

last years of the nineteenth century have women experienced the pleasure, the broadening, and the power which comes from a union of sympathies and aspirations. The individual benefit of the woman, able to attend the biennials, is largely the result of personal association with cultured, earnest, successful women. This association enlarges the horizon and broadens sympathies, stimulates aspiration and chokes out selfishness. The delegates who enjoy the benefits of a biennial must necessarily bring back to their clubs increased knowledge, sympathy, and enthusiasm, each a force to make the club better prepared to exert an uplifting influence in the community.

Personally, I must admit that the social features of the biennials are very attractive. Here we meet our friends, friends, and relatives, from the extremes of the United States. Girlhood friends and college mates whom we have not seen or heard from for years. I have sympathy with the lady who went to the Denver biennial as the representative of her club, but who was still unconvinced that the biennials were a great and necessary good. At a luncheon at one of the hospitable homes of that fair city she found herself seated by a dear friend of her girlhood days while farther up the table on the opposite side was still another schoolmate whom she had not seen, or heard from for years. Under the inspiration of the moment she arose and, after explaining the doubts that had beset her as to the benefits of the biennial, said, "I am a convert. The forming of so many new and delightful friendships, and this pleasant renewal of the friendships of other days are among the rare privileges of life, from this time on I am for federation and will assist so far as time and strength will allow."

It has been said that the clubs educate individuals; the state federation the citizen, while the general federation represents the nation. In other words, the club is the school, the state federation the university, the general federation the post graduate, and I hope that there is not a club in the state of Nebraska that will be content with anything less than all the good it can get by being affiliated with the state and general federations.

In answer to the third question: "Clubs desiring to join the general federation should make application for membership, accompanied by their constitution and by-laws to the chairmen of state correspondence of their respective states." These applications shall be endorsed by the state chairman, who then forwards them to the president of the G. F., she in turn presents the application to the directors a majority vote of whom is necessary to an election.

As long as the clubs of Nebraska have the privilege of a delegate in the biennial, not one of them can afford not to belong for the mere pittance of ten cents per capita. The next biennial will be held at Milwaukee; within such easy distance that Nebraska should be largely represented, and thus enter into the national life and enthusiasm which the general federation fosters. I shall be pleased to correspond with any one in the state desiring information about clubs either for local organization, programs, or state or general federation. I shall be much pleased to receive a program of the coming years' work from each club in the state. Please address Mrs. A. C. Ricketts, Lincoln, Nebr.

One of the newest and most active clubs in Nebraska is the Woman's Club of Superior organized in June '98. Although only just entering upon its second year's work this club compares favorably with many that can boast a half score of years. It is affiliated with the

university of Chicago and the past year has studied general history as suggested by the educational committee of that institution. The coming year they expect to study the literature of different countries, in connection with topics of current interest. During their winter semester they are planning to take up some special topics as, Woman in Art, Woman in Music, Woman in Literature, and Woman in War, and hope to secure some competent lecturer on each topic. The secretary of this club is Miss Annie K. Cleary who closes her interesting account of the woman's club of Superior by saying, "We feel that the first year of our club has been marked with a reasonable degree of success, that it has been a great aid to individual members, and tends to a broader intellectual life."

The first school of its kind will soon be established. It is to be opened November 1st, at 5418 Greenwood avenue, Chicago. It is a training school for backward children—or for the boys and girls who are slow, or weak, or nervous. It will be called the Chicago Physiological school and its object will be to provide not only a school but a home for boys and girls who are unable to compete with normal children, owing to infirmities or illness. Miss Mary R. Campbell of Milwaukee, Wis., formerly in charge of the girl's department of the Wisconsin institute for feeble minded children is to have charge of the school which is to be affiliated with the university of Chicago. It will be under the supervision of a board of seven trustees among whom are Dr. William R. Harper and Prof. George H. Meade. At present the number of children will be limited and only children under fifteen will be admitted, even then, preference being given to the very young. Prominent physicians and specialists will be in attendance, medical treatment being included with the instruction. The sense theory for overcoming neural defects will be used, and the curriculum varied to suit individual requirements. Music, rhythm, and dancing, will be special features in the system. While the school will have the help of a number of philologists it is expected that it will be self-supporting from the beginning. Although the plans are still incomplete a large number of pupils are already assured and requests are coming in rapidly.

Russia is to the front with the greatest colonization scheme the world has ever known. The new regions of her vast empire which are to be opened up by the Trans Siberian railroad will be the field of this new enterprise. The road will not be completed and opened to the public until 1904, but even before that time the colonization will begin. Two hundred thousand families, including a million people are to be transported to various localities selected by the government. Each family will be given fifty acres of land, with tools, seeds, and the requirements for cultivation, and farther, the government proposes to see them safely through the first year. There are other governments that claim a much higher grade of civilization than Russia that might take pointers from this humanitarian scheme. By the way, 'tis said when this road is completed it will only take thirty days to travel around the globe.

The clubs of Texas are devoting a large share of time to the study of Shakspeare. The Ariel club of Denton, Texas, has adopted a very thorough method for studying their favorite author. For an afternoon's study they take one or two scenes from a play, read it, make notes on history mythology, locations mentioned, etc. Then on club day each member assumes some character and the scene is re-read each member reading her notes as her character

is presented. This is followed by a general discussion and a paper. Of course this is a slow method of going over a play but when it is completed each member of that club can be familiar with every line in the play. As an adjunct to its Shakspeare study it also has a "table talk" on current events and devotes some time to parliamentary law. Mrs. Frank A. Tompkins is the efficient president of this club.

