

hour a week allowed for mere play. Is it worth while? I wish it were two hours a week, as I think of the pleasure and profit derived from our playtime. To ask little children to come from their natural joyous play life into an atmosphere of rigidity and strained propriety is to ask them to live in darkness instead of daylight, and then we blame them because they do not like it."

Another says: "I find the child who has spent two years in a good kindergarten is ready for the work of the primary school. The muscles of his fingers have been so trained that he is ready to use the pen or pencil for writing or drawing; * * * and this training of the hand has a corresponding development in the brain. The mind is ready to intelligently guide the hand and to grasp new ideas. The eye has been so trained that he is ready for the color, form, and observation work. The ear has been so trained that he is ready to listen. * * * His number experiences have been many and varied. In fact the body, mind and soul of the normal child has been so aroused that the teaching of language, nature, numbers, and music becomes a delight alike to the child and the teacher."

After this testimony I can find only one paragraph in the article under discussion with which I can fully agree.

"We believe that our attainments might have fitted us to shine in many spheres, but not as 'Freddie's' teacher."

Alas, Marian Carter Hamilton, I fear that is true. The time is come when a teacher who is unable to adapt herself to the best of new methods, who is not enthusiastic enough in her teaching to strive to interest little minds, who is compelled to stand aside and watch children coldly in their joyous, natural play, the time is come when she must admit to herself that her forte is not teaching, and pray let her beware of rushing into print. On the other hand this does not mean that kindergartens nor elementary schools nor high schools nor colleges are above sincere and intelligent criticism. Our teachers in every department of education need better preparation for their work, not only along the lines of pedagogy but in the way of a broad education. We must stop thinking that a kindergartner needs to know less than a high school teacher. Every teacher needs a broad, thorough education, then he needs professional training as much as a doctor or a clergyman. He needs to break away from conventional methods and to adapt his work to the class, using common sense. When every kindergartner begins to work out her own methods from basic principles, with an eye to the individual needs of her children, such articles as this will have absolutely no excuse.

HELEN GREGORY.

A SPRING POEM.

(The first of the year.)

Glad ab I that sprig has cub;
Sood the little bees will hub,
Add the robids id the tree
Will be siggig soggs to be.
Sood the blossobs will appear
Od the libbs both far add dear,
Add the daddylids gold
Sood will cover all the wold.
Sood the huckster id the street
Will be heard id accedts sweet
Tellig you, add tellig be,
Of the ripe red strawberrie.
Add the truckbed with their vads,
Filled with chairs add fryigg-pads,
Able up add dowd the way
All the dight and all the day.
Gedtle sprig, O gedtle sprig!
Let the gladsobe church-bells rig;
Let the whole glad earth rejoice
Id wud high up'ifted voice,
Welcobig you back agaid
With your warbth add gedtle raid.
'Tis a tibe of perfect bliss
Whed wud cad live od verse like this,
Ada, as id the days of yore,
Work this sabc old gag wudce bore.

—Harper's Bazar.

CLUBS.

[LOUISA L. RICKETTS.]

Following are the officers of the General Federation of Women's clubs:

President—Mrs. Rebecca D. Lowe, Atlanta, Ga.

Vice President—Mrs. Sarah S. Platt, Denver, Colo.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. Emma A. Fox, Detroit, Mich.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. George W. Kendrick, Philadelphia, Pa.

Treasurer, Mrs. Phillip N. Moore, St. Louis, Mo.

Auditor—Mrs. C. P. Barnes, Louisville, Ky.

State Chairman—Mrs. Louisa L. Ricketts, Lincoln, Nebr.

Officers of the State Federation of Women's clubs;

President—Mrs. S. C. Langworthy, Seward.

Vice President—Mrs. Anna L. Apperson, Tecumseh.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. F. H. Sackett, Weeping Water.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. D. G. McKillip, Seward.

Treasurer—Mrs. H. F. Doane, Crete,

Librarian—Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, Lincoln.

Mrs. A. B. Fuller, Auditor, Ashland.

The following notice from Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, state librarian N. F. W. C. is printed for the benefit of all clubs desiring to obtain a loan of books:

EDITOR COURIER:

No requirements are necessary to obtain books except membership in the Federation. Books may be retained for the club year and it is customary for the club to prepay the express on returning the books to the librarian. The new year book of the N. F. W. C. contains the catalogue of books in the library and may be obtained by sending ten cents to the president of the Federation, Mrs. Langworthy of Seward.

Very truly,

MARY S. LAMBERTSON.

(Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, Lincoln.)

The Lincoln Fortnightly club met with Miss Harris on Friday, April 21. Mrs. Lambertson spoke on Nihilism, Communism and Socialism. The subject is in itself an extremely interesting one and Mrs. Lambertson's treatment and presentation was graphic and forcible. The outline is herewith presented:

- Socialism.
- Communism.
- Anarchism.
- Nihilism.
- Origin of term.
- Origin of movement.
- a. Philosophical or literary.
- b. Fight against religion, art, marriage.
- c. Propaganda?
- d. Development into political nihilism, terrorism.
 - 1. Propogandists.
 - 2. Paris commune.
 - 3. Polish insurrection.
- e. Character of Nihilists.
- f. Plots.
- g. Woman in Nihilism.
- h: Turgenieff.—The Threshold!
- i. Effect upon state.
 - 1. Destructive, not constructive.
 - 2. Lack of inflammable material.
 - 3. Enervating.

