

have associations of women which, in more restricted spheres, are laboring quite as successfully for the general good. When narrow-minded persons wax contemptuous over the shortcomings of 'women's clubs,' it is well to recall these things."

The National Association of Colored Women will hold its annual meeting in the city of Chicago, July 18th, 19th, and 20th. Clubs should now elect the delegates.

The art department of the Woman's club met with Mrs. F. M. Hall Thursday afternoon. The subject, "Holland and Belgian Art" was presented in a very interesting manner by Mrs. Hall. The interest in this department has been well sustained during the year, there being a full attendance at each meeting with an increasing enthusiasm.

The Century club met with Mrs. J. E. Hill last Thursday. Mrs. Hindman gave an interesting description of "Princeton College" and Mrs. I. N. Baker an instructive talk on "Margaret Deland." The responses to roll call were in the form of brief notices of new books. This club will study Holland her government and people, next year. The neat programs containing the outlines for the year's work were ready for distribution.

Nebraska also has a pioneer club woman in the person of Mrs. J. E. Holmes of Kearney, who was a charter member of the Kearney Century club which was organized about ten years ago.

Mrs. Holmes is now in her seventy-eighth year but is an active, enthusiastic member of her club, preparing her paper in turn, and bearing her full responsibilities as a club member. Mrs. Holmes lived in Lincoln at an early day and is now visiting with old friends in the city.

At the national convention of the American Woman's Suffrage Association which met at Grand Rapids, Mich., the past week, action was taken to carry into effect a unique way of co-operating with the Peace Commission which meets on May 15 in Holland.

Arrangements were made for the transmission of a great "thought wave" to the "Czar's peace convention" at The Hague on May 15. Women's clubs in every state in the union, representing 250,000 members, will cable their approval of the peace movement simultaneously.

This convention of suffragists is reported as having been unusually pleasant and successful—free from friction and disagreement and as having aroused interest in the work among women of that city who have not heretofore been especially interested in the subject.

The meeting of the association next year will be held in Washington. Bids from Denver, St. Louis and Milwaukee for the convention in 1901 and from Portland, Ore., in 1903 were referred to the business committee.

Mrs. May Wright Sewell, as a member of the international peace arbitration committee, has officially called upon all the women's clubs of the United States, to observe May 15 as a special day to meet and express themselves in favor of the Czars' peace policy. The committee suggests that the clubs observe the day with prayers, hymns and speeches. It further suggests that the speeches should be by both men and women, since it would seem that the desire to reduce bloodshed, the awful immorality that always attends and follows war, and to reduce the expense of war should make common appeal to all hearts.

"Long ago Ruskin told the English speaking world that war would be im-

possible did not women desire it; that if women realized its cost, its horrors, the sufferings involved in it and the spiritual deterioration of it, the work of slaying one another would cease to be a recognized occupation of men."

Mrs. May Wright Sewall will speak for one million, two hundred and fifty thousand of women and the resolutions will be engraved upon parchment and sent to the czar at the Hague.

Sorosis met Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. T. C. Munger. The leader for the afternoon, Mrs. W. S. Summers gave a most interesting account of the national and international Red Cross movement from the following outline: Mrs. Munger had invited several guests for the afternoon and all expressed themselves as much pleased to learn of the details of this work. Mrs. Summers also gave a short account of the White Cross movement. Dainty refreshments were served and another pleasant afternoon recorded.

Origination of the Red Cross.  
Conference.  
Geneva Treaty.  
Growth of the Red Cross movement in Europe.

Clara Barton and her relation to the Red Cross in America.

Signing of the treaty by the United States.

Aid rendered by the American Red Cross in times of great need.

The work of the Red Cross during the war with Spain.

The White Cross.

The last meeting of the year will be held with Mrs. Welch who will present the subject of "Our Dietary."

In self culture for May we find an account of an article by Ellen M. Richards, a professor in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on the servant question. It clearly puts one phase of this much mooted subject before mistresses, and is well worthy of careful consideration: She says that a change in the living quarters of the maid is most urgently demanded. The present plan in most small houses, she says, is based on the old idea of "help,"—one who shares the family life. With the modern conditions of separate interests, something is needed which shall correspond with the "servants' hall" as it is known in England and other European countries. There should be a room so isolated that the maid can run a sewing-machine or receive a talkative friend without disturbing the family. "A place where a cup of tea may be served, where illustrated papers and magazines may find their way," is what Professor Richards desires. "How many of you," she asks, "will give up an effective porch, when designing your new home, in order that the maid may have a sitting room?" One is fain to answer: "A great many would cheerfully do it if only they thought of it, but the truth of the matter is that America has never become used to service. At first it was confused by its ideals of democracy. The servants were supposed to enjoy liberty and equality, and therefore nothing was done for them. Now that these phrases have proved themselves to be more or less of the sounding brass and tinkling cymbal order, and very poor substitutes indeed for the comfort and the attitude of self-respect enjoyed by servants in other countries, it may be that mistresses will become aware of their responsibilities, and look after their servants as members of their households who deserve and are entitled to their care."

The Deborah Avery Chapter of the D. A. R. met with Mrs. N. S. Harwood, Friday afternoon, and were entertained with a very interesting address by Mrs. A. J. Sawyer. The program opened with the new song, "The Old Thirteen", Adopted

as the Association song at the recent convention held in Washington. Reports showed this chapter to be in a thriving condition with a membership of seventy-six. Mrs. Hayward wife of Senator Hayward is a D. A. R. and it was decided to tender her a reception. Mrs. Rudolph Rhelaender gave a short history of the flag of our country, the army and navy regulations governing it, accompanying this with a gift to the chapter of a beautiful lithograph of "old glory."

