

present. At the close of the literary programme, a social will be held in the parlors, offering opportunity to greet old friends and make new ones. The secretary's book, for the signatures of new members will be found in the Libray, Thursday evening. The Business meeting for the annual election of officers and the transaction of such other business as may be necessary, will be held in Room K, Friday June 26th, at 3 p. m. All members are urged to attend.

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The Secretary is constantly in receipt of letters from graduates throughout the state asking information concerning the Circle, hence we feel that though we have but few certificate holders, our readers are numerous. Only those who read the entire course and forward examination papers are entitled to certificates, and these represent but a small per cent of the readers in general. Many have time but for history, others prefer the literary work, but all who do read at all, express their appreciation of the work laid out.

Mrs. Augusta Withington Welch, of Ione, Amador Co. says: "For the past four years I have been a member of the Normal Circle and can truly say, I have enjoyed the reading and derived much benefit as a member.

I have taught eight months each year, besides having a family of four to care for, and yet am so interested in the course that I find time to do all the reading required.

Teachers have said that the circle books are very expensive and the course requires too much time. Yet those same teachers spend an equal amount of money where they do not derive any more enjoyment and besides lose the opportunity of collecting quite a little library. Those who have studied Ancient History find that this course will certainly aid in bringing it back clearly to mind and stamping it more indelibly upon the memory. I think the officers have made choice selections and only wish I were differently situated so as to give a better sketch of our work."

Miss Hattie E. Isbister of Sweetland, Sonoma Co. says: "I am not discouraged though I have not completed this year's work, for I believe every teacher needs something of the kind to broaden her horizon and fit her for better work."

Another of our earnest workers is Miss Cora Wyckoff, Class of '85. While in Hawaii she sent us yearly some excellent papers; her efforts on "The Lay of the Last Minstrel" and "Ben Hur" being especially fine. We hope to be able at

some future time to give the readers of the INDEX some extracts from the various papers. Miss Wyckoff writes as follows: "When reading with the Circle I felt that I was accomplishing much in the way of study and tried to make each subject a study. The reading of these books has inspired me, so that I have since selected books upon the same line of thought and enjoyed them. I have learned that one book well perused is worth several hurriedly read."

Mrs. Alice White David of Newman, Stanislaus Co. is teaching a large country school, yet finds time to do all the work required without neglecting other duties.

Miss Amy O'Neal teaching at Valley Spring, Calaveras Co. has finished the four year's course though she reads alone and depends on her spare time outside of school hours.

The Secretary has received one set of papers, for 1890 without address of the author, hence it is impossible to deliver the certificates. Any who fail to hear from their papers will please address the Secretary.

B. B.

#### READING COURSE FOR 1891.

GENERAL HISTORY.—Meyers.

Part II is to be carefully studied as a basis for Modern History which will be begun next year, while Part I is to be used, when necessary, for reference and review.

SCIENCE.—Tropical Africa—Drummond.

PROFESSIONAL.—Self Culture—James Freeman Clarke.

CIVICS.—How We Are Governed—Dawes.

FICTION.—A Tale of Two Cities—Dickens.

(A story of the French Revolution.)

OPTIONAL.—Quentin Durward—Scott.

(A story of the Court of Louis XI of France.)

Schonberg, Cotta Family—Mrs. Charles.

(A story of the Reformation.)

## SCIENTIFIC.

### THE GEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICA.

In tracing the history of a continent, the scientist is obliged to depend wholly upon the records which the rocks have kept, and the number and variety of the facts which he gathers from them is, indeed, surprising. Vague though they are in many minor points, yet they afford sufficient data to enable him to arrive at many definite