

and taste of the goods inside the shops. But this is the first street fair. By next year window trimmers will have learned something of the scope and plan of a street fair and their efforts will be much more effective. The fair has accomplished what it was intended to, and that is the assembly of a crowd to be amused, to get acquainted with the merchants and institutions of Lincoln and perchance to purchase. The street corner free shows have been given by clever performers on the slack rope, the trapeze, and the bicycle. Every performance has been watched by hundreds of people. The sun has shown, the weather has been perfect and there is little doubt that the merchants feel satisfied with the money and work the fair has cost them.

**The Flower Show.**

Never was a prettier progress than the one which the flower queen and her retinue made on Wednesday. Purple, pink, white, yellow, red; the carriages driven by beautiful women were a fascinating sight. The parts of the procession are described elsewhere but the ensemble is entitled to the prize, for it was the ensemble of clean colors, dainty women, beautiful horses, natty grooms and outriders and the dignity and chic of the whole that accomplished the indescribable effect. It was the contribution of the women to the street fair and convincing evidence of woman's superior feeling for color and form. Through the lanes of booths, many of which were composed of antagonized colors the perfectly appointed carriages wound their way. The effect was not achieved without a great deal of labor. Weeks ago the participants began to make paper flowers, roses, lilies, cornflowers, chrysanthemums, carnations, and poppies. It required two thousand flowers to completely decorate a phaeton or trap. The coaches and victorias required a thousand more. The slender white fingers have wrought for three weeks with patience the flowers with which to make a holiday. Inspired by a love of beauty, for itself, the women who accomplished what appeared a miracle have their reward though they receive no prize. For they made the whole possible, and it was not the carriage or that one, but the hundred that were in line that produced the effect. It was remarkable that not one driver made a mistake in color, or had neglected to seize and emphasize the characteristic lines of beauty in the specific vehicle she decorated. The square trape, the curved phaeton forms, the peculiar tally-ho coach shape, all were accounted by the decorations rather than ignored. The unerring taste of the occupants who accepted the carriage-makers perfected lines and emphasized them was as remarkable as the variety of flowers and colors, and their application to the hundred or more vehicles. The harmonious unity of the whole was triumphant and the very difficult task of the judges who were obliged to pick out the most brilliant parts from a brilliant and effective whole is apparent. The women who received no prizes should enjoy with perfect assurance the fact that the length, brilliancy, and quality of the long procession, the attention to detail, the absence of all slovenliness, the polished hoofs of the horses, their shining coats, and their proud bearing, their own exquisite toilettes and the charming setting of each driver made the progress the most beautiful spectacle.

**Eight Pages.**

The Courier is reduced in size this week on account of the destruction by fire of the large Miehle presses of Jacob North & Co. These presses have printed this paper and there are no others available in Lincoln. Until other arrangements can be made The Courier will consist of eight pages instead of twelve.

**CLUBS.**

[LOUISA L. RICKETTS.]

**CALENDAR OF THE CLUBS OF NEBRASKA**

- September  
 20, Am. Discoverers, Mary Barns c., Fullerton  
 21, Current Events, Macbeth, XIX Century c., Aurora  
 22, Charlemagne, Feudal, Dissolution of Frank Empire, Woman's c., Minden  
 23, Holland, Century c., Lincoln  
 24, Rec. and ad's, Mental Cult. c., S. Auburn  
 25, Business meeting, Sorosis, Lincoln  
 26, Hamlet, Sorosis, Lincoln  
 27, Crete  
 October  
 2, Miscellaneous, Ingleside c., David City  
 2, Peace Movement, Woman's c., Omaha  
 2, Reception and President's address, Matinee Musicale, Lincoln  
 3, Period of Henry VII, Hist. & Art c., Albion  
 3, Sculpture, Social & Literary c., Crete  
 3, President's address, Vacation Reminiscences, Woman's c., Fairbury  
 4, Primitive Germans, Cozy c., Tecumseh  
 4, Eng. Lit., Friends in Council, Tecumseh  
 4, Hamlet, Woman's c., Schuyler  
 4, European Hist., 861-1492, Acme c., Tecumseh  
 4, Social meeting, Woman's club, Ashland  
 5, Macbeth and current topics, Mutual Improvement c., Crete  
 7, Current Literature, Woman's c., Fremont  
 7, Business Meeting, Woman's club, Columbus  
 7, Summer Reminiscences, Hist. & Art, Seward  
 12, Washington Irving, Ment. Cult. c., S. Auburn  
 15, Rec. & Pres. address, Woman's c., Lincoln  
 18, Characteristics of Victoria and Her Reign, Woman's c., Ashland

