

## CLUBS.

[LOUISA L. RICKETTS.]

The year book of the N. F. W. C., which is its fifth annual announcement, is a little gem. It does not "demand" praise but it "deserves" it. It is very neat and attractive in appearance and full of information that will interest club women and possibly women who are not club women. The first page contains the calendar for '98-'99 and a tabulated account of when and where the annual meetings of the Nebraska Federation have been held. Next follows a list of state officers, the constitution and by laws of the G. F. W. C. and then the report of the librarian, to which is appended a list of the books in the library, the educational committee, the art department and university extension. Also some of the benefits to be derived from membership in the state or national federation are enumerated. The report of the reciprocity committee is a clear exposition of this new department. It also contains a list of the manuscripts that can be borrowed as well as a list of the ladies who will give give parlor talks before clubs. Preceding the list of clubs in the state federation is a pleasant greeting from our loved state president, Elizabeth C. Langworthy, setting forth the aims of the federation, asking for concerted action from the clubs in carrying forward the suggestions of the various committees. The nominal sum of ten cents is charged for the book, the executive board deeming the information therein contained well worth that small amount. If there is a general demand for them the amount thus received may nearly—possibly quite—defray the expense of publishing. Every club woman in Nebraska should have one of these books. From it she could answer intelligently all questions pertaining to the work of the state federation. According to this book there are sixty-nine clubs in the federation, representing 2,000 members.

The closing meeting of the year of the parliamentary law and current topic department of the Plattsmouth Woman's club was held on Friday evening. Most of the members were present and a fine program was given. This department, under the leadership of Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Fellows, has been one of the most popular and instructive of the year. The members never failing to furnish good programs on the evening allotted to them.

The opening number Friday was furnished by Mr. Hilt Wescott, a talented young musician who played a beautiful instrumental solo in a finished and artistic manner. Miss Baird also rendered a very beautiful instrumental piece.

Mrs. J. L. Root read the opening paper, "American Magazines," giving an interesting account of their rise and growth, origin, etc. The paper was well prepared. Mrs. Agnew's paper on "Famous Women of America," was also most entertaining.

Miss Mauzy read a poem, "The Man With the Hoe," in her usual graceful way, and Mrs. Fellows read a paper sent by Mrs. Elia Peatty of Chicago to the chairman of the reciprocity committee at Lincoln and secured by the kindness of Mrs. Stoutenborough, on "Rudyard Kipling." The paper was written in Mrs. Peatty's most delightful style and was listened to with great pleasure by the club, who appreciated the fact that this was the first reading before an open meeting in Nebraska.

Mrs. Davis, in her parliamentary drill, gave an excellent exercise in "voting" and as the ladies expect to exercise their privilege in that direction Tuesday they

were particularly interested. The program closed with a piano solo, "The Georgia Camp Meeting," by Mr. Wescott, which sent the members home in excellent spirits and discussing plans of work for next year.

One sunny morning in Chicago we took the South Halstead street car at the corner of Dearborn and Adams for Hull House, so named after C. J. Hull, who established this center of philanthropic work and left it legacies which are a generous and never failing support. Soon after crossing—or going under—the Chicago river, the surroundings and business blocks show a marked change from the up town business center of that hustling city. Hull House is located in a neighborhood of foreigners, French, German and Italian predominating. Its object—as stated in the charter—is to provide a center of a higher civic and social life; to institute and maintain educational and philanthropic enterprises, and to investigate and improve the conditions in the industrial districts of Chicago. To tell of the entertainments, the classes, the schools and the clubs, that center here for the benefit of those who come, reads like a fairy tale. We were first taken to that wing of the building called the children's house. Here on the first floor was the baby kindergarten, where the little ones are cared for and taught songs, plays and marches in a large airy room with large east windows which flooded the room with life giving sunshine. The room immediately above this is devoted to Hull House nursery, which is open from 8:30 a. m. to 6:30 p. m. This department is designed for the children whose mothers are obliged to work during the day. Here we found two rooms fitted with baby cribs with dainty and clean white coverings, an object lesson which must be uplifting to the mother who brings her little one there to be cared for during the day. One large room in this department was furnished with high chairs, little rocking chairs and baby playthings. There is also a kitchen where their food is prepared and a bath room. An attendant physician and two regular nurses are in charge. They told me the attendance varied from twenty-five to fifty per day. The floor above this is devoted to the Hull House kindergarten, which is open daily from nine to twelve. The membership of this school—on account of the room—is limited to seventy and there is always a long waiting list. The last Saturday afternoon of each month the director of this department, Miss Howe, holds an informal reception or meeting for those mothers who have children in the kindergarten. Italian children predominate in these departments. Children suffering from rickets or eye or ear trouble can receive free treatment at Hull House under the direction and care of the physician and nurse. For such treatment mothers may bring their children every morning except Sunday, from 10 to 12. These little kindergartners have their club also. Every Thursday afternoon the "Play Room Club," limited to seventy-five members, meets here to be entertained with games and songs and stories. I was told they are very regular attendants and enthusiastic participants. The age limit of this club is from six to ten and the membership is always full. The fourth floor of this wing is devoted to Hull House music school, which is open from 10 a. m. to 9 p. m. Here instruction is given in piano, singing and harmony. The director tests and receives pupils at discretion. The object of this school is to provide a thorough musical education to a limited number of pupils, or as many who show special talent in music. There is also a choral society to which all applicants are admitted. A chorus of school children which is limited to