The address of the afternoon was by Mrs. Sawyer on "The Events of 1799," which she made very interesting and varied by first giving a systematic statement of the condition of the world, especially the United States, a century ago. In this year Washington died. President Adams and Alexander Hamilton were at outs, the first convention of teachers was held. Napoleon was at the height of his power. The United States had only four million inhabitants. Our relations with France were strained, etc. This review was followed by a graphic comparison of the conditions of 1898 with those of 1899. The election of officers will occur at the next meeting at the home of Mrs. Henry.

Through the kindness of Mrs. H. H. Wheeler the Courier is in receipt of the program of the third biennial of Iowa's federation of women's clubs, which was held at Burlington, Iowa, May 3, 4, and 5 by invitation of the B. F. W. C. From the program the meeting was full of interest and profit. The topics under discussion were timely and practical viz: Limited and unlimited clubs. University extension, original work. An hour with our press women, household economics, etc. Among the guests of honor, we notice the name of Mrs. Belle Stoutenborough of Nebraska, who addressed the convention on "A Mother's Influence" Mrs. Henrotin was advertised to deliver an address on "The Economic Position of Women in the Home," but was unable to be present. Iowa's federation differs from most state federations in holding its biennial in the spring rather than in the fall.

The general trend of recent legislation is to amend and create laws favorable to women. There is no doubt that this is largely due to the club movement. "Legal Status of Women," "Women before the Law" and "Some of the Absurdities of the Law as applied to Women and Children," have been favorite topics among club women.

Many of these laws have been so obsolete as not to attract attention and were sure to be wiped out as soon as any attempt was made to apply them. Discussion of these topics has called attention to many absurdities which in many states are being rectified.

At least sixteen states, says the Sun, during the past twelve months have enacted laws regarding property, business enterprises, insurance, schools, marriage, divorce, etc., all making conditions somewhat better for women. It is only within the last fifty years that the links in the old common law have begun to fall apart, and the chains have been partly lifted which have held woman a legal captive for centuries. Much yet remains to be done before she can stand a free woman in the eyes of the law. By no means have all the disabilities been removed, as many seem to think, but even had the last one been wiped out, the chance of woman to obtain justice would not be equal to that of man so long as she has no power to elect the officers of the law or to demand a jury of her peers. A letter just received from a woman lawyer says: "If I could but describe some of the cases within my personal knowledge where women, in their attempt to secure justice from the courts, not only have been frustrated by every legal hindrance, but have been brow-beaten, insulted, impeached as to character, it

seems to me there would be a revolt by all enlightened people."

The great majority of women are not so situated as to feel the weight of the law. A short time ago, at one of the clubs composed of the favored women, the protected and pampered, there seemed to be a general sentiment that women had sufficient rights. Finally a lady wearing a widow's veil exclaimed in a choking voice, but with flashing eyes: "After all of you have been through the Probate Court you will understand what your rights are!"

Several recent court decisions may be of interest in showing a tendency on the part of courts to give woman an equal chance in construing the law. A man not yet of age, in consideration of a promise to marry him, agreed to assign the girl \$5,000, then in bank, to be paid him when he became of age. The time having arrived he did so, but his numerous creditors attempted to set aside the assignment. Although the girl had not yet fulfilled her part of the contract, the Supreme Court of New York held that the assignment was valid, and refused to set it aside.

A man in Indiana lent a large amount of money to a widow, which she used to relieve her property of incumbrances, giving him her note for the money. Subsequently he married her and after her death he endeavored to collect the amount of the note from her estate. The Supreme Court held that she had discharged all her indebtedness to him when she married him.

Another man in Indiana kept a shoe store and employed his wife as clerk. When his business declined he borrowed what money she had and failed to pay her wages. He became bankrupt and she presented her claim as one of the creditors for the borrowed money and a year's unpaid wages. The Supreme Court of that state held her claim good and stated in its decision that an agreement to pay for services of a domestic nature would not stand, but that as a saleswoman he would pay her only what he would have to pay another, and therefore his creditors were not injured.

Under the common law the wife could not even have brought the suit; there could be no valid contract between husband and wife and all her wages belonged to him. If this decision depreciates the value of domestic service the blame must be credited to the masculine minds of the Supreme Court. It never has been considered wage earning work when done by the women of the household.

#### OUR CLUB.

We're going to have the mostest fun!  
It's going to be a club,  
And no one can belong to it  
But Dot and me and Bub.

We thought we'd have a reading club.  
But couldn't, cause you see,  
Not one of us knows how to read—  
Not Do! nor Bub nor me.

And then we said a sewing club,  
But thought we'd better not;  
'Cause none of us knows how to sew—  
Not me nor Bub nor Dot.

And so it's just a playing club;  
We play till time for tea;  
And oh, we have the bestest times!—  
Just Dot and Bub and me.

It is always pleasing to see older people keeping in touch with the active trend of life, and one of the good results of clubs has been the opening thus made for women who have largely laid aside or been relieved of the active duties of life, to become actively interested in all that pertains to club life.

One remarkable instance was the late Mrs. M. W. Howard, of Lansing, Mich., who recently passed away at the ripe age of ninety-four. For the past eleven years she had held—consecutively—the