

pointments of Children" by Miss Ollie Newman was right to the point, with many useful and timely hints which will awaken thought on this subject.

The Holiday vacation of clubs is past. The grip is on the wane. The bright sunny days of Nebraska never seemed more glorious and with the new year we start our club life with opportunity to do better work than ever before. Club work can and should be better this year than it was last. The world is getting better and better in spite of pessimists to the contrary. The people expect more, demand more and have a right to demand more. As long as the world moves we cannot stand still, we must either go backward or forward. As everything in life is relative we cannot stop even, without going backward. If we stand still the fellow ahead will soon be out of sight and the fellow behind will pass us. We cannot afford to stand still. We cannot afford to lose one opportunity. A sick friend said the other day, "As I was lying on the couch this morning I opened my watch to the wheel and as I watched them tick off the minutes so positively I was impressed as never before with the passage of time. One moment lost can never be recovered. How swift one should be with unselfish deeds and kindly thoughts." Then how swiftly should club women improve the opportunities at hand for that self development which will prepare them to assist in all efforts for social betterment. Here's to club life for 1899! May there be marked growth along all lines. May there be increased reliability, punctuality and charitableness, higher and nobler aims, a reaching out that is broad and unselfish. Then indeed shall we see glimpses of the "new heaven and the new earth" that is promised, when each soul has opened to the fullest life of which that soul is capable.

The New Book Review club of Lincoln has a feature that commends itself most earnestly to this department. At the close of the regular program, while light refreshments are being served, each lady gives a three minutes talk on the subjects suggested by the discussion. The art of conversation, the so-called "lost art" among Americans, is worthy of painstaking wooing and there is little doubt that the woman who goes away from her club without having given expression to some conviction, some impression or some fact, has sustained a real loss. It is one of the really lost opportunities. There is also a discipline connected with this mode of conversation. While at first it may seem somewhat cut and dried, yet each woman learns to listen while another is talking and soon comes to realize that she is responsible for the conversation only for her allotted time. It could be arranged to have a half hour devoted to conversation either at the opening or close of each afternoon's program. There is no other thing that so many people would like to do well as extemporaneous speaking. Conversation is extemporaneous speaking in miniature.

A valuable pamphlet containing the reports of the standing committees read at the fourth annual meeting of the Illinois federation has been received at this office. This federation has seven standing committees, viz.: education, philanthropy, music, art, literature, public libraries, and one to further the interests of women students at their state university. The club women of Illinois have entered a wide field full of interest, and if these reports could be published in full they would be very stimulating and suggestive. The report of the committee on education was considered so important that it was published separately in a sixteen page pamphlet for general distribution among

all the clubs of the state. We shall give it a more extended notice at an early day. The Illinois federation numbers two hundred and sixteen clubs, including the famous Chicago Woman's club, the largest federation in the United States, whose activity reaches all these special lines of work. In a great city like Chicago the conditions which naturally enlist the sympathy and interest of philanthropically inclined club women are found in their most urgent form. Of course these conditions exist in connection with any large city and let it be said to the credit of women's clubs in these large centres that they are making every possible effort to ameliorate the condition of the poor and unfortunate.

In the short history of woman's clubs it has been demonstrated that, very often, the clubs that take a most active interest in educational or philanthropic works, are those, which carry on a thorough and systematic course of study.

The report of the committee on philanthropy in the Illinois federation insists on organized charity, where persons act together, with statistics, history and the principles of economics as a basis. It insists that charity shall not be a matter of private concern, but shall be made an important function of the whole community, a matter of public business, of economics rather than sentiment. The committee also asked clubs in arranging their programs for next year, to set aside one day to be called "Philanthropy Day." One member of the committee had spoken before more than twenty clubs on dependent and delinquent children, and has as many engagements for this winter.

A few items of work reported by this committee are appended as illustrative of the wide range assumed in club work in Illinois: Night schools, support of fresh air fund, employment of visiting nurse, providing courses of talks and lectures in the poorer districts, city farms for the poor, training school for nurses, establishing libraries in the poorer parts of the city, furnishing clothing for school children, aid tract officer, help enforce compulsory education law, sewing schools, carpentry schools, military drill, etc.

The committee further urges the smallest club in the federation to take up at least one line of work, claiming that study and work are equally valuable.

This office has been provided with a copy of the "Woman's Edition" of the Daily Pioneer of Deadwood. Most of these "Woman's Editions" (which started as a fad in the east and have ever since been slowly travelling toward the setting sun) have been creditable, from a journalistic standpoint and financially a success and the Deadwood Pioneer is no exception. The paper is as bright, breezy and sunny as Deadwood itself and while it deals mostly with subjects peculiarly interesting to women, and while it admits that home keeping is a woman's chief and first business, it still recognizes that there are many things to interest women outside the four walls of home, and that a knowledge of those things which interest and occupy men need not necessarily make women less feminine nor "advanced" in an offensive sense. The women of Deadwood are not behind one section of our fair land in their efforts for culture. The ubiquitous Woman's club is here in full force. Black Hills has a district federation composed of nine clubs hailing from Lead, Hot Springs, Sturgis, Rapid City, Whitewood and Deadwood. It holds open meetings quarterly to which all friends of the clubs are welcome, and permitted to take part in any discussions. Freedom of thought and speech are watchwords of this energetic federation. The scope of its work and the

influence it exerts constitute an eloquent plea for further district federation.

