

state is in ignorance of the great club movement, and women in the most remote villages desire a share of its progress. The reason they do not organize is because they are timid and do not know their own capabilities. They are hungry for things intellectual, but there exists with them a vagueness regarding club and federation methods. They are simply awaiting the sympathetic touch of some one a little more experienced than themselves to prove their responsiveness and to set in motion the machinery of a new organization.

Since all club work is educational, club extension embodies the whole of it. It means the intellectual improvement of women and the consequent quickening of ambition for their children; it means new ideas in the home, fewer applications of the truancy laws, more years in the school room, recruits for the universities and colleges.

Beyond the home it stands for culture in the community and interest in books which leads to the custody of the local or travelling library.

Club extension means the educational advancement of the whole state.

Realizing the opportunities and the great possibilities, the state club extension committee most heartily recommends the plan of our president, that each federated club shall constitute of itself a center from which shall radiate an influence embracing communities within its reach, not unmindful of the fact that the smaller the sentiment the greater the need of its women. If the remaining weeks of the club year are given to systematic seed sowing by local committees, culture clubs will spring up all over our state.

It is urged, however, that the fostering care must be continued, and the new clubs brought into federation. No young club can be considered permanent without it. But once federated local pride, which is but patriotism, will bridge many difficulties.

As stated in our circular letter the committee or any member of the executive board stand ready to assist in the organization of new clubs if their aid is requested.

It is the confident belief of your president and of this committee that the clubs of Nebraska will show, as always, the willing spirit of co-operation; that by June many new clubs will be ready for membership in the state federation, and that in our October meeting the power and enthusiasm which come with members shall be felt in every department of the federation's work.

Winnie Durland,
Emma Page,
Julia C. Hoobler.

The Benefits of a Musical Club to a Community.

(By Elizabeth R. Baker.)

A musical club in any community, with a fair degree of support, has the effect of centralizing and concentrating the musical talent and ability of a community. With a well-organized society of this nature, the individual opinions of members are heard and discussed, experiences exchanged, plans for future advancement canvassed, and, in fact, thoroughly careful outlines of work adopted which cannot fail to reflect the views of the musical interests represented in the community. This organized effort not only directly advances musical taste and appreciation among the members of the club, and enlarges their conceptions of the subject with which they have to deal, but it also has an important influence upon the community at large. We can all learn from our friends and associates in any walk of life and this is in no case better demonstrated than in club work. Con-

sequently musical interests blended and harmonized in a local organization cannot fail to be a power for general good.

As an illustration of the club idea the Matinee Musicale of this city is most effective. This club has been in existence seven years and has included in its membership most of the leading musicians and music-lovers of Lincoln. Through all this time thorough harmony has prevailed among its members and the different musical elements of the city represented through them. The purpose of the club as stated in its constitution is "to advance the interests and promote the culture of musical art in the city of Lincoln." That the objects of the club as therein stated, have been conscientiously sought, no one acquainted with the work of the organization will gainsay.

The first thing to be taken into consideration by the officers of a musical club is a systematic presentation of ideas through its programs. From its organization to the present time our club has carried this into effect in so arranging and classifying its work that special subjects, or special composers, or certain lines of musical work are so illustrated as to appeal not only to musicians, but to aid in interesting and instructing those who are students and lovers of the art. With this general plan in view the programs have been largely illustrative and when occasion demanded, the numbers, in order to be more thoroughly appreciated and understood, have been preceded by explanatory statements from the platform. Through this system, music has been made not merely a study, but also a pleasure to those who have the privilege of hearing the programs.

Through the plan of associate membership, whereby music lovers, though not participating in the work of the club, have the privilege of attending the meetings, much benefit is derived. The associate members of this club, by paying a nominal yearly assessment, have the opportunity of hearing the programs rendered by the active members. In these programs good, conscientious work is done. The line of study previously arranged is carried out to the best ability of those participating. Of course, the interpretative rendition of the numbers chosen is largely a matter of personal qualification and musical temperament on the part of the performer. But nevertheless the opportunity of hearing selections which in many instances would not otherwise be afforded, and the special study and observation of the characteristics of composers as represented on the club programs are in themselves a sufficient inducement for amateurs to join their local club and assist in making its work a success.

The Matinee Musicale, which I have had in mind in the consideration of this subject, has been a direct benefit, also, to those who have made a study of chorus work. Every community which is ambitious for musical opportunities should have a well organized and effective chorus. The advantages of such a body of practised singers is obvious. Our own club has fostered this idea and in the past several years has paid special attention to the study of concerted work and the presentation at regular intervals of choral compositions.

Last, but not least, among the benefits the musical club bestows upon its community is the series of artist recitals, always a prominent and attractive feature in the year's work. Famous artists, ranking at the head of their profession, appear each season, and these concerts not only the club members are permitted to attend, but the general public by paying a small

admission fee can hear first class artistic programs illustrating the works of the best composers.

A club offering its members and the general public through them the advantages touched upon cannot fail to be a direct benefit to any community. To those who have a technical knowledge of music and who enjoy its study the benefit is apparent.

