

numbers would continue about the same.

11. Failure of club members to realize aims, benefits, duties and possibilities of club movement, over organization, if any danger, rests with women, centering in self, over-doing, satiety, tendency to neglect other duties, too many clubs, superficiality, diffuseness, over doing the woman question.

12. Yes as crystallizing period is at hand, if reaction comes at all it will come soon, questions have been accumulating which must be solved, no more reason to expect crisis than in past five years, yes, federation idea developed excessively.

Besides the regular members of the club and the president of the N. F. W. C., Mrs. Field, president of the Woman's club of Lincoln, Mrs. Archibald Scott and Mrs. D. L. Brace, one of the charter members of Sorosis, were present. Mrs. Field's remarks about the duties of all club members to the woman's club produced a noticeable effect. Mrs. Field is one of the few who practices the federation motto: Each for all and all for each.

Mrs. N. Z. Snell will be the leader of the next meeting, which will meet with Mrs. Miller. Her subject is Proposed Banking Reforms.

The household economics department of the Woman's club closed its year's work with a banquet at Union college last week. This popular department has been under the efficient management of Mrs. Milton Scott, whose happy thought it was to merge the "annual meeting" into one of social pleasure as well as business. Between sixty and seventy members went out on the electric cars to this noon banquet, which was promised to be a practical demonstration of farinaceous foods. The dining room had been especially prepared for the guests who were seated at tables large enough to accommodate eight persons. Bright eyed waitresses in blue frocks and white aprons and caps deftly served the expectant guests to a sumptuous banquet which included neither meat or fish. The menu was as follows:

Fruit or Tomato Soup.  
Whole Wheat Wafers, Roast Turkey  
(of vegetables.)  
Green Peas. Lima Beans.  
Mashed Potatoes.  
Cranberries. Cream Finger Rolls.  
Pumpkin Pie. Oranges.  
Cereal Coffee.

After the banquet many ladies availed themselves of the opportunity of being shown over the building, showing especial interest in the health food and kitchen departments. The business part of this meeting was held immediately after the banquet in the gymnasium, at which Mrs. John A. Ames was elected leader for the coming year.

The Century club was entertained last Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. M. H. Garten. Roll call was responded to by current events from clubdom. There was a general discussion upon club life and its influences, led by Mrs. I. N. Baker, which was very animated and interesting. Some of the questions under consideration were: Is the club movement on the increase? What is its effect on church life—on home life? and on the individual? This discussion was followed by an interesting paper of Columbia college read by Mrs. Powell, and Mrs. Polk read a carefully prepared paper on W. D. Howells.

Progression was the keynote of all the discussions at the recent convention of the National Department of Superintendents held at Columbus, Ohio. One recommendation was the introduction of Spanish in the high schools, that those of our youth who try their luck in our new West India possessions may not be handicapped with an ignorance of the language of that country. This move

is in consonance with action taken by about 125 of our higher institutions of learning which have pledged themselves to give free instruction to such young Cubans as are sent them. One proviso only is made. The young men when educated must return to their own country and give to their native land the benefit of those advantages which they have enjoyed among us. The young Cubans who offer themselves as candidates must of necessity have had a preparatory course, and they must pledge themselves to remain until their college course is ended. Two persons, not relatives, must attest to their good moral character. Though their tuition and their lodgings are to be given them, these students must each possess at least \$12 a month for food. The little touch of independence given by an ability to pay one's board must be dear to their hearts, as independence is dear to the hearts of even those who are full to the brim of gratitude.

Miss Mary T. Mason, the newly appointed member of the Philadelphia Board of Education, is a progressive woman, a member of the civic club, and a graduate of Bryn Mawr college. Since the close of her school days she has devoted her time to questions pertaining to education and is said to be thoroughly competent to fill the part to which she has been appointed.

The department of parliamentary practice of the Woman's club held the last meeting of the club year last Tuesday afternoon. The chief business was the election of officers for the coming year, which resulted in the re election of Mrs. Nellie M. Richardson as leader, and Mrs. F. H. Harrison as secretary. The appointment of an executive board was deferred until the first meeting in the fall.

We hear so much just now of Joseph Hodges Choate, our new minister to the court of St. James that I feel tempted to repeat a bright little repartee he made when a friend asked him: "If you were not Joseph Choate whom would you rather be?" "Mrs. Choate's second husband," was the quick response. The tribute thus paid Mrs. Choate is in wide contrast with the following from Francis Bacon written some three hundred years ago: "He that hath wife and children hath given hostages of fortune, for they are impediments to great enterprises, either of virtue or mischief." Did Sir Francis live in this generation he would find that the world moves in more sense than one, for most of the noted men of today gladly testify that they are indebted for their success in a large degree to the sympathy and intelligent co-operation of their wives.

The Woman's club of Chicago inaugurated a pleasing innovation last Saturday afternoon in form of a reception in honor of its ex-presidents. There were fifteen ladies—and these did not include some who have moved from the city—who stood in line with the present president, Mrs. Penoyer L. Sherman. These women stand for the progressive work of women in Chicago for the past quarter of a century.

