

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.

Early in June a party of distinguished women will leave the United States for England. Among these the most noted will be Susan B. Anthony, who is making her second trip abroad in her 80th year. She will be accompanied by Mrs. May Wright Sewall, ex-president of the National Council of Women, and one of the foremost women in America today—the Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, the well known lecturer and only ordained woman minister in the Methodist church, accompanied by Miss Lucy E. Anthony, who has been her private secretary for ten years; Mrs. Rachel Foster Avery, who has been corresponding secretary for the National Woman's suffrage association for twenty years; Mrs. Fannie Humphreys Gaffney, president of the National Council of Women, and Mrs. Westover Alden, editor of the woman's department of the New York Tribune, who goes as the representative of the New York Woman's Press club. Besides these there will be a large number of women eminent in literature and many delegates representing the reforms, the philanthropists and the various public enterprises of our country.

The destination of all these Americans in London and the object is the International Council of Women which will hold its second quinquennial session from June 26th to July 4th.

This will be undoubtedly the most important convocation of women ever held, says the Sun, not excepting that wonderful Congress of Women during the Columbian Exposition. It will assemble in the largest city on the globe; prominent women from every civilized country will take part in its proceedings, and its program will include every branch of the great work of the world with which women are directly connected.

What is this International Council? It is a federation of the National Councils of Women in various countries, and its object is to provide a means of communication between these widely separated organizations and to bring them together in conference every five years. It is organized in the interest of no one propaganda, and every one of the councils composing it has an equal share in its deliberations and an equal voice in its government. We may be pardoned a certain amount of pride in the fact that this International Council was formed

in the United States and originated with American women.

A number of years ago, in 1883, to be exact, when Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony were in England, they agreed with the very progressive women of that country to hold an International Woman Suffrage Convention, in 1888, in Washington city, to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the first Woman's Rights Convention, which was held in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York. Before the preparations scarcely were under way it was deemed advisable to broaden the scope of this proposed meeting so as to include all organizations of women, whether or not they stood for suffrage, and to give it the comprehensive name of International Woman's Council. This proved to be so great a success and women were present from so many different countries that the idea broached by Mrs. Sewall, to make it a permanent organization, was eagerly accepted. The first officers were: President, Mrs. Millicent Garrett Fawcett, England; Vice President, Clara Barton; Secretary, Mrs. Foster Avery, United States.

The first quinquennial meeting was to have been held in London in 1893, but the ladies of England waived their rights in favor of Chicago because of the World's Fair. The International Council became a part of the great Woman's Congress of that year and thirty nationalities were represented. The Woman's Council of the United States, Mrs. Mary Wright Sewall, President, made itself responsible for the entertainment of all the representatives from foreign countries. As a result of the enthusiasm created at this time a number of these returned home and organized National Councils among their own people, which became auxiliary to the International. The officers elected in Chicago were the Countess of Aberdeen, Scotland, president; Mrs. Sewall, United States, vice president; Baroness Gripenberg, Finland, treasurer; Miss Teresa F. Wilson, London, corresponding secretary; Mme. Maria Martin, France, recording secretary. Upon these women has devolved the immense task of arranging for the approaching Council in June. The American women feel that the next presidency should come to the United States.

Indeed Mrs. Sewall has already been nominated for that place by the International committee.

The program is entirely too long for reproduction. It is divided into five sections—educational, professional, legislative and industrial, political and social, and these are extensively subdivided in order that the various branches may be presented by specialists. There will be two public mass meetings in Queen's Hall, one to consider international arbitration and one to discuss woman suffrage. The other sessions will be held in Westminster Town Hall, St. Martin's and the Convocation Hall of Church House, Westminster.

An interesting feature of the Council will be the social entertainments. Among these may be mentioned a reception at Stafford House, tendered by the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland; one at Surrey House, by Lady Battersea; a garden party at Fulham Palace, by the Bishop of London and his wife, Mrs. Creighton; and a party by Lady and Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild, at Gunnersbury Park. It would be difficult to imagine ten days more replete with historical, intellectual and social enjoyment.

The national federation of musical clubs which was held in St. Louis this week had a large and representative delegation from Lincoln. Mrs. Will Owen Jones represented the Matinee Musicale as pianist, and Miss Pauline Maude Oakley as vocalist. Mrs. A. S.

Raymond and Mrs. E. Lewis Baker were the regular delegates, and Mrs. D. A. Campbell is a national officer and will also be entitled to a vote. Mrs. P. V. M. Raymond and Mrs. Marion Treat Taylor go as visitors. Lincoln is and may indeed be proud of these representatives, each one an artist in her own particular field.

While the Woman's club has in reality closed its year's work, some of the departments have not completed their year's work as originally planned, and will continue to meet. The art department will have two more meetings, and the literature department held its annual meeting this week.

The Literature department of the Woman's club met at the home of its leader, Miss Towne, for its last regular meeting which was a departure from its regular routine. After the close of the year's work by a completion of Hamlet the rest of the afternoon was devoted to social intercourse. Light refreshments were served and a general good time enjoyed.

