

# CLUBS.

ANNIE L. MILLER, EDITOR.

## Officers of the State Federation of Woman's Clubs.

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The program of the Second National Congress of Mothers is very handsome. Upon the front cover is a baby's picture, a beautiful little child, said to be one of the three small children of the president, Mrs. Theodore Birney of Washington, D. C. The idea of this great national mothers' meeting originated with Mrs. Birney, a gentle, low-voiced delicate mother, whose little ones so filled her heart that it overflowed with the milk of human kindness toward other mothers and other little ones. Her modest thought of calling together a few mothers to consult as to ways and methods of bettering humanity through mother's love rapidly developed into the great result of a National Mothers' Congress, which has been the surprise and admiration of all.

The ways and means for the congress which convened last year were provided largely by Mrs. Phoebe Hearst. She gave lavishly of her great wealth and the first congress was a success. Many at first called it the "new woman's fad;" many thought it ephemeral; some ridiculous, but the large body of intelligent women grasped the idea, feeling sure that it held the germ of a grand work for humanity. We have before mentioned the unusual response to this first call. The ladies in charge thought the banquet rooms of the Arlington would be large enough to hold all who would come, but when the hour of opening came all the available room on the first floor of this large hotel was filled and the pavement was blockaded in front. Adjournment was taken to one of the largest churches in the city. This was also packed to the doors and the pavement blockaded. So overflow meetings were held in the basement class rooms and at the hotel. Thus this meeting of mothers, called as an experiment, achieved such a success that the continuation of the good work was assured. Before the adjournment of this first congress steps were taken to perpetuate the organization by arranging for an annual congress which should meet at the national capital as a delegated body. This second congress, which has just closed, was even a greater success than the first. Speakers were there from all over the world. There were representatives from far-away India, Japan and Italy. In all there were sixty-five speakers, many regular orators and many specialists in their particular lines. Hardly a calling or profession in life but what was represented by distinguished men and women. This is not a sex movement and the "fathers" are deeply interested and are invited to take part in the councils of the "mothers."

"This is exactly what we want," one matron said, "it takes father and mother both to make a home and when we get both interested in this grand movement we have gone a long way on the road to lasting reform."

Mrs. Hearst, the fair godmother of the movement, is traveling abroad, so was unable to be present at the last congress, but she showed her interest in

the form of a large check.

Very important work has been accomplished at this congress outside of the discussion of matters pertaining to the welfare of the little folks. A constitution and by-laws have been adopted, the organization incorporated and steps taken to put it upon a paying basis. A memorial fund is also to be established and it is thought that this can be made a fruitful source of revenue. Mothers whose little ones have slipped from their clinging arms will be asked to give as their means permit, some small, some larger sums, yearly, to support and educate homeless children in memory of empty chairs and lonely hearth stones. It would be very interesting to notice most of the fine papers delivered on this occasion, but space forbids. Mrs. Miller of Omaha, who spoke on "Childhood an Intertentation," was in her most pleasing and entertaining mood and judging from the report in the Washington papers completely captured her audience. Mrs. John McNeil, delegate from the Woman's club of Denver, represented the largest individual constituency in the congress—a club of eight hundred women. She is said to be a woman of rare executive ability, an organizer without an equal, and possessed of that sterling integrity of purpose which makes her a noble leader. One of the instructive papers was "Can Heredity Be Modified," by Helen Gardner. Another calculated to do much good was by Theodore F. Seward, originator of "The Don't Worry Movement," by the way one of the mottoes on the program was, "Do not hurry, do not worry, as this world you travel through." This "don't worry" man came in for plenty of chaffing because of a little joke which I give: The pretty badges, pinned on so deftly by Mrs. Verrill, are followed by a "ten cents, please," and so winningly that it ought to bring a quarter at least. Mr. Seward walked up to the table and after a few moments conversation got the badge, but absently walked off and did not pay for it. Mrs. Verrill put down on her list, "Badge to Mr. Seward; don't worry about your ten cents." In the morning Mr. Seward hustled himself down to Mrs. Verrill's table and planked down his ten cents, with profuse apologies for his lapse of memory.

"Oh, I didn't worry about it," said Mrs. Verrill, smilingly.

