

and seeming in such perfect health that no one sounded a warning. Finally her eyesight failed; then the other senses became disordered. The sense of touch became so abnormal that she had to be surrounded by pillows to prevent exquisite suffering. Then, when the whole sensory tract became involved, she became insane and ended her days in an asylum. Few cases are so strongly outlined as this; but the number of those where the constitution is so broken that a vigorous life work is impossible, is legion.

As a practical equipment for a life work, the value of knowledge gained from sources outside of college walls is incalculable. Says Lowell, the student, the critic, but also the practical man of affairs: "Are not our educations commonly like a pile of books laid over a plant in a pot? The compressed nature struggles forth at every crevice, but can never get the cramp and stunt out of it. We spend all our youth in building a vessel for our voyage of life, and set forth with streamers flying; but the moment we come nigh the great loadstone mountain of our proper destiny, out leap all our carefully-driven bolts and nails, and we get many a mouthful of good salt brine, and many a buffet of the rough waters of experience, before we secure the bare right to live."

## CLUBS.

### THE Y. W. C. A.—A BRIEF SURVEY.

It is generally conceded that if an organization is to be effective in a community and pay for the time, labor and capital invested in its creation and continuance, there must be a need for its existence, a field for the work which it essays to do.

Considerable interest has been manifested in the work and ways of the Young Women's Christian Association of this city, and many women and some men have at different times inquired of the secretary, "Does the Association pay? Is there really a need for it in this city of churches?" It has always been the conviction of the women comprising the management that it does pay, a thousand fold in ways we know, and its influences reach out to many whom we may never see. The scope of the work is such that an exhaustive survey would tire, and then perhaps fall short of perfection. It is therefore a boon to be enabled this week to place before the friends of the association the Y. W. C. A. itself as far as may be, that it may speak for its own existence.

The features of the work are as varied as the needs of the great numbers of people who pass in and out of the pleasant rooms at 12th and P streets, where the association has its office, lunch room, and boarding department. The notion that the organization is exclusively charitable in its aim and method is as erroneous as that other one which assumes that its work is purely social, or still a third which presupposes an attempt to fill the place which a church organization takes in the life of the city.

Like the famous blind man, all are partly in the right yet all are in the wrong. It is true that the association does a large charitable work every year. The fact that it furnishes the only place of refuge for certain unfortunates, is testified by the allowance of a hundred dollars annually by the city council. The police matron is in close touch with the association, and has frequently expressed her satisfaction, with an arrangement

which relieves her from the painful task of taking to the city jail as the only possible place, the unfortunate runaway girl, or temporarily homeless woman. In many cities, Des Moines, Iowa, for example, no other provision is made for such cases.

The charity organization furnishes us many opportunities to extend relief, as do the Salvation Army and Volunteer workers. It is significant that the association is in close touch with all these organizations.

During the past year more than eighty penniless women and girls have stayed over night and taken meals in our home. One room is set aside for such transients, and when necessary, temporary changes are made to care for all who come.

Employment has been found for numbers. Figures, not always tiresome, are to be had from the secretary, showing an astonishing number of applications. Twenty-eight girls wrote or applied in person during August. No charge is made for such assistance. The efficient house secretary, Mrs. Andrus, has numerous applications also for assistance in securing positions, and in many instances has supplied such applicants with positions. Places are found for girls who wish to work and attend school, visits are made and flowers sent to the girls who are ill, whether previously known to the management or not.

The social side of the plan is of equal importance. Parties and socials are held frequently in the parlors, by the young women who enjoy membership in the Y. W. C. A. and their friends. The parlors, increasingly pleasant, are open all day, and all women are welcome to use them.

Trolley rides, May festivals, Halloween gayeties, Christmas frolics, bicycle runs, breakfasts and other pastimes which girls arrange for and enjoy, have been "features" during the year just past. It is the desire of all connected with the management that the young women of the city take still more interest in planning such pleasures next year.

Educational classes are formed as a demand arises. Our educational committee has arranged for a series of lectures by men and women prominent in university and club circles. A special series of five has been made possible by five generous women, each of whom will open her beautiful home one evening to the members of the association and furnish a lecture or other entertainment. The committee finds little call for elementary instruction. It has been found best to arrange for a general culture course instead. Practical instruction is given, however, to girls who are not provided with a means of livelihood.

An arrangement is made whereby girls may enter the domestic science department at the university at a reduced price for tuition. We have had so many girls, unprepared for any definite work, seeking employment, that we have arranged this year to teach, at very small cost to herself, to any girl a way to make her living independently. Any young women interested will be furnished with full information by the general secretary, Miss Kyle.

The gospel meetings which are held on Sunday afternoons at four o'clock are not intended to take the place of church services, but are planned to promote development of character and spiritual growth. The devotional committee is most efficient and active. Each meeting is specially planned. This committee saves money each year toward sending a delegate to the Geneva conference. A unique feature of the Sunday meetings this year will be a concert on the first Sunday of each month. Miss Leta Trigg, chairman of the music committee, has secured some of the best talent in the city for these concerts.

Not the least cause for satisfaction is our dainty and well managed dining room. Some months ago we adopted the

self-serving plan which has proved altogether satisfactory. No more satisfying sight could be imagined than the bevy of girls lurching and chatting in the freedom and leisure which are the necessary adjuncts to a pleasant meal. Lunch is served on the European plan. Girls who bring lunches from home are especially invited to come to the dining room. A cup of tea or coffee or a glass of milk may be had at the trifling expense of three cents.

