

and flowers unfold from day to day, you will learn much more than I have told you here, and your winter bouquet will become a source of the greatest interest and pleasure.

Why cannot every teacher have a bunch of twigs in her school-room? It would be such a welcome touch of life and Nature in what is so often only four bare and uninteresting walls. The buds would thrive, too, where potted plants and aquaria would fail. Even though the teacher may not be able to give much time to talking about the buds, they will teach their own lessons, in part at least. Let us hope the day will soon come when abundance of time will be set apart for just such work as we have outlined—when, if the work is buds and stems, each child will have a twig of its own to water, to talk about, to draw, to write about. The study of Nature is far from obtaining the importance in our school curriculum that it deserves. What little is done in this direction is often nullified by the lack of proper specimens; better not teach Nature at all than teach it from books alone. In many cases it is true that specimens are very difficult to obtain; but with a little effort, cannot everyone get buds to study? Try it, and see if they will not repay you a hundredfold for your trouble.

In order to make it possible for every teacher who is interested to procure some buds—though the woods and even the garden may not be available—a cordial invitation is hereby extended to them by the Natural Science Committee to be present at the next "At Home," when there will be a collection of buds for distribution.

A. R. NORTHROP.

The Professional Woman's League.

Although the hope of banding together, for mutual benefit, the professional women of New York and the adjacent cities had long been in the minds of a few women, it did not materialize into action until December, 1892, when an initial meeting was held in the parlors of Mrs. A. M. Palmer. At that meeting it was decided that such a society should be formed; a name, "The Professional Woman's League," was chosen; and a President elected, Mrs. A. M. Palmer. In February, 1893, the League obtained its charter, and on May 29th of the same year held its public inaugural at the Hotel Brunswick. Such, in brief, is the story of the launching of an enterprise which, in its short existence, has exerted much influence for good, and which ranks, to quote the words of that high priestess of women's clubs, Mrs. J. C. Croly, as the "most

unique club in the world." There would seem no better way to epitomize the aims of the League than by quoting a few sentences from our constitution, which state very tersely our *raison d'être*.

"Our aims are: 1st. To bring together women engaged in dramatic, musical, literary, artistic and scientific pursuits, with the view of rendering them helpful to each other. 2d. To minister to the financial needs of the members, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, and according to the ability of the League. 3d. To provide class instruction in Literature, Art, Languages, Music, Physical Culture, Dancing, Fencing, and all studies that the members may require, at the lowest possible rates."

Though it takes but few words to express thus concisely the purposes of the Professional Woman's League, it requires much thought to insure the carrying out of all that springs from them.

While the League embraces in its active membership, only the three classes of self-supporting women engaged in dramatic, literary and musical work, our associate members include those of all other professions, as well as those who sympathize with and desire to further those pursuits, and these associate members have every privilege of the League save one—that of calling upon the Treasury.

The dues of the League are very small, and the rules most simple, only those which are essentially necessary to the well-being of the organization and the best interests of the members.

The League House, 1509 Broadway, of which the Club took possession in May, 1894, is open daily, and the Business Secretary is always present, to transact business, give information, or in any way in her power be of service to the members.

The Library is a special feature of our work, growing, as it has done in the few years of our League existence, from an initial gift of a fine set of Shakspeare—noble beginning—to its present size of nearly 5,000 well-selected volumes, ranging over all fields. While the shelves contain many books of reference which are only to be used in the League House, the Library proper is a free circulating library, always accessible, and always well used by our members. In the reading-room will be found the daily and weekly papers, and a plentiful supply of periodicals.

On Thursday of each week a dramatic, literary or musical program is given, intended to be educational and helpful to our younger members. Added to these are monthly social and business meetings, making a total of 76 regular general meetings during the year. The Executive Committee hold weekly sessions during the entire year; and the fact that so frequent meetings are

found useful, shows the amount of thought and labor entailed by the attempt to guide, wisely and righteously, the affairs of so large and varied an organization.

The class-work of the League has been, from the beginning, an important factor, and many of our members have availed themselves of the opportunity for special instruction at nominal rates. For some branches taught there is a steady demand; while for others the call comes now and again, as someone needs tutoring for some particular work.

It will be readily understood that some sides of the League work cannot be publicly spoken of, and chief among these is the philanthropic side. This, in detail, must be known only to the officers, and those who seek and receive aid; yet it is an important factor in the League life, and, quickly and unostentatiously, it reaches out helping hands to life-weary ones over hard places, to give discouraged souls the chance to look up and "take heart again," gladly, joyfully giving all that is possible of help and encouragement.

Time does not permit me to enlarge more on the story of the League life, yet I am sure that it has already justified the feeling that professional women needed a League of their own which should bind them together; a place where one could benefit by the experiences, the trials, the triumphs of another; where close contact should rub away the angles which grow so prominent in our work-a-day life; where helpful friendships could be formed, and the brighter side of life be made more prominent. "The Professional"—and let me say just here that this name was adopted with no idea of limiting *always* to the three classes with which the League started, but with the earnest hope of soon opening our doors to all professions—the professional woman, I say, had never had an organization of her very own, and the rapid growth of the League has shown her appreciation of the privilege.

Our greatest ambition is that the League may draw together into a helpful union, wherein shall be true strength, women of all professions, so that from this close contact all shall gain wisdom, nobility of purpose and loftiness of aim.

SARA A. PALMER,
Corresponding Secretary.

On January 8th, Dr. Requa and other officers of the Alumnæ were assisted by Miss Emilie Fries and Miss Myrtle Spaulding, both of '87, at the monthly "At Home" in the Library. The occasion, like many that preceded it, was a pleasant one. It has be-