"Well, perhaps you didn't," responded Mr. Seward earnestly, "but I worried all night." And then he looked surprised because all the women around laughed.

Mrs. Frederic Schoff of Philadelphia took for her subject "The Necessity of Training Our Daughters for Motherhood." Mrs. Serenson, director of mother conferences, Salt Lake City, gave a very instructive address on the "Physical of Motherhood." Mrs. Mary E. Bart of New York City, gave a scholarly address on "Literature for Children." The usual criticism on women conventions seems to have held good at this last congress. One Washington paper said:

The effect of the fine papers presented

# Allegretti Chocolates

AT

## Rector's Pharmacy.

The Courier will execute all kinds of commissions in Lincoln for the club women of the state free of charge. We will buy carpets, china, dry goods, furniture, hardware, boys' and children's clothing, jewelry and watches, wedding presents, bicycles, shoes, groceries, anything for sale, and charge the club women nothing for the service. Many merchants will send articles on approval. Send The Courier on your errands.

is marred by the poor delivery. Women who are desirous of being public speakers, even if on subjects concerning the home, ought to learn to use their voices so that an audience can hear them. People soon lose interest when through fifteen minutes all that they know of what is going on is that a pretty woman in her best gown is making her mouth go.

The mothers congress is progressive. The programs announced "hats off" during the week and off they came. At the evening session the handsomely gowned women wore on their head only woman's crowning glory, with a rose or some sweet flower, or at most a bit of a bonnet of crushed roses.

The Northbend Woman's club met in regular session Saturday afternoon, May 14. A good part of the time was taken up with business, after which an interesting and instructive program was carried out. Roll call was answered by "Odd sayings of children." The subject of the afternoon being Child Study, the leader trained a class of little children, who entertained the club with Mother Goose Melodies and kindergarten songs.

Papers were read on the subjects, Motherless children and childless women—what can they do for each other, and What the kindergarten means to mothers and The principles and spirit of the kindergarten. The meeting was then open for remarks from any one.

The History and Art club of Albion met Tuesday afternoon, April 26, with Mrs. O. M. Needham. The president, Mrs. Howell being absent, Mrs. T. H. Barkley, vice president, presided. The program opened with a musical selection which was followed with current topics in respond to roll call.

The period of history discussed "The reign of Diocletian and Constantine the Great." After the general lesson, review topics were given out and each member required to give a short talk upon the subject assigned her, as it was a change from the usual order of review. Every one was greatly interested.

The program closed with a vocal solo by Miss Emily Bull, which was pleasing to all. May 10, the club met with the president, Mrs. Howell, a goodly number

being present. After the opening exercises, a short business session was held. The federation badges which the president had just received were admired by all for their simplicity and beauty, and were soon disposed of. An hour was then spent in class work, the subject under discussion, "Social life of the Romans." "Literary men among the Romans." The remainder of the time was spent in parliamentary drill, led by Mrs. E. T. Tanner.

The Schuyler Woman's club met in the month of April on regular club days, the first and third Wednesdays of the month, at the residence of Mrs. Rosenberg. The attendance of the month for different reasons was small, but of unusual interest.

The program for the first meeting covered that part of U. S. history or the critical period intervening between the Revolution and the adoption of our present constitution. Each member present giving some part of that period, making the meeting instructive as well as entertaining; closing with current events and discussion on the public library, its use and its abuse or, when beneficial was detrimental.

Inclement weather prevented our meeting on first club day in May, but the week furnished an opportunity of hearing the President of the Nebraska State Federation lecture on Two American Women. This lecture to the public was given under the auspices of the Woman's and Tourist's clubs of this city. An appreciative audience of ladies and gentlemen was present.

All enthusiastic club women who attended the lecture were encouraged in their enthusiasm and efforts to struggle onward and upward. And those who were present with doubts whether clubs were beneficial and helpful to all women so connected, by strengthening, expanding and broadening the mind, and the uplifting and refining of home influences, left with doubts partially if not entirely removed, by the fitting and logical arguments given in favor of clubs in the introductory part of her address.

Mrs. Stoutenborough's lecture was a very clear and able delineation of the life and character of each of Two American Women, Maria Mitchell and