The lunch secretary is Miss Etta Bankson, recently chosen by the board to take charge of the dining room. We are able to report the boarding department in most excellent health so far as popularity goes, and care and attention to detail have made it so popular that at this early date all the twenty rooms are taken, save one. Last year we were able to partially refurbish the house, and the management are adding the furnishings necessary to the comfort of the occupants, as rapidly as funds will permit. Unfortunately carpets and curtains, rugs and other things will wear out and refuse to renew themselves. Owing to the generosity of the business men of Lincoln, we are enabled to make our little cruise of oil go a long way.

The management has secured for us the commendation and confidence of the business men of the city. The policy for the ensuing year is to be practically unchanged. The one point to be insisted upon is that the association keep clear of indebtedness. The house is self-supporting; the dining room is self-supporting. The other expenses of the organization are paid by the membership fees. These expenses are the running expenditures, salaries, light, etc.

Now, the last and most important word. The women of Lincoln who believe in this work should be members. The fee is one dollar per year, or at option five dollars; those paying five dollars being designated sustaining members. Many women hesitate to become members because they have very little or no time to give to the association; the whole necessity is not service. Funds are quite important. Such hesitating women may rest assured that we shall fully appreciate their interest, if it be expressed by the application for a membership card.

It is our earnest hope that the members and friends of the association will rally to the support of the management during the coming year.

MARTHA PIERCE, Pres.

J. MARGARET KYLE, Gen'l. Sec'y.

The following interesting account of the women of Australia and New Zealand is given by a correspondent of the New York Sun:

As it was a long voyage from England to New Zealand, only the most enterprising women had the courage to emigrate; this, undoubtedly, had its effect upon the present British population, who, men and women both, are the very flower of the British colonies. They are surprisingly tall, athletic, with fresh, rosy complexions, and this notwithstanding the enormous quantities of tea they consume, strong as lye, in huge cups, morning, noon and night.

Because of their fewness, the women of New Zealand were treated with distinguished favor, and their children and grandchildren have reaped the benefits. The universities have been coeducational for many years, awarding women degrees with a justice that Oxford and Cambridge might well emulate. There are several clever young women employed upon the colonial newspapers, while others are making their way in other professions—notably that of medicine.

In 1893, after several years of persevering work, in which the women were aided by such men as the late Sir George Grey, the former premier, the bill legalizing universal suffrage was passed. A

franchise league, of which Mrs. Daidy, of Auckland was president, and Mrs. Kitson secretary, was the medium through which the preliminary work was carried on; and in discussing it Mrs. Kitson, a charming little woman who had lived all her life in London until her removal to New Zealand, said, "We keep a sharp eye on Parliament, and not a speech made in our favor passed unnoticed. We wired our congratulations immediately, and did our best to convert those who were opposed to us."

One of the leaders of the suffrage movement was Lady Anna Stout, the wife of the chief justice, a woman of brilliant intelligence and great personal attraction. On the day of the election Lady Stout officiated as an election judge, sitting all day in the polling booth in one of the worst districts of Dunedin, where she then resided. It is a remarkable fact that of the total number of women enrolled at the first election after they were enfranchised, over 91 per cent voted. After the suffrage bill was passed the franchise league disbanded, but reorganized immediately under the title of the Woman's Political Educational League. Systematic study of political questions was taken up, and the result has been one of the most intelligent voting classes in the world. As to the result, its entire success may be inferred from the fact that a few years ago one solitary member rose in Parliament to move the abrogation of the law; he could not get a second, and sat down amidst roars of laughter; it was the death of opposition.

Australia is somewhat behind New Zealand in the adoption of progressive ideas; but equal suffrage is already guaranteed, being supported by the ablest men and women in the colony. Among them is Lady William Windeyer, well known in the United States, whose husband was a distinguished judge, and whose daughter was the representative from Australia to the Columbian Exposition. Women are admitted to the universities of Sydney and Melbourne. Being students in their own colleges and a recognized part of each foundation, they receive the same degrees as are conferred upon students of the other sex. Lady Duff, whose husband was governor in New South Wales in 1894, worked indefatigably for the Woman's College of Sydney—a magnificent building, fully equipped in all its departments, the cornerstone of which was laid in that year.

In her labors Lady Duff was aided by Miss Wooley, one of the foremost educators of New South Wales, and a leader in the suffrage movement, whose father was dean of the university and by Miss Macdonald, who was elected head mistress or principal of the college. Miss Macdonald received her degree from London University, having distinguished herself prior to that at the University of Edinburgh, where she stood first in the local examinations.

It will be seen that the women of the antipodes are fully in touch with those of the mother country and the United States, and are being well equipped for the important part they are destined to play in the development of their far-off islands and continent.

The sign in the window said "Photographs repaired."

"I have no commission to give you today," said the visitor, "but I just thought I'd drop in and find out what that notice means."

The young woman at the desk stopped working for a minute.

"That sign," she said, "is something of a misnomer. It doesn't read exactly right. It ought to be 'Photographs cleaned,' for although I do a little repairing occasionally, such as pasting on corners and mending cracked noses, most of my work is scouring."

But what kind of photographs do you clean?" asked the visitor.