

ing India will develop in Chicago a set of opinions about India child-widows that will obtain among or be disputed by the housemaids in their set and the discussion will educate the housemaids, broaden their horizon and deepen their sympathies.

#### Murder is Murder.

Ruth Nollard, eighteen years old, was shot and killed on a Kansas City street last Saturday afternoon by Bud Taylor, twenty-three years old, a baseball player, formerly her sweetheart, with whom she had quarreled. The girl and her sister were walking along Ninth street, near Broadway, in a crowded business district of the city. Taylor, sitting in the window of a second story room in a lodging house opposite, fired three shots from a repeating rifle. Two bullets struck Miss Nollard, one passing entirely through her chest, and the other entering just below the heart. She died in less than an hour. Miss Nollard lay bleeding on the sidewalk ten minutes in the center of a great crowd. The police arrested Taylor in the lodging house room and had difficulty in getting him through the mob, many members of which clamored for the lynching of the murderer. Miss Nollard and Taylor were betrothed, but they disagreed a month ago, and the girl forbade Taylor to come to her home. About two weeks ago Taylor choked her almost into insensibility, and threatened to kill her at the first opportunity. He was arrested on complaint of Miss Nollard for assault with intent to kill and was released on bond. Taylor rented a room in the lodging house three days before the murder. The landlord says he stayed in the room during the daytime and it is supposed he sat in the window for many hours, rifle in hand, awaiting an opportunity to pick off the girl without striking others in the crowded street. She was in the habit of passing the house every day. Last year Taylor played with an eastern team and the year before he played with the Nebraska Indians. Miss Nollard was a dry-goods clerk.

A few weeks ago another murder as cold-blooded and revolting as this one occurred in Kansas City. Only the murderess was a woman. Mrs. Kennedy shot her husband who had been forced to marry her, because, being thoroughly obnoxious to him he would not live with her. Firearms place men and women on a level. The weakest woman can kill the strongest man, if she be armed with a loaded pistol. Mrs. Kennedy shot a man, not because she loved him and he had ceased to love her, but because she loved notoriety and she wanted revenge. The crowd who surrounded the poor little saleswoman last Saturday were ready to lynch the murderer. But no one offered or threatened violence to Mrs. Kennedy who killed a man for partly the same reason Bud Taylor shot Ruth Nollard for injured vanity. Justice demands that the same punishment be awarded both.

#### Military Caste.

Boer generals have outgeneraled the British officers since the Transvaal war began. There is no better soldier than Tommy Atkins. He obeys orders, without question or fear and grumbles like an Englishman only between engagements. If ordered to storm a kopje covered with Boers hidden behind boulders, he runs up with a cheer. The officers of the army of Great Britain are just as brave, but commissions are sold and the army like the church has been regarded as a refuge and a vocation for

younger sons and incompetents who can not find anything else to do. A military genius, if without influence, has little opportunity of demonstrating ability in the British army. The small army of the Boers is officered by men selected, not on account of their grandfathers or eldest brothers but exclusively on account of military ability previously demonstrated.

One of the arguments urged to help pass the ship subsidy bill was the imperative clause requiring the employment of American sailors for two-thirds of the crew. American men of the fibre that make good sailors disdain to enter a service, where whatever their gallantry and ability, they can not be promoted. Admiral Sampson's letter to Secretary Long announcing the impropriety of promoting gunner Morgan because of his lack of social opportunities, expressed as a matter of course the opinion held by all Anapolis graduates. The tendency of all military bodies is towards the more exclusive and rigid establishment of caste. Its complete establishment is fatal to the army and navy. When the basis of promotion becomes previous education or influence, men without the military inspiration, and lacking the Napoleonic capacity to win battles by uniting the soldiery into one cohesive body of devotion to country and to a great commander, lead their armies to defeat and great countries are conquered. Unless the way is open for a man of genius from the bottom to the top of the naval system America will lose battles she might have won, and foreign seaman will continue to man American vessels. Snobbery has all the symptoms of a mild disease, but when it is chronic it kills everything in a man that makes him useful to his country and an ornament to society. The Boers have killed thousands of Englishmen because the basis of selection in the Boer army is intellectual keenness. The English, though matched against the enemy in the proportion of one hundred to one, have been out-generaled because their officers are selected with reference to social graces, geneological traditions and the price of commissions. Before modern America, there are two military models; the English and the Boer. The English cause is just. England is the defendant in a dispute which might have been amicably settled. But the English soldiery are fighting men on their own familiar ground led by the best fighters in the world; crude, single-minded, experts, who have won their leadership by virility and the kind of unerring instinct, and cunning exhibited by all new, strong races of men before convention and caste have introduced artificial classifications.

#### Club Colors.

Massachusetts presidents of women's clubs are called together at irregular intervals by the state executive board for conference on club and federation topics. The conference of Massachusetts presidents generally meets twice a year. At the last meeting in December more than one hundred presidents were present, fairly representing the different parts of the state. It had been announced to the clubs that the meeting was called to discuss the question: "What the small club can do in the country town." But after the meeting was called to order the audience proceeded to discuss the color line in the General Federation and the missions and opportunities of small clubs in country towns was not discussed at all. The meeting adopted a set of resolutions addressed to the board of directors of the General Federation, which

was to be in session February 27 and 28 in Washington. The resolutions protest against the present policy of the board of the General Federation in requiring every club, which applies for admission to the G.F.W.C. to show that all its members are white. The resolutions also request the board to ratify the election of the Woman's New Era Club without waiting for the settlement of the question by vote of the delegates to the sixth Biennial.

There is no use in ignoring this subject. The sixth Biennial must discuss it in open meeting. Massachusetts will get her way in this particular. Since the defeat of the Massachusetts candidate for president at Denver and the establishment of the ten cents per capita tax the Massachusetts clubs have been uneasy and jealous of southern and western ideas. The vote against reorganization at Milwaukee and the refusal to recognize Mrs. Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin of the New Era club aroused what certain delegates are pleased to call "ethical indignation." Politicians call it sore-headedness, and children call it "getting mad." Mrs. Helen A. Whittier, one of the vice presidents of the Massachusetts Federation says in speaking of the consequences to the General Federation, if Massachusetts is not allowed to send negro delegates to the Biennial conferences: "It is futile to estimate the relative degree of loss to the Federation should one or another section withdraw. Financially and numerically the loss of Massachusetts would outweigh probably three to one, the loss of the solid south, for one-fourth of the direct membership lives in Massachusetts and therefore pays one-fourth of the Federation revenue. But this point of view is hardly worth consideration, beside the greater loss to its representative character which the Federation would suffer from the withdrawal of the clubs of any section. It can not afford to lose the South, it cannot afford to lose New England, if it is to continue the name, the General Federation of Women's Clubs."

The other set of resolutions addressed by Massachusetts women to the General board advises a settlement of the question by reorganization, that is by electing delegates to the General Federation in the state federations and not in the individual clubs.

The question before the next Biennial then will be one of expediency and preference, for it is certain that unless Massachusetts can dictate Massachusetts will withdraw. The negro problem belongs to the south and the south has begun to solve it. Whether northern women's clubs admit negro women or not will make but little difference, in consequence of the very small number of negro women in the north who would present themselves for membership. In the south, were negro women admitted, their votes would far out-number the present membership. The representative character of the Federation is truly the element of largest consequence. Mrs. Whittier seems to be sure that if Massachusetts withdraws, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Rhode Island will also withdraw. However such an assumption is without basis of experiment or ballot. Union with the south and cooperation with the southern women is of much more consequence to the west and to the whole country than the conciliation of any one northern state. I recognize that the question is of hereditary urgency in Massachusetts as well as in Georgia. Only there is this difference. Georgians are deal-

ing with a race settled in the state and of superior numerical strength. Massachusetts is, according to historical habit attempting to settle the question of negro equality for the Georgians, who prefer to work away at it themselves. Southern women have added a great impulsive force to the club movement. Without their presence and interest the movement would lose significance, *raison d'être*. Massachusetts women indicate that they should miss the General Federation, but that the Federation would be sadly crippled, numerically and financially without the spiritual and mental uplift contributed by our sisters of Massachusetts. There is no doubt that the Massachusetts woman will be missed. She is a fluent talker and absolutely devoted to the reformation of other people, but when she asks the General Federation to run the risk of losing sixteen or seventeen other states, she is straining her popularity. The resolutions offered to the consideration of the General Federation by the board of the Massachusetts state federation are printed in the club columns of this week's issue.

#### The Pebble.

Published at Omaha by Mary D. Learned and Louise McPherson, The Pebble is an interesting and presentable magazine. Although incited to their first number by Eliot Hubbard of East Orange the editors are not imitators. The preciousness of The Philistine cloys upon the too constant reader. At last the consciousness of a pose "for art only" must grow wearisome. "Done into print" is as wearisome as all archaic imitations are. The Pebble is printed on deckle edge paper with handsome red covers, without affectation of butcher's paper or any of the eccentricities which disfigure Mr. Hubbard's magazine. Besides, the illustrations in The Pebble by Langouste, which is the pen name of an Omaha "Elizabeth" are charming and worth much more than the modest price of the little magazine. Hereafter Nebraska people who wish to become familiar with the best works of the best Nebraska authors can subscribe for The Pebble and The Courier at a club rate of one dollar and a half a year.

#### City Improvement.

Many of the meetings of the City Improvement Association have been devoted to deploring the condition of a city that was dirty and unimproved because neither the council nor the association possessed the money to improve it. The recent entertainment has furnished the association with a small capital to accomplish some few of the many projects of improvement. Members of a society composed of several hundred men and women decide upon spending funds collected by common effort, with some difficulty. It is proposed to put up sign-boards in this checker-board town where each street and each corner resembles all the other streets and corners. The difficulty a stranger has of finding his way about is pitiable and if the city council will not put the sign-boards up, the City Improvement Society would succeed to a shower of blessings by erecting them. Then the city has no ambulance. Does a woman faint on the streets or a man fall, overcome by the heat, he is bundled into the patrol wagon and must take the ignominious ride of a prisoner to the police. A modern ambulance with comfortable, springy couch and whose wheels are cushioned by rubber would be a worthy gift from the association to the city. Money must be spent on the city park