

At the regular meeting of the Auburn Woman's club last Thursday the subject discussed was "House Plants and Their Culture." A valuable paper on "Bulbs for Winter Blooming" was read by Mrs. W. H. Gardner; Mrs. M. S. McNich read an excellent paper on "The Arrangement of the Lawn," and suggestions were given regarding the care of geraniums, begonias and ferns. A discussion of the leading topics of the day was led by Miss Alberta Campbell; a short talk on Gorky, the Russian novelist, a review of the kidnaping of Miss Stone and a report of the state federation at Wayne were other features of the meeting. Music was furnished by Miss Lena Frerichs.

The Musical Culture club of Hastings met in the public library on Monday afternoon when the following program was rendered: Piano duet, Military March, Miss Grace Noyes and Mrs. Logan; vocal solo, "Faith in Spring," Miss Lillian Brown, piano solo, Scherzo, Miss Jessica Pease; vocal duet, Schubert's Sernade, Misses Brown and Miles; piano solo, Mrs. Hayes; Miss Duer accompanist.

Mrs. F. M. Hall of Lincoln will lecture on the subject of art before the Fairbury Woman's club on November twelfth.

The Madison Woman's club met at the home of Mrs. Reynolds on November seventh. The subject "The Northlands" was discussed under the following divisions: Who were the Norsemen?—Mrs. Dawson. Early tribal organizations and means of Livelihood.—Mrs. Koechig. Religions—Mrs. Parkinson. The Vikings.—Mrs. Mossman. Parliamentary Law, discussion—Club members. Home Topics, Municipal Sanitation—Club discussion.

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The philanthropic committee of the Omaha Woman's club presented the following recommendations at the club meeting last Monday afternoon: "The committee recommends that the philanthropic work of the club be located in the Chapel of the Carpenter, at Second and William streets.

"That Mrs. E. S. Shinrock be appointed as supervisor of the entire work and as instructor in cooking.

"That a special meeting of the club members who are interested in this work be held in the church parlors next Wednesday at 4 p. m."

After considering the recommendations separately, the first and third were adopted, and decisive action in regard to the second was deferred for further consideration.

Two suggestions were made by Miss O'Brien of the city library: "First, in view of the fact that the state library commission and traveling libraries bill was passed, owing to the active work of the women of the state, that the executive committee of this club communicate with his excellency, the governor of this state, asking that a woman be appointed to fill the first vacancy on the commission, and that the president of the state federation name the woman—and I hope it will be Mrs. Belle Stoutenborough.

"Second, when the next legislature convenes, that the club women of this state present an amendment to house roll No. 20, asking that the personnel of the commission be changed so as to include two or more members of the Woman's club—the president and executive committee of the federated clubs to present the names."

Mrs. Stoutenborough was made an honorary member of the Omaha Woman's club without the customary notice of two weeks. The program was in charge of the English history department, and was a most excellent one:

Trio—Clarinet, violin and piano.. Weber  
Mr. Karbach, Mrs. Baetens, Dr. Baetens.

Outline of the work of the history department.....Mrs. R. E. McKelvy  
"Valse Caprice".....Rubenstein  
Mrs. Porter Garrett.

Paper—"History of Early English Literature .....Mrs. Edward Johnson  
Song—"Your Voice," with violin and cello obligato.....Denza  
Mrs. A. L. Sheetz.

Working girls' clubs have become established members of the club family and like other similar organizations they have their degrees of efficiency.

The working girl of this country varies with different localities. In a town where most of the girls employed in factories, stores and offices live at home, the type is radically different from that in a community where such girls are herded together in cheap boarding houses. Both need club work as a factor in their development, though such club work may differ in form as much as the type of club members.

