

CLUBS.

[LOUISA L. RICKETTS.]

CALENDAR OF NEBRASKA CLUBS.

- October
 20. XIX Century c., Painting in Flanders, Seward
 20. Sorosis, Social, Stanton
 31. Woman's c., Education, Fairbury
 31. Woman's c., Parliamentary dept., Lincoln
- November
 1. Friends in Council, Swift, Addison.
 1. Samuel Johnson, Tecumseh
 2. Cozy c., Early German Literature, Tecumseh
 2. Mary Barnes c., Coloniza'n of Am., Fullerton
 2. Woman's c., Noted women, Two dynasties
 2. of Franks, Merovingians, Carolingians
 Lincoln
 2. Woman's c., Statesmen and parties, Ashland
 2. Woman's c., Art department, Lincoln
 2. Woman's c., Literature dept., Lincoln
 3. Fortnightly c., Russia, Lincoln
 3. Self Culture c., Egypt, St. Paul
 3. Woman's c., Colonial wars, Plattsmouth
 4. Hist. and Art c., Germany during the first
 three centuries of the Christian era Seward
 4. Pin Di Siecle c., Choute-Garrison-Phil-
 lips, Summer, Seward
 4. Woman's c., Puritan Eng. 1049-60, Syracuse
 4. Rev. and Art c., Fra Angelico, Lippi, York
 6. Woman's c., Shakspeare in music, Lincoln
 6. Matinee Musical, Open Meeting, Lincoln

OFFICERS OF N. F. W. C., 1899 & 1900.

- Pres., Mrs. Anna L. Apperson, Tecumseh.
 V. P., Mrs. Ida W. Blair, Wayne.
 Cor. Sec., Mrs. Virginia D. Arup, Tecumseh.
 Rec. Sec., Miss Mary Hill, York.
 Treas., Mrs. H. F. Doane, Crete.
 Librarian, Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, Lincoln.
 Auditor, Mrs. E. J. Halner, Aurora.

For want of space many items of interest to the club women of Nebraska, connected with the recent state convention, must wait their turn. So many good things were said and done on that occasion their echoes will reverberate a long time. Be patient, this is one of the instances where we should never hurry unless we are really in haste. In time the readers of *The Courier* shall have in a form they may preserve the best things of that convention.

The following amendment to Article VII of the constitution was offered by Miss Fairbrother of Omaha:

The election of officers shall take place at the annual meeting. An informal ballot shall be taken for each officer. The two names receiving the largest number of votes shall be the nominees and shall be elected by ballot.

The following clubs were admitted to membership in the state federation at the recent convention at York:

- Woman's club, Tekamah.
- Woman's club, Central City.
- Alpha C. L. S. C., Central City.
- C. W. F. C., Tecumseh.
- Township club, Baker.
- Wild Rose club, Seward.
- XIV Century club, Kearney.

The question of changing the date of the annual meeting of the N. F. W. C. on account of its conflicting with the W. B. of Missions, was discussed in board of directors meeting. As the date had already been changed from the first to the second week in October for the same reason and as it was uncertain but that there might not still be a conflict with some of the societies of the different denominations should another change be made it was decided to adhere to the second week in October.

The Traveler's club, Burlington, Kas., has adopted the following inspiring motto:

But try, I urge, the trying will suffice,
 The aim, if reached or not, makes
 great the life.

Mrs. Mary Moody Pugh of Omaha the efficient head of the Household Economics department of the Woman's club of that city, sent a message to the convention recommending that a stand-

ing committee on household economics be appointed, the report was adopted and Mrs. Pugh appointed as chairman of said committee. The executive board was also empowered to appoint a standing committee on industrial conditions.

Resolutions of sympathy with Mrs. Kysor and Mrs. Prattie were adopted and the secretary instructed to forward same. An open vote of thanks was given the faithful pages. The little fairy girl in white who went flitting about the convention hall ever intent upon the errands of the delegates, and the boys who were in constant attendance upon the outside wants of their guests. We cannot refrain from again commending the perfection with which the ladies of York cared for the needs of this convention.

Strange to say the important subject of representation in the national federation which is being agitated at club and state meetings all over the country, was voted upon at York without a word of discussion or sign of interest. The motion was made to endorse the present mode of representation, it was seconded immediately, voted upon and carried without the ghost of a remark, although opportunity for objection was given by the president. It is doubtful now if the club women know which way they voted, or care whether or no their clubs have individual representation.

The above from the club department of the State Journal is a reflection upon the intelligence of the club women of Nebraska under which they do not rest easy. I have been requested several times to answer it. So important have the club women of our state considered this question—which cuts off each individual club from connection with the national organization—that so far from not knowing "which way they voted" they have discussed it again and again generally throughout the state the past three months. Club women have written papers innumerable upon it, and as is too often the case in a woman's convention—possibly in men's convention also—the subject was exhaustively discussed before the real motion was placed before the body. The delegates at York came there prepared to vote on this question. As there was not a word offered in favor of the proposed plan of reorganization there was no occasion to take up valuable time to convince those who were already convinced. This action, rather than convicting the club women of Nebraska of ignorance of fundamental questions connected with their organization is proof positive that they have learned to possess themselves in silence, when arguments are a waste of time and eloquence.

The Omaha Woman's club reported that all last summer it kept open a vacation kindergarten. And the Woman's club of North Bend reported \$104 raised last year for the support of a vacation school. These reports are indications which mean much. They mean a harmonious whole, working together for a noble cause, with unselfish zeal.

