
 * Highland Park Department *

THE OSSOLI.

In the rooms of their bright clubhouse home the members of the "Ossoli" gathered on Thursday of last week to enjoy the interesting papers—one by Mrs. Lasher on Ibsen and the other Miss Everett's with Bjornstjerne Bjornson as the subject. The musical program was quite in touch with the afternoon's subject, it being by the Scandinavian composer, Grieg. Miss Wycoff sang two numbers, accompanied by Mrs. Alexander Mason; the first,—"Solveg's Lied," from Peer Gynt and the second "Ich Liebe Dich." Miss Annie Cobb rendered "Frühling Lied."

Tea was served by Mrs. Hodson and Miss Turnley.

The discussion that followed the afternoon papers was brisk and general in scope. Mrs. Lasher's very able paper, condensed, was as follows:

"The great charm of Ibsen is that he always seems to deal with vital things. He is strong and virile and opens to his readers long vistas of thought. He is said to be "a man who feels the limitations of society; and a man who demands of wealth and culture that they give cause for being and justify their existence." While happy in his personal relations he is a brooder over the sins and miseries of the Northland.

He says "How has the national strength of Prussia been purchased? By the sinking of the individual in a political and geographical formula. The State must go. Undermine the idea of the State, set up in its place spontaneous action and the idea, that spiritual relationship is the only thing that makes unity. Then you will start the elements of a liberty which will be something worth possessing. With Ibsen will is the essence of moral advance. If you have not fervor, it may be forgiven you, but never that you had not will. It is

wills' business to crush down all the rebellious desires that impede the inner self.

Ibsen says "Make your life heroic by pervading it with a single aim." The problems of life with Ibsen seem to reduce themselves to one. Which is, how to give spirit scope? "Be through and through what God intended you to be," applied to individual man, this becomes a command which rings through his dramas. "Give your own spirit scope. Let your life be the working out of your character, not the product of your circumstances."

Ibsen is considered the champion of wives and mothers. No other writer since Shakespears has presented us with such perfect types of womanhood. He sees the world deluged by masculine qualities, and womenly qualities hidden or misunderstood. Ibsen is classed with the Brownings rather than the Tennysons with those who say things forcibly, rather than beautifully. Payne says he is distinctly a poet with a message and is the most noteworthy of the chosen instruments, through which in our time, the Spirit has spoken. Ibsen desires that we follow out logically whatever course we have chosen. With him the distinction between good and bad is not half so important as the distinction between insanity and firmness, between the haphazard life and the life that has a purpose of some sort. Maeferlink says: "Ibsen hushes the discourse of reason and sentiment so that above the turmoil may be heard the solemn uninterrupted whisperings of the man and his destiny. It is his province to point out to us the uncertain dolorous footsteps of man, as he approaches or wanders from his truth, his beauty, or his God."

Miss Everett's paper that followed the paper on Ibsen, gave a beautiful word portrait of Bjornstjerne Bjornson. The man, the writer and his healthful, optimistic characteris-

tics were skillfully handled. Miss Everett in voice and manner of delivery brought out vividly the striking and pleasing contrast that is apparent to all who know Bjornstjerne Bjornson as distinctly optimistic and Ibsen, his direct opposite, as being, almost conscientiously, pessimistic. The one, for instance, contending that a knowledge of heredity is a blessing, as by its means we can conquer our tendencies, while Ibsen, on the other side, says of heredity—"it is a curse' it is so overflowing we cannot over come it."

Mr. Charles J. Winchester of New York and Mr. Carl Hellwig of Santos, Brazil, are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Putnam.

The marriage of Miss Grace Yoe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Yoe, 476 Dearborn ave, Chicago, and Lieut. Williams will occur soon after Easter.

Fearing something in the newspapers might cause needless alarm, Lieut. Jamieson telegraphed from Governor's Island, N. Y., Thursday last, to Mrs. Jamieson in the Park; "Don't be alarmed, another gun burst, killed one man and injured two. Never touched me."

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