

CLUBS.

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which will then be thrown open for general discussion. It is most earnestly hoped that delegates from all parts of the country will go prepared to give individual views upon the important questions which will be presented for consideration, some of which are "The Relation of the Press to the Home," "The Relation of the Press to the Altruistic Movements of the Day," "What Shall We Publish and What Not Publish?" "Shall the Editor Have the Courage of Her Convictions?" etc., etc. The press women of Denver have organized for the purpose of extending certain courtesies to the press women who may attend this convention and who are to be their special guests at the biennial. It is suggested as this Biennial is to be conducted almost entirely on the "open discussion" plan, that every lady who contemplates attending selects at least one topic from the general program on which she will carefully formulate her thoughts for a few minutes talk. The benefits thus to be derived are: First. Mutual benefit from diversity of opinions. Second. The personal benefit to the one who carefully and methodically arranges her thoughts on even one important subject. Hence, let every delegate go prepared to take an active part.

Perhaps that organization of womanhood which comes nearest the heart and sympathies of the greatest number is the congress of mothers which is now holding its second annual meeting in Washington, D. C. A call for this congress was first read before the meeting of the General Federation of Women's clubs at Louisville, May, 1896. Also a similar call was presented before the Home Congress of Boston in October, 1906. Besides these specific calls circulars and press notices kept the matter before the people day by day until at last those who came to hear and those who came to serve numbered so many that no single hall or church in Washington could accommodate them all at a time. This congress was created to respond in the best possible manner to every question and condition that confronts an earnest, thoughtful mother. A program had been arranged and some twenty-eight addresses prepared, covering some of the most important points of interest to mothers and motherhood. It is an interesting fact that the response to this call for a convention of the mothers of America was much greater than the attendance at the pioneer meetings of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union or the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Mother love was quick to grasp the significance and importance of this call. Child study and kindred topics had prepared the way, and the time was ripe for such a congress. Officers were elected and preliminary steps taken toward the delegates meeting which is in session this week. At this meeting a definite plan of State and National organization will be voted upon by the delegates, in accordance with this plan which will undoubtedly carry.

Mother clubs, parent clubs or child study clubs may be organized and any similar clubs now existing may affiliate this work in harmony and union, and wield the power which can only be secured by organized effect. This is an important and far-reaching organization and promises great good to the human race. Outlines of the proposed work will be given later, with suggestive list of helpful books to parents.

The Woman's club of University Place met with Mrs. Lowe on Saturday afternoon. After the opening exercises, Mrs. Sawyer of Lincoln, delightfully entertained the ladies for an hour with a

paper on "The Club Woman." Miss Blood reviewed "Equality" in a paper which displayed careful preparation and study. The music was furnished by Miss Young and the club felt highly favored in having with them so talented a musician. Saturday, May 7, the club will meet with Mrs. Alabaster and the Kensington department will have charge of the afternoon.

The Northbead Woman's club held a most profitable and interesting meeting Saturday, April 30. The afternoon was devoted to household economics and child study. The papers under economics were, Economy of Strength, Rest—when and how and "Some things that may be left undone." Under child study the following papers were read: Relation between the child's physical, mental and moral development; May mother instructions always be relied upon; and The moral sense of children. An interesting discussion followed each of the different topics. Vocal music occupied a portion of the time. Roll call was answered by quotations on health.

The last club social of the year in Nebraska City was held on Tuesday last with Mrs. Zook. These social afternoons have been an attractive feature of club life this year, and the one held last week was no exception to the rule. Each member is privileged to bring a friend, some simple entertainment is furnished which together with conversation and light refreshments contrives to emphasize that clause in the constitution which gives as one reason for club existence, "a desire to promote unity and good fellowship among its members." There is some talk of continuing the social throughout the summer but the matter is not definitely settled.

There was but a small attendance at the last regular meeting. Several reasons might be assigned for this state of affairs. First it was a business meeting; then again the all consuming zeal of the house wife shows itself at this season, in house cleaning and spring sewing, and enthusiasm for club interest which has all year showed a bright and steady glow, burns low. Considerable routine business was transacted, in spite of the few present. The principal matter of importance discussed was the invitation from Mrs. J. T. Lindsey to form the G. F. W. C. Mrs. Shuman, after reading the letter added a few words to show why such an action should be taken, and urged the women to take the step which should mean larger liberty and fuller realization of club ideals. She added that hasty action was ill-advised and because of the limited number present action had best be postponed. A motion was made and carried, postponing the consideration of the question until the next meeting, which is the annual and will therefore afford a better opportunity for a representative vote.

A mooted point at the annual meetings of clubs, which are now in order, is that of the appointment of the members to the various standing committees.

In very large clubs this matter is usually elective, and the membership is sufficiently numerous to insure by this means a good working force on every committee. In clubs of from fifty to seventy-five and a hundred members the elective system sometimes produces very much disproportioned working sets. One committee will be strong beyond its needs, and another perhaps weak to the point of inefficiency.

In some clubs the allotment by a committee appointed for the purpose is the method pursued. This is also open to objection. It either creates a too arbitrary standard of selection, or it admits of influence or change, to the defeat of its purpose.

A plan to which perhaps the fewest objections can be raised is to choose the



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committee membership by lot. The committees are numbered in regular order, and this set of numbers is repeated on slips of paper until the membership list is covered. Members draw at the annual meeting, and find themselves allotted to committee No. 1, or No. 7, as the case may be. To secure a prompt division, the secretary may be appointed to draw for absentees. In this way, at the annual meeting in April or May, the club is put into working order for the next year.

It is of the utmost importance that committees should be selected in the spring, in order that each chairman may have one meeting for the discussion of the following year's work of the committee before the members begin to disperse for the summer. The method which most quickly and impartially secures this is the one that will be found most beneficial to the club.

The motive of the Woman's Parliament of Southern California, which has convened this month in the charming city of Redlands, is progress and culture. It is a federation of women, not clubs, although many of the members are club women. The parliament has existed for six years, and represents the southern counties of California, including Los Angeles, Santiago and Santa Barbara, well-known localities all over the United States. The organization counts now nearly one thousand names. It meets twice a year, in different towns of the section covered in its membership. At its semiannual congresses suggestive papers are offered on various questions of special interest to women. These include home, education, philanthropy, training of children, with the topics of municipal reform, legislation, and other

economic questions from the point of view of women as citizens. Free discussions follow the papers. The parliament has been of the greatest value to the women of Southern California in stimulating their sympathetic union, and broadening their views on all the relations of life. Mrs. Reynolds, the recently elected president, enjoys the distinction of being the only woman Major in the United States. She won her com-

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