Many thanks to the club women of Nebraska who are so promptly sending items of interest for this department. I am so busy that I take this way to answer some of the questions sent. Send a condensed report of each meeting of your club or department. Take for granted that items which will be of interest to club women of your locality will be of general interest. Should report of any club be crowded out, I may be able to condense salient points in one report at least. I ask each club in the state to immediately appoint a reporter for the official organ. This is the means by which we may come into closer touch and sympathy. Please send your year book or year's program at once. Yes, from time to time club programs will be printed. A report or communication

received later than Wednesday must almost necessarily wait for next week's issue. That is the reason that the report of the committee on resolutions and reciprocity bureau appears this week instead of last. If there are any new subscribers whose paper did not begin with October 21, please notify *The Courier* at once.

October 18.—Today the Ashland Woman's Club started forth upon its voyage for the year. It is now fairly launched, and the outlook gives promise of fair sailing. With its efficient pilot at the helm and officered by so able a corps, it cannot help but be a year of great profit to its members. "The Victorian Age" is to be the study for the coming year. After a short report given by the president, Mrs. Scott, of the State Federation meeting at York, and a short parliamentary drill, the leader, Mrs. Wiggenshorn, began the study by speaking of the changes and progress since Victoria's accession to the throne; of celebrated poets, novelists, scientists, artists, etc., who have figured conspicuously in her time. Mrs. Chickering read a paper, "Victoria as Queen, Wife and Mother," after which the discussion became general. The schools of England were compared and contrasted with those of America. One member told of the newspapers of the early age, another of the working people. The postal system before 1840, and the manner in which the reform was brought about, and the present cheap uniform postal system adopted, were explained. The meeting was very interesting, and the time for adjournment came all too soon.

The regular meeting of the woman's club last Monday afternoon was of unusual interest, an elocutionary recital by Miss Frances A. McCord, of Des Moines, furnishing the main part of the entertainment, interspersed with music by Miss Whitten, which was much enjoyed. Miss McCord's repertoire included both humorous and serious selections, but her adaptability in tone changes was more pleasing in the humorous numbers. All in all, her efforts were much appreciated by her audience. At the business session an announcement was made that a musical department would be organized under the leadership of Mrs. Henry P. Evans. The plan proposed offers a systematic study of the growth and history of music. Mrs. Milton Scott, delegate to the York convention, then gave her report. Her one criticism was that some of the papers were too long, and her one suggestion that women should keep trying until they could speak from notes.

Light refreshments were served at the close of the program, presided over by Mesdames Ackerman and Castor, assisted by Misses Georgia Field and Clara Hall.

- Miss McCord's selections follow:
 "Patsy" (clipping), Kate Douglas Wiggin.
 "Mary Stuart" (scene), Schiller.
 "The Skule Marm's Courtin'," Will Carleton.
 "How Salva'tor Won," Ella Wheeler Wilcox.
 "The Face on the Floor," Robert D'Angles.
 "Jane, Let 'Em In," James Whitcomb Riley.
 "Sad Mistake,"

The following by Mrs. I. N. Farmer, of Albion, on "Manual Training in Our Public Schools," was one of the many good talks at York:

The progressive mind will find matter for great encouragement in tracing the growth of education from its germination at the time of the Renaissance until our own day, observing meantime how constantly knowledge combined with skill has met the ever increasing de-

mand of human need during each successive period of civilization.

From the moat and drawbridge of the feudal castle to the unfenced lawn and public park, where grand lady and seamstress, millionaire and street gamin rub elbows and together enjoy the lavish gifts of nature, is a long, long stride.

The old barbaric warfare for dominion has given place to a new battle, for the freedom and weal of mankind.

Gradually a change has come over the spirit of the world.

What has brought this transformation? What has brought us into larger sympathy with the beauty of right-living, and given us a clearer conception of that divine precept, "the brotherhood of man."

It is the subjugation of self in the human heart and the development of the grand possibilities of the human mind combined with the proper training of the physical powers, which have given to the individual, the nation, the age, that measure of power and glory which each possesses.

As we are debtors to those who have wrought before us, we must in turn leave our legacy to future generations; and in what way can we add more to the world's betterment than by lending our influence and substance, if necessary, to the work of training the hearts, minds and hands of our boys and girls, so that they may be fitted mentally, morally and physically to meet the responsibilities of life and carry on the work of civilization?

We have already made what is generally considered liberal provisions for our free schools, and from the little lonely sod school house out on the prairie, on through our fine graded system, our state normal, up to the great state university, which is the highest expression of our free school educational idea, the work of mind training is carried on faithfully and effectually during nine months of the year.

We are justly proud of our schools, but labor is the common heritage of mankind, and this fact furnishes a most universal and comprehensive reason for adding manual training to our high school curriculum, for these schools were created for the training of the masses, are maintained for that purpose, and practically few of the pupils enrolled ever go beyond the high school. This is especially true of the boys. For this reason the pupils should begin early to breathe the atmosphere of practical life in the school room.

They should be taught the dignity and true worth of labor and have their hands trained and brought under perfect subjection to the mind and will; they should be taught to appreciate industry, for a large majority of them will be obliged to win their bread by the exercise of muscle and brawn.

Our age is industrial if it is anything; our education should be liberal in character, not exclusive.

But the sociological feature is, by no means, the only one that governs the development of manual training. There are many features, and among them the mathematical and aesthetic, which are highly important. It matters not what occupation the student may engage in when he reaches manhood, his chances for success will be far greater if his hand has been trained in youth to execute the designs of his brain. The training, so desirable for boys, seems an imperative necessity for girls, for they will be responsible for their homes of the future, and the tasks demanded of them will be named legion.

When they enter homes of their own they will not be relegated to the rear, as were their foremothers, but will keep to the front, marching in the van guard of progress.

Manual training already has its place in the schools of most of our larger cities