

use and abuse of liquors is the only safe instruction.

The good and devoted members of the Red Ribbon club and of the W. C. T. U. doubtless believe all that they say and teach. They would make the world over but the people of the world will not be converted. Moreover a larger and larger number of temperate people are being offended by such statements as were lately made by W. C. T. U. members in attendance at the Epworth League, that the president was a saloon keeper, because in accordance with the advice of all but six of the officers of the regular army he refused to abolish the canteen. The remarks of these speakers besides being very impolite were untrue and silly and disgusted many who have hitherto admitted the usefulness of the Union.

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#### Unwelcome Advice.

The writer of these observations has been perhaps justly criticised for addressing a few remarks to wives and presenting an example of a model wife in a late number of this paper. The critics have urged that advice from the outside is of little value and that its unsolicited tender by one who has had no personal experience is indication of a self-possession that would be called nerve, on the street.

These worthies forget that in order to appreciate the truth concerning the relation and harmony of parts it is necessary to stand afar off. A soldier in the thick of battle does not know how the fighting goes. But a little unimportant newspaper reporter up a tree a mile away can see platoons of men forming to strengthen this or that line or to hurl itself on this redoubt at an unexpected point. Indifferent, frequently, as to which way the battle turn, he is nevertheless in a point of vantage and with his field glass at his eye might counsel the young lieutenant, a much braver and better man who rides at the head of his troops and leads the charge. He may be an old correspondent who has seen France and Russia fighting, who has seen England in Zululand and who was with the Greeks and Turks. Yet he has never worn a sword nor carried anything heavier at his belt than a lunch basket. If he picked up a musket, he would handle it like a trained monkey, though if he saw troops making such motions he would make them the laughing stock of the world. Yet such is the unreasonableness of newspaper readers that they reject advice which would transform their unhappy and tempest tossed little homes into peaceful soothing cases in the desert of days, because it is offered by a spectator of many matrimonial battles rather than a veteran survivor of any herself.

In the particular case under discussion the writer has had an opportunity to try herself the distracting struggle in which men uncomplainingly engage day after day, and can testify that if the struggle have its victories, the strain, the dust and, above all, the fact of conflict conquers the nerves, his opponents have considered indomitable. When this beaten man returns to his home it is one of the cruelties that God seems to have forgotten, when it is presided over by a woman with sharp tongue and an eye which notes not the dull eye and the shrunken muscles of the face. But the woman might be cured and made sympathetic, if she could feel but for a week herself, the strain and the conflict that the bread winner feels. From my position up a tree therefore, I concluded to write a war correspondent's letter and advise a manœuvre which had succeeded before and might succeed, if universally adopted, in securing universal peace.

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## CLUBS.

[LOUISA L. RICKETS.]

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The article of Mrs. Sawyer's in last week's Courier affirms the most practical solution of the difficulties presented to the general federation which I have seen. I would go a little farther even than she does and limit all biennial business to election of officers and directors and to amendments to the constitution which pertains to taxation and representation only. All who were at the Louisville biennial will recall the wearisome hours spent in fruitless endeavors to change the constitution and by-laws. It is an almost hopeless task for a large body, and all amendments except those relating to taxation and representation could profitably and satisfactorily be left to the council. The two biennials which I have attended have seemed too large only when we tried to attend to the minutiae of business which might be left to a much smaller body. But for the general meetings and for the department programs the large numbers are an inspiration and a help. The proposed change of membership in the general federation from club delegates to state federation delegates exclusively, would, of course, mean that taxation also would follow along this same line. Any great increase in state federation dues would mean an embarrassing and distressful reorganization of state federations and also of the individual clubs in these state federations. I believe nothing but barrenness would result from an immediate change in the status of the general federation. I also believe that experience will demonstrate the fact that the per capita tax will work to the detriment of the general federation, as many large clubs will feel that it does not pay to give so large a proportion of their annual income to the general federation when there are so many calls for money nearer home—calls which come from practical philanthropy. If Mrs. Sawyer would explain now fully the financial plans of the Educational Association she would enlighten many of us to our profit.

May B. Field.

Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, ex-president of the G. F. W. C., has just contributed to the bulletin of the department of labor No. 23 a statistical sketch of those organizations. The most remarkable feature of her statement is the great number of clubs in the federation of which she was the honored president for four years. The present head of this organization is Mrs. Rebecca D. Lowe of Atlanta, Ga. In the thirty states represented in the general federation there were last year 2,110 clubs with 132,023 members. New York is the first with 196 clubs, followed by Illinois with 185, Iowa 181, Ohio with 180, Kan-

sas 124, Massachusetts 123 and Colorado 104. These seven states have the highest number of clubs in the list and it is certainly gratifying to Western club women to know that four western states exceed Massachusetts which has always been so active and interested in reform work. Not that we exult because Massachusetts has a smaller number of organized clubs, but that the west has more. Thus positively demonstrating that you must "go west young woman" if you would keep up with progressive movements.

In addition to the thirty state federations with their 2,110 clubs there are 595 independent clubs in the general federation, and this number has been constantly increased.

