

CLUBS.

[LOUISA L. RICKETS, EDITOR.]

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The real object of club life should be the greatest good to the greatest number. This object can only be realized by an interchange of the newest and freshest thought among club women. To accomplish this interchange, the club department of THE COURIER invites communication from any and all who are interested in club work. We are told that "in a multitude of counsels there is wisdom," hence these columns are open to advice, to criticism and to suggestions.

There is a new Shaksperian game invented by the young women of the Shaksperian club of Camden, Mo. This club is only one year old and its decidedly original method of study naturally developed into this game. It is played with cards compiled from the plays and characters of Shakspeare, which can be played by any number, or used as a study in the home. Here is a sample card:

Who said:

"How far that little candle throws its beams,
So shines a good deed
in a naughty world."

Who said:

"Happy in this, she is
not yet so old
But she may learn;
happier than this
She is not bred so dull
but she can learn."

What scornful lady thus spoke of one of her suitors:

"God made him and therefore let him pass for man."

What wise lady said:

"If to do were as easy as to know what were good to do, chapels had been churches and poor men's cottages, prince's palaces."

This game will be of special value to students of Shakspeare and a welcome addition to the historical games that have been used in most circles, as it has the twofold advantage of being instructive and amusing. It is meeting with great success—is already in its second edition. All praise to this little Shakspeare club for its invention of this charming game of cards, which is equally suitable for the club, the social gathering or the home circle.

In most clubs there are often papers read which are of general interest and which would be of benefit to all club-doms. Please remember that THE COURIER reaches seventy-six clubs including about 3,600 members in our own state, then you can see how much good might be accomplished if Mrs. D. would

write for these columns her suggestions on "Conversation at Meals," or Mrs. C. would tell this vast audience of the value of "Conservation of Energy," or Mrs. B. would tell us "The Best Way to Cultivate Extemporaneous Speaking," or Mrs. A. would give us her "Objections to Attempts at Extemporaneous Speaking," and so on through the long catalogue of helpful and useful ideas that are being developed through the clubs of Nebraska. The reports sent in from the different clubs of the state are very interesting, but you can readily see that the opportunities of helping others may be greatly increased if from your feasts of reason the choicest might be selected and published.

"Lives there a soul so small, so dead" who has not longed to rush into print for the benefit and enlightenment of humanity? Now the invitation is cordially extended to any, to all who wish to write about club life, or for club life, to send such to this department. We will print with signature or without it, or if you, to whom this is addressed, have an idea which you have not time to clothe, send it in and we'll see if there are any clothes in this office to fit it.

The following resolutions from The Club Woman are worthy of wide circulation:

Whereas; We are all human and therefore love gossip, let us resolve

That we will cultivate a spirit of love and patience for every woman in the club.

That, if we hear a single word of criticism on her words, or actions, or dress, or face or figure, we will not repeat it

That we will not answer such criticism except to say something good of the assailed.

But, of course, being good club women, it is rank nonsense even to suppose we need such resolutions. Let us begin over again and resolve

That when we are asked to do committee work we will not excuse ourselves unless duty to others compels us.

That if we are compelled to write a paper we will not go to the encyclopedia for it.

That when we rise to speak we will make our own heard, and that, if necessary, we will practice at home.

That when the woman who was to read fails at the last moment we will not say she never intended to read it anyway.

That we will make the club a place where helpfulness and kindness go hand in hand with inspiration.

That the golden rule is just as good a guide to club life as to home life. And that we will adopt it and practice it.

Discussion is the medium through which the progressive spirit of the age must attain its greatest achievements. Discussion in its broadest sense and most of the problems of club work can only be solved by free, frank, honest discussion. We must learn to differ conscientiously but entertain an honest respect for the opinions of others. As women we are charged, and perhaps justly so, with being too narrow, too personal, in imparting our own ideas and in receiving those of others, but if we recognize this weakness the problem is half solved. When we discuss any subject let us keep on broad general lines, taking up the principles underlying the thought and making our application general, not personal. At a recent meeting of the Woman's club of Lincoln the president, Mrs. A. W. Field, must have recognized this tendency to personal application, for she said in announcing the subject: "We want this question discussed in an impersonal manner, taking up the underlying principle and not making a personal application of anything that may

be said. In this issue we would like a dozen answers to each of the following questions:

Is it desirable to emancipate ourselves from the habit of reading long written papers before our club?

Is it best for one member to prepare one paper when her turn comes alphabetically and then feel that her work in that club is finished for that year?

Are we too busy with our club to be hospitable and sympathetic?

Is there as much educational value in that plan of club work where members chose their own topics, each independent of the other, as though their work was in continuity, each one interested in some general subject and in turn presenting some phase of it?

Would it add to the interests of the meetings and would it secure better preparation if each member were expected to talk from one to two minutes at each meeting upon the subject of discussion? The leader for the day showing her careful preparation by being as leader de facto. I notice that the Atlantic club of Quincy, Ill., opens each afternoon with a short paper, then the leader asks questions of each member.

Should the growth of the individual be the highest aim of women's clubs?

If one can only get all talking at once with these questions others will follow. There should be a lively forum composed of nearly four thousand women.

The household economics department of the women's club of Lincoln held its last meeting at the Y. W. O. A. rooms. This department has grown in favor until there is hardly room for its practical demonstrations in the average kitchen and dining room. More than ordinary interest was attached to this meeting, as Mrs. Guy A. Brown came

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around with pictures of the Buzzsaw ovens now in general use by our soldier boys. She also read a very interesting and somewhat humorous paper on "Army Cookery." A subject that she was prepared to do full justice, as she spent part of last summer at Chickamauga camp and knew whereof she was talking. A pleasant contrast to army fare were the home-made candies brought by Mrs. Ames and Mrs. Gund, which were sampled by the members as Mrs. Ames gave practical instruction of their making. Home economics as a whole should be given more general discussion in women's clubs. We shall never be able to accomplish domestic reform until household economics are more thoroughly understood. A bright woman at Denver last summer said "the unsolved problem before the American people is not the war with Spain but home economics." But now that the war is settled all club women can give some attention to this more important subject.

When the cordial invitation was extended the G. F. W. C. to hold its fifth biennial in Milwaukee a little buzz went through the audience, for the invitation was not signed by the women's club or any other feminine organization.

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