#### THE WOMEN'S CLUBS AND THE SCHOOLS.

I believe that it is in the true spirit of helpfulness that the clubs attempt to do something each year for the betterment of the schools. The fact that so far in most cases the effort has been barren of results is no reason why the attempt should be abandoned. It is a reason why a plan should be adopted and some definite idea of what is to be accomplished understood before engaging in it in a haphazard way. The writer recently listened to a report given by the chairman of a committee appointed by the woman's club of a certain town to

visit schools. In this report some things were commended. Many, many things were criticised and not always fairly. Among the objections, I recall the following: Rooms dusty, much too warm, pupils restless, teacher nervous. Why should she not be if she appreciated the mission of her visitors? All interference of this character will only add to the burden of an already overtaxed teacher. Not one error will probably be corrected where much good was meant. Now that the time of year is so near when programs and year books are arranged is it not well to plan for this work in a systematic manner. The aim of the club through its committee is to be helpful. Being exceedingly interested in school work as well as in the club I will suggest one or two things that may be helpful in arranging work for the coming year.

If the high school were asked to furnish one number per week, or per month, upon the literary program of the club, there would be something to add to the interest of this line of work in the high school. This may be a recitation, an essay or a book review or a short debate upon a current subject. I once found this of great value, as the entire class competing put forth its best effort, each one hoping to be selected. The selection was made by a vote of the class.

The school board is composed of men absorbed in their own business. It is accustomed to have each new teacher ask for changes. Let the women's clubs look after these matters and a change will soon be produced. Closets will be properly located and cared for; grounds will be improved; shade trees planted; disfigured dirty walls purified and then there will come a chance for art decoration. If the clubs in the smaller towns could carry out one or both of these suggestions I am sure they will feel that the result is satisfactory.

ELLEN M. AUSTIN,  
Principal Pender Public Schools.

The executive committee of the Congress of Mothers has decided that next year's convention shall be held at Des Moines, Ia., on invitation of the Woman's club of that city. This is the first time the congress has met outside of Washington and it is expected that much interest will be evinced in this movement in the western states.

We have been told for years that the abiding place of conservatism was the south and that no amount of clubbing would ever render the southern woman anything but conservative. But there are conservatives and conservators says the Western Club Woman, and the radical woman never errs more sadly than when she imagines, as she apparently does now and then, that it is because she does all the thinking that she has arrived at certain conclusions. The conservative sister thinks just as much, but arrives at opposite conclusions. They should be patient with each other, for it is a common end they desire, and the radical is ready to scuttle back, the conservative to rush forward, the moment either is convinced that the backward or forward move is for the best. It is the women who don't think at all who are content with middle ground.

The state federations in the south are doing a noble work, and they are doing it in their own way. The conservative will say proudly—You see conservative women are doing just as much, are just as anxious to do something for humanity as any of the radical women. And the radical can afford to say nothing, for so long as the end is achieved for which she hopes and prays that is enough.

The women of Tennessee have begun a campaign to place women on the school boards, and "having no vote in the matter," says the Memphis Scimitar,

"will not deter them from making a vigorous effort in favor of this reform." The State Federation of Alabama is working to secure a state reformatory for boys; Mississippi women are working for the same thing, and in Arkansas the federation has undertaken to secure school suffrage, the appointment of a woman physician for the women patients in the insane asylum, and a reform school.

An observing woman once said there was always something about which the neatest housekeeper was slack, and some other something about which the slackest housewife was particular. Whether it is true of housekeeping or not, it is certainly so of conservatism. The radical woman has her conservative streak, and the most tradition-bound has some one line along which she is in advance of the van. Roger Williams and Cotton Mather might be taken as types of the radicals and conservatives of their time; yet the broad minded Williams set the whole town of Salem by the ears because he insisted that women ought to be compelled to wear veils in church, and the narrow Cotton Mather calmly proposed to have his oldest daughter study medicine, and probably the first primitive brand ever thrown on this continent was hurled through his bedroom window when he sought to introduce vaccination into plague-stricken Boston.

Perhaps the word "conservative" is not really the proper one, for the conservative would preserve "in its present state." We should do better to employ "conservator," which means one who holds, keeps and guards, preserves and defends. It seems to us these conservative southern women deserve to be known rather as conservators.

Mrs. H. H. Wilson, Dean of Women at the university, gave an instructive parlor talk on social conventionalities and usages to a large number of young ladies, at the Y. W. C. A. rooms last Saturday evening. A great number of social conventionalities were talked about and the young ladies invited to ask any questions on social usages which were not clear to them. Mrs. Wilson was followed by Miss Parker who spoke on "The American Girl in Paris." Miss Parker's remarks were from personal experience as she has spent some time in the art schools of Paris, and she utterly refuted the idea that an American girl was not safe on the streets without a chaperon. She claims that the girl student is as safe on the streets of Paris as on the streets of Lincoln. Following these talks light refreshments were served and a pleasant social time enjoyed.

The Consumers League of America which heretofore has been limited to a few of the large cities took a very important step recently when they united and organized a national federation. The Leagues of New York have also organized a State federation, auxiliary to the national. The national organization at present only represents four states—New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Illinois, with Colorado and Virginia preparing to organize leagues.

The object of this movement is to create a demand all over our country for goods made under good conditions and appeals so directly to the sympathies and that underlying sense of a love for Justice that it must spread very rapidly all over our fair land. No more effective way to reach the sweat-shop system and kindred evils than by organization. No more effective way for the club women of the United States to carry out the policy adopted at the Denver biennial to bring all the force of G. F. W. C. to improve the industrial condition of women and children, than to join hands with the Consumers