Miss Towne was assisted in receiving and caring for her guests by her mother and sister, Mrs. Graham. This department is very enthusiastic over the amount and character of the work accomplished the past year, and expressed its appreciation of the leader's devotion by presenting her with a copy of one of Ridgeway Knight's famous pictures. The annual meeting of this department was held May 4th at the home of Mrs. Hibner, 1425 F street, at which the election of officers for the coming year was held.

For the first time in the history of the Board of Trade of Columbus a woman was invited to address the Board at its last meeting. Mrs. J. H. Canfield was the woman on whom the honor was conferred, and her subject was "Women in Municipal Reform," in which she showed that while it was not the desire of women to engage actively in the work of the Board in its management of public affairs, they were willing and anxious to co-operate with their husbands and brothers for the general welfare of the city. Mrs. Canfield is the wife of James H. Canfield, president of the Ohio State University, and a typical progressive woman of the most desirable sort.

At a meeting at Milwaukee, Wis., April 12, of the International Young Women's Christian Association, Miss Helen Barnes of Toledo was elected a member of the International Committee. Miss Barnes is the recently elected secretary of the Y. W. C. A. for Ohio and Michigan, with headquarters at Toledo. Miss Barnes is an Ohio girl and was in attendance at the International convention at London last year.

Cincinnati club women are considering various sites with a view to erecting a handsome, new and convenient club house. The cost of the building will be about \$30,000. About \$6,500 has already been subscribed to the fund. The new building will be modeled after the new Century club house of Philadelphia.

The State executive board of the Ohio Federation of Women's clubs met at Columbus April 11th and 12th with the following state officers: Mrs. M. P. Orr of Piqua; Mrs. J. H. Canfield of Columbus; Mrs. J. B. Thresher of Dayton; Mrs. W. C. Frew of Coshocton; Mrs. M. H. Morrow of Canton; Mrs. Joseph Green of Cincinnati; Mrs. Joseph Richards of Hillsboro; Miss Orpha Cheney of Washington; Mrs. John T. Mack of Sandusky; Mrs. Frank Conover of Dayton; Mrs. John Tucker of Newark; Mrs. H. C. Adams of Toledo; Mrs. Chapman of Marysville; Mrs. Selover of Cleveland; Mrs. S. B. Sneath of Tiffin,

rs. Shoemaker and Mrs. Hopley of Columbus.

An item of business was the resignation of Mrs. J. H. Canfield as vice president, who will go abroad in June. Mrs. James R. Hopley of Columbus, was chosen to fill the office made vacant by the resignation of Mrs. Canfield.

The reports from various committees showed that practical work had been accomplished along various lines viz: Library extension and educational matters, domestic science, art in public schools, club extension, etc.

The next biennial of the general federation of women's clubs will be held in Milwaukee June 1900. The program is not yet completed, but it will be in shape to present to the directors meeting which meets in Philadelphia in June of this year, for suggestions and approval. By the way, word comes from Cincinnati that its club women are anxious to have the next biennial after Milwaukee. The Cincinnati club women are planning to build a handsome new club house, and naturally enough, will be proud to show it off to the club women of the country.

A club woman of New York recently sent out this wail: "Sorosis can marry, and Sorosis can die, in fact do everything but build a club house." The reason of this is obvious. Real estate in the heart of New York City costs a gold mine, and the building of a handsome club house would be a tremendous undertaking. The same is true in Chicago, while many clubs occupy handsomely appointed quarters year in and year out, they do not own them, and Chicago has not a single club house erected by women. There are about fifteen smaller cities where women have erected club houses, and probably as many as half a hundred other clubs are pondering over the question—"To build or not to build."

There is little doubt but there will be an increase of "Rainy day clubs" the coming year. As the skirt grows longer the wail grows louder, and has a more assured sound. Below we give a few opinions clipped from contemporaries. The Western Club Woman says:

"The trail of the serpent is considered the most undesirable thing in the world, but it is to be doubted if it is really any worse than other trails. The approach of spring brings with it a trailing skirt that causes glee among the doctors and in the street cleaning department, and a woe, deep, dark and unconfined, among the misguided beings who have believed the eternal feminine was about to be won over to the paths of pleasantness and peace, just because the hoop-skirt sleeve has disappeared.

The new skirt is not exactly a thing of beauty, and it will not prove a joy for long. Indoors only it is not particularly objectionable, but outdoors the trailing skirt, with filthy rim, a trailing nuisance is to him and to her, and to everyone, and it is nothing more."

The new clinging lengthy skirt goes naturally enough with the old clinging vine woman hence the following from the editor of the Iowa Register who has never had an appreciative word for the class of women who have strength of mind enough to keep their skirts from the mire, is the more surprising:

"The trailing skirt for street wear mops up tobacco juice, drags along cigar stumps, sets the dust flying, promotes filthiness, unwholesomeness and disease, and disgusts everyone who sees it. It is none of our business, girls, what you wear; but we want you to remain the sweet, clean creatures you were intended to be, so for heaven's sake be sensible in your decision on this trailing skirt question."

The Los Angeles Times, another conservative paper, can scarcely find Eng-