

affected by numbers, the rats for printing, stamping, etc., being, of course, smaller in proportion as the greater number was required. In view of this glance at the work of the committees, I fail to see where the unwieldiness of the Denver biennial was felt. There was not one federation to spare, not one club nor delegate nor visiting club woman who was not necessary and a pleasure. Nothing is so hopelessly depressing as to prepare for a great number and have a meager attendance.

One of the propositions for reorganization suggests a delegated body of one thousand.

If Denver's biennial was unwieldy with a delegated body of perhaps eight hundred, the other credentials being complimentary, why increase the number of delegates? The average club woman does not see by what process of reasoning this proposition would be considered logical. It is proposed to do away with the individual representation and have the membership through the state alone. I am sure the proposers forget that this incorporated body is the "General Federation of Women's Clubs," and not the "general federation of state federations." It seems to me that the states which advocate this measure are confining their outlook to their own borders. Doubtless those splendidly "clubbed" states of Massachusetts, Illinois and New York could afford to send their state delegates far and wide and carry the reports and inspiration of the biennial to all their members; but we beseech you, think of the different conditions which prevail in many states. We of the far west are poor; we have great distances to cover. No annual meeting of the state federation could begin to give the individual club what the presence of its president at the biennial carries. It means growth and life and enthusiasm; it means the coming in contact with the women of the nation; it means glory and gladness. In the early days of the woman's club of Denver there was a member of the board of directors who was a joy to the hearts of those officers who advocated a liberal policy. When the members of the board debated the advisability of admitting such a large membership, she would silence the doubters by offering this resolution: "Madam President, I move that we take members into this club until we find we have to turn one out." I feel the same way about this question. If it is a good doctrine, the more who hear it the better; if it is worthless, let us have done with it.

Fortunately the reorganization committee is only deliberative, the final decision resting with the club members themselves. We shall all agree that the past is a record of achievement, and in view of the fact that the grand results, the marvelous growth and the wonderful accomplishments of the general federation have been made under the present organization, in the light of the increasing interest in club and federation work, which is manifested constantly, notably in the last month in the formation of those splendid federations in California and Louisiana—with the thought of all these hopeful, happy signs—let us be careful not to reorganize to too great an extent. Many a great speaker has been a failure because he has polished his oration until the soul and heart of the message is not apparent. Let us keep the soul of this great organization in any event, making only such changes as will facilitate business and not change the meaning and strength of the whole.

SARAH S. PLATT DECKER,
Vice President G. F. W. C.

On Saturday, February 24th, the Stromsburg woman's club met in regular session, the afternoon's program covering that part of the Hanoverian

period under the reign of George II. The lesson proved to be of more than usual interest, treating of the political and ecclesiastical affairs of both hemispheres. The character of Sir Robert Walpole was portrayed and an account given of his achievements in diplomacy. The religious movement led by the founder of Methodism was described, and we, who were reared in this faith, learned to our surprise that John Wesley believed in miracles, and that the early and more zealous Methodists claimed to be able through prayer to bring rain, and also claimed that healing of sickness was accomplished through divine aid. A short history of the stage of that time, with anecdotes of the lives of several distinguished actresses, provoked merriment. A piano selection, followed by a vocal duet and a business meeting, closed the session.

At the last meeting of the Hall in the Grove of Lincoln "The Ruins and Relics of Ancient Rome" were presented by Mrs. F. N. Gibson. She supplemented her interesting descriptions with a fine collection of pictures. Mrs. O. M. Thompson spoke of Ruskin's early life and domestic relations. Mrs. De Vore presented an estimate of his contributions to political economy. Mrs. Moehler told of his literary life, while Mrs. Bushnell presented him as an art critic. The after discussion was very general and enthusiastic.

The woman's club of Juniata observed Washington's birthday by the reading of papers, quotations, selections and conundrums, all relating to the Father of Our Country. Mrs. Crosier gave a description of Mount Vernon and incidents of her visit to the tomb of George and Martha Washington. Mrs. Webster read of their wedding day and early married life. By invitation, Mrs. Hartigan favored the club with a paper on "The Alhambra," after which light refreshments were served by the hostess, Mrs. J. McK. St. John. An instrumental duet on the violin and guitar by Mrs. Hardin and Mrs. Beebe was appreciated.

The meeting of the home department of the woman's club of Fairbury on Tuesday, March 6th, was more especially a "mothers' meeting." The following was the program:

Response to roll call—Mother.
Paper—"The True Mother," Mrs. Clara Cross.

Talks—(1) Shall we not educate our boys as well as our girls for homemakers, Mrs. R. E. Simpkins.

(2) Social foes in the home, Mrs. M. E. Price.

(3) How best to hold the big boy in school and at home, Mrs. Kate Mendenhall.

Queries.
Music.

A short business meeting of the Fairbury woman's club was held at the club rooms Thursday afternoon, March 1st, at which time the ladies voted to hold a book reception at their rooms Thursday evening, March 8th. All persons interested in the library were invited to come and bring a suitable book, in this way helping to form a nucleus for the public library that is to be.

The following was the program for the woman's club of Fremont Saturday, March 3d:

Vocal solo—Ray Hammond.
Review of "Red Rock" (Thomas Nelson Page)—Mrs. Julia Martin.
Instrumental solo, "Old Black Joe"—Mrs. Frank Fowler.

Vocal quartet, "Way Down Upon the Suwanee River"—Miss Eva Roberts,

(Continued on Page 9.)

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