The number of clubs in the large cities is also of much comparative interest. Chicago and the old city of New York each have thirty-two, but Brooklyn has twenty-eight which gives Greater New York sixty as compared with Chicago's thirty-two. Boston has twenty-two, Cincinnati fourteen, St. Louis eleven, Philadelphia eleven, Denver eleven, Washington ten, San Francisco and Little Rock, Ark., six each, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and Lewiston nine each, Portland eleven, Minneapolis ten, St. Paul five, Kansas City and Buffalo twelve each, Lincoln, Neb., eight and Milwaukee six. But woman's clubs are not monopolized by the large cities, hundreds of small cities boast their clubs and city federations; Aspen, Boulder, Canon City, Cripple Creek, Grand Junction, La Junta, Leadville, Ouray, Pueblo, and other little places in Colorado; Barnevillie and Cartersville in Georgia, Boise City, Moscow, Pocatello, and Wallace in Idaho, Chautauque, Cottonwood Falls, and Olathe in Kansas; Bozeman, Butte, and Kalispell in Montana; Grand Island, Tecumseh, Weeping Water, and Seward in Nebraska; Roswell and Santa Fe in New Mexico; Deadwood and Lead in South Dakota; Ogden, Provo, and Salt Lake in Utah; Whatcom, Yakona, and Hagmani in Washington; and far away Oklahoma boast their clubs as well as other little towns almost unknown by name.

These clubs were first organized to secure fuller social life and enlarged opportunities for study. They are variously engaged in the study of literature and the arts, the founding of libraries, promotion of sociability, temperance work, charitable work, sociology, care of working women and girls, improving the environments of the poor, household economics, city improvement, civics and science.

As time has gone on and knowledge and opportunity has broadened, women are showing the practical side of their nature by endeavoring to apply this knowledge and experience to the practical affairs of life. They have already done much to raise civic standards, to improve sanitary conditions, to remedy abuses, and to improve industrial conditions as they pertain to women and children.

When we consider thoughtfully a statistical report like this, and then bear in mind the large number of women's clubs not yet in the federation, and the still greater number of women's organizations, useful and helpful, which are not classed under the head of clubs, we are encouraged at the extent women are co-operating with each other and fitting themselves to become intelligent leaders in the affairs of the world.

One gentleman justly remarked last week, "It is an object lesson for men. All these women's clubs are organized for the best and noblest purposes, and

this cannot be said of all men's clubs, many of which have no higher object than eating, drinking, and card playing. It may be that when the women's clubs have become older they may gradually deteriorate, and follow the examples of men's clubs, but at present there is no more useful factor in any community than the women's club, you can count upon its hearty co-operation in all efforts to raise the standard of morals and intelligence."

"What will be the effect if representation in the G. F. W. C. be restricted to state federation?"

My opinion would be that the effect would be good if the mode of representation be properly adjusted. If, as heretofore, the representation be entirely from the large clubs, it would surely effect the strength of the state federation, because small clubs throughout the state would tire of paying dues to the state federation and not have an opportunity to send anyone from their own locality. It seems to me if delegates were chosen, say one to represent a certain number of clubs in so many districts, allowing a proper number of delegates to the proper number of clubs or club women representing that district or districts. In fact some way which would give the women of the state a fair and practical representation. We want delegates from the north, south, east, and west of our state. Of course everyone that attended the biennial at Denver last year was fully convinced that the number must be cut down in some way, and the proper way to do it is through our state federation; and I also realized what a benefit it was to come in contact with that body of women which constitute the G. F. W. C. Now one trip suffices to open one's eyes to the enormity of the club movement the real earnestness of the movement and the force which it can bring to bear upon any question which comes under its notice, and realizing this, it impresses one with the importance of being individually responsible. That to be a part of that grand aggregation of women we must bring our work, our ideas, our club up higher, aiming more at our motto "Unity in Diversity."

(Mrs.) Josephine Frawley,  
Stromsburg, Nebr.

The sudden death in London of one of the delegates to the international council of women, Mrs. Ellen C. Johnson of Boston, was a great shock not only to that delegated body, but to her friends abroad and her compatriots at home. Her death at the home of the Bishop of Rochester occurred shortly after she had read her paper before the council on "Penal Reformatories for Women" which had been received with that profound attention which is the most complimentary of all. Mrs. Johnson was about seventy-five years young and eminently fitted to discuss this subject. For fifteen years she had been the superintendent of the Massachusetts reformatory for women and was the only woman warden in the world. The following little sketch of her life by Lucy Elliot Keeler reads like fiction and shows what one good woman endowed with a strong will, a charitable heart, and a willingness to do for others can accomplish in the uplifting of the unfortunate and in imparting that courage which enables them to make another start:

"For seven years Mrs. Johnson and other influential Boston women went annually before the Massachusetts legislature, praying that the women convicts might be separated from the men, and more effectual efforts be made toward their moral salvation. In 1877 this was granted. After five years the Governor sent this message to Mrs. Johnson:

"You have got your prison. Three superintendents have failed utterly.