

# Woman's Literary Club Thirty Years Old This Week, Will Give Lunch

Founders, Former Presidents And Members Of The Woman's Literary Club Of Baltimore Will Meet Tuesday To Celebrate Their Birthday Anniversary; A Group Of Brilliant Women Who Have Fostered And Stimulated Literary Work In This City.

By EMILY EMERSON LANTZ.

ON Tuesday, April 6, the Woman's Literary Club of Baltimore will celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of its founding by a luncheon to members that will be held at the rooms occupied by the club in the Maryland Academy of Sciences Building, 5 West Franklin street. A musical and literary program will follow.

When a woman attains her thirtieth year she has passed the boundary line of inexperienced girlhood and is in the full flower of womanly powers. A club that has been established an equal length of time has attained the dignity and strength of maturity, its work and standing in the community are recognized and its influence has become far-reaching.

The plan of a woman's literary club in this city was conceived by Mrs. Albert L. Richardson (then Miss Hester C. Dorsey) and Miss Louise C. Osborne Haughton, the present president of the club. Mrs. Richardson was at that time engaged in journalistic work under the nom de plume of "Scene."

The original plan of the club was that its members should be composed exclusively of recognized writers and that its object should be the advancement of members in literature and association for the consideration of questions of the day—literary, artistic, social and political—by discussion and written papers.

The first requirement of the club has not been rigidly enforced, recognizing the fact that many women of highest culture have not become authors or professional writers, but its members have never deviated from the original intention to keep the organization a purely literary one, even during years when the trend of women's clubs has been to organize many departments, with sections devoted to different interests. This has kept the character of the club homogeneous. The majority of members have been women engaged in literary pursuits and ample variety has been found in specialized committees, each pursuing a different line of literary work.

## Founded In 1890.

A preliminary meeting for the organization of the club was held at the residence of Mrs. John Dorsey, North Charles street, but the first general meeting and election of officers was held at Goucher Hall March 19, 1890. The presidency of the club was offered first to Mrs. Richardson and second to Miss Haughton. Both ladies declining the honor, Mrs. Lawrence Turnbull, who had just published her novel, "The Catholic Man," was elected president, together with the following officers: Vice-presidents, Miss Hester Crawford Dorsey (Mrs. Richardson) and Miss L. C. O. Haughton; secretary, Miss Eliza Ridgely; treasurer, Mrs. Fabian Franklin; executive committee, Mrs. Mary Spear Tierman, Miss Emma F. Brent, Mrs. Henry P. Goddard, Mrs. Allen P. Smith, Mrs. Charles W. Lord and Mrs. Henry Stockbridge. The club motto, "Parade Feminine," its monogram, and colors, white and lilac, were chosen.

The second general meeting, April 22, 1890, was held at the Albion Hotel, and the first home the club knew was a lodge room in Lehmann's Hall. Here for two years it grew in numbers and influence until its members were invited to become associate members of the Maryland Academy of Sciences, and accepted, as such, the use of a club room in the Maryland Academy of Sciences Building, then located at 12 East Centre street. With the removal of the Academy of Sciences to the old Maryland Clubhouse, corner of Cathedral and Franklin streets, the Literary Club came into the enjoyment of especially delightful quarters, and when, owing to the erection of the Young Men's Christian Association Building, the Academy of Sciences removed to the old Governor Swann mansion, 105 West Franklin street, the Literary Club removed thence with the Academy.

The club has had but six presidents: Mrs. Lawrence Turnbull, Miss Emma F. Brent, Mrs. John C. Wrenshall, Mrs. Jordan Stabler, Mrs. William M. Smith and Miss Louise C. O. Haughton. The latter, until her appointment as chief officer of the club, served as vice-president for every president elected.

The literary work of the organization has attained the high standard set by its founders. It has always been an organization doing serious and successful work. Its members have been quick to recognize and eager to foster young talent and the stimulating influence of officers and chairmen of committees has resulted in making the club a center to which all have turned for literary guidance and inspiration. The social spirit of the organization is delightful and entertainments given under its auspices both unique and beautiful. It has kept alive the literary memories of Baltimore and honored her authors and artists in fitting way.

## Distinguished Membership Roll.

The club's membership roll, honorary and active, past and present, contains the names of many distinguished women: Mrs. John T. Graham, artist and author, founder of the first woman's club in Maryland and honorary vice-president of the Maryland State Federation of Women's Clubs; Florence Earle Coates, poetess; Alice Fletcher, distinguished in American Indian lore; Helen Reimensnyder Martin, author of "Tillie, the Mennonite Maid," "Erstwhile Susan" and other Pennsylvania Dutch stories; Isabel S. Mason, lyric poet of the Blue Ridge Mountains; Lizette W. Reese, whose rare sonnets have won highest praise from such authorities as the English critic, Edmund Gosse, and of E. C. Stedman, in his Anthology of American Verse; Mrs. Lawrence Turnbull, who has written "The Golden Book of Venice" and "The Royal Pawn of Venice," and who is the mother of Grace Turnbull, sculptor, who won the Whitelaw Reid prize in her first year of work at Paris; Lucy Meachen Thruston, author of "Mistress Brent" and other important historical novels; Sophie Blodsoe Herriek, who recently died and who was for many years the scientific editor of the Century Magazine; Virginia W. Cloud, author of delightful poems and stories and now doing special dramatic composition; Mrs. Sidney Lanier, wife of the poet; Grace Denio, Litchfield, well-known author;

ney Lanier, music by Dudley Buck, sung by Mr. John Wilbourn; "Romance," Deberry, sung by Miss Rebecca Hickok; "Life's Lovelight," Adam Itzel, Jr., sung by Mr. Wilbourn; "Summer Song," words and music by Mamie Itzel, sung by Miss Hickok.

The present officers of the club are: President, Miss L. C. O. Haughton; first vice-president, Mrs. T. J. Copeland;

second vice-president, Mrs. J. Howard Palmer; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Philip R. Uhler; recording secretary, Mrs. Walter W. Thomas; treasurer, Mrs. E. Don Hoffman; board of managers, Mrs. John R. Hooper, Mrs. Beverly Smith, Mrs. Lawrence R. Sollenberger, Mrs. Edward Mackenzie, Miss Virginia Berkeley Bowie and Miss Virginia Woodward Cloud.

stores packed away, the canoe turned bottom up on the sand and the supper eaten, and when the dishes were washed and we sat by the campfire, I was glad, very glad, that I had come. Later, as I dozed in the fragrant bed of balsam, a clear, sweet whistle sounded from the thicket behind the tent. It was the white-throated sparrow, or, as the Northern Indians call him, Killoolcet, Little Sweet Voice. He had been disturbed by some one of the myriad forest sounds, and as his clear "I'm here, sweet Killoolcet, Killoolcet, Killoolcet," ripped forth, I felt a great peace and I knew that I was at home.