

DRAMA GIVEN IN THE LATIN TONGUE AT LINDENWOOD

(By the Rev. H. Thomas)

An intellectual feast was offered last evening, Friday at the Lindenwood College, in the form of a latin play entitled "A Roman Marriage", which was enjoyed by a limited number and well deserved a greater attendance. The entire production, under the supervision of Miss Porterfield, in the Latin language was very good. All spoke their parts distinctly. No programs were distributed, so we cannot comment on the individual players, but we wish to congratulate the faculty and all of the young ladies on their excellent production. The following is a synopsis of the play, translated:

Marriage was held to be a duty of every Roman and those who neglected it were obliged to pay a fine or tax. It took place at an early age, the male being sometimes but fourteen and the female only twelve years. It was preceded by a solemn betrothment, in which the father of the bride gave his assent to the request of the bridegroom. Friends and relatives were present as witnesses; the marriage contract was written and sealed, the bride received from her betrothed a ring as a pledge of his fidelity and the whole ceremony was concluded with a feast. In fixing the day of marriage, care was taken to select one of those esteemed lucky or fortunate. The transference of the bride from her father's power to the hands of the husband was accompanied by a religious ceremony and a sort of consecration by the pontifex maximus, the high priest. On the day of marriage, the bride was adorned with a veil and a new robe. The sacrifice ordered on the marriage day was a pigeon, presented especially to Juno, as the goddess of marriage. The conducting of the bride to the residence of the husband, which took place in the evening, was attended likewise with ceremonies. She was taken, as it were, forcibly from the arms of her mother, and was lefted over the threshold of both houses, as it was ominous to touch it with the feet. She was supported by two youths, one on each side, a third preceded her with a lighted torch and a fourth carrying the bride's various toys. She anointed the door posts with oil. She then entered and called aloud for the bridegroom, who immediately came and offered her the key to the house. She then lighted with a torch the fire of the stove and prayed kneeling to the goddess Juno.

Sic itur ad astra.

—H. Thomas.