

## CLUBS.

[LOUISA L. RICKETTS.]

The 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. Sackott,  
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 TREND OF THE CLUB MOVEMENT.

A good many straws may be gathered this spring as indicative of a tendency, says Harper's Bazar, on the part of club women to pause and reflect upon the best development now possible to this great movement. Glancing over the exchanges that come to the desk of the writer, it is noticeable that in those received in one week no less than seven clubs are reported as having been considering the question of the value of the movement. A Nebraska club assigned a list of topics, which included the following: What is the weakness of the club movement? What its greatest strength? What its social influence? Other clubs have studied the movement in its influence upon home life, looking at it on both sides. These are only a few of the very latest evidences that go to show the present reflective and conservative attitude of the more thoughtful club women.

It does not mean in any way that the movement has lost its strength or value; on the contrary, it means that its real force is to be crystallized and applied as never before. The wealth of opportunity for individual development and public good offered to club women today is overwhelming. That they will pause and cultivate the art of selection, making a choice of the avenue of effort and benefit which seems to them the most suitable, is an evidence not of distrust or indifference, but rather of appreciation and earnestness. Women are learning their limitations as well as their capabilities. Choice of pursuit is now necessary. This will mean concentration of effort that will be more impressive than the diffusion of energy that is now largely the rule in the club world.

The club referred to as sitting down to take stock of the movement and if possible to analyse its strength and foresee in what direction club women shall exert their own to secure permanent benefit, is the Lincoln Sorosis.—[Ed. Courier.]

Cozy Club of Tecumseh met with Mrs. Barton, May 17. This was one of the most delightful meetings of the year. The parlors were beautifully decorated with lilacs, snow balls, and bridal wreath, the arrangement and color effect being most artistic. Lesson: "Reigns of Isabella II, and Alfonso XII; 1833 1874. Spanish history becomes more and more

interesting as the year's work draws to a close, and we study Spain as it is in the nineteenth century. A paper "Holidays in Spain," by Mrs. Headrick, was both instructive and entertaining, portraying many Spanish characteristics as shown in the celebration of their holidays and festivals.

## AT THE KANSAS FEDERATION.

"There was a woman so wondrous wise  
That nothing took her by surprise;  
She was so wise, no use she saw,  
In striving 'gainst fate's ruthless law,  
She found no sense in human grief,  
And laughter bro't her no relief.  
She was so wise the neighbors said.  
The women might just as well be dead.

"An experienced club woman said to me at Denver: 'In your clubs you have few and short papers, many carefully prepared talks and discussions by all the members of the club,' and in reply to my question about parliamentary usage she said: 'Do not sacrifice the vivacity and sprightliness of your club to parliamentary usage. There is such a thing as being over zealous in that direction and all life and enthusiasm dying out of your club work.'

"We often boast that our club is exclusive. Let us remember that the smaller the man and woman, the more dwarfed and dwindling their natures, the more they pride themselves upon their exclusiveness.

"Anyone can be exclusive. It comes easy. It takes and it signifies a large nature to be universal—to be inclusive. Only the woman of a small personal self-centered nature never is.

"In literature, art, and history our clubs have found pleasure and strength.

"But better than these are the sympathetic relations that come from the handclasp, the personal contact and the looking into the eyes at these weekly club meetings in our study clubs. We gain the knowledge and courage which we take into our active working life. Wise to teach because more wise to learn.

"In literature, 'You have seen the world, the beauty, and the wonder and the power.' Our earnest women's clubs give experience and tact, and this federation, a union of clubs, brings to each a knowledge of the best achievement of all, and a consciousness of solidarity and strength is forceful.

"The only reason for the existence of the federation is that with one hand it can lift up the humblest member of its weakest club, and with the other it can grasp issues beyond the reach of individual effort.

"I have no patience with the mere organization of women for its own sake, the purposeless addition of new activities to lives already burdened with the infinite duties of womanhood, and in my eyes the federation finds a sacred right to bring in its splendid possibilities for usefulness in the development of a model existence.

"Comfort one another,  
For the way is often dreary,  
And the feet are often weary,  
And the heart is very sad;  
And there is heavy burden bearing,  
When it seems that none is caring  
And one-half forget that ever we were glad.  
Comfort one another,  
With the hand clasp close and tender,  
And the looks of friendly eye.  
Do not wait with grace unspoken  
While life's daily bread is broken.

Though in the ceaseless round of life's duties the body may often be weary, still, work is the salt which preserves the sweetness of life, and the world would be much happier, and a pleasanter place in which to live if every person had some appointed work to do and would diligently do it, two results would be effected—the accomplishment of the work, and leaving others time and opportunity to do theirs. Under such a

regime more and better things would be accomplished; there would be no occasion for misanthropy and fault finding—and the inevitable result would be a brighter and better world. Nothing will so quickly overcome the disagreeable habit of complaining and faultfinding as plenty of work, something with which to occupy the hands and the head. People with nothing to do are, as a rule, the greatest complainers, and a genuine nuisance to their friends and acquaintances, and they frequently develop into misanthropes or pessimists. If for no higher motive than to prevent being disagreeable to ones friends, the habit of complaining should be guarded against as one would guard against small-pox. This habit persisted in will in time not only alienate ones nearest friends but exercise a baleful influence upon personal character. If work, as we believe, is a panacea for such an undesirable condition it is a remedy that is always at hand. At the risk of losing a profitable patient a physician once said, "Madam, a broom briskly wielded for an hour each day will do more for you than I can." The physician was dismissed, but let us hope that upon sober second thought the lady acted upon his valuable advice. There are many ways of working, and the most valuable is to work honestly, fully appreciating that while we are not responsible for another's work we are for our own, and that complaining or faultfinding is not conducive to right thinking and broad living.