Boarding speaking, factory girls may be divided into three classes; two of these classes small, the other very large. There is the little clique of girls who have certain advantages of home training and of education, and who, being out of sympathy with slang and rough ways, keep to themselves. Such girls appreciate the class work in clubs; they desire to improve themselves in every possible way, and are willing to practice self-denial to accomplish this object. Another class—happily small—comprises the tough girls; those who are really bad, whose manners and language are objectionable and whose character is equally so. The clubs fight shy of them, and justly. Clubs are not reformatories, and good and respectable girls do not wish to be associated with the class just mentioned. Between these two small classes is a great body of girls who may be described as simply "flighty." They are not bad, and have no desire to be. Yet they are often rough in their ways, slangy and coarse in their speech and devoid of good taste in dress. They have a limited education, often through their own perverse refusal to attend school and their desire to earn money for dress and pleasure. Often their parents, though willing to keep them in school, realize as little the value of an education as the girls themselves; and so long as their daughters are of respectable character, trouble themselves little about the refinements of life.

It is this class of girls who are most in need of refining influences, and for whom club work is the most of a puzzle, says The Club Woman. They need, as one woman has expressed it, "mothering." They cannot be lectured on proper conduct, for they know themselves to be good girls, and feel insulted by an insinuation that they are not. They do not care for solid reading or for study. They do like a good time, and their idea of a good time is dancing, singing or chatting with other young people. They do not see why certain colors, fabrics and styles are unsuitable for the girl whose wardrobe is limited in extent, and are apt to resent advice on this subject if directly given. They see no harm in slang, and even expressions which are so close to profanity or vulgarity as to offend the sensitive ear, do not trouble them. But they are jolly, good-natured kind-hearted, always ready to help a friend in trouble, free-hearted and generous to a fault. They can be reached and refined if handled rightly.

Occasionally a woman is born with one of those rare souls which enables her to do this kind of work successfully. Strong, refined, pure-hearted, she is, nevertheless, able to put herself in the place of the girl. She can shut her eyes and ears when it is necessary, and reserve her comments on the things of which she disapproves until the subject can be discussed in an impersonal general way. She can be correct in her speech, neat and tasteful in her dress and refined in her manner, and at the same time can enter heartily into the amusements and occupations of the girls, so that without undue familiarity she can invite their confidence and win their affection as well as their respect.

The woman in charge of a working girls' club should also be a practical working woman. She must know what it means to earn small wages and depend upon them for her living. She must know from practical experience that a new pair of shoes means self-denial in other ways, and that all of the needed articles of dress cannot be purchased at one time. She must

know how and what to buy, and be able to impart her knowledge. She must know the rules of practical hygiene; she should be a Christian woman, broad enough to see the good in all creeds and wise enough to emphasize the points on which all Christendom agrees without touching on disputed matters. Above all, she should be a good judge of character.

Such a woman will gain the love of the girls. She will assign the parts which they are to take in club life without creating unnecessary friction. Her influence will be felt through all the club work.

This is, of course, an ideal matron or superintendent. Yet women possessing all these qualities, to a certain extent, are not impossible to find. Let the rich women do all they will for the clubs, but let them beware of trying to do work which they do not understand. The woman to whom a dollar is a mere bagatelle cannot understand the point of view of the girl to whom a dollar represents hours of toil. The woman who has tried it is the woman to manage a club for girls who earn small wages and depend upon those wages for daily living. She can draw the line between the essential and the non-essential—between the "must be" and the "may be," and that is what is needed to insure the success of club work among the working girls.

The Los Angeles Women's club is receiving valuable assistance from two new members; Mrs. Florence Collins Porter, recent president of the Maine federation, and Mrs. Strickland Clark, originally of Detroit, distinguished as a lecturer on parliamentary law. Mrs. Robert J. Burdette, state president of California, is accompanying Mr. Burdette on a lecture tour through the southern, eastern and middle states.

The Minnesota state federation recently held its third annual meeting in connection with the state fair. The use of a beautiful building was granted by the managers of the fair, and was utilized as a resting place for women and children; a model sick room also was fitted up and the services of physicians and nurses were provided. Every morning a practical lecture and demonstration in cooking was given; other programs were also presented, with an informal musicale in the afternoon. Exhibits of the results of manual training in the public schools and of the work of vacation schools attracted much attention. From four to six o'clock tea is served free of charge to all visitors.

The work in domestic science has been made prominent during the last year by the Portland Woman's club. The Oregon federation meeting will be held in April, closing in time to go to Los Angeles, thus combining the state and general federations in one trip.

The Vermont federation, which recently met in Morrisville, now consists of twenty-five clubs, an increase of three during the last year. Twenty-two clubs were represented at the meeting, and green was adopted as the state color, with the state seal in gold. In Vermont, as in Nebraska, the federation has turned over its library to the state library commission.

The regular meeting of the Lincoln Woman's club will be held next Monday, November 11, in Walsh hall. The program will be in charge of the home department. This department, under the leadership of Mrs. Sawyer, is rivaling in popularity the departments devoted to the sciences and arts. Enemies of club organization who contend that membership in a club unfits a woman for the duties of home and lessens her interest in the welfare of her family should have been present at the meeting on Wednesday morning, and at every meeting of the home department. Problems confronting homekeepers are brought up for intelligent discussion, and not only the homes of the present, but those of the future, are given consideration.

At the meeting on Wednesday a most interesting and helpful paper was read by Miss Kyle, secretary of the Young Women's Christian association. With

remarkable natural insight into the needs of human nature, together with unusually favorable opportunity for the study of young women, Miss Kyle was peculiarly fitted to speak on the subject, "The Young Woman of Today, and Her Relation to the Home of the Future." Said Miss Kyle in part:

"The question before us is one about which much theory has been expounded. It is a fact that an increasingly large number of young women are taking advantage of the superior education facilities in America. Without considering industrial advantages or disadvantages, we know that these economic changes are producing alarming social changes. In the last census 3,000,000 women were found to be working outside the home. This must mean, however slow we are to confess it, a working away from the home and its ideals. Of these 3,000,000 women some are working for their daily bread, others to add to their wardrobes, others, especially among the educated women, have the desire to be independent, to have careers of their own. This last named class or division is the growing one, and home must present more domestic charm and less of drudgery if these richly-endowed young women are to be won to it as offering the ideal happiness. Let loose into sudden freedom the pendulum has swung a little too far, and now wise women must adjust a happy balance.

"Is it true that college unfits a girl for domestic life? Is it true that marriage is becoming less and less attractive to a college-bred girl? A college education would be a questionable gift if it worked only discontent with later home life. Cannot a woman's home life be enriched by college culture? Is laborious housework a necessary evil? It is useless to deny a certain amount of drudgery; but discipline and practice of self-control ought to make a young woman more capable of taking up the routine of a home with intelligence and grace. It is not so much the routine of house work that breaks a woman down as the inability to bring within her reach something instructive and refreshing. If a college girl is unfit for domestic life it is because she cannot adapt herself from one environment to another. The college course may train the mind, but it can scarcely create a love for domesticity. It may teach domestic science, but it cannot teach students that they must not go about with holes in their stockings or leave their beds unmade from the time they rise until they get into them again.

"In the majority of cases the secret of lack of adaptation may be traced to home training. Many girls may be found in the colleges with previous training which it will be hard to overcome, even by the intellectual discipline of college.

"There is a peculiar lack of poise among young women. A hurry-rush-over-tension intellectually, too much going, too little of a quiet time in one's home getting acquainted with the family. There is a certain carelessness arising perhaps from a sense of new freedom—a carelessness which manifests itself not only in one's room and dress, but in action; it is a lack of poise which prompts the swinging, loose-jointed stride so often seen; a lack of poise which prevents young women from respectful conduct to persons older than themselves, or even from civil greetings one with another.

"With the German girl, home life is a preparation for marriage. The companionship of mother and daughter, the training in household duties, the dowry-box—all develop more inclination toward home life. In education the system does not tend to lead away from the home. Home is the unit of German society. There was a time in America when home duties and home love developed an inclination toward the home. Each daughter then had her stint of sewing to do each day, her duties in the household.

"The conviction of American girls that it is dignified to work in a mill but undignified to be a cook in any other family would never have reached