

an increase of business all around. Thus, you see, I am not quite so altruistic as you fancy.

"If I have had anything to regret during my stay here," he added, "it is this—that I have not been sufficiently criticised. I like downright opposition and good, slashing, open criticism. It gives one a chance to convince one's opponent thoroughly or to smash them. Apart from that matter of the alliance (which, as I have already explained, has been quite outside the range of my vision) I have hardly been criticised at all, either in the press or out of it. However, I suppose I ought not to grumble. I have accomplished what I came for; I have created a new interest in China; and I think I have persuaded your business people that, by working on parallel lines with England and the other commercial nations, they can bring about the tremendous commercial boom I anticipate. I have sown seed here which, I trust, will some day ripen. That is all."

## CLUBS.

[LOUISA L. RICKETTS.]

Following are the officers of the General Federation of Women's clubs:

President—Mrs. Rebecca D. Lowe, Atlanta, Ga.

Vice President—Mrs. Sarah S. Platt, Denver, Colo.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. Emma A. Fox, Detroit, Mich.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. George W. Kendrick, Philadelphia, Pa.

Treasurer, Mrs. Phillip N. Moore, St. Louis, Mo.

Auditor—Mrs. C. P. Barnes, Louisville, Ky.

State Chairman—Mrs. Louisa L. Ricketts, Lincoln, Nebr.

Officers of the State Federation of Women's clubs:

President—Mrs. S. C. Langworthy, Seward.

Vice President—Mrs. Anna L. Apperson, Tecumseh.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. F. H. Sackett, Weeping Water.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. D. G. McKillip, Seward.

Treasurer—Mrs. H. F. Doane, Crete.

Librarian—Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, Lincoln.

THE COURIER is under obligation to Mrs. J. H. Canfield for a Columbus paper containing an account of an all day session of the City Federation of Women's Clubs of Columbus, O. This was the first session of the city federation, which was organized in November. It was largely through the efforts of Mrs. Canfield that the city federation of the women's clubs of Columbus was effected. Evidently Mrs. Canfield's club zeal has not diminished by removal to the more conservative middle east. The club women of Columbus are to be congratulated that they number among their members this large hearted progressive woman. That she is appreciated by her new associates is shown by the fact that upon the organization of the city federation she was unanimously elected its president. She was the first president of Nebraska's state federation and the prime mover for the organization of an unlimited woman's club at Lincoln. Club women in Nebraska will always be under obligations to Mrs. Canfield for pioneer work done in this state. In those formative days she gave of her time, her energy and her strength even beyond its limit, and it is a source of much gratification to her Nebraska friends to know that health has been restored and she is thereby permitted to take her place as an active promoter of

the different lines of work undertaken by the club women of America.

There seems to be a difference of opinion among the members of the city federation of Columbus how to best use the power which such an organization represents. Their board of directors, consisting of the president of the clubs belonging, have the power to dictate the policy of the federation and in a very conservative manner decided for the present to work along certain lines of education and reform. Phases of these subjects were the topics for discussion at this meeting. Definite practical action was taken at the close of each discussion, whereby the two hundred and fifty club women present pledged themselves to give hearty enthusiastic support to the work suggested by the board of directors.

Miss Carrie Shoemaker, principal of one of the city schools, opened the first subject for discussion, "Art in the Public Schools." She made an earnest plea for pictures in the school room, saying: "The four walls that bound the horizon of our pupils for so many years have their silent influence over all who come to live within them. Well selected pictures upon tinted walls open new vistas of delight to the child." Dr. Standish, of Boston, the celebrated specialist, was quoted as to the injurious effects of white walls upon the eyesight of the child. Miss Shoemaker's practical remarks were followed by a discussion after which a rising vote, which was unanimous, was taken as to how many present were in sympathy with the movement to better the art influence of the schools.

The next subject discussed was "Dress Reform," which was presented by Mrs. Gordy in a witty and original manner. The dangers and discomforts of the long skirt were enlarged upon and the statement made that any woman who really does anything for the world must wear man's costume. Two-legged animals should wear two-legged garments, knickerbockers, in fact. Mrs. Gordy admitted that she would be a brave and courageous woman who defied public opinion to this extent, and a single woman could not be expected to make this sacrifice; but there is strength in a multitude, and the hope of the future lies in organization.

This paper was followed with a lively discussion. One conservative lady closing it by expressing a belief that nearly all necessary things are brought about in time, so that the burning question of suitable dress will probably be settled without any great social upheaval, such as would be caused by wearing knickerbockers. Of course no such outrage on conventionality was contemplated by the federation, but the wearing of a reasonably short skirt in bad weather is within the reach of every woman as a matter of convenience and health, without causing any remark or notice. A rising vote was called for and about two hundred women pledged themselves to wear the rainy day skirt. We can only express a hope that this action of the city federation of Columbus, O., may become contagious throughout the length and breadth of the land.

A delightful luncheon was served to the ladies in the large dining room of the hotel. "Over three hundred intelligent, cultured, well-dressed women sat down to luncheon together." Their bonnets were on straight, their skirts hung beautifully and there was not a blue stocking among them. Three tables ran the whole length of the room with one cross table at the end. A delightful menu was followed by some excellent toasts. The speeches ended at 8:30, when the ladies adjourned to the assembly room to listen to charming solos rendered by Mrs. Katherine Cordzer Heath. The women of Columbus have every reason to be proud of the success of this much-talked-of all day

session, which accomplished good work in declaring for the adoption of rainy-day skirts, in voting to lend their aid to the elevation of the artistic taste of the pupils in the public schools, and in proving that women can make quite as good after dinner speeches as men.

