

SOCIETIES

MRS. PORTER GUEST OF NONS

Mesdames Porter and Erskine Made Honorary Members.

Those people who were so fortunate as to gain admittance to the Euthalian Literary Society hall, on the evening of March 19, enjoyed a rare privilege—that of listening not only to a typical Nonpareil program but also of hearing Mrs. William Sidney Porter of Weaverville, widow of the late "O. Henry," read one of her unpublished short stories. The society voted to make Mrs. Porter and her companion, Mrs. J. V. Erskine, also of Weaverville, honorary members.

The regular program consisted of a musical reading by Lib Corpening, who was accompanied at the piano by Mrs. C. E. Roberts. A xylophone selection by Sara Fox, who was assisted by Grace Murray at the piano, was the next number. Mary Dan Robinson, Madge Linney, and Willie Mae Dills rendered a vocal trio, after which a piano solo by Frances Snyder concluded the regular program.

The informal reception which was held in Miss Wengert's studio, immediately following the program, was attended by about forty people. Here Mrs. Porter very graciously answered numerous questions concerning her distinguished husband.

PHIS HAVE A FINE PROGRAM

Friday evening, March 6, the Philomathian Literary Society held its regular weekly meeting. Clarence Angline began the program with the declamation, "At His Brother's Grave." Edgar Walker then gave the reading, "Out Fishing." The debate for the evening was "Resolved, That Buses Should Be Placed on the Same Standing with Trains in Regard to Taxes and Bonds." James Lumley and H. Clay Cox upheld the affirmative, while Freeman Wright and Ralph Waldrop presented the argument for the negative. Nelson Jarrett, acting as a critic-judge, rendered the decision in favor of the affirmative.

At this time Joe Dobson, Audrey Page, and Sam Quinerly entertained the society with several selections of string music. A declamation, "The Scattered Nation," was given by Walter Smith. Ray O'Brien concluded the program with an oration, "Poverty and Crime."

Euthalian Thoughts

"Stretch out thine hand over the sea,"—and go forward. Let sever every bond that holds us fast

To loves and hates and failings of the past,

Nor bitter look nor wistful backward cast:

Shape not new clay in yesterday's old mold.

The past is strewn with failure and success.

We remember the faltering words, the dry lips, the trembling knees, the stammering tongue, and the broken lines of memory. We remember the kind, tolerant, sympathetic faces.

Then there were moments of triumph, of victory, of exalted emotion worth infinitely more than they cost us in the hours and hours of painstaking preparation.

But defeat is not failure. For there is no failure, you know, except in quitting. And, we trust, we have no quitters in our ranks.

The past belongs to the past; let it bury its dead. The future belongs to God and subsequently to us; let us build.

What will we build? The implements of courage and conviction are in our hands. Let us build in our society, which has bound us with cords of devotion, character—character first, the foundation; then upon it efficiency: efficiency of heart, intellect, oratorical and literary supremacy with which to achieve noble tasks.

Let us go forward!

SOCIETIES ERR IN ORIGIN DATE

Philomathian and Euthalian Organizations Formed Simultaneously, Thirty-nine Years Ago.

During the fall term, at the regular season for such performances, the four literary societies of Mars Hill College celebrated their anniversaries and presented programs. There was, of course, nothing unusual in this series of presentations, as it was but a matter of adherence to precedent, and this has only slightly to do with the question at hand. What does have a direct bearing upon the case is this: two of those societies—brother and sister organization—presented their fortieth anniversary programs, while the other two organizations presented their thirty-ninth annual exhibitions. The essence of the truth is this: three of those organizations unwittingly misrepresented their ages.

The parent organization of the present system of literary societies upon Mars Hill campus was the original Mars Hill Literary Society, and it was this society that formed the nuclei of the present Euthalian and Philomathian societies. The division of this institution resulted in the organization of two new societies. Following is the graphic story as reconstructed from authentic details by an investigating committee.

"It is in the original society building in the spring of 1891. There is a shuffling of feet, and hurried conferences are held among members of the Mars Hill Literary Society. Then the president sounds the gavel and calls for business. Someone presents the motion that the society be divided and after some discussion the motion is sustained.

"Two members are chosen and are told to seek opposite corners of the hall. This they do, and begin choosing sides. In several instances, brothers are separated, one going to one side and one to the other. When all members had been chosen, Professors Hufham and Whit, alumni of Wake Forest college, took charge of the groups.

"These two fine men went to work, drew up constitutions and by-laws which the societies might follow, modeling them as closely as possible after the literary societies at Wake Forest College. The names were also taken from these societies, with but a small change in the spelling: from Euzelian to Euthalian, and from Philomathesian to Philomathian. The initial organization having been completed, the societies began to function in their spirit of friendly rivalry."

There is humor as well as pathos in the story of the disintegration of the old society.

"It seems that the Phis were in possession of a table which the Eus claimed. Whereupon, the latter mentioned resolved to procure that article of furniture, and a group of Eus invaded the Phi stronghold. 'Forewarned is forearmed,' and a party of Phis was present to repulse all invaders. A pitched battle ensued, and when the smoke from the fray had cleared, the table had been transformed into several sticks of first-class stovewood.

