

**SOCIETY NOTES**

**THE PHILOMATHEANS DISCUSS VALUE OF ATHLETICS**

The Philomathean Literary Society discussed "Athletics" Friday evening, Feb. 3. The first number on the program was a debate, Resolved, that physical education should be required and provided for in all educational institutions. Clementine Raiford and Bertha Zachary upheld the affirmative and were successful in proving that physical education was of great value and should be required and provided for in all educational institutions, while Sallie Wilkins and Edna Coble, the speakers for the negative gave a good argument against physical education.

The debate was followed by a discussion on "The Advantages and Disadvantages of Inter-Collegiate Games for Girls" by Henrietta Lassiter. The third number, "The Line" by Lulu Raiford, was jokes on several members of the society. An instrumental duet "Benedict" was given by Luna Taylor and Lloyd Merrimon. Alta Zachary gave "The National Sport Page" which was interesting.

The following officers were installed at this meeting, Edna Raiford, president; Henrietta Lassiter, secretary, Elizabeth Brooks, marshal.

Under the head of miscellaneous business the President appointed a new executive committee, Isabel Pancoast, Shelby Clodfelter and Anna Daub.

Ophelia Paul, the critic for the evening, gave a good report. After several remarks of general criticism, society adjourned.

**WEBSTERIANS PRESENT EXTEMPORANEOUS PROGRAM.**

Friday night, Feb. 3, found a fine group of members out for society, even though some were absent thru being at home, some thru unavoidable causes and others thru negligence.

The regular literary exercises for the evening were postponed until Feb. 10, and an extemporaneous program was given.

The debate, Resolved: that the last kiss you receive at parting is sweeter than the first when you return, proved exceedingly interesting. Nereus English, the representative for the affirmative won the judges' decision over Hobbs for the negative. Judging by the beautiful scenes pictured, both contestants must have had such experiences.

The second number, "The Whispered Stories of Guilford," by Gernel Payne, revealed some interesting facts concerning couples.

Mr. Rudd ended the program with a few favorite songs.—His popularity with the members was manifested by the applause with which his selections were received.

The society was glad to receive as members Messrs. M. B. Connor and Joe Ragsdale.

After critic Winn, had given an interesting criticism, the meeting adjourned.

**CLAYS GIVE EXTEMPORANEOUS PROGRAM**

The program of the Henry Clays on Friday evening, February 3, was slightly different from the usual ones.

After President Murray White, had called the society to order and had dispensed the usual order of business, an extemporaneous program was given.

The First number was a debate in which Hodgins, the leader for the affirmative, outlined the argument for his side and gave a good speech. Williams, for the negative, stated the case in plain terms and showed in a striking manner just what had to be done, in order that either side might win the debate. Johnson, for the affirmative, ably advanced further argument on the question.

Second, a silent oration was given by William Blair. He displayed much oratory and skill, and, won the admiration of his audience.

The society was very pleased to reinstate Messrs. Cummings and Woody into membership and was also glad to receive C. C. Sim as a new member.

**ZATASIAN NOTES**

The Zatasian Literary Society was called to order by president Mabel Ward. The new officers were then installed and the program for the evening given.

"Did You Hear 'bout Dat Weddin," a reading by Eurie Teague, was an enthusiastic description of a wedding, grand and perfect save for the fact that the bridegroom did not appear.

A debate followed on the question, Resolved that there should be uniform marriage and divorce laws. The speakers on the affirmative, convinced the judges that if the laws were uniform, they could be more strictly enforced and that so many ridiculous situations would not arise because of different laws in different states. The speakers on the negative, Swannie Craton and Daisy Hobson, claimed that each state could see its own needs and that the same laws would not apply to all states.

"The Deceased Robert," another humorous reading was given by Nell Jones. Susie Wright then sang "The Sunshine of Your Smile." Current Events by Ruth Hodges was the last number on the program.

Under miscellaneous business a new executive committee was appointed consisting of Allene Johnson, chairman, Marie Tyson and Mary Henley.

**SUPPORTING BALLOONS BY HELIUM GAS.**

Recent Tests Recall Interesting Story of a Strange Occupant of the Air We Breathe

By R. B. Moore

U. S. Bureau of Mines  
Recent tests of Helium as a non-inflammable gas for balloons calls attention to the interesting history of this strange occupant of the air we breathe.

Helium is in the air in the proportion of one part in 185,000 by volume; neon, one part in 60,000; argon, one part in 104; krypton, one part in 19 million, and xenon, one part in 190 million. These gases are all inert, do not react with other elements, and for this reason probably more than for any other, they have excited great interest among chemists. Next to hydrogen helium is the lightest gas known, having twice the density of hydrogen.

Helium has been liquified by Professor Onnes in Leyden. The liquid boils at—268.75 degrees C, which is very close to absolute zero, that is—273 degrees C. Onnes is the only one who has liquified helium, and he used the small amount of liquid obtained to determine some of the properties of matter at this extremely low temperature. What has been done is significant enough to make it very desirable to have liquid helium in quantity so that further experimental work along this line may be carried out.

Helium is found in the gasses of many mineral springs. It is also found in natural gas in a large number of localities in the United States, particularly in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Ohio. About four hundred million cubic feet of helium is going to waste each year from this source alone.

Since helium is not inflammable and has 92 per cent of the lifting power of hydrogen, during the war, it became of great military value. The plan was to substitute helium for hydrogen in balloons and dirigibles, and thus make it impossible to bring these vessels to earth by means of incendiary bullets. Such a change would make tremendous progress in aeronautics, for both commercial and war purposes.

With this object in view, the U. S. Government has experimented on the extraction of helium from natural gas in Texas, and during the war three experimental plants were built and operated. At present one of these experimental plants is still being operated and a large production plant has been constructed at Fort Worth. It is hoped that the Government will support these plants on account of the fact that the United States is the only country in the world at the present time which



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has sufficient helium in its natural gas for war and commercial purposes.

The origin of helium in natural gas is uncertain. During radioactive changes, helium is thrown off in the form of the alpha particle, which is a helium atom with two positive charges. However, we are not acquainted with sufficient supplies of uranium or thorium ores to account for the large volumes of helium present in natural gas in this country.

If the helium does not come from radioactive changes, it might have come from the sun, if the earth was really thrown off from the sun. The chromosphere, or surrounding envelope of the sun, consists of incandescent hydrogen and helium. It is possible that the vicious mass of the earth in passing through the sun's atmosphere picked up sufficient gas to account for the helium now found below the earth's crust.

The price of helium before the war was approximately \$2000 a cubic foot. It is believed that in the new plant at Fort Worth helium may be produced for a little less than 6 cents a cubic foot.—Courtesy Engineering Foundation.

Misses Marie Tyson and Kathleen Riley spent the week-end at Mr. Cannon's of this village.

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