

such a place, but many favored it and were willing to help financially. After a thorough canvass monthly pledges were secured for an amount large enough to rent rooms and give a small margin for incidental expenses.

The room rented was large and a short distance from the business center of the town. It was on the ground floor facing a main street so that it might be easily accessible to tired women. It was partitioned into four rooms, reception room, lunch room, toilet room and dressing room. The furnishings were donated by the club members and in some cases by merchants. The gas company furnished free gas, the water company, free water; the ice man, free ice; a telephone was put in free.

All this had been done practically without the co-operation of the country women themselves. The room had been advertised carefully in the daily and weekly papers and it remained to be seen, when the rooms were formally opened upon the venture. The first day after the opening reception happened to be Memorial day, when of course an unusually large number of country people were in the city. But the number entertained went far beyond the expectation of those who had charge of the rooms, reaching a little more than sixty.

When success was fairly assured, the details of managing the rooms were arranged more definitely. Two club women looked after the rooms each day and the work was under the supervision of the president and secretary who lived near the rooms.

It seems that no regular literary or social meetings of the club were held; at least none are reported. But the homelike atmosphere of the club and the resulting social intercourse between the city and country women could not help bring the two classes into unusually close sympathy.

Membership in the club is open to all women from out of town who wish to avail themselves of the privileges coming from the rest room and intercourse with city members, and with each other.

The work is well started now and is considered one of the permanent features of the woman's clubs in Rochester. One of the Rochester papers, in a report of the work last November said:

"In the latter part of August the woman's club opened a register at their reception rooms for the purpose of ascertaining the number of people who made use of the rooms. Up to date (November 3) there are five hundred and thirty names on the register, exclusive of those who give Rochester as their place of residence. This cannot be regarded as a complete list as many do not register, but it is large enough to show that the reception rooms are doing all in the way of entertainment that was expected."

This is printed under the title "A Good Showing" and indicates concisely the attitude taken towards the work of the club by those who have no direct connection with it.

These two town and county clubs may be considered samples of the clubs that are being formed. The work and the methods are modified of course by special conditions. The size of towns and more particularly, the kind of people that live around the towns. Each club must push out for itself and determine by experiments the kind of work needed and the best way for the work to be done. In Mrs. Henrotin's opinion, very few towns do not give opportunity for some work of this sort with a definite purpose in view of unifying the interests of town and country women.

As Mrs. Henrotin spoke of this I wondered just what work could be done in Lincoln. I knew that it could not be characterized to any extent as a market town, though a large part of its business is of course the marketing of country

produce. I knew, too, that the country people about Lincoln were rather heterogeneous, perhaps almost equally divided between Americans and foreigners. But I had lived on a farm near Lincoln myself and I knew from experience what opportunities a country woman has for study or self-improvement. It is not altogether that a farmer's wife has no time to read, though as a class they are busier than town women. But they cannot get any amount of good reading matter except at an expense impossible alike to town and country. They cannot hear the best lectures and the best music. These things are made up in part by the freedom and independent life, by the thoroughness with which a country woman reads what books do come to her, and by the increased enjoyment when she does hear lectures or music. But they can never be quite made up. I am of the opinion that club intercourse with Lincoln women would stimulate them.

And I am not altogether sure that the stimulation would be just on the one side. There is a wholesome energy and practical directness about many of the country women that I know around Lincoln that would never be quite superfluous even in Lincoln clubs that have a good deal of this quality themselves.

At least this town and country club movement has been started. It has succeeded already in many places where it has been tried. The work that it does and can do is worth consideration and general commendation. When the wave reaches Lincoln it will be time to speculate about a Lincoln town and country club and to watch how conditions shape the growth of the work here.

ANNIE PREY.

The Lincoln city improvement association met Tuesday at the Commercial club parlors. Considering the large number of ladies absent from the city the attendance was good. The all-absorbing subject of weeds received a large share of attention in proportion to the large extent of city ground they occupy. The spread of Canada thistle in certain localities was discussed. Mrs. McConnell brought one that all might be able to recognize it.

Street Commissioner Lindsey was present by invitation, and an informal conference was held looking to his efficient co-operation. He was especially requested to have the gutters bordering on the state house and high school grounds cleaned so that the weeds could not have a chance to grow in them, as these localities were always observed by visitors as well as observant citizens. To this he readily agreed. It was reported that the secretary of the school board has been asked to look after weeds on the high school grounds.

Mrs. Coffroth and Miss Elliott were appointed to request managers of telegraph, telephone and street railway companies to see that all advertisements are removed from their poles in the interests of cleanliness. This was attended to immediately, and a very hearty affirmative response received.

Lincoln was compared with other cities in regard to neatness and there was a high estimate placed upon the "commercial value of cleanliness," and an earnest desire to impress the community with this very practical feature of the movement. All were cheerful, hopeful, helpful, not expecting sudden transformations, but having all confidence in the magnificent results of "stick-to-itiveness."

Determined Not to be Beaten.

Dawson—I've seen divers go down and stay under water an hour.

Jawson—Pooh! I've seen em' go down and stay an hour and a half and smoke all the time.

Dawson—I saw one go down a year ago and he has not come up since!

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