Both of the girl societies claim the same year of foundation as their brother organization, but both are mistaken in their claims. Wonder of wonders, each is declared older than it (or she) really is. Full information concerning the origin of these fair societies is lacking at present; but many who may be considered authorities affirm that neither was founded prior to 1895. It is hoped that the fact concerning the founding of these two societies will soon be available.

A very unusual thing is being carried out at Grahn, in Cates County, Kentucky. Mr. A. O. Allison is conducting a Free Loan Library for the use of Baptist preachers. Only those books in harmony with Bible teaching are tolerated.

I. R. C. HAS FINE RUSS PROGRAM

New Members Are Initiated Into the Councils of the Club.

A vitally interesting topic of the day was discussed at the regular monthly meeting of the International Relations Club, at the home of Professor and Mrs. I. N. Carr. The club made a study of the book, "Humanity Uprooted," by Maurice Hindus. Mr. Hindus is a Russian by birth, although he has lived most of his life in this country.

Various members discussed certain parts on this current topic. Mary Baker gave a vivid account of the Russian's religion or rather, his lack of religion. The position of women in Russia was graphically told by Edna Stroude. She stated that woman was exalted very highly and held responsible governmental positions in this country of radical liberalism. Margaret Allen then pictured the different classes of people in Russia—Peasant, Proletariat, Communist, Youth, Intelligentsia, Cossack, and the Jew. As a closing number on the program, Val Edwards gave the present status of that vast domain known as Soviet Russia. Mr. Edwards said that a war would determine whether Russia's thirteen-year experience with a Communist form of government will last.

Immediately following the program of the evening the members who were formerly chosen by the club were initiated, thus becoming members of this elite club.

Mr. Lee and Mr. England, along with some delicious home-made candies, added greatly to the interest and success of the program.

Caroline Jane Biggers

[The following words of appreciation are taken from a tribute paid to Mrs. Biggers by President R. L. Moore, speaking as a representative of Mars Hill College at the funeral services held at the Mars Hill Baptist Church.]

A radiant soul has gone home. God was real to her during her earthly pilgrimage; she talked to Him and in faith and joy knew His answering voices. She saw better than it is given most of us to see through the thin veil that intervenes; now she sees Him face to face, and the others who have gone on.

Mrs. Biggers loved beauty. She did not rave about the beautiful; she created it. Red banks bloomed with roses under her touch, and vacant lots became things of loveliness. And just as truly in human hearts that responded to her touch, emptiness, barrenness, and unsightliness gave way to fulness and fragrance and fruitfulness. She could not change the soil of human hearts, for only God and a human will can do that; but she scattered seeds as a faithful sower—good seeds that have borne and will bear fine harvests.

Evil she abhorred; her eyes could flash with righteous indignation against sin in every form. And to her dirt, filth, and all manner of uncleanness was sin. Buildings and grounds and human minds and hearts were made to be kept clean and wholesome, and valiantly she went about the process of cleansing. And she knew the source of Power.

Mrs. Biggers' prayer: along or with others who might gather with her every morning she was in the quiet place of prayer, letting God speak to her through His Word and ever-present Spirit, while she talked to Him about the Kingdom and the workers in the wide world field. Her co-workers and the needs of the school, the church, students who were having struggles or heavy loads to carry, our burdened secretaries and missionaries, the unsaved—for all these she prayed by name as far as possible, pleading, interceding with a faith that did not let go; and in marvelous ways the answers came. "Mother" Biggers will be missed on our campus, but nowhere more than at the place of prayer.

Her children rise up and call her blessed. The only living son is in business in far-away New Jersey, and the three daughters, like the mother, are rich and useful in service—Miss Caroline, assistant dean at Meredith College; Miss Martha, head of the music department of Mars Hill Col-

SIX TAKE PART IN EU MEET

Paul Fox Wins First Place; Milton Hamby and Ben Cox Take Second and Third

The Euthalian Literary Society staged its annual oratorical contest, Friday evening, March 20.

Six speakers contested for the medal, each displaying real talent. First place was won by Paul Fox, with a speech centered around the subject, "The Westward Course of Civilization." Ben Cox won third place with "The Lost Word."

Following is a list of the speakers and their subjects: Ben Cox, "The Lost Word;" Milton Hamby, "The Westward Course of Civilization;" B. G. Leonard, "Beast and God;" Charles Runyon, "What to Read and Why;" Paul Fox, "Silent Voices;" Conway Sams, "Life or Death."

Several visitors were recognized and welcomed to the hall, among them several members of the faculty.

God in All

The rising of the morning sun,
The glorious setting when day is done,
The moon and the stars above at night
Seem to declare with all their might:
God!

All through the day the music sweet
Of birds and words and deeds we meet

Oft sway our souls the upward way,
And still that might not be, some say,
— God?

Perhaps some mortals there may be
His wondrous beauty cannot see;
Then stop amid the hurl and strife
And taste the sweetest love of life:
God!

Then you his majesty shall see,
And all His love for you and me,
While from your mind all doubt will fly
And life each day grow sweeter—
why?

God!
—Dwight Mullis.

lege; Miss Mary Frances, former B. Y. P. U. field secretary, now teacher in the high school of Brevard; and hundreds of other Spilman Home "daughters" are also rich in service and grateful for such a "mother."

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SIXTY-FOURTH YEAR BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10

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