The last meeting of the Century club was fraught with unusual interest, the afternoon being devoted to the discussion of two very important subjects viz: "Actors and the influence of the stage," and "What is being done for the working girls of this country." The custom of this club is to throw all topics open for general discussion and the promptness with which its members avail themselves of this privilege results in very interesting meetings. Mrs. Hartley read a paper on the latter subject which showed painstaking investigation of her subject, and at its close each member was eager to contribute her knowledge of facts relevant to the topic. This is still one of the unsolved social problems.

The members of the art department of the Woman's club enjoyed a rich treat in Mrs. Angie F. Newman's lecture last Thursday afternoon. Mrs. Newman illustrated her lecture with copies and photographs of famous paintings which she had gathered in her travels abroad; a description of faith cures at Lourdes was very real. Mrs. Newman attributed the cures not so much to the faith of the sick as to the fervent prayers uttered simultaneously by the waiting throng of believers. The sick were brought by friends, lowered into tubs of sacred water, while a surrounding crowd of believers prayed. Mrs. Newman discussed great artists and their works and recalled many interesting incidents of famous people represented in the paintings; many pictures of Christ were shown and discussed at length. It was a very instructive and interesting lecture, and it is to be hoped that Mrs. Newman may give further glimpses of the many beautiful things she saw while abroad.

A very delightful and unique club in our midst is called the Book club. This club started about four years ago and decided not to be hampered with red tape, so laid down for itself very few rules and regulations. One requirement was two meetings each year. This year feeling the need of some further organization, a committee was appointed to draft bylaws. The committee report was adopted at the last meeting of the club which was held at the home of Mrs. J. H. McMurtry; the afternoon was spent in a social way and light refreshments served. This club has an initiation fee of three dollars, the membership is limited, and members are elected by ballot. At the beginning of each year a certain number of books are bought which are circulated among the members. At the close of the year these books are auctioned off to the members and the money thus received goes into the treasury for new books. The members of this club enjoy the advantage of having access to a large list of the newest books without excessive outlay. Then a peculiar value must attach to a book that has been successively read by a circle of intimate friends. One could imagine the bidding for certain books at the yearly auction becoming very spirited. The members are Mesdames Burr, McMurtry, Wilson, Brown, Funke, Horton, Coffroth, Bailey, Thompson, Moore, Rodgers, Ogden, Yates, Wright, Green, Kelley, Fuller, Muir and Misses Carson and Harris.

The Fin de Siecle club of Seward, an organization of some twenty bright and active young ladies, entertained on the afternoon of January 7th, the History and Art and Nineteenth Century clubs and an invitation was also extended the "Club husbands." This delightful meeting, both social and intellectual, occurred at the residence of Hon. R. S. Norval and was the introduction of Professor Caldwell of the State Uni-

versity, to the club women of Seward. Mr. Caldwell spoke for an hour on "The English Parliament" and presented the subject in a very systematic and concise manner. The audience was highly pleased and fully appreciated his time and labor in their behalf. It is the sincere wish of all present that he may be with us again soon. At the conclusion of the lecture Miss Alice Sexton closed the program with a piano solo, "Two Larks." Then all marched to the dining room where dainty refreshments were served. The Fin de Siecle club deserves praise for the success of their entertainment.

The following noted personages were all candidates for the legislature at a recent election in Kansas. If a state is made great by her great men shall we ever doubt the greatness of Kansas hereafter: Napoleon Bonaparte, George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, John Bunyan, Tom Corwin, Julius Caesar and Edgar Poe.

It is always pleasant to see a university trained woman taking the leadership of a club or some department of a club. She is expected to bring to this leadership all the modern methods of study and teaching. The word teaching is used advisedly, as the reports from different state federations indicate that the class method under a teacher is growing in favor, that, with a competent leader, it gives the most satisfactory results, and is also a great economy of time.

The Woman's club of Lincoln has been very fortunate in securing able leaders for its different departments, and its latest acquisition is Miss Mary Treeman as leader in American history studies. Miss Treeman is known as a most thorough and efficient instructor, and the members of this department are to be congratulated on this opportunity of studying under one so fully equipped for the position. She is a warm exponent of the original source method and will conduct the study in accord with the methods in use at the state university. It would seem that here is an opportune chance to join hands with the university on the extension plan, whereby members of the department may secure university credits for work done. The work last week was a careful review of the Colonial period in American history from 1601-1625. The sources of information were found to consist mainly of letters, tracts, and records of the Virginian company.

The topic this week was "Virginia as a Royal Province," "Regulations of the Tobacco Culture," and "The Church in Virginia." This is an exceptional chance for ladies who wish a more detailed knowledge of the history of America.

The literature department of the Woman's club, which is fortunate enough to have for its leader Miss Harriet Towne, another of our university graduates, closed a course of lessons on Tenyson last Thursday. Mrs. Elmen's interesting paper on "Ivyle of the King" was much appreciated, while Miss Elliot's talk on the "Holy Grail" given in her bright, enthusiastic way, was very pleasing. There was a pleasant discussion of the work just finished and future work planned. The meeting was held at room 302 High school building, as the art department meets at the same hour in the regular club rooms.

The Daily Pioneer of Deadwood, S. D., has an excellent article on "The Kindergarten and Its Teacher," from the pen of Mrs. E. F. Tucker, formerly an active member of the Woman's club of this city, and a very successful primary teacher in our schools. After speaking of the aims and object of the kindergarten and showing how it may aid in

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