From the sea shores, from the mountains and from the cool northern resorts club women are returning to their homes rested, refreshed, and with a store of new enthusiasms preparing to make this year's study even better than the last. The many year books I have received indicate not only a very busy year among the club women of Nebraska, but a determination to do better and more thorough work. The year books are good indicators of the condition and trend of club work. The tendency is to confine study to one line of thought, in place of carrying on two or three or even four studies at the same time. Practical and current subjects are receiving more attention. More time is set apart for general discussion and in many ways each year shows a marked improvement in the plans for club study.

While some of the clubs in Nebraska begin the year's study with the first days of October, or the last week in September, there are several energetic ones that are already at work. The earliest meetings began on September 4, 5, and 6, and presumably these are the ones that continue latest in the spring, even until the last of June. The majority of clubs feel, however, that a club year of eight months is long enough to keep the members interested and doing good work. By beginning the first of October the first two weeks of September—which as a rule in Nebraska are very hot and dusty—are avoided, and the club whose vacation begins the first of May must infringe somewhat upon the duties of house-keeping. The length of the club year is an open question, but in speaking with members from three or four local clubs the consensus of opinions seemed to be that a study year covering fourteen to sixteen meetings was, in every way, most desirable.

The annual convention of Colorado's federation of women's clubs will be held at Denver, October 2 and 3 by invitation of the Denver Women's club. There are 109 clubs in this federation representing about thirty eight towns and cities, the membership reaching to nearly 5,000. It has the following standing committees to represent the different lines of practical work: Education, preservation, and restoration, of the cliffs and pueblo ruins of Colorado, school legislation, traveling libraries, philanthropy, and reform, music, national congress of mothers, and legislation. Article 2, of the constitution, of

women's clubs here, declaring for mutual helpfulness adds: "and the promotion of the higher social and moral conditions. This is a clause that I wish was appended to the constitution of our own state federation. As we begin to study more practical subjects we should at least insist that our constitution follows us. If the constitution means anything it should be a sure and definite guide, women's clubs are so progressive that I am not sure but a standing committee whose duties shall be to see that the constitution keeps pace with the advance of its club will be a necessity of the near future."

The Courier is in receipt of the report of the committee of reciprocity and information of the Illinois federation of women's clubs. This Reciprocity Bureau is first arranged under the following headings:

- Literature and History.
  - Art Topics.
  - Home, Club, and Education.
- These departments are then subdivided as follows:

- Manuscripts to be loaned.
- Manuscripts to be read for expenses.
- Lectures and talks for which rates will be charged. Among the lecturers we see the name of Mrs. Elia W. Peattie, from the Chicago Women's club, who will deliver a lecture on any of the following subjects for \$25 and expenses: 1, Rudyard Kipling. 2, Sidney Lanier. 3, The Troubadours. 4, Longfellow.

The prices charged for most of the lectures range from \$10 to \$25, which is a pretty steep price for the average club to pay. This committee has arranged excellent study courses. The following course in American Literature is one of the most admirable I have seen.