The interest in, and the discussion of, the relation of state and general federation has been greatly augmented by the action taken by the Worcester Women's Club—one of the largest clubs in Massachusetts. A letter formulated by a committee appointed for this purpose by that club, and sent to the state

committee of correspondence, contains the following suggestions:

First, That the state committee of correspondence find out the opinions of the other clubs in Massachusetts on the question of reorganization of the General Federation, and ascertain their willingness to withdraw from membership in the present organization if such action seems necessary.

Second, That the state committee of correspondence find out the opinions of other clubs in other states in regard to the matter.

Third, That the committee recommend to the General Federation representation by State Federation only.

The concluding clause declares that the Worcester Women's Club stands ready to relinquish membership in the General Federation whenever such action seems necessary to facilitate the reorganization so as to include only State Federations.

A meeting of the Massachusetts state committee of correspondence was called for March 17, to consider this letter from the Worcester club, and the prompt and energetic way in which they disposed of the matter contains the reproof deserved for previousness,—or being out of order,—and also reflects the sentiment of Nebraska's federation in regard to the best interests of the general federation. The consideration of the state committee of correspondence resulted in the following letter:

Mrs. Carrie S. Ward, Secretary of the Worcester Woman's Club:

Dear Madam—The resolutions submitted by the Worcester Women's Club have been carefully considered by this committee, and we would say in reply that while we recognize your right to advocate a reform which you believe will strengthen the General Federation, and be helpful in conducting its affairs, yet the change you propose is a constitutional one, and can only be acted on at the Biennial of 1900. An opportunity for you to bring these resolutions before the officers and presidents of clubs for discussion will be given at the Council meeting to be held in Philadelphia, June 1, 2 and 3 next. Would it not seem more loyal to the General Federation to present these resolutions at this meeting, especially appointed for counsel and co-operation, and there ascertain the wishes of the majority?

The members of this committee have the interest of the General Federation so much at heart that they deprecate the last paragraph of your resolutions, and they can but feel that any reform you desire to inaugurate can be more easily brought about by remaining a member of the organization than by relinquishing your membership, and thereby losing your ballot, which is the medium through which all the reforms must come. Your resolutions are herewith returned.—Anna D. West, chairman; Mrs. May Alden Ward, Mrs. Ella L. T. Baldwin, Mrs. Harriet A. Bean.

This is a matter of great interest to club women, and we trust it will be possible for Mrs. Langworthy, our president, to meet with the Council at Philadelphia in June.

A little paper devoted to the interests of the colored women's clubs published at Tuskegee, Ala., has been sent to The Courier. It is published monthly and is the official organ of the National Association of Colored Women. Mrs. Booker T. Washington is its managing editor, which is a guarantee of quality. It is full of interesting and helpful suggestions for their work. Its motto, "Lifting as We Climb," is suggestive of the work that the educated colored women are doing for their less fortunate sisters. Perhaps so tremendous a work never before confronted the women of any race, for the women of no other race were ever surrounded by such demoralizing influences as the colored women

of the United States have been. Thirty-four years ago these women began life without homes and without legal husbands. Today there are 2,000,000 homes of this race in our country. We should surely be ready to accord generous credit for the advance made in the third of a century. They are giving special attention to domestic science and encouraging their sisters to learn trades, such as dress making and the milliner's craft, claiming that the opening of such establishments will be patronized by their own people and furnish employment for their girls and young women, as saleswomen, seamstresses, bookkeepers and typewriters are needed in these occupations.

In view of the fact that at the next legislature, two years hence, there will be another effort made to secure free traveling libraries, it has been suggested that the federated clubs of Nebraska devote some time during the regular club year to the study of this important question. To this end the following program adopted by the executive board of the Federation of Women's Clubs of Western New York is submitted as a suggestion. Last winter was library legislation year in New York as well as in Nebraska. The following topics were arranged for five minute discussions in all federated clubs:

Topic I.—Some Great Libraries of the World.

Topic II.—History of Establishment of Public Libraries in America.

Topic III.—Library Work. Helps to readers; use and abuse of aids to readers.

Topic IV.—Library Groups. (Origin; methods; use of.) 1. Circulating or reference. (Large libraries, small libraries, club libraries, college libraries, technical libraries, scientific libraries.) 2. Traveling Libraries.

Topic V.—Libraries in Small Towns. (Importance, character, maintenance, educational value.)

Topic VI.—Library Legislation. History of nation; history of New York state; basis of distribution of state monies among libraries.

Topic VII.—The Club and Library. Relation of library to club and through club to the home.

Mrs. Lowe, president, and Mrs. Platt, vice president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, will meet the last week in May in Milwaukee to advise with the local committee on arrangements for the next biennial which will be held in that city in June, 1900. An executive board meeting will also be held at this time to transact certain important business. Before proceeding to the council meeting, which will be held in Philadelphia June 1, 2, 3, Mrs. Lowe and Mrs. Platt will visit several state federations which have invited them to come in the interests of the general federation.

An American poet once said:

"It is easy enough to be pleasant when life flows along like a song;
But the man worth while
Is the man who will smile
When everything goes dead wrong."

The admission of women to the workmen's dollar dinner in New York last week indicates that the question of suffrage will enter into the campaign of 1900. A large per centage of those who sat down to the festive board were women and Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Stetson, one of the ablest women of the country, made an eloquent address. Some of the best speakers among women have clear ideas upon the questions at issue and a bright little woman suggests that they could give a pleasing variety to the Chicago platform dinner, that even those ten-dollar-a-plate aristocrats might make a bigger mistake than to