

general federation, and extracts were read from letters, showing that the leaders were about equally divided on the pros and cons of reorganization. Mrs. L. L. Ricketts, of Lincoln, who was a guest of the club, was called upon for her views of the case. Mrs. Ricketts spoke with clearness and force from the opposition to reorganization. She believed that the idea had arisen from a mistaken opinion that the general federation was unwieldy, and cited the National Education Association as proof that the business of the largest organization may be conducted acceptably through committees. She thought there need be no limit to the growth of the general federation, and that the larger the conventions the greater the inspiration to be derived from them. Mrs. Ricketts understands that the proposed reorganization would cut off individual club representation, a situation which would curtail their interest in the national work, if it did not destroy it. Mrs. Ricketts' remarks received close attention and at the conclusion Mrs. McGilton expressed her entire agreement with them. Mrs. McGilton thought there was danger of over organization, and to her mind the value of federation, either state or national, was doubtful. Mrs. Harford explained that it was intended that clubs should not lose their opportunity of sending their members to the biennial meetings, but that this privilege should be more widely extended. She also showed how a more uniform method of dividing the expense of the general federation would raise a larger revenue, while at the same time it would relieve the present burden upon many clubs. Mrs. Heller stated that delegates to biennial conventions of the federation had found themselves heretofore representing their respective states and scarcely willing to represent anything less. She was in favor of the council as proposed by the committee. It reminded her, in connection with the larger body, of the two houses of the United States government. Mrs. Andrews thought that logic should wait on sympathy. The organization might be improved mechanically, but it should be allowed to grow naturally and nothing should be done that would in any way weaken the bonds of the most remote club to the national body. Mrs. Towne emphasized the idea that the ultimate success of reorganization would depend upon the ability or efficacy of the state president or the general federation secretary. She thought that the clubs, when they found themselves an integral part of the national body, though associated with the state, would grow. Miss Fairbrother declared that organization from local to state and from state to national body was the only method that could be recommended by experience. Where economy of power and force of inspiration are desired they must come that way. An illustration is the well known organization of the party political machinery. As the club desired to meet Mrs. Ricketts socially, the discussion could not be prolonged and the matter was recommended to be considered January 8th. After adjournment, an informal tea drinking was held in the parlors, where Mrs. Ricketts was the guest of honor. This social half hour was in charge of the house and home committee, Mrs. Harford, chairman.

The Frances M. Ford club met at the home of Mrs. J. A. Frawley Monday evening, November 27, for the regular study of "History of the Netherlands." In addition to its regular work the club has effected the organization of a Young People's Literary club, in which the young people prepare their programs and are entertained fortnightly by two of the members of the woman's club. The first meeting was held last Monday night at the home of Mrs. N. S. Clark.

The program was both entertaining and instructive. It consisted of vocal and instrumental music and papers on "Spain in History," "Spain's Relations to Cuba and the Philippines," and "Poetry of the Late War with Spain." Refreshments were served by Mesdames Clark and Frawley, and the club adjourned to meet in two weeks with Miss Julia Anderson. MRS. MARGARET McCUNE WILSON.

The child study department of the Lincoln woman's club met Saturday. A very interesting meeting was held in spite of the bad weather. The leader gave a very instructive talk on the development of the will. Mrs. Lucas talked very sensibly about fiction for children.

On Friday, December 8th, the woman's club of Beatrice, met by special invitation with Mrs. Maurice Deutsch, in her beautiful home on North Seventh street, to enjoy the program for the day, and to attend the reception to be given the first vice-president, Mrs. D. G. Everett, who, to the sincere regret of all, is so soon to leave Beatrice for her home in Chicago. Although the weather was exceedingly unpleasant, there was a large attendance, and the occasion will long be remembered by those present. Mrs. Everett had charge of the program, "The Government and Religions of China." The topics were well chosen and full of interest from beginning to end. After the program, Mrs. Deutsch, in behalf of the club, presented Mrs. Everett with a most beautiful gift of American beauty roses, saying that, as the rose was red, so was it symbolical of our love for her. Mrs. Everett gracefully acknowledged the gift and expressed her appreciation of the kind regard which the club had ever manifested towards her. Our first vice president has endeared herself to each and every member of the woman's club. Her careful, painstaking work has won the approval of all, and the earnestness of her endeavor has been an inspiration to the entire club. At 4 o'clock the electric lights were turned on, delicate refreshments served and a happy hour was soon fleeting away in merry conversation and pleasant recognition. It was long after 5 o'clock when "good-byes" were said to Mrs. Everett, and many thanks were expressed to Mrs. Deutsch for the pleasant half day which her hospitality had afforded the woman's club.

There should be more clubs for historical and literary work among the young ladies of our state. We have the Fin de Siecle club at Seward studying the history of America in a systematic course of the men and women who made—and are making—the history and literature of our country. The Pansy club of Tecumseh, composed of young school misses, is studying American literature in the same way, viz.: by studying American authors and their works. There may be other clubs among our young ladies. If so, I should be pleased to receive some report or account of their work. At Lincoln most of the young ladies avail themselves of the advantages offered by the university, where they can have the benefit of special instructors. Still, while there are many benefits in the lectures of a specialist, we must not forget that the sympathy which is developed by club associations is very important.

