as many children as we could include in our lists applied for Library membership. It is impossible to give books to those of whom we know absolutely nothing and from whom we can get no reference.

But the Reading Class, under the supervision of Miss Esther Piza, was restricted by no such considerations, and as many as sixty children in an afternoon enjoyed looking through the books, being read to by the ladies in charge, or learning some pretty little verse. It is a treat for most of these children merely to spend a couple of hours in the House.

When school opened we changed our hours to the afternoon, but still retain Monday as Library day instead of Thursday.

The Committee will gladly welcome those who come to work, or those who will merely visit us for a time and see what the Library is doing. We need assistance in mending and covering books—work that must be done constantly, for a book goes out on an average of only four or five times before it requires a new cover, pages mended or a new back. Cannot enough of our Manual-Training members promise us just one day in the month, so that we may rely upon two people every second week? This would make the work systematic, and to be depended upon, whereas now, those who attend to the distribution of books are obliged to take the time for making repairs whenever they can, and there is nothing regular about it. We shall be glad to hear from anyone who feels able to help us.

FRANCES A. BENJAMIN,  
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