Nebraska club women have reason to be proud of Mrs. M. A. McKeever, of Stromsburg, whose little book of poems, entitled "Golden Rod and Dialect Poems" is quite well known. Mrs. McKeever has been invited to fill a place on the program of the Western Writers Association which meets at Warsaw, Ind., every June. Last June she read her poem "Nebraska" at the annual meeting and made a decided hit.

Even the most ardent club woman must now and then falter in her belief that clubs are of any direct palpable, distinct benefit to those who are in most need of actual mental and spiritual help. It is therefore with gratification, says Mrs. Peattie in Self Culture, that one notes invitations extended by the most popular literary club of a certain great Western city, to the women of a poor and congested neighborhood, and the cordial acceptance of that invitation by the women, who, a few years before, knew of little save the burdens of womanhood and the heavy round of poor women's tasks. These women have been reached through settlement work, formed into a club with a president of their own choosing, and led, little by little, into the discussions of subjects calculated to coax their minds beyond the daily drudgery. At first they understood slowly, but at length they came to have an appreciation even of abstract things, and to welcome, with especial cordiality, anyone who came to talk to them of poetry. They appeared to prefer such a subject to one more nearly bearing upon their own lives. It was really a great achievement when, in course of time, they were converted from heavy-featured, lacklustre creatures into alert women who were not afraid to speak their own minds, who dressed with some appreciation of their individuality, and who had become aware of the fact that they, along with the rest of the world, were entitled to enjoyment.

We give below an extract from a letter written by President David S. Jordan and published at Oakland, Cal., in the Searchlight. The letter is a valuable contribution to the discussion of the prohibition question, particularly as relating to college towns. It is also valu-

able because of the attempt made by liquor pipers to make him appear as a liquor advocate, by a misconstruction of his magazine article upon Alaska. President Jordan says: "The great source of vice among young men is corrosion, the association of the clean with the foul, under the supposition that the latter are manly. For this reason the saloon, which is the center of the vice of drunkenness, is especially destructive to young men. Whether or not the community has the right to regulate the behavior of its individual members, there is no doubt of its right to abolish destructive nuisances. It has the same right to prohibit saloons as it has to prohibit cesspools. It is essential to the prosperity of a university town that it should exercise such a right."

The Czar and Czarina have given their sanction to the formation of "The Russian Woman's Mutual Help Society." There is little doubt that this will be the beginning of many woman's clubs in Russia. The world is expecting many innovations from the liberal and kindly policy of the present Czar.

Trailing skirts—trailing not only behind, but some actually trailing in front—are seen daily sweeping the dirty streets. Such a state of affairs is pitiable—pitiable, for in it you recognize a foolish attempt to keep up with the style. You recognize a sacrifice of personal neatness, of the laws of hygiene in an effort to keep abreast with that fickle goddess—fashion. Why, for the sake of a dirty trailing skirt a woman should disregard health and personal neatness is certainly beyond comprehension.

The Ingleside literary club of Plymouth Congregational church held a pleasant meeting Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Harold Green, 1815 Prospect street. A short program of music and readings was given by Misses Evelyn Hoagland, Celia Loomis, McGraw, Anna Bethune, Clara Walton and a quartet of little girls. This being the last meeting of the year officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Miss Anna Bethune; vice president, Mr. Harold Green; secretary and treasurer, Mr. Joel Loomis. Ices and cake were served.

On the 15th the Woman's club, an organization composed of prominent colored women of the city, met at the home of Mrs. W. C. Harding, East Lincoln. A very interesting session was held. Among other things it was decided that the club take a course of household economics and child study. The officers are: President, J. W. Bedell; vice president, Mrs. W. C. Harding; treasurer, Mrs. B. J. Crampton; secretary, Mrs. R. W. Mitchell; associate secretary, Mrs. T. Curtis; corresponding secretary, Miss A. R. Vanderzee.

A woman's hotel has become an assured success in Gotham. It has been a much mooted question for some time, but an exchange says: The Woman's Hotel, as proposed in New York, has received a great impetus during the past week. Over \$125,000 worth of stock has been taken by women. Capitalists, who formerly would not put a dollar into the enterprise are now subscribing to the stock. The Woman's Hotel Company, to be incorporated at Albany, has issued a revised prospectus. The capital will be \$400,000 divided into 4,000 shares. The object of the company is to provide one or more hotels for the exclusive use of self-supporting women. It is intended that the first hotel shall be fire proof with a capacity of 500 guests, and the cost to be about \$800,000, carrying a mortgage of \$400,000. Stock amounting to \$100,000 has been taken, largely by women, in the proposed hotel for busi-