

covers manual training, physical exercise, and mental work of primary grades. In March, a resolution was sent to councils asking for \$3,000 for vacation schools. Later it was obtained and three schools were opened for the summer. One of the committee on the decoration of school rooms has catalogued the pictures and casts suitable for school rooms of all grades. Free evening picture exhibitions and free music have also been provided. The agitation in favor of summer playgrounds was started by the club in the spring of 1894. This year twenty-seven playgrounds were opened and successfully conducted.

The committee on forestry and tree planting report that statements concerning the necessity of preservation of forests are at last listened to with respect, and several powerful agencies are newly enlisted. The three forest reservations to be established will be of such size as to protect the watersheds of the state.

Mrs. Wistar says of the municipal department of the club: "This department has carefully compared municipal conditions in American cities with those in foreign cities. Roughly speaking, all investigations show that no other country spends so much and gets so little for its money. * * * The American can generally afford to spend money better than time. That is why this government is extravagant. Extravagance is followed by corruption. The way to remedy this is not to preach economy of public funds, or show what benefit might be derived from proper expenditures, because the American is always busy, and often does not have time to listen. Tell him that for want of his help the principles which we all love are being swept away, and he will rise to save them."

At the meeting of the National league last week one of the principal speakers was Mrs. Ellen Lee Wyman of Evanston, prominent in club circles through her lectures on child culture and social reform. Mrs. James L. Hughes of Toronto, Canada, gave several lectures on kindergarten topics, and Miss Lida H. Hardy, who has charge of the mother's work in Doctor Sheldon's church in Topeka, Kansas, was another speaker. Mrs. Richard Wyman, president of the Evanston Woman's Club of Evanston; Mrs. Hortense S. Cramer of the Wilmette Woman's Club, and Mrs. W. M. Blake of the Evansville, (Indiana,) Woman's Club, were also on the program. Among the topics which these ladies and others discussed were: "Right Neighborhood Relationships," "Home Occupations," and "Home Government." There was an exhibition of kindergarten work, and music conducted by Miss Marie Ruet Hofer, well known in the west as a conductor of children's choruses. The convention was largely attended, and many new local branches were formed.

The following officers were elected on Friday: President, Mrs. Lida Hardy, Topeka, Kansas; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Lucy Roberts, Longwood, Illinois; recording secretary, Mrs. Alice Bierhaus, Vincennes, Indiana; treasurer, Mrs. Frank Seibert, Akron, Ohio.

A large number of the Massachusetts clubs which have been asked to send books to the library of the state sanitarium for consumptives at Rutland, have done so. The Middlesex Club of Lowell recently sent 200 volumes.

Unquestionably there is a rich field for the work of club women, and of all women, in the support of the broad, moral purposes of civil service reform, as was pointed out by Mrs. L. S. W. Perkins in a paper read before the Federation of Women's Clubs at Milwaukee recently. Not only did her hearers

receive much light on the existing state of affairs between politics and the civil service, but they got wholesome instruction as to their duty in the matter. Her strongest plea was for the aid of women in the task of educating public opinion to an irresistible demand for a constant and honest use of the "merit system." In all this she avoided advising women to step out one inch from the conservative path that the most rigid anti-suffragists would have them walk. She urged women to try to induce the young people in their own homes and youthful minds all about them to think rightly, as a habit, of the "merit system." It is probable that when the women's clubs get together this fall we shall hear some active echoes of the well-timed and very practical adjurations of Mrs. Perkins. As the spoils system is the prime cause and instrument of the debasement of American politics, this point of attack for women, whose moral intuitions are ever overwhelmingly right, is well chosen.

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BOTH SIDES OF THE CAMPAIGN.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR'S NOVEL FORUM FEATURE.

The Kansas City Star has decided upon a special feature for the presidential campaign which was never undertaken before by any newspaper. At its request the chairman of the two national committees, Messrs. James K. Jones and M. A. Hanna, have selected and appointed two distinguished writers to conduct, in the Star a department to be called "The Campaign Forum." In this department the arguments of each of the two great parties will be presented, side by side, day by day. To conduct the democratic side, Mr. Jones has selected and formally appointed Mr. Willis J. Abbott, chief of the Press Bureau of the Democratic National Committee, and for the Republican side, Mr. Hanna has selected and appointed the famous journalist and literateur, Mr. Murat Halstead. Upon learning the decision of the two chairmen, The Star immediately engaged the two gentlemen and on Sunday, August 19, the Campaign Forum will be inaugurated, to be continued in the regular issue of The Star, daily and Sunday until the end of the campaign. An interesting feature of the Forum will be the answers to questions upon campaign topics, submitted to the Star to be answered by either Mr. Halstead or Mr. Abbott, or both. Under the circumstances, the answers thus given will have the stamp of authority of the National Committees.

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