Apropos, the Mary Arden Shakspeare club of New York City has inaugurated a new departure in club work. This club limited to twenty-five members has planned an exhaustive study. They have arranged for annual symposium at Stratford-on-Avon, to which all Shakspeare clubs may send delegates. Its second gathering was held last July. It is a new idea and must be a very pleasant feature of club work to take a summer outing to the historic location of the subject under discussion.

The New York school of Shakspeare offers an inducement to a thorough study of a trip from New York to London and return for the best work on King Lear. Test of said work to consist of examinations on the play and essays on special topics relative to it. This competition to be open to all Shakspeare clubs.

Miss Kate Friend of Waco, Texas, has just taken the prize which entitles her to this trip, to Stratford-on-Avon. Miss Friend is a most enthusiastic Shakspearian student, and in taking this competitive examination under the New York school of Shakspeare wrote over two hundred and fifty pages of manuscript, in answer to questions, and seven essays on related topics. This will enable her, next June, to meet other favored students from other countries. It is my understanding there is only one prize to a country. With such an inducement the study of Shakspeare will receive a new impetus.

Corn is King! Long live the King! The latest report from statistician Snow places an estimate on the corn crop of the country for this year something over 2,250,000,000 bushels. These figures are exceedingly gratifying to those states whose prosperity is largely dependent upon its corn crop. Going somewhat into detail Mr. Snow says that the increase over last year, which was also a year of good crops in the corn belt, is especially notable in Kansas and Nebraska. The railroad estimate of the size of the corn crop this year is 360,000,000 bushels for each of these states, a crop so large that it will tax the carrying capacity of the railroads entering their territory. It is also estimated that the crop in Illinois will be so large that it will make the problem of handling it a difficult one. Last year the figures for Kansas were 133,000,000 bushels and for Nebraska 159,000,000 bushels. Showing how large is the increase in each state over last year, the estimate for Iowa shows a falling off for this year being 219,000,000 bushels as against 255,000,000 for last year. This estimate, however, has been criticised by local authorities. Missouri's crop is estimated this year as 179,000,000 bushels against 155,000,000 last year. Illinois, estimate shows a gain of 19,000,000 bushels, while in Ohio and Indiana—the eastern end of the corn belt—there is a slight falling off from last year's crops. All in all this seems generally a favorable year for agriculture, and as the prosperity of our people is so largely dependent upon the farming community there is occasion for great rejoicing in the states where corn is king.

Mrs. A. C. Ricketts,
Chairman State Correspondence.
Dear Mrs. Ricketts—In response to

your inquiry regarding the "toasts" and impromptu responses which constitute a part of each program of the New Book Review club of Lincoln, will say the idea was given to us in a report from a Boston club, and has been in vogue in our little club since its organization over four years ago.

The plan is very simple yet often taxes the ingenuity of the "hostess" who proposes the toasts as well as the members who respond. We have a social half-hour "over the tea-cup" at the close of our book review. With each cup of tea a slip of paper is given upon which is written a toast. These are numbered and when each member is served our president calls the numbers and each one responds in a three minute talk on the topic given her.

As to the subjects upon which we talk will say by the close of our club year most current topics will have been "toasted," and all disputes and perplexing questions will have been settled to our own satisfaction at least.

You ask for the benefits derived. Each member is devoted to this feature of our afternoon meetings and feels she has been benefited in more ways than one. It is no longer difficult to give an impromptu talk, at least three minutes long, and there is an absence of timidity and "that dreadful heart beating" when called upon unexpectedly to say something. By most of us, however, this freedom is confined to our own little circle but we trust we will soon be "brave" enough to join the ranks of those who can speak before larger organizations when called upon.

We would recommend this feature to all clubs, and such as can conveniently weave in the toasts with an afternoon program will enjoy many pleasant talks "over the teacups."

Trusting I have answered all your questions. I am fraternally yours,
Effie Leese Scott.

The Fifth Annual meeting of the N. F. W. C. will be held at York in the second week of October. The railroads have granted one and one-third rates on the certificate plan—if one hundred or more are presented. The ladies of York supply rooms in private residences, while rates have been secured at hotels and boarding houses. Word is received from the Ceramic club of Omaha that it will send a delegate and each member two pieces of china to help in the art exhibit. It is desired that every lady shall contribute some choice piece of art for this exhibit. The following program must commend itself to the club women of Nebraska and we bespeak for this annual meeting a large attendance:

PROGRAM.

Tuesday, October 10.

2 p. m.—Meeting of the executive board.
3 p. m.—Meeting of board of directors.
8 p. m.—Reception of delegates and friends.

Wednesday, October 11.

9 p. m.—Invocation.
Address of Welcome,
Mrs. C. S. Carscadden, York.
Response, Mrs. A. Apperson, Tecumseh
President's address,
Mrs. S. C. Langworthy, Seward
Report of recording secretary,
Mrs. H. F. Sackett, Weeping Water
Report of corresponding secretary,
Mrs. D. C. McKillip, Seward
Report of committee on credentials,
Roll call of delegates,
Appointment on committees,
Club reports.

2 p. m.—Department of music, chairman, Mrs. D. A. Campbell
Address, What shall we do with music,
Mrs. H. F. Doane, Crete
Italian Opera.

Paper.....Mrs. Frawley, Stromsburg
Piano duo, Mesdames Sedgwick and
McConahay, York

Aria.....Mrs. Laura Sheety, Omaha
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