

pictures by well-known artists, and here luncheons and well-cooked dinners are procurable, to which members may invite their friends. On Thursday evenings a "club dinner" is served; and the interval between dinner and the debate is filled up by a lounge in the hall, or a sojourn in a small garden gay with daisies and geraniums, where a few whiffs of park air may be enjoyed.

A voyage of discovery leads to all sorts of charming nooks and dens for the comfort and pleasure of the members. Tea-rooms, a library, silence room, dressing rooms, etc., are to be found; but woe betide the uninitiated who may venture to open a certain door—in a whisper let it be said—the door of the smoking room! This is the sanctum which is sacred to the cigarette. It is said that the average consumption of the smoking pioneer does not reach two cigarettes a day. But she prefers to enjoy this in solitude, or in the company only of fellow smokers. And so the room is not "on view." Curious eyes used to peep in to see the lady smokers, and the fiat had to go forth: "No admittance except on business"—the business of smoking!

The club is intended for the enlightenment and advancement of women, and is democratic in so far as general equality is maintained. To accentuate this equality each pioneer has a number by which she is known, and it is quite good form to call her by this number instead of by name.

The club is the splendid conception of Mrs. Massingberd, who undertook the whole responsibility in the interests of women. She is a highly intellectual and noble-minded woman, whom any club might be proud to call President. The artistic furnishing of the house is due to her taste. The drawing rooms are lovely, and the inscriptions over the doors are happy inspirations. "Love thyself last," a favourite motto of Mrs. Massingberd, whose life exemplifies the teaching. Over another door: "In great things, Unity; In small things, Liberty; In all things, Charity."

A beautiful symbolic picture by Mr. Machell, typifying the woman of the past and the woman of the future, and a portrait of the President, are the most interesting ornaments of the room.

Kindliness, charity, and sympathy are the main springs of the club, as is suitable to an undertaking to which such names are attached, as those of Lady Henry Somerset, Olive Schreiner, Sarah Grand, and Mrs. Jopling. The annual subscription is two guineas. Entrance fee also two guineas.

THE WRITERS CLUB.

In the days of Thackeray and Dickens, dirt, dust and dingyness were the inevitable accompaniments of journalism and literature.

Thackeray especially calls attention to the collarless, untidy, unshaved journalist who had frequently to remain in bed because his clothes were in pawn. But time has changed all this, and perhaps the advent of women to literary ranks has done much towards the change.

The Writers Club was started some two years since in a modest way in Fleet Street. Lady Jeune, in part, originated the scheme, and has been a great help to the Society. Some six weeks since, H.R.H. Princess Christian, the President, opened the new

rooms in Hastings House, Norfolk Street, Strand, which are in themselves an evidence of the success of the Club. All is brightness, sweetness and light. The furniture and decorations are everything the artistic could desire; while flowers and pretty knick-knacks furnish the touches of refinement that only a woman's hands can give.

Delightful "At Homes" are given on Friday afternoons, when members' friends are made most welcome. Electric light is everywhere, even in the dainty model little kitchen that furnishes luncheons, teas, and light refreshments to weary members who find their charming little Club a true oasis in the desert of Fleet Street and dingy newspaper offices.

The Club exists for mutual sympathy, and no troublesome rules and regulations are allowed to interfere with the comfort and the happiness of the members.

The subscription is One Guinea a year with an entrance fee of One Guinea. Country members pay only half fees.

THE NEW SOMERVILLE CLUB.

This must be regarded as the oldest woman's Club in London, although the title has set many wondering whether it is only a branch of the old Somerville Club established some twelve years ago. The name is somewhat misleading, and seems to have been adopted when the change was made to the new premises 231, Oxford Street.

The Somerville Club exists for the purpose of bringing women together for recreation and discussion, and is almost essentially a Club whose members are engaged in self-supporting work. The premises are comfortable and so centrally situated that they are of the utmost service to the members. Meals are served at a very moderate cost, the reading room is remarkably well stocked with papers and magazines, and the silence room where work of all kinds may be accomplished in quiet is much appreciated. Debates and sociable gatherings take place on Tuesday evenings, and are looked forward to with much pleasure and interest. On these occasions the masculine relatives and friends of the members are hospitably invited.

A great many Nurses belong to this Club, the moderate subscription of 12s. 6d. with an entrance fee of the same sum placing it within the bounds of possibility for women with small incomes.

Science Notes.

A HOSPITAL FOR ANIMALS.

OUR readers may be interested to hear a few particulars (taken from a correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*) concerning a Hospital for animals in Kinnerton Street, Belgravia. This institution has been in existence for six years, and its objects, as stated in the annual report, are:—(1) To promote the humane treatment of domesticated animals, (2) to provide the poor with gratuitous treatment of their animals, and (3) to provide for all animals the best veterinary treatment and the latest scientific appliances.

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