- I. Ralph Waldo Emerson. 1, Life and work; 2, essayist, poet, and philosopher; 3, the Brook farm association.
- II. Elgar Allan Poe; Fitz Green Halleck; Rodman Drake.
- III. Nathaniel Hawthorne. 1, life and work; 2, life at Concord and Liverpool; 3, The Scarlet Letter and the Blithedale Romance.
- IV. Longfellow and Lowell. A study and comparison. 1, Their Cambridge homes; 2, Early poems; 3, Later works.
- V. Bryant and Whittier. 1, The poet of nature; 2, His life and works; 3, The poet of the people; 4, His life and early influences; 5, The anti-slavery movement in New England; 6, Its influence on literature.
- VI. Oliver Wendell Holmes. 1, Life and early writings; 2, The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table; 3, Over the Tea Cups; 4, Poems and essays.
- VII. The Modern Novel. 1, William Dean Howells; 2, Henry James; 3, Dr. S. Wier Mitchell.
- VIII. A Group of Southern Novelists. 1, Geo. W. Cable; 2, James Lane Allen; 3, Joel Chandler Harris.
- IX. Some Women Writers. 1, Harriett Beecher Stowe; 2, Helen Hunt Jackson; 3, Frances Hodgson Burnett.
- X. The Tennessee Type. Miss Murfree; The New England type, Mary E. Wilkins.
- XI. Gen. Lew Wallace. 1, Ben Hur; 2, The Fair God.
- XII. Three Illinois Writers. Robert Herrick; 2, Henry Fuller; 3, Hamlin Garland.

The national consumers league has adopted a new label which consists of a circle, with a wing extending on each side on which is the statement that the goods are "made under clean and wholesome conditions." After examination into the conditions of a factory the league will permit this label to be used upon all clothing made under conditions favorable to the promotion of the health and the moral welfare of the operatives. Nearly 300 women of Boston are already pledged to buy no ready made garments or factory goods without this label.

When we consider that this label is the pledge of improved conditions for working women it seems likely that club women especially will sign it. On what better work can the club women of the United States unite, for 1900, than to insist upon our merchants carrying the grade of goods that bear this label? How rapidly the Audubon society secured hearty co-operation, and if the tender sympathies of women can be so quickly enlisted in behalf of the little feathered songsters, how much stronger should be the appeal to the sympathies when called upon to enlist them in bettering the condition of the laboring women of our country.

The rainy-day clubs have not existed in vain—and the rainy-day skirt has come to stay. Of course there are skirts and skirts even among the gladly hailed short ones, but the one which will meet with most cordial approval does not come above the shoe top, or just clears the ground. There is a happy medium which positively escapes the wet and mud, and yet is not so extreme that the passer by will turn to see if it really is so short. One of Boston's most respected and well known citizens recently paid a high compliment to the rainy-day skirt. It was just after a heavy rain that had lasted over twenty-four hours and the crossings were in such a shape as to well nigh ruin any ordinary dress skirt, unless the wearer held it well up. One of Boston's well known women neatly dressed in a well fitting rainy-day costume was returning from the Old Colony station after bidding a friend good bye. While walking quickly, freely, erectly across Linden street crossing she passed a score of women each holding up one side of her skirt while the other side dragged in the mud. As she reached the other side she was confronted by a middle aged gentleman who was a stranger to her. Lifting his hat courteously he said: "I beg your pardon, madame, but a woman who has the good sense and the courage to wear such a sensible, comfortable and appropriate skirt upon the streets deserves homage and a most respectful salute. I take off my hat to your short skirt." "I thank you, sir," was the cordial reply from the lady, "but if all women knew the comfort and cleanliness of such a skirt I am sure they would wear no other on such a day as this." After this short dialogue these strangers passed on, the women convinced that the future of the short skirt was assured, the man rejoicing that the day of reason was dawning for women.

I wish that the club women of Nebraska might be induced to express themselves upon some one of the many questions which are germane to the welfare and best interests of club life:

- 1, Is it desirable to emancipate ourselves from reading long written dissertations upon our club?
- 2, Is it best for one member to prepare one paper when her turn comes alphabetically and then feel that her work in that club is finished for that year?
- 3, Would it add to the interest of the club meeting, and would it secure better preparation if each member were expected to talk from one to two minutes at each meeting upon the subject under discussion? The leader of the day showing her studied preparation by skillfully directing this discussion. I notice that the Atlantic club of Quincy, Ill., opens each club afternoon with a short paper or talk from the leader who then asks some definite question on the subject, of each member.

The American girl who marries a foreigner has to give up most of her rights.

That's nothing to what her father has to give up.