To those who love it for its beauties of conception and the interpretation of its ideas, the value of a musical club will also be understood. But the greatest benefit, after all, is to those who wish to acquire an appreciation, and who do not have the advantages of hearing good compositions intelligently rendered except through such an agency.

MUSIC.

(By Oia E. Campbell.)

The National Federation of Musical Clubs holds its second biennial meeting in Cleveland on April 30 and May 1, 2 and 3. Members of all musical clubs, whether federated or not, are invited to attend; they may take part in discussions, but cannot introduce motions or vote. Papers on club work will be read by Mrs. Theodore Thomas, Mrs. Russell R. Dorr, Mrs. John E. Curran and others. How can the musical clubs best further the cause of good music in America. The altruistic side of musical clubs, are two of the most interesting subjects of discussion. Each federated club is entitled to two votes, by the president and by her appointee. Transportation is one and one-third fare for the round trip, if one hundred persons (not travelling on passes) attend the biennial festival. All officers and delegates can be entertained in private houses. Names and addresses of all such should be sent by April 1 to the chairman of the committee on hospitality, Mrs. Cass I. Dangler, 1415 Euclid avenue, Cleveland, O. Names and addresses of all delegates should be sent immediately to the chairman on credentials, Miss Adella Prentiss, 368 E. Prospect street, Cleveland.

Mrs. David A. Campbell, vice president of the western section, who was one of the organizers of the Matinee Musicale of Lincoln, and is a dynamic musical force in the western section, has written the following encouraging greeting to her fellow workers:

During the past few years music has taken upward strides locally and nationally. New clubs are being formed and the membership of established clubs is growing in musical strength. There never was a time when the musicians all over the country were so thoroughly in earnest. Has musical knowledge become more generally diffused? Are musicians explaining what they know to those less fortunate? Or what is bringing about this musical revival. Surely the national federation of music clubs has been one factor, with its army of enthusiastic, conscientious musicians. Mr. McDowell says the women's musical club is doing more to elevate the standard of music in America than any other musical factor. Mr. Theodore Thomas claims his best critics and most attentive listeners are women and club workers.

To give women a broader musical education, to teach women to understand music, that was the idea of the federation. It is a union of the women of the larger musical clubs doing advanced work to help the women of little clubs in small towns who have neither opportunity nor stimulus, but only a great love for the one branch of art they know. To thousands of club women in smaller towns and, indeed, in larger ones, music is the one hold they have on art. The one key to unlock understanding of truth and

beauty alike. They band together, these women, wistful for a little appreciation from one another for a little pleasure in listening. Often what do they hear? A cheap class of music badly executed with nothing uplifting or broadening possible from its contact. This is what the federation is for primarily: to give to these better music, the best artists, the best suggestive courses of study and at the same time broadening its own scope through larger clubs.

There are about 120 clubs in the federation and these include clubs of all sizes, from the Rubenstein club of New York to struggling little clubs in middle state towns. We have in the federation a travelling library, a bureau of registry where all musicians belonging to clubs and willing to give their services for a small remuneration may register. Small clubs have availed themselves of this opportunity and are loud in their praises of this branch of the work. Also an artists' committee, which obtains artists at reduced rates for federation clubs. A special committee has prepared a six years' course of study. Also a model constitution and by-laws. These may be had from the federation for a small fee. When the federation was organized in order to facilitate executive work, it was decided to divide the country in four districts, the eastern, with Mrs. L. P. M. Curran, vice president; southern middle, Mrs. Verdery of Augusta, Ga., vice president; northern middle, Mrs. Fredric Ullmann of the Amateur club of Chicago, vice president; the western section, Mrs. Campbell, vice president; this section embraces all the country from St. Paul to Galveston west.

We have in this section thirty-five clubs and many seeking admission. But Nebraska has only two clubs in the federation. This is not as it should be. Every club in the state should avail itself of the many benefits the federation offers.

Our Matinee Musicale always advocates everything that makes for progress. This club was one of the charter members of this organization and has been active in forwarding the movement ever since.

The heroic effort the women of America are making to inculcate only the good and to interest the majority of this vast populace in the realm of higher thinking and greater appreciation of the best in music, is meeting with marked approval. Our clubs are realizing that combination facilitates comparison and encourages systematic study. "By all, for all," with this we conquer.

Mrs. Bushnell's Account of the City Federation.

What has become of the city federation? is a question often asked and the frequency with which the club women are interrogated, as to its fate, shows that many pleasant recollections are cherished of the time when the federation flourished, and the talented and gracious women of Lincoln assembled several times a season. Though the meetings have ceased those who were instrumental in organizing this body so much by establishing this medium of exchange between clubs of the city. The honor of organizing belongs to Mrs. J. H. Canfield, at one time not in sympathy with the club movement, but seeing its good works she became one of the most enthusiastic advocates. She organized both the Woman's club and the city federation almost simultaneously.

One cause for the discontinuance of the regular meetings of the city federation was the success of the Woman's club, whose broad plan and democratic platform made a place for everyone.