200 between the ages of 8 and 16. There are dancing classes for which a fee of \$1 is charged for a course of ten lessons. This fee can be paid by the week or month.

These classes are largely attended by the older children the lads and lassies—for whose entertainment and instruction there is a most generous provision made by the board of directors. For instance, the so called secondary school classes are free to all students who register. In these classes are taught arithmetic, English and composition, physical and political geography, and United States History. Of course these are all evening classes and students coming direct from business may secure a special supper-rate of ten cents by presenting their class cards to the cashier upon entering the Coffee House.

The advanced classes are arranged in terms of ten weeks, fee for each term fifty cents. Here they are taught the advanced English studies and most of the languages, and elementary, electricity, philosophy, drawing and painting. These pupils may also come directly to the Coffee Room and get their suppers before class, which begins at 7 P. M.

The Technical classes are held in the Art Exhibit rooms in the South Wing of the building. In the Manual training department are classes for boys from fifteen to eighteen, who are instructed in joinery, the making of small articles and carving. One evening each week young ladies are instructed in carving. There are classes also for men who are instructed in hand work and in cabinet making, such as chairs, tables, desks, etc. The articles made in these classes are for sale, the proceeds going to the maker. There are also classes in advanced wood carving. Mechanical drawing and elementary design, clay moulding, Venetian iron work, embroidery, millinery, dress making, sewing, cooking and stenography.

Hull House has a large, finely equipped gymnasium, which on occasion is also used for entertainments, lectures and receptions. Here on alternating evenings, classes are held for men, boys, women and girls, who are instructed in all the newest gymnastic work. Advanced classes pay a fee of twenty-five cents a month, junior classes fifteen cents a month, with shower bath included with the fee. There is an afternoon class for girls and another will be formed for women if there are ten applicants.

Hull House also has a kindergarten training school, a branch of the Chicago Froebel Association, where young ladies may receive instructions preparatory to the kindergarten work.

The work done by Hull House is in charge of a board of eight trustees of whom Miss Jane Addams is president, and Mr. Allen B. Pond, secretary. There are at present twenty-four resident teachers and workers at Hull House. When vacancies occur applicants for residence who promise to be of value to the settlement are received for six weeks and at the end of that time are voted upon in residents' meeting. Residents defray their own expenses of lodging and board and are pledged to remain for at least six months. Miss Addams is at home as far as possible Saturday afternoons and evenings, and is always glad to talk with those who wish to consult her in regard to Hull House matters. Miss Helen Culver, another trustee, is the financial agent or manager of the immense estate which Mr. Hull bequeathed to this work.

An Italian reception is held on each

Thursday evening in Lecture hall, to which the Italians of the neighborhood are cordially invited. Senor and Mrs. Valerio, residents of the House, have this in charge. The Gardeners' Friendly Association meets in the same hall every alternate Monday evening. This is composed largely of those who have cultivated gardens on the lots belonging to the Hull estate at West Twelfth and Forty fourth streets. These meetings are social and educational and occasional addresses are given. On Sunday afternoons popular readings are given and discussed, to which all adults are cordially welcomed. On the first and third Friday evenings of each month a paper dealing with some special craft is read by a specialist and it is then discussed by all; and the discussions I was told are often able and very animated.

The first and third Wednesdays of each month the Dorcas Federal Labor union meets in Lecture hall. This is a somewhat unique society and voices the spirit of Hull house. The Dorcas invites into membership (1) all wage earning

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