

the Missouri Pacific branch railroad, yet we are enthusiastic in our club work, never miss a meeting. We have this year a membership of forty-six, last year we numbered fifty-three. The deficiency in membership comes from so floating a population—so many move away and change about. This, of course, is the same in all towns. Our club this past year have quite thoroughly studied the authors—with alternate lessons of practical home benefit. We have our parliamentary drill, current topics, household economics, original quotations, etc., and feed our husbands and sweethearts quite liberally. Two very enjoyable occasions were held the past year at the beautiful and commodious home of Mrs. S. E. Huse, one a banquet in honor of Mrs. Mary Barnes, of Lacon, Ill., our namesake, who visited us, and the other a reception to our husbands, nearly one hundred participating. A mirthful little farce was given, entitled Mr. "Hox and Box," with other amusements. A grand spread was served and artistically folded napkins were presented as souvenirs. We are going to adopt the plan of a dollar membership fee for next year. This covers all expenses and no assessments will be necessary during the year. We close our year's work with as fine a banquet as our little city can prepare. Wishing success to Nebraska Women's clubs. Cordially, Mrs. S. H. PENNEY. Fullerton, Nebr., March 18.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COURIER CLUB DEPARTMENT:

In your recent article on our early "child club" in Cleveland, you spoke of wishing to know what a child would really write. I enclose a copy of some rules Annabel wrote. She was not a member of the original club, but she is the daughter of a member. She wrote these rules in good faith for the guidance of her own conduct, in one of her "good spells." I found them on the floor later on when the "good spell" had passed, and I saved them. She is ten years old.

NELLIE H. SHARP, Cleveland, O.,
March 18, 1898.

MY STAND-BY RULES.

- 1 Do good to the poor.
- 2 Be you always ready to forgive the awflest things.
- 3 Think not of yourself, but of others.
- 4 Take your own advice, or suffer.
- 5 Love all around you.
- 6 Suffer no animal to be hurt.
- 7 Take what the Lord gives you and be content.
- 8 Earn your living, or go without.
- 9 Trust not to strangers.
- 10 Be not a Burden (burden) to the world.

Members of the Current Events of the Lincoln Woman's Club listened with deep interest to the description given by Miss Church of the "Junior George Republic." These street Arabs of Greater New York are learning and practicing the principles of "good citizenship" here, which otherwise were impossible. Four years experience has proved that these children, reared in poverty and vice, have noble characters when their manhood and womanhood is brought to the surface. In this republic the reflex action of disregard for law is plainly seen and felt by the youngest citizen, for they are citizens, neither criminals nor paupers.

Last Saturday the department had an unusually interesting meeting. One of the best papers of the year, "Finland and Its Women," was read by Mrs. F. A. Brown, who gave so much unusual information that she was followed with the closest attention. Women form so large a majority of the population of Finland, that much of the work in all lines is necessarily done by them—in fact they undertake anything that men can do. They are bricklayers, carpenters, agricultural hands, or farmers

themselves. Seven hundred women serve at shiploading, like Hopkinson Smith's "Tom Grogan."

Education is compulsory in Finland and it is said no man unable to read can be found there. The telephone is so low, \$10 a year, that it is commonly used by all families.

The paper contained many other interesting facts. The program closed with the usual reports from other countries.

The regular bimonthly meeting of the Lincoln Century club was held Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. C. I. Jones. In spite of the stormy, cold day, every member was present. After a business meeting discussing the program and election of officers for the next year, the special program for the afternoon was taken up. Mrs. M. E. Van Brunt gave an exceedingly interesting description of Sicily and Capri. Mrs. Polk's briefs on "Items of History of Rome," were very instructive and Mrs. G. G. Waite gave a very delightful description of St. Peter and the Vatican. Light refreshments were served by the hostess. Adjourned to meet with Mrs. I. N. Baker, April 5.

The Fortnightly club of Lincoln met with Mrs. C. H. Imhoff on Friday, the 18th of March. Mrs. L. C. Richards read an instructive paper on universities in general and especially those in Holland. She also presented an interesting paper on Spinoza, his life and philosophy.

The subject of last week's program for the Fremont Woman's club was "American Humorists," Mrs. Adelaide Reynolds presiding.

The first number was a piano trio by Mesdames Barnard and Drew and Miss Daisy McGiverin. The music was very well executed and much enjoyed.

Frank Stockton was the first American humorist to be presented. Miss Mabel Lee in her reading from "Pomona's Travels," described "Pomona on her Wedding Trip" in a very amusing manner.

Mrs. Wilson Reynolds' paper on "Some American Humorists," was exceedingly well written. Mrs. Reynolds held the attention of her audience in her usual interesting manner, and brought before the club much to be remembered. That such men as Bill Nye and Bob Burdette could write their most laughable stories while struggling with physical and mental pain, may perhaps find for us something new in their writings—a hint of hidden pathos.

The two minute talks by Mrs. Lambertson, Miss Marshall and Mrs. Hinman were very bright and interesting, as was the open discussion that followed.

Miss Lottie Storey then cleverly recited "Seein' Things," and Mrs. Frank Knowlton closed the program with a very sweet solo entitled "A Rose in Heaven."

Some of the special business that will come before the Denver Biennial meeting in June relates to the financial future of the General Federation, Margaret Hamilton Welch says in Harper's Bazar that it is now a widely recognized fact that this national organization ought to be put upon a footing which will enable it to meet its expenses. Annual dues of \$10 from clubs numbering over 100 members, and of \$25 for State federations counting more than 100 clubs, with half of each sum from clubs and State societies not reaching the 100 limit of membership, constitute the revenue of the general society. This income is barely sufficient to pay the growing expenses of the Biennial meetings, leaving little or nothing for the carrying on of the official work.

So serious is the tax upon the president for travelling expenses over the wide area of her jurisdiction, and upon all the officers for assistance in their burdensome correspondence, that the club

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woman of moderate or small means is practically ineligible to office in the general organization from this one cause alone—a condition manifestly not in keeping with the democratic spirit of the basic principle of club life.

A remedy proposed is to tax every club the sum of five cents per capita. With the individual membership of the federation counting in round numbers 200,000, this method would provide an appreciable and probably entirely adequate sum. Whether, however, this plan is adopted, or some other, it seems important to secure in some way an income sufficient for the legitimate expenses of the society.

The plan of work formulated by the Illinois Federation of Woman's clubs, under the presidency of Mrs. Alice Bradford Wiles, is a model of its kind. Full as it is of the most comprehensive sug-

gestion, it is compact, concise, and reads in its sententiousness, almost like the outline for a single club, instead of representing the interests of fifteen thousand women federated in the Illinois State society. These interests have been grouped under five heads, and are intrusted to five standing committees—on Education, Philanthropy, Literature, Art and Music. The committee on education suggests a list of standing committees to be appointed in clubs. Their titles indicate their use and activity—Child Study, Physical and Manual Training, Kindergartens, History, Music and Art, School Libraries, Natural Science, School Morals, School Sanitation and The Press.

The committee on Philanthropy lays special stress on the co-operation of all charities in cities and villages. It also aims to arouse a public sentiment for