Until recent date women's clubs have been largely devoted to intellectual development and philanthropy. A few have endeavored to effect certain reforms by efforts to influence legislation. At the biennial meeting held in Denver June, 1898, resolutions were passed looking to a bettering of the industrial conditions of the women and children of America and asking the women of larger opportunities to stand for the toilers and see that justice is done those who cannot help themselves. Mrs. Lowe, the national president, has supplemented these resolutions with a circular letter wherein she urges club women to cooperate in all possible ways with efforts to this end. The initial step has been taken by the Old Bay State, of which Margaret Hamilton Welch says:

The Massachusetts federation is one of the first federations to follow the recommendation of the general federations at Denver, last June, to study the industrial conditions, particularly as related to women and children. The federation of the Bay State will very soon issue to its clubs a catalogue containing much valuable information on this matter. Miss Rowe, president of the Massachusetts federation, is deeply interested in this subject and anxious that every woman in the state should share her interest. She has long been active in different phases of the work in Boston, and the incursion of the society under her leadership in the wider field is a natural sequence of her work.

The Cozy club met in regular session February 22 at the home of Mrs. McLanahan. The members responded to roll call by giving quotations commemorating the day. The lesson was the war of the Spanish successor. Mrs. Apperson read an exceptionally fine paper, subject, "Spanish Artists of the Seventeenth Century." Miss Gail True, a member of the Deka club, kindly favored us with a very pretty piano solo. The meeting was a very enjoyable one throughout.

There was a large attendance at the Plattsmouth Woman's club Saturday, the weather bureau kindly lending a comparatively pleasant afternoon. That and the announcement that Mrs. Heller would address the club brought out nearly all of the members and a number of visitors.

The president called for a report of the school visiting committee for February. Mrs. McMacken, as chairman, presented a well-prepared report and spoke of needed improvements in ventilation of the school rooms, the present facilities being, in her opinion, inadequate, as the rooms are so crowded. The school board seems to think these matters "necessary evils." Not so the Woman's club and it is expected a remedy will soon be found and brought to their attention to improve the appearance of the rooms and relieve the pupils from trying to prepare recitations in poorly ventilated and lighted rooms. Preliminary to the introduction of Mrs. Heller some excellent music was furnished, Miss Vallery singing two numbers, "The Rosary," and "If I Were a Bee," most delightfully. Miss Lansing followed with a lovely solo, "That Night in June."

Mrs. Atwood introduced Mrs. Heller from Omaha, who was greeted with hearty applause, she being a great favorite with the club members. Mrs. Heller's charming personality invested her subject, "Self Knowledge," with additional interest, and the hour allotted

to her passed a' too quickly. A vote of thanks was given at its close by the club as a slight recognition of the pleasure the lecture had given.

After adjournment Mrs. Atwood, assisted by club members, served dainty refreshments, giving a social aspect and a satisfactory finish to a pleasantly spent afternoon, most of the ladies availing themselves of the opportunity offered them of meeting Mrs. Heller informally. The child study department has been one of the most popular of the year, Mrs. Heller and Dr. Lankton both contributing to make it a success.

The University of Alabama is to have a woman's annex; and has been named in honor of Miss Julia Tutwiler, who was mainly instrumental in obtaining the privileges of the state university for girls. But why an annex. Why not an open door, because we must creep before we can walk. The University of Upsala, Sweden, has added Miss Eschelson to its corps of law instructors. She is to be professor of jurisprudence.

The department of Household Economics met Monday afternoon at the Y. W. C. A. rooms. The meeting was in charge of Mrs. Gund, as the leader, Mrs. Milton Scott, is absent from the city. Mrs. M. D. Welch was to have given a lecture on "Farinaceous Foods," but on account of illness was unable to be present. Mrs. I. L. Lyman had prepared a fruit salad which the ladies were allowed to taste, and then instructed how to make. Mrs. Guy A. Brown read an amusing story of the trials of a young inexperienced housekeeper. So the meeting merged into a pleasant informality which was very enjoyable.

The second meeting of the Nebraska Folk Lore club was held at the home of its president, Dr. A. H. Edgren, on March 1.

After explaining the purposes of this society the doctor gave an entertaining address on "The Metamorphoses of an Eastern Tale." The tale which he used as an example of the transformation of an oriental superstition into a beautiful English poem was "King Robert of Sicily," one of Longfellow's "Tales of a Wayside Inn." According to Dr. Edgren this story first appears in Sanskrit literature, he then followed it through Hindu Persian, pointed out that King Solomon was generally considered the metamorphosed king, showed that it is found in Gesta Romanorum, then traced it through Italian, German and French literature. From France it came to England, from England to America, where its possibilities were discovered by our own Longfellow. This scholarly address made a deep impression of the advantages to be gained from a comparative study of literature.

Mr. John Randolph's paper on folk lore was a plea for the folk songs and tales of America. He read "Uncle Remus" and sang some of the soft negro melodies. Professor Eames played several Russian and Norwegian folk songs. A general discussion followed this delightful program, during which Mrs. Edgren served light refreshments. This club has taken steps to affiliate with the National Folk Lore association.

An interesting woman who follows an interesting and rare calling is Mrs. F. E. Wait of California, says Leslie's Weekly: "Although an advocate of temperance principles, Mrs. Wait is a professional judge of wines, and is at present engaged under a commission from Governor Budd of California and the state board of agriculture in lecturing upon the wine-growing industry in California. She began her career in 1889 as a writer on the San Francisco Examiner, being the first woman in California to do newspaper work as a man does it. In the course of her journalistic duties