The Sapho club of Ottawa, Kas., is composed of forty young ladies ranging from sixteen to nineteen years of age, who are devoting the season to historical subjects. In some respects this club is unique, and embodies ideas that may be of benefit to similar clubs, which wish to learn to talk readily. Hence no written papers are read before the club. To become more familiar with Shakespeare, each member commits to

memory some quotation for each meeting. The history of the United States is their subject in chief for the year. The men and literature connected with each epoch is considered in sequential order. A leader outlines the subject for the day; then it is discussed by all the members of the club, and each member is expected to contribute her mite to the discussion. Another leader announces the current topics for general discussion. Opportunity is also offered to any who may wish to contribute original work in the form of a poem, story or play.

At the recent convention of the Illinois federation of women's clubs the following important amendments to the constitution was effected: Officers shall be elected bi-ennially, and are not eligible to successive re-election, and all vice presidents shall be elected biennially, those from even-numbered congressional districts in even calendar years and those from odd-numbered congressional districts in odd calendar years. Interest in the university of Illinois was expressed in the following resolution: "That the Illinois federation of women's clubs continue the work in behalf of women students at the state university until a building or buildings are provided for their care and protection and the arts and sciences pertaining to woman's life and duties are made part of the university curriculum." Pauperism was deplored and the convention voted to discourage alms-giving and child-begging, hoping thus to awaken public sentiment and decrease the number of paupers. The following resolution expressed the feeling of the convention toward the home for the feeble minded at Lincoln, Ill.: "That the Illinois federation of woman's clubs, now in session, expresses its deep disappointment that nothing has yet been done toward the building of additional cottages at Lincoln for feeble-minded children. Further, that this federation hopes that the appropriation of \$200,000 by the last legislature for new cottages will be put by the trustees to as immediate use as possible, since it has been brought to our notice that more than 1,000 applications for admission to this institution are now on file and that many of the children for whom these applications have been made are now of necessity inmates of poorhouses and asylums for insane."

It was voted to ask President McKinley to send Mrs. Potter Palmer as commissioner to the Paris exposition. Two new departments were provided for, called the "reciprocity" and "industrial" departments. In presenting her subject, "The New Issues," Mrs. Corinne Browne used a large industrial chart showing the population and wealth of the United States. A very large angle of red represented the poor, a much smaller one in green the middle class, while the rich were represented by a very small portion in black. "It just shows how much the few have and how little the much," whispered Mrs. Stevens, as Mrs. Brown began. It was shown that legislation alone would divide this property in a satisfactorily economic way. Miss Lynch of the Chicago woman's club asked, "Would it be possible if we did as the early Saxons did, meet yearly and divide the property?" when somebody else said: "There is an earlier dispensation, the earth was the Lord's and didn't belong to any landlord." The convention was very successful with interesting sessions and a large amount of work accomplished.

The announcement of the retirement of Susan B. Anthony from active official work has caused much speculation as to her probable successor. "The Grand Old Man" was no more applicable to Gladstone than "The Grand

Old Woman" is to Miss Anthony, who, in her eightieth year, has spent her life in endeavors for the uplifting of woman. We rejoice with her that it has been her privilege to see so much accomplished for woman. She recently said:

The hardships of the last half century are forgotten as I look at the wonderful evolution of womanhood of this nation. From an absolute nonentity in the government of the home, the church, and the state, woman is now the recognized and almost an equal factor in what might be called the social department of each. In philanthropy, in education and culture and in the social world she takes the lead. With the present economic conditions women are the leisure class, and intelligent men are beginning to recognize the necessity of utilizing their great abilities in the law making and law-enforcing departments of the government. When women awake to the ultimate destiny toward which all these changes are tending, they will rise up en masse to take their rightful place in the world as the peers of men in the administration of its affairs. If women could only be brought to realize what a revolution this will bring about in social and political conditions—literally their purification—they would not delay nor shirk their responsibility. That the younger workers, into whose hands I commit the sacred trust with the greatest confidence, may speedily bring this to pass is my earnest wish.

"Though retiring from official work, I shall never give up the ship while life and energy last. The remainder of my life, be it long or short, will be devoted to raising a permanent fund of \$500,000, the interest of which shall be used by the younger generation to promote the work of woman suffrage.

"I regret exceedingly that some friend of mine has forestalled me in making the announcement of my intention to accept a renomination as president of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association. I had flattered myself that I should be able to have at least one new point to make in my annual address before the thirty-second annual convention of the association, but I have confided my secret, it seems, to one too many.

"It is and has been for several years my intention to hold the presidency only until I had rounded out my fourscore years, in order that the younger women who have been actually doing the work of the association for the last decade might feel that they have on their shoulders the full responsibility before the world. While I can positively say that I will not accept a renomination, neither myself nor any one else can state who will be my successor. She will be nominated and elected by the ballots of the three or four hundred delegates from the forty-five different states of the Union at the convention to be held in Washington, D. C., commencing February 8, 1900. The announcement that Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt is to be my successor is certainly premature. However capable she is to fill the position, she will have to be elected according to the requirements of the constitution of the association."

The woman's club of Denver has been agitating the question of supporting home industry. In some way to band themselves together with a pledge to use only Colorado products. In every household the bulk of the supplies are purchased by the women of the family. The "head of the house" is allowed to pay the bills, but the woman selects the goods, and woman's influence in this direction is almost without limit. It logically follows that if the women of any state decide to use only home products they can give an immense impetus to its prosperity, and create a large demand for home-made goods. Denver is soon to have a manufacturers'