

exert themselves to see that others shall enjoy the same privileges and advantages as themselves. No colored woman's club of Illinois has made application to join the General Federation. Application was made by one of the clubs of colored women in this city to join the state federation, but the members were asked to withdraw the application, as it was feared it would make trouble on the color line, especially as Mrs. Lowe was to be the guest at the state federation, which was held in Chicago. There are five clubs among the colored women of Chicago, the first of which I founded, and the others since have been established by members of the original one. There are not enough colored clubs in the state to form a state body."

The women who think of the deeper problems are annoyed that so trivial a matter as the color question should engross the attention of thoughtful women. But the southern women do not look at it in that light. The decision of the convention is of grave import to them. It means that they can stay in the convention or that they must secede.

"Admitting everything that is advanced on ethical grounds by northern women, the fact remains that if the confederation admits colored clubs, or colored women for that matter, we must withdraw," said one of the most prominent of the southern contingent. "It is a condition that confronts us, and not a theory, down where we live. I could not look my kinfolk in the face if I remained in an organization which admitted colored women on an equality with white women. This may be lamentable, but it is a fact just the same."

When the women are not talking "colorism" today they are worrying over reorganization, frowning at the showers and wondering why they are so tired. They went to the Alhambra theater in storm skirts this morning, they wore dainty gowns this afternoon at the business session and on the two-hour drive that followed. This business session, with its many words for and against reorganization, was cut short at four o'clock by "The social committee tells me the hour for the drive has come," from Mrs. Lowe, and there was a loud cry of "Move we adjourn."

One of the questions to come up tomorrow relates to sectarianism in clubs. "Will it affect the National Council of Jewish Women or the Catholic Women's league?" was asked. "It is a question of race in our organization, and our membership is founded on that," said Miss Sadie American of the Jewish council, Chicago. "A belief in catholicity as a universal brotherhood is what we require," said Mrs. J. C. Robinson of the Catholic Woman's league.

The applause in the reorganization discussion showed that the clubs prefer to go on with their present form of representation, that is, through individual clubs and state federations instead of by federations exclusively.

"Keep it as it is," said Mrs. Tod Helmut of New York.

"We must have reorganization," said Mrs. Robert Farson of Illinois, state president.

"If the organization is too large we must grow to manage it," said Mrs. Corinne Brown of Chicago. "Don't build a fence around ourselves and attend to the little inside of it. If we shut out others, we shut in ourselves."

Mrs. Anna B. Howe of Marshalltown, Iowa, then spoke of the "Needs of the Public Schools of the West." Illinois, she said, needed a law permitting school boards to transport children to and from school, and a small tax to be used for school libraries. Washington and Nebraska also needed libraries. Indiana, she said needed a longer term of service for school and city superintendents. Michigan needed the latter, and that it

should have more control of the school work.

Wisconsin needs country training schools for district school teachers. Wisconsin also needs legislation to provide schools in the rural districts, of a higher grade than the district school. Iowa, she declared, needed, above all, compulsory education laws and more state normal schools. Departing from what was needed in the way of legislation, the speaker said that the erection of school buildings should be in the care of a competent commission; that free text books should be provided and a law compelling children to have a certain amount of education, rather than to go to school a certain number of years.

Mrs. Robert J. Burdette of California, was greeted with applause when she arose to say that California needed women on the school boards. She told a story of how one school board woman, whom the men tried to humiliate, outwitted them by doing her duty so well that they were ashamed of themselves.

Mrs. Craze of Minnesota, president of the Minneapolis school board, spoke in favor of compulsory education, but suggested that instead of a time limit there should be a grade limit; that is, that all scholars should be required to attain a certain amount of information. She deplored the practice of excusing poor children from attending school.

Mrs. Wilmarth of Illinois took the place of Mrs. Penoyer L. Sherman in addressing the delegates on "Co-operation of Home and School in School Board and State Offices." She maintained that it was the duty of the leisure class to serve the public, and inasmuch as women were predominant in the leisure class they should predominate in education.

Then came the consideration of the third general topic of the session—systematic moral instruction in the schools.

The women of the press had their session at the Davidson this morning. It was all about press women, and nobody but press women did the talking. Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood was chairman.

Report of the Biennial from Mrs. Louisa L. Ricketts.

With the fall of the gavel, accompanied by the words, "By the authority vested in my office this biennial is now declared closed," President Rebecca D. Lowe brought to an end the fifth biennial meeting of the General Federation of Women's clubs. In other words, the "greater" biennial is a thing of the past. There 920 delegates at Milwaukee, as compared 694 at Denver; hence we feel warranted in the advance of one degree in the adjective which has gone down in history as expressive of the Denver biennial.

The state delegation from Nebraska arrived in Milwaukee June 31 and found that plenty of club women had already preceded them. By Monday the lobbies of the hotels Plankinton and Pfister, where the credentials and other committees were caring for the large throng, resounded with woman's laughter and woman's chatter, the fragrance of violets and lavender was wafted above the odor of tobacco smoke and the men, relegated to distant corners looked meekly on and speculated among themselves as to the inner meaning of a "biennial."

The general officers were all enthusiastic in predicting a most successful convention, and Mrs. Platt-Decker, after making a tour of the hotels and theaters, where the sessions were to be held, said: "It's as much ahead of Denver as day is ahead of night. Talk about Denver having set the pace for biennials. It is Milwaukee's record that will be quoted to biennial boards after this. It is absolutely perfect so far as one can

judge now."

Nothing that could add to the comfort, convenience and pleasure of the delegates was wanting. From the maps of the city to the printed schedules of social entertainments provided for visitors to the ample provisions made for the receiving of credentials they had nothing but words of praise.

The burning question before the convention was on reorganization, although the question of the admission of colored women's clubs for a while seemed to threaten a storm. The report of the chairman of the reorganization committee was the signal for each and every member of that large body to be on the alert. The debate was opened by Mrs. Shattock and closed by Mrs. Brock. It ran a lively course during three sessions. But the minority report of the committee, which was for the exclusion of small clubs, was defeated by a vote of 286 for, to 431 against. This was a glorious victory for the principle of justice and courtesy.

The color question came up in the board meeting and was downed, not for good, but at least for this convention, so that no one now expects the breach that was threatened. The New Era club will not be admitted, the southern clubs will not secede, and everything will be patched up for the sake of harmony and peace. On that meeting of the boards hangs a story that comes vouched for by high authority. It was originally set for five o'clock in the afternoon, and was so announced in the morning, but at the close of yesterday morning's session Mrs. Lowe instructed Mrs. Kendrick, the secretary, to call it at one o'clock, a better hour, because it would give those attending it a chance to go to the series of "at homes" planned for the afternoon. This would have satisfied every one, but some of the directors claim that they had no notice of the change in the hour, though they were at their rooms in the hotel at the time the meeting was held. At any rate, the board met. The woman who had been the most outspoken champion of the New Era club's cause was not present. The application of the club was taken from the table, where it was placed by a vote on Monday, the protests from both sides read, and then the application returned to the table, where it now remains. So long as it remains there the New Era club will not be a member of the federation, and Mrs. Josephine Kuffin will not be recognized as the representative.

The work in the nominating committee room was as quiet and calm as a sunny exercise. Dr. Kate Reynolds Lobinger of Denver put Mrs. Lowe in nomination with a few well chosen words, which should be representative of the spirit actuating all club work. She said:

"At the last biennial Colorado would not accept a nomination for the presidency because we felt that our state was the hostess and it would be establishing an unwise precedent for us to take the first honors under such conditions. We accepted the office of vice president, but we did not seek it. Today, Colorado feels that she has had honors enough. I have been instructed by my delegation to say that Colorado wishes for nothing, and that we should disapprove the action of any woman from our state who would accept an office at this time. I have been asked the question many times: 'Are not the women of Colorado loyal to Mrs. Decker?' I answer that we are loyal to her in every possible way, but our idea of loyalty is different from that generally accepted. Mrs. Decker wishes to see a self sacrificing club spirit prevail in the federation and she desires that her own state set an example to be proud of in the future."

There was absolutely no contest and

the nomination was promptly endorsed. It took some time to arrive at a satisfactory distribution of the other offices, but this was finally secured to everyone's satisfaction. It was the general desire of the committee to give something to Milwaukee as the entertaining state, and Mrs. Noyes' name for the office of auditor was unanimously endorsed.

The ticket makes a number of changes in the complexion of the board. Mrs. Moore of Missouri, the treasurer, and Mrs. Barnes of Kentucky, were retired and the directorships are given to several new states. Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Kendrick are the only officers renominated, and Mrs. Buchwalter and Mrs. Lockwood are the only directors named for a return. Indiana gets a directorship, which will placate the feelings of the club women of that state who did not wish the Indiana Federation recognized. Massachusetts is given a place on the board to square up accounts and the West is remembered by offices going to South Dakota and Montana.

The general and local art committees joined in arranging an exhibit of arts and crafts, which was one of the most striking and entertaining features of the whole convention. The exhibit filled the big art gallery of the magnificent library building on Grand avenue. It consisted of rare and beautiful things, almost all the work of women artists and craftswomen. There was one hall hung with pictures and another draped in rare textiles. There were cases of costly laces, beautiful jewels, old and modern silver, copper and gold, exhibits of leather work, wood carving, embroideries, specimens of all kinds of glass, faience and china. Every night the art committee was "at home" in the gallery, serving ices and regaling the guests with sweet music, and every afternoon some one gave a talk on art subjects.

Under the chairmanship of Miss L. E. Stearns of Milwaukee, a bureau of library information was established in a room at the public library directly opposite the art room, where the arts and crafts exhibit was held, and Miss Stearns' committee, which was made up of club women and librarians from all parts of the country, united in receiving guests at the formal opening of the two exhibitions. The exhibit dealt with the practical side of library work and arranged to give the greatest possible information to club women interested in both the traveling and the free public library movement.

The bugbear of unwieldiness was not sufficient to frighten away invitations for the next federation meeting. Five invitations were extended, viz: Buffalo, Chataqua, Boston, Atlantic City and Los Angeles.

The Denver delegates conceded that

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