

CLUB NOTES

THE WEEK'S REVIEW

One of the most practical and helpful organizations today is the National League of Women Workers, which is made up of five associations—of Connecticut, Long Island, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and New York state. It includes one hundred clubs in Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland, with a membership of eight thousand women. The league is governed by an executive board of eight members. It was organized in November, 1897, and each of the five associations composing it is represented on the board of delegates appointed by the officers of the association.

Organized in the interest of women workers and their clubs, it is intended that the league shall stand as a central bureau of club work offering counsel and help when sought, but not placing restrictions upon any club or association, writes Helen M. Winslow in the Delineator. Clubs joining the league are brought in touch, by correspondence and interchange of visits, with many workers with experiences in common. Thus they profit by the successes and failures of others and also contribute toward the success of the whole movement. Tangible and immediate results of affiliation are reduced rates for various publications, privileges of consultation about various matters of common interest and personal visits from officers of the league to the isolated clubs which do not come in touch with other clubs through the regular meetings.

The alliance employment bureau was originally established to meet the needs of women seeking employment, and to offer to fair and just employers an avenue through which they might secure reliable workers. This bureau found after working along ordinary lines for several years with somewhat disheartening experiences in trying to make the supply of workers fit the demand, that every year brought certain discrepancies. How to turn the undesired skill into a desired calling of marketable value became a problem of the league, and especially of its bureau, which considered the problem worth solution. Accordingly, it was decided that an experiment should be made. Any working girl who could take the time was offered instruction on a sewing machine. Of fifteen girls taught in 1899 every one found a place at once. In 1900 it was decided to make a larger effort, when the league was able to point out the thoughtlessness with which the average girl is forced to choose her employment, a fact made more apparent every day by the number of middle-aged women who, after years of industry, are without any special trade and consequently must be classed among the unskilled workers, and are therefore the first to be "laid off" when they least expect it.

The grave problems of how to train young women and how to make more secure older women set some women of the league thinking. One remedy seemed applicable for both problems, and that was industrial training. Consequently a summer school for working girls was opened in the summer of 1900. The course of training was eight weeks—five days in the week and eight hours a day. Over fifty applicants came and fifty-one were graduated, each receiving a certificate that she had received a training which would meet a demand in the market, teach her how to think for herself and bring out as much originality as possible in the product of her skill. The cost to the student was fifty cents. Each student cost the school \$9. Still, this proved to be a valuable experiment and aroused inter-

est everywhere among those departments of women's clubs devoted to philanthropy and altruistic work.

It would seem that neither the school nor the student regarded the work as expensive or as a charity, for the students were fitting themselves to earn a living, and the school knew it was meeting an economic need. The alliance, begun in a small way, shed a larger light on the need of industrial education for every child, and felt that the New York state legislature might yet grant to children the industrial training school for girls for which the New York state Federation of Women's clubs is working. In the school season the girls learned to work together in the fundamental principles of co-operation. Through agreement to continue and to help others with what they have learned grew a fine organization named the "Look-Ahead Club," which has held many helpful meetings.

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The York Woman's club met with Mrs. W. D. Mead last Monday. The afternoon's work was centered on the following questions:

1. Give Charlemagne's idea of freedom, also German idea. Through how many periods have we traced French history?
2. In what year did the Germans invade Gaul? How did Feudalism originate? How did the people obtain their rights?
3. Who were the serfs? Name the different classes.
4. How far did this system extend? Who was the founder of Feudalism? What were some of the good results of Feudalism? At the close of the ninth century into how many counties was France divided? How were they governed?
5. When did the Northmen invade France and what did they do? Who was the father of Charles the Fat? What scheme did Rollo attempt to carry out in 885? Where did he finally go?
6. Who ascended the throne after Charles the Fat? By what means? To what was his power confined? By whom was he succeeded? Who set the example of making necessity a virtue?
7. How was it carried on? Describe the ceremony by which Charles presented the province to Rolo.
8. When and why was the name of Northmen changed to Norman? What questions were the people debating as to who would be their next ruler?
9. Which was successful? Whom did they elect? What power did the king have at this time?
10. What year did Hugh Capet die and to whom did the crown fall?
11. When the year 999 came to a close what great change had taken place in France? During what years was the great famine in France? What was the truth of God?
12. Who was William, Duke of Normandy? What did he do? What were the results of the conquest in England? What were the results of the English conquest in France?

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George Elliot and her characters were the subjects of discussion by the Zetic club of Weeping Water on November 9. Mrs. Kennedy was hostess on this occasion. Following the program, refreshments were served.

Detroit has long enjoyed the reputation of being an ideal convention city. With its magnificent hotels, beautiful public buildings and parks, wide, clean streets and delightful river trips, this hospitable city has entertained at one time or another within the last ten years the annual meeting

of almost every organization of prominence in the United States.

Lincoln is becoming more and more popular as a convention centre for Nebraska. The annual meeting of the Missouri Valley Unitarian conference was closely followed by the State Woman Suffrage convention last week. This week the Young Women's Christian Association is holding its state convention in the Y. W. C. A. building in this city, the opening session taking place yesterday afternoon. Among the speakers from out of town are Miss Agnes Gale Hill, national secretary of the Y. W. C. A., of India, Miss Mary S. Dunn, of the American committee, Miss Emily Rodgers and Miss Margaret Thompson, of Doane college, and Miss Lena Sebell, of York college. Following is the program for this afternoon:

2:00—City conference, leader, Miss Mary S. Dunn.

(a.) Place of the Association in the community.

(b.) Noon lunch, Miss Henrietta Bankson.

(c.) Finance, Miss Emma Hathaway.

(d.) Gospel meeting.

Gospel Bible study, Miss Mae Sumner.

(e.) Problems of a boarding home, Mrs. Florence Andrus.

3:45—Necessity for the Evangelical Basis, Miss Margaret Kyle.

4:15—The Evangelistic Power of the Association, Mrs. Emma F. Byers, general secretary Omaha Association.

4:45—The Missionary Spirit of the Association, Miss Agnes Hill.

A reception will be given this evening in the Y. W. C. A. parlors, corner Twelfth and P streets, to which the public is invited. Tomorrow the program will be:

SUNDAY.

9:30 a. m.—Consecration service, Mrs. Emma F. Byers.

4 p. m.—Gospel service, Miss Agnes Hill.

5 p. m.—Farewell meeting, Mrs. F. M. Hall.

7:30—The Young Women's Christian Association in America, Miss Mary S. Dunn.

The Young Women's Christian Association in India, Miss Agnes Hill.

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One of the most interesting features of the annual convention of the State Woman Suffrage Association was the debate between Miss Laura A. Gregg, chairman of the state headquarters at Omaha, and Mr. A. L. Bixby, the poet-laureate of the State Journal. The point under discussion was: "Resolved, That the right of citizens to vote should not be denied nor abridged on account of sex." A consolation prize in the form of a large bouquet was presented to Mr. Bixby by his opponent the next evening. A less tangible but no less acceptable bouquet was also presented to him on Thursday evening by Miss Gregg, when she said: "It is with all respect for the superior years and wisdom and poetic genius of my opponent that I meet him on the platform tonight. There is not a suffragist who has laughed and cried over his exquisite little volume of 'Memories,' who does not agree with the little girl in your city schools, who, when asked, 'What is a poet?' promptly replied, 'Mr. Bixby.' It is not, therefore, that I am lacking in appreciation of the gifts of my opponent that I have dared to rush in where friends have told me that I should fear to tread. I yield to him the advantage of wisdom and wit and poetry, while I hold the superior advantage of the right side of the question we are about to discuss, and this is my only excuse for challenging in debate one whose talents I hold in reverence."

Miss Gregg said later: "Much as woman needs the ballot because she is the teacher of youth, because she is a taxpayer, because she should feel her own dignity as a factor in the building of our civilization, because she is a bread-winner, because she is amenable to law and must suffer, the same as man, any violation of it—because she is a part of the people, defined by our Constitution as a citizen, whose rights shall not be de-

nied or abridged—much as woman needs the ballot, the government needs her still more. Before the recent convention of the largest organization of women in this state, the Federation of Women's Clubs, Superintendent Fowler urged the attendance of mothers at the school meeting to cast their votes in the interest of more attractive and comfortable school rooms—that children may not be encouraged to truancy and driven into the streets by the very grimness of the building where they must spend the greater part of the day. I have not heard that any woman in that convention considered that the Superintendent's suggestions were incompatible with her womanly nature, or that any man (for several men were there) was shocked to hear it advocated that his wife should go to the polls and vote for sanitation and cleanliness in the schools. * * * While we have been building a commercial and industrial life that has challenged the wonder and admiration of the world, the home interests have been kept outside of politics, and as a result our civilization lacks balance; we are strong on material lines, we are weak on spiritual lines; we forge ahead in industry and commerce, but the home suffers. We have delighted to proclaim that 'the voice of the people is the voice of God.' If that be true, the voice of God has never yet been heard in government, for we never have had the voice of but half the people. And we shall continue to be a nation strong in material force, but weak in spiritual power; strong in intellect, but weak in moral stamina; intense in partisan spirit, but tainted with anarchy; great in commerce, but handicapped in its home life, until the great educational and spiritual power represented by the womanhood which composes two-thirds of our churches, the home-making element, shall come inside of politics and represent the home interests at the ballot box."

The most important business transacted by the convention was the election of officers, resulting in the re-election of Mrs. Clara A. Young of Broken Bow as president; Mrs. Amanda Marble of Table Rock, vice president; Miss Nelly Taylor of Merna, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ida L. Denny of Lincoln, recording secretary; Mrs. J. A. Dempster of Omaha, treasurer; Mrs. Mary Smith Hayward of Chadron and Mrs. Belle Sears of Tekamah, auditors. A fund of \$1,000 to be used for state work was pledged at the afternoon session. The headquarters at Omaha will be continued.

The afternoon program consisted of a symposium: "How Would the Enfranchisement of Women Advance the Progress of Civilization?" Mr. J. H. Dundas of Auburn, in a paper read by Mrs. Marble, made this very logical statement:

"The ideal in government, in society, in the home, is equality; and the further we pass from the ideal, the less is our human happiness. It was said many years ago that this country could not exist half free and half slave, and this prophetic forecast was based upon a knowledge of natural conditions. I do not pretend to say that in the home, the society or the government when one-half of the individuals are denied the participation in matters affecting all, that the conditions are of 'half slave and half free,' but I do contend that under such conditions there is no true democracy of catholicity. If that condition in which there is the boss and the bossed, the master and the slave, is the desirable condition, then the extending of suffrage to the one-half of the human beings who now are denied the right, is adverse to the well-being of men; but if true equality is a better condