

inspiration of a common hope, give us work enough and incentive enough for the time which lies before us.

Henrietta I Smith.

#### FOREWORD.

The seventh annual announcement of the N. F. W. C. contains a "Foreword" from Mrs. Draper-Smith, president of the N. F. W. C., and gives the officers of the federation, members of committees, the books added to the library since October, 1900, and the manuscripts received by the reciprocity bureau since October, 1900. The following "Foreword" defines the policy of the present administration and puts tersely the existing conditions of club life in Nebraska, besides sending friendly greeting.

Believing that the work of our federation needs only to be better understood to be appreciated by more women in our state, the executive board appointed a club extension committee and voted it a working fund, thereby necessitating economy in our printing bill. We appear before you in no spirit of apology, but ask your co-operation in sending forth this leaflet in lieu of the very complete manuals you have been wont to receive, and led to expect you might receive — a year. Each club has in its possession two copies of last year's Manual which are replete with information, containing as they do, strong letters from the president and chairman of each standing committee: Art, Education, Household Economics and Industrial, respectively; a list of books in library; of papers and lectures in reciprocity bureau; of art portfolios, and a directory of the clubs in membership, their size, course of study, etc.

I would most earnestly urge you to set apart a day to be known as "State Federation Day," for the careful perusal and discussion of these reports, together with what is set forth in this leaflet, especially the changes in the reciprocity bureau, new books in library, proposed changes in the constitution and by-laws, and any other item of federation work that may interest you. If further information, on any of the subjects, is desired do not hesitate to write the chairman of committee, whose pleasure it will be to promptly advise with you. In the appointment of committees this year we feel we have maintained the usual high standard endeavoring to bestow impartially the opportunity to assist in promulgating the work by enlisting women in the various sections. The reciprocity bureau is being used as never before, and more demands are being made upon the library than can be met.

It is the policy of this administration to come into still closer touch with individual clubs, is possible to make each club feel how necessary is its active co-operation before the federation can attain its highest usefulness. To this end suggestions and criticisms are invited. Each club can assist in dictating plans and methods of the body. It can indicate its wishes regarding the fall program, subjects for discussion, number of sessions or any other feature for its improvement.

Nebraska has as progressive clubs as any state in the general federation. Bring your aims and enthusiasm to bear upon the federation, and thus place it in the front ranks. Make the experiment once that we may put into actual practice reciprocity which is the key note of club life. As each individual has something peculiarly characteristic to contribute to her club, so each club has something to contribute to the state federation.

I would call your attention to the necessity of a larger income to creditably conduct the affairs of the state.

(See proposed change in Article VIII. of constitution.) There is another way in which much better results may be obtained—Club Extension. While the most significant outcome of extending club work into new localities would be the broadening and uplifting influence, and enthusiasm of the greater number, incidentally it would solve the question of finance, for it requires no greater expense to transact the business and furnish the program for two hundred than for one hundred clubs, yet the income would be twice as large. As you believe in the club movement and receive the benefit of organization, can you not make a missionary effort to propagate your faith, in near by communities?

Will not each club in the federation appoint an extension committee, and endeavor to present the name of one or more organized clubs to the executive board for federation before June, that they may be admitted and notified in time to send delegates to the annual meeting. It has occurred to you all, but it is well worth bearing in mind in this connection, the more one gives away of his money possessions the poorer he is, while the more one gives away, or shares, his intellectual possession, the richer he is.

The next annual meeting will be held in Wayne, October 8 to 11, by invitation of the Wayne Town federation for which preparations are already being made. It is the desire at this meeting that delegates be seated apart from visitors, and in order that we may locate, and the more readily recognize the delegates, will not each club send its own banner on a standard ready for use? We hope to record the faithfulness of even the most distant clubs in sending representatives, as a report taken back to each club widens the influence of the session, besides the acquaintanceship formed at these meetings is productive of good feeling among the women of our state, which is most desirable from any point of view.

Come prepared with your club report, come prepared to take part in the discussions, come prepared to have a good time.

#### Proposed Amendments.

##### Article 7—Elections—

The election of officers shall take place at the annual meeting. The presidents of clubs belonging to the state federation shall constitute a nominating committee who shall present to this meeting two names for each office required by the constitution.

##### Article 8—Dues—

The annual dues, payable in advance of the annual meeting, shall be three dollars for each club of fifty or less members and one dollar additional for each fifty members or major fraction thereof, after the first fifty members.

#### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES N. F. W. C.

##### Club Extension.

Believing that a more general knowledge of the work of the Nebraska federation of women's clubs, will result in a mutual helpfulness to the women of our state, the executive board has appointed a standing committee on club extension, as a medium of information. The state federation now consists of about one hundred clubs, with approximately thirty-three hundred members. It has standing committees as follows: Art, Education, Household Economics, Industrial and Music. It is the duty of these committees to furnish suggestions and outline of study to any club in the federation desiring information on any of these subjects.

The bureau of reciprocity contains

essays and papers on various subjects, written by women of the different clubs, book reviews of many of the latest works of fiction, numbering in all about 125 manuscripts. It also contains a list of lecturers, with their subjects—suitable for club entertainment. Any of these may be obtained by applying to the chairman, Mrs. A. A. Scott, 1834 G st., Lincoln, Neb.

There are about 260 books in the travelling library, Mrs. B. M. Stoutenborough, librarian, Plattsmouth, Neb. There are 300 pictures arranged in 15 circulating art portfolios, Mrs. Jennie E. Keysor, chairman, 31st and Woolworth ave., Omaha, Neb. As soon as a club applies for membership it is allowed all of these privileges.

Six years of united effort have done much to broaden and enrich the intellectual life of many of the women of Nebraska; that much more can be done is equally certain. In the villages and agricultural districts are many capable women, fully alive to the great questions of the day, but without organized centers for intellectual and social advancement. These forces need only to be called into action and organized into clubs, in order to be productive of great good.

With this in view we submit a plan of organization and most cordially invite your careful consideration. First, secure the interest of one or two thoughtful women; decide what kind of a club is desirable; whether for general study or scientific work; settle upon the plan and the constitution, even a name, if possible. Commit the same to writing. Then invite a few friends, present the club idea, and ask them to help in the new organization. Select a chairman and proceed to elect officers as follows: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. At this meeting a constitution may be adopted. (Enclosed find copy of model constitution.) A careful record of all meetings should be kept from the first.

Conditions vary so greatly, both in character and needs of clubs—their size, possibilities and limitations—in different localities, that any attempt to outline a course of study would defeat its own end. If in doubt, we would recommend child study, household economics and current events as being topics of general interest. But experience shows that it is well in the beginning to limit the number of subjects.

Any woman's club in Nebraska which is regularly organized with a constitution or by-laws, with objects unsectarian and non-partisan, is eligible to membership in this federation. No individual can be a member. Clubs desiring to join the federation shall make application for membership, accompanied by their constitution, dues, names of president and secretary and number of members, to the recording secretary. A majority vote of the executive board present at any meeting shall be necessary to admit to membership. The annual dues payable in advance of the annual meeting shall be \$2, for each club of fifty or less members, and \$1 additional for each fifty members or major fraction thereof after the first fifty members. The president of the federation, the nearest member of the executive board, or an officer from the nearest club, as well as the extension committee, stand ready to assist in any way possible.

We believe, therefore, that it is not necessary to say that the benefits to be derived by clubs in joining the federation, are many and real, and do not hinder nor limit the work of any club nor do clubs pledge themselves to take up any line of work. The federation simply offers sympathy and co-operation and brings to them a larger and fuller life. Clubs, like individuals,

never really grow until they have learned the practical lesson of service to others. Join the federation, make use of its departments, practice its principles of reciprocity by contributing to its bureau, extend club courtesies to other clubs, send as many members as possible to the annual meeting, and you will never ask again, what are the benefits to be derived.

Mrs. Winnie Durland, Norfolk, Neb., chairman.

Mrs. Emma Page, Syracuse; Mrs. Julia C. Hoobler, Omaha, club extension committee.

#### Traveling Libraries.

To Mr. Melville Dewey of New York belongs the honor of inaugurating a state system of travelling libraries. The headquarters for this new movement is Albany and out from that city Mr. Dewey sent libraries of 100 volumes each to country neighborhoods and small hamlets, thus affording to the people good, wholesome reading without money and without price.

This work began in 1893, and today the state of New York makes an annual appropriation of \$25,000 to support these libraries.

These libraries are sent not only to the people in farming communities, but to study clubs, summer hotels and to student clubs. He also sends pictures and lantern slides to aid those who are taking up special lines of work.

The plan proved so popular that other states caught the library spirit and in 1895 and 1896 Iowa, Michigan and Ohio secured aid from their respective states, not only fostering the establishment of local libraries, but providing for travelling libraries as well.

To one who has watched the growth of this movement, Wisconsin has perhaps won first place, especially in the amount of work accomplished. Mr. Frank A. Hutchins, secretary of the Wisconsin free library commission, says: "No recent movement for the public weal in our state has won such quick and ready sympathy as the effort to put the best of books and current literature where country people may read them freely."

Today there are travelling libraries in Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Wisconsin, indeed, thirty-three states have some form of travelling libraries. Seventeen of these states are doing most effective work through library commissions.

It is with no small satisfaction that the writer of this article adds the name Nebraska to the list of states which favors this new method of popular education.

The enactment of this law is largely due to the efforts of the state federation and individual clubs, together with the Nebraska library association, each strengthening the other by united efforts. When the governor's signature is attached to this bill, the citizens of our state will begin to realize that the travelling library is not the dream of a theorist, but a high privilege, a recognized duty, whose value and importance cannot be overestimated.

In casting about for the right person to introduce the library bill in the house, the committee decided upon Mr. David Brown of Nebraska City. It was a wise choice. Mr. Brown was a lover of books, a lover of humanity, a man who recognized that the state has no material resource at all comparable to its citizens and no hope of perpetuity except in the intelligence and integrity of its people.