

# HULL HOUSE SUMMER SCENE

Not the least unique and successful of Miss Jane Addams' many schemes for the benefit of working women is the Hull House summer school at Rockford, Ill. This is the fifth year since the beginning of the enterprise, and the present session opened last Monday, a few days earlier than last year's.

A reporter for the Inter Ocean visited Rockford last week to get at first hand a history of the plans and details of the work. On attending from the carriage in front of the main hall of the college the representative of the press first had to inquire as to what seemed an extraordinarily cordial reception.

A half dozen smiling young women stood at the doorway in welcome, while a quaint figure, looking for all the world like an old-fashioned Irish woman, stepped forward and shaking hands, said cordially: "I am Miss Starr." And it is quite likely that the reporter's heart in such a welcome of heartiest disposition which went around when they found out that this was not another war correspondent who had arrived.

"Nearly every train from Chicago now brings a stranger, a factory hand, a student, a teacher who has completed her vacation at the Hull House summer school. And this shows the way in which they are received. 'I think we may look for more new girls this morning,' says Miss Starr to Miss Boynton or some of the other teachers. "Oh, yes. The girls you mentioned in your letter," answers Miss Boynton, who has charge of the domestic arrangements. "I'll run up now and see if everything is just tight in those rooms I told you I had arranged. There are a few boards which will make things more comfortable. And do you, Miss Starr, see that somebody is waiting in the hall and that there are places at dinner, you know." The girls themselves need no such things. They are expecting their friends, their sisters, or somebody when they take delight in initiating into the ways of the family. For family it is, rather than school. It had its origin in this way: Miss Addams became convinced after a few years of work among the rather unwelcome but working girls of the city that their summer vacations in the fall of the year, especially in the summer, were a waste of time and money. She had been receiving with the co-operation of the millwrights here was likely to prove a source of many troubles.

**Origin of the school.**

Unless they happened to have friends in the near country, a trip from the city was usually impossible, and the best plan, as Miss Addams says, was to find a location which should be near, and show through for the lightest expense. Miss Addams' school days were passed at Rockford Seminary, and she graduated from there in 1881. In the fifteen years since then she has become famous as the originator of a new scheme of social settlement work, with headquarters in Hull House. The trustees of the seminary there

The recitations are conducted by Mr. Ralph H. Blount, a biologist from the Chicago city school. He became interested in the social work of Hull House, and this is his third year of the summer school.

**Recital and Recitalist Work.**

Mr. Blount first explained the place of the recital in the animal kingdom, giving some of the incidents of their lives, with the scientific names, dwelling, however, on the common names of common birds. After a half hour of general explanation of the subject the class looked sharply about to discover some of the feathered visitors to the school grounds. They found several, and discussed their appearance, habits, names, etc. One of the smaller ones captured and a specimen which had been recently mounted. He is keeping it until it recovers, and gravely assures Miss Addams that she looks nothing but a bird of the same kind.

As soon as the recitation of the year had been exhausted and every girl is perfectly familiar with the history of the bird, the recitalist of the year is chosen. It is curious to note that the recitalist will be made to the public and school next year.

The history class is conducted in the same way by Mrs. Blount. She began the recitalist work, giving for the first lesson a short account of the relation between plant and animal life, illustrating her with many interesting stories, which were viewed under the microscope. The girls were asked to gather some wild flowers for examination and classification next morning.

"Of course," said Miss Starr, speaking of the work, "it is not possible to obtain a thorough knowledge of any subject in five weeks. To tell it is possible to get a good general knowledge of very common birds or plants. But the truth is, I don't know that it would be of much benefit to the ordinary individual to know all the scientific names of them. But it is pleasant, and it adds a great deal to a summer outing to learn the common names of such things around. And then, one of our greatest aims is to give a love for knowledge, a love for certain studies. I think the goal of a good deal of education comes in the field which our students and which leads to independent effort. We aim to combine a very little study, a great deal of outdoor work, with a general education, and change of scene and thought. There are already places where students can get a course of summer study about regular school hours. But this is designed primarily for self-supporting women, who have not much money to spend, who wish to rest, and at the same time not neglect their studies."

**Lesson by Topics.**

"We try to arrange lessons by topics, so that each week's work will be distinct. Those of a woman can only a week or two to spend in a subject, and we have something in a different way. I think our work is not more varied than that of a school, although we do not try to have any continuity in the course from year to year."

"We are glad when the girls on spend the whole five weeks, but we welcome them as cordially if they have only one day to stay. We encourage the latter, and we encourage the former. We are glad when the girls on spend the whole five weeks, but we welcome them as cordially if they have only one day to stay. We encourage the latter, and we encourage the former."

Her eyes are blue, her hair a light brown, and her complexion very fair. Her manner is gentle and frank, but she has the decided air of a woman of affairs. The atmosphere at the same time the refinement of a cultured woman. She is a native of Chicago, and she graduated from there in 1881. In the fifteen years since then she has become famous as the originator of a new scheme of social settlement work, with headquarters in Hull House. The trustees of the seminary there

improve greatly upon nature. Rockford itself a charming place for all the parks are large, and the trees give the place a lovely look. It is a busy city, and the electric trolley motor mingle with the "chance" cars in quiet urban way. It is true that the farmers pay an independent and largely manner, stopping in front of the Johnson and Smiths, even waiting an instant while Mrs. Brown is trying her harness straps. A farmer taking his own place in the street will admonish a stranger to "get on that grassy space before they run out on our heads," but that is an illusion, of course. Rockford is a lively town, very important and growing manufacturing center, and its people are exceedingly hospitable and kindly to the stranger living in the place. The summer school speaks as a rule in general appreciation of the city, for the sake of the better life, and the people who have been attentive to Mrs. Brown Clark, Mrs. William Leighton, Mr. Ralph Emerson, and Mr. William Tolant.

## A Thames House-Boat and the Yale Race.

An American who rented a Thames house-boat, and from it saw the British regatta, gives the following account of a fortnight of the regatta that will be held here in a few days here, and the good one against all odds for three months about the middle of the month. The British regatta American goes on to say:

"The boat was arranged to accommodate six and I travelled throughout in cotage style, including piano, cook stove, refrigerator, and plenty of other things for the roof, cushions, etc., in fact, it was well furnished, heating stoves, and when we added the stoves



and a 100-horsepower motor with nickel-plated brass, came back to the boat, for making excursions away from the boat.

"To appreciate the houseboat was a day and a night, and it was more like a floating hotel of comfort and elegance than a boat, and in its commodious cabin we soon found a temporary home."

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"I was not prepared for the benefit of time but would like to know what such an outing costs, that is, or less than \$15 a week, covered my total expenditure for living, street fare, boat rent, etc., and my party consisted of my wife, three children, a cook, and myself. My expenses were less than at a hotel or boarding-house, and I could go to and come from the Thames by frequent trains to any point the boat happened to be."

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stars and stripes the year we were there, and around it gathered many Americans. A crowd of the river, and the boats were the prizes that all forth pursued of the gulfstream.

"How wonderful the sharp report of a gun, and there is a general halting of the spectators' boats together and loose cables to clear the way. Two specks are seen to detach themselves from the waving foliage of the island, and the crowd of the river, and the boats were the prizes that all forth pursued of the gulfstream."



the another in the world's equipment. I can assure you that the crew will be this year; 'Well pulled, loaded' or 'Well pulled, Yale' 'Well pulled, stroke two, two, two'—whatever the popular favorite may happen to be, if you could agree them out, each after the other that contains the ear, shouting, the tacks change and present to you, like an early lesson in perspective, the myriad masts of the regatta boats, heaving heavily to be distinguished except by the measured gleam of masts, sweeping, fair and sleek, that move like one out of sea in the blustering water. The men, in their rigging and falling line, white or striped threads as they lean to their work, are actively to be made out at all such times come opposite our line.

"Well pulled" should the American crowd about us; 'Well pulled, indeed' with a sense that this approval will count for something with the regatta men, whose exertions justify the credit of Yale. The excitement rises higher and higher as the regatta nears the winning point.

"Each, as a sudden, thousands fall upon the pleasing river. The race has been won and just as nobody was another thought upon it. The boats that have been a wedge race in a contest of the regatta men, and the men covering the entire crew. All are now with minds relieved from the tension of a successful man upon whose soul rests a burden which admits of no rest. Easy and simple, and difficult, yet pleasant movement of the crew, and greeting of friends and spectators

of acquaintances made perhaps at the other end of the world—for every one seems to be in Henley—occupy the leisurely moment with the cry, 'Another race is on!' and then once more the spectators fall back, the two specks in the water rise into momentary importance, the crowd on the banks howls and shrieks, and waves along in its Bernese path again. 'Well pulled, indeed' with a sense that this approval will count for something with the regatta men, whose exertions justify the credit of Yale. The excitement rises higher and higher as the regatta nears the winning point.

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# ROCKFORD COLLEGE, SCENE OF THE SUMMER WORK CONDUCTED BY HULL HOUSE.

College at Rockford came forward with a generous proposition, renting the buildings and grounds at Miss Addams' disposal for five weeks each summer.

Having secured a location, Miss Addams immediately organized the school, including a picture gallery, a library, a gymnasium, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The school was opened in the fall of 1890, and it has since that time been a source of much benefit to the community.

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