

CLUBS.

Miss May Irwin is to take the management of the Bijou theatre in New York, and will rechristen it the May Irwin theatre. Amelia Bingham, with a company of her own, will occupy it for a part of each season, and "between the two actresses, the house will be an important landmark in the cause of women's rights" in theatrical circles.

Madame Berosthorn, wife of the Austrian "charge d'affaires" at Peking, has been given the cross of the Legion of Honor for her heroic conduct and her assistance to the French during the siege of the legation. Only one other foreign woman has been thus decorated—Marie Schellenck, a Belgian woman who disguised herself as a man and joined Napoleon's army as a private soldier. She became a corporal, a sergeant, and then a lieutenant. She served seventeen years, went through twelve campaigns, and was eight times wounded. Napoleon decorated her personally in 1808.

Mrs. Regina Stucklen, Chief Inspector of the Woman's Department of the Barge office at New York City, is known as "the Mother of Immigrants." John G. Speed says of her in Ainslie's Magazine: "No church in the metropolis solemnizes so many marriages as the Barge office, and no matrimonial agent on earth arranges so many weddings as Mrs. Stucklen; and beneath the majority of these there is a saving portion of romance that leaves the whole heavy lump. Thus there are compensations even in the most arduous tasks, and amid surroundings repellent to a refined feminine mind. With great benignity and signal absence of official fussiness, Mrs. Stucklen regards the wants of all the women. She learns whence each comes, whither she wishes to go, and what she purposes to do. Of the struggles with the great problems of existence in all countries and in all grades of social life Mrs. Stucklen knows enough to fill volumes. The Mother of the Immigrants is a woman of strong personality, calm, firm, and sympathetic under most trying situations, and to the would-be bride, who has arrived a stranger in a foreign land to meet her promised husband, she is at once counsellor, witness and friend. As about three hundred marriages take place annually at the Barge office, or directly under its auspices—one solemnization for every working day of the year—and as Mrs. Stucklen inquires into the intimate history of each matrimonial affair, she has more than an ordinary opportunity to study this interesting side of life. Whither they go and how they prosper after leaving her guardian care, the inspector has little opportunity of knowing."

The committee appointed by the Chicago Woman's club to consider the Ruffin case, received in response to a request made to President Rebecca Lowe, the following communication: "As an executive, I took no action; as a member of the executive board, I can tell you that the matter regarding the acceptance of the credentials from Mrs. Ruffin was laid upon the table at our first meeting in Milwaukee, and no effort afterward was strong enough to take it off the table." Mrs. Elia W. Peattie's minority report urged that the clubs were founded upon social lines, and that it was unwise to break up the foundations. Mrs. Peattie thinks conventions and social customs should be recognized. In the discussion which

followed, opposing opinions were strongly expressed, Mrs. Williams, the only negro member, taking an aggressive part. Mrs. Henrotin said that the club ought not to take any action that seemed to criticize an act of the superior board. Mrs. Henrotin said further that she had seen this trouble coming for some time. She was in favor of admitting Mrs. Williams, but since then Mrs. Henrotin has confessed that she was not sure of the wisdom of that action. About the first of February the matter will be considered again.

At the recent meeting of the New York State Federation at Albany, the members presented Mrs. Wm. Tod Helmut with a silver loving cup, eighteen inches high and a Tiffany work of art. It is a massive yet graceful cup, plain, but for the wreath of flowers embossed around it at the middle at the height where the handles fasten. It rests on a tray inscribed as follows:

Presented to Mrs. William Tod Helmut, President of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs, in the Assembly Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, November 16, 1901, by the Clubs of the organization as a testimonial of their appreciation of her long and successful service, made so by her gentleness, generosity, and justice. 1897-1900

The twenty-seventh annual convention of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, held at Washington, D. C., through the first week of December, was one of the most successful in point of attendance of any previous convention. The work of the week may perhaps be summed up in the resolutions adopted, which pledged renewed loyalty to the union, felicitations over the victory in the exclusion of Brigham H. Roberts from the House of Representatives, favoring the suppression of the liquor traffic, opposing the army canteen, urging the enfranchisement of women, expressing "sympathy with organized labor in its just demands for a living wage, an eight-hour day, the prohibition of child labor, and in all wise efforts for justice and freedom;" urging adoption of laws to secure purity in man as well as woman, and protesting against the government regulating vice in any form in the Philippines, instead of suppressing it. A delegation from the convention waited upon the House Committee on Insular Affairs to advocate Representative Littlefield's bill against the sale of liquor, opium and intoxicants to aboriginal tribes and native races of the Pacific islands. One of the sessions was devoted to services in memory of members who had died during the year. The delegates and visiting temperance women were given a reception by President and Mrs. McKinley. The election of officers resulted in preserving intact the entire list, which therefore still stands: President, Mrs. E. M. N. Stevens; vice president-at-large, Anna A. Gordon; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Susanne M. D. Fry; recording secretary, Mrs. Clara C. Hoffman; assistant recording secretary, Mrs. Frances E. Beauchamp; treasurer, Mrs. Helen M. Baker.

THE MEDFORD CLUB'S PROTEST.

The much discussed Medford Club resolutions, and the letter of the corresponding secretary to the Massachusetts executive board are herewith reprinted in answer to requests.

November, 2.

Whereas, The Executive Board of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, assembled at Milwaukee in June, 1900, refused to receive Mrs. Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, an accredited delegate of the Woman's Era Club, the New England Woman's Press Association, and also a member of the Executive Board of the Massachusetts State Federation,

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the reason being that she represented a club of colored women; therefore,

Resolved, That the Medford Woman's Club protests against such unjust and illegal action and withdraws from the General Federation.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Executive Board of the General Federation, the presidents of the State Federation and to all clubs in Massachusetts

To which the Massachusetts State Federation replied as follows:

To the Medford Women's Club:

The Executive Board of the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs hereby acknowledges the receipt of the resolutions adopted by the Medford Women's Club, announcing its withdrawal from the membership of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

As the official organ of the General Federation in this state, the Executive Board feels obliged to point out to the Medford Women's Club that the reasons given for this action are apparently based on a misconception of the situation as it existed at the biennial meeting.

Mrs. Ruffin would have been permitted to take her seat in the convention as a delegate from the Massachusetts State Federation or from the New England Woman's Press Association had she chosen to do so. She was urged by the Credential Committee to take out credentials from one of these organizations, the question of color not operating against her as an individual. The question at issue was the broader one of the general policy of admitting clubs of colored women to the membership of the General Federation. The refusal of the General Federation Board to confirm the admission of the Women's Era Club and to honor its credentials, represented two convictions of one section of this country upon this policy; and also the desire of all sections to preserve the national character of our great organization. The right solution of this question is not to be reached by the withdrawal of the clubs of any section; therefore the Executive Board of the Massachusetts State Federation deeply regrets the hasty action of the Medford Women's Club, which deprives it of all further influence in shaping the future action of the General Federation.

Per order of the Executive Board.

Etta H Glidden,

Corresponding Secretary.

Hotel Vendome, Nov. 14.

Medford, December 12, 1900.

To the Executive Board of the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs:

In reply to the letter of the Executive Board of the Massachusetts Federation to the Medford Women's Club, the latter club begs leave to state that, while the wording of the resolution of withdrawal which was passed by the Medford Women's Club may justify your board in saying "that the reasons given for this action are apparently based upon a misconception," nevertheless the Medford Women's Club labored under no misconception when it withdrew

form the General Federation. It considers its reasons for withdrawal sufficient; it believes them sound. At the moment of passing the resolutions to withdraw its main object was withdrawal—the wording of its resolutions was of secondary importance. Granting that the club failed to express itself clearly in the wording of its resolutions, it expressed itself clearly in the act of withdrawal. Stripped of all technicality, it is a fact that Mrs. Ruffin, a colored woman, representing a club of colored women belonging to the Massachusetts State Federation, a duly accredited delegate from her club, was rejected by the Woman's Era Club had been a white woman, representing a club of white women, it is probably true that she would not have been rejected. The action of the Medford Women's Club may be wise or unwise, but it acted under no misconception of the situation.

If the president and secretary of the General Federation, in their letters of welcome to and acceptance to membership of the Woman's Era Club, if the treasurer, in receiving its money and giving its delegate proper credentials, if these officers were too hasty, and exceeded their duties or privileges, they should properly be the ones to suffer from the effects of too "hasty action," and not Mrs. Ruffin. We sympathize deeply with her, and through her we feel the direct affront given to an accredited delegate to a club belonging to the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs, and to a member of its Executive Board. The Medford Women's Club regrets that the Massachusetts State Federation did not withdraw from membership in the General Federation at its last biennial in consequence of the direct affront. But this expression of regret is not made in a spirit of conscious criticism any more than was the communication from the Executive Board to whom this is a reply. In this connection it is proper to bear in mind that the State Federation and this club are independent organizations, each accounting only to itself, each under the necessity of deciding its own action. This club in withdrawing from the General Federation was free from the guilt of "hasty action." The question of withdrawal has been under consideration and discussion for over two years. It has felt the yearly dues to be excessively large, it has not approved of its relation, as a single club, to the General Federation. Most important of all, it has not been in sympathy with the actual results of that organization.

Louise R. Atwood,

Corresponding Secretary.

Per order of the Executive Board.

Medford, Dec. 11.

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