



THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1897.



ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

—BY—

THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.

Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs.

Telephone 384.

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Subscription Rates—In Advance.

Per annum.....	\$ 2 00
Six months.....	1 00
Three months.....	50
One month.....	20
Single copies.....	05

OBSERVATIONS.

Club women are earnestly discussing the expediency of the delegates to the State federation paying their own board, and thus leaving the dead head class and becoming a respected and self-respecting convention. Unless some such arrangement is made, the annual gathering will be so burdensome to the people of the city where it is held that it will be difficult to secure a meeting place. Even the state and district conventions of religious bodies are beginning to appreciate the poor economics of quartering delegates in private families. In all cases the body which a delegate represents should pay the expenses of that delegate. If the association which sends the individual to represent it is not willing to pay the expenses of representation why should an already over-worked house keeper contribute room and board for the purpose? It is supererogatory for the clubs, relieving them of a function which they can perform without burdening the individual, and at the same time imposing it upon a woman only interested in a general way in the delegates of any particular club. According to the year book, Beatrice has only one club, "the Woman's club." It will be obliged, if the delegates are entertained at the homes of members, either to ask non-club members to assist them, or to pay their board at the hotel. The impropriety of either course is apparent without discussion. There are at present 159 clubs in the federation. It has been customary to "entertain" all who come, visitors and delegates alike. The few

days of meeting have been an inspiration to everyone able to listen or take part in the exercise. But these have not included the natives who have been kept at home peeling potatoes, making beds, cleaning lamps and helping in various ways to make their stranger guests comfortable. I have never heard a hostess complain. Women are in the habit of accepting tradition as law. Nevertheless the entertainment of delegates, unless entirely voluntary, is a survival of desert days, when there were no inns and when every nomad dared not refuse a hospitality which he would be apt to require himself. How long would the State Teacher's association last if the householders in the city of the session were compelled to "entertain," (the word has a special significance from this very custom), the members? The vicious custom will certainly limit the usefulness, if it do not destroy, the annual meetings of the State Federation. THE COURIER invites correspondence on this subject, particularly from those who have anything to urge on the side of the old plan. Mrs. McKillip's vigorous statement of her objection to the plan now in use was printed in last week's COURIER. So far the discussion has been one-sided. If there is any reason, except that of custom, why a woman of one club should entertain two women from another club whom she does not know, the readers of THE COURIER want to know it. There are women whom we all know, who belong to so many religious, literary, municipal, temperance, musical and social associations, that they have acquired an especial and specific education, viz: how to get elected to any desired office. Although fewer of this genus appear in the State Federation of Women's Clubs than in the older temperance and suffragist conventions, and so far as my observation goes, no one of this kind has ever held any office except that of delegate, she is still present in a small minority at the State Federation. The club which sends her has the advantage of her knowledge of intrigue and of the science of "working" a convention and that club should pay her expenses. Although the knowledge and practice of this science is not inconsistent with an honorable and womanly character, it is disagreeable to the ordinary club member because it savors of professionalism, and because when the talent is allowed to expand, the club is apt to become a machine or rather a tool. In spite, however, of the newspapers, club women are the most domestic, as well as the most intelligent women there are and manipulators of the kind described, are not always successful, at least in Lincoln, though according to "The Woman's Weekly" they are firmly established in Omaha. The clubs of the state, through their officers, have expressed their desire to study psychology, in order that the matrons who are members of them may

make fewer mistakes in training the little souls who belong to them. They are studying ways and means to make the cities they live in cleaner and healthier places to live in. In this work there is first a desire to perform intelligently the duties nearest at hand and secondly a desire to spend themselves for their country. Associations of such enlightened womanhood have small opportunities for the selfishly ambitious and the annual club reports show only charitable and intellectual endeavor. But an occasional election of officers discovers the political intrigue often in the process of being suppressed. And although the professional delegate has little chance among the keen wits in the Nebraska women's club she occasionally succeeds and is "entertained" *par necessite* by an innocent, hospitable, imposed upon, little club woman who bears the burdens which a club in a distant town reaps the benefits of, from a representative gifted with a knowledge of affairs. Before the meeting in October if the officers of the State federation should see fit to recommend that each club pay the expenses of its representatives, the women of Beatrice would have an opportunity to enjoy the exercises at Beatrice. From four hundred to six hundred women can not be "entertained" by the members of one club without hardship to themselves and they should not be asked to do it.

The editor of this paper in a recent comparative estimate of the amount of composition in *The Woman's Weekly*, and the *THE COURIER*, overstated the excess in the latter paper. Through the winter months the average amount of composition in *THE COURIER*, not counting advertisements or paid notices of any kind, was above 70,000 ems. *THE COURIER* of last week contained 68,000 ems. *The Woman's Weekly* of July 10th. contains 19,500 ems exclusive of advertising or paid notices. The week before, *The Weekly* contained 29,110 ems. *THE COURIER*, without going over the files carefully and excluding extra editions of both papers, contains three times as much composition as *The Woman's Weekly*.

The election of a man to the principalship of the high school who has not had university training is a fatal and short sighted selection. The boys and girls who are graduated from the high school need to be stimulated to further intellectual effort. A principal of the high school whose accomplishments consist only of a skill in mental arithmetic, grammar, geography, reading, writing and spelling, will in a short time make the Lincoln high school a by-word. A wide scholarship, a culture acquired not in a normal school nor in any technical school nor in any one university should be the possession of the high school

principal. Without internal harmony progress is impossible. The teachers who know more than the principal will despise him and at the end of the year another change will be necessary. If the school board were out of politics the election of such a man as the new principal would be impossible. With all the prejudices of ignorance, against the modern laboratory method of teaching literature and history, as well as science the possibilities for blocking the better trained efforts of his subordinates are endless. *THE COURIER* predicts that in a year, either a new teaching force at the high school will have to be secured or a new principal. It is impossible to attain the high standing established by other high schools in the state and out of it, with an annual or biennial change of principals. The Lincoln high school, on account of its contiguity to the university and other surrounding colleges, should already have established a precedent of exacting scholarship. But mainly through the efforts of the board to secure a cheap principal, the high school is still without a reputation. The school has had many good principals, but not one who has stayed long enough to make his administration a time to be quoted or referred to as a time of accomplishment and growth. I think the fault lies with the personelle of the school board, the members of which are selected, not for their knowledge of educational matters but because it is a certain man's turn for recognition for some effective ward-work in the last election. There are some notable exceptions, as in the case of Judge Field, who protested against the selection of the new principal. To nominate members of the school board for such reasons injures directly the youth of the place, but that is the regime we live under. In New York there are saloon keepers on the board of education. There is no reason in our way of doing things, why such men should not be on the board here. The same principle underlies nominations but we do not carry it quite so far. We will in time, because we are approaching that point much more rapidly than New York city did.

THE COURIER has been allowed to make these few excerpts from Mrs. H. H. Wilson's thesis on "Tendencies of Modern Fiction," which she delivered before the Alumni of the state university. The thesis is a clear presentation of the theories of the different schools of Realism, Naturalism, Romanticism, Idealism and Illusionism, together with a history of the growth of English fiction, from the germ in Beowulf to the flower of Fielding and the fruitage of the nineteenth century. From being the most despised form of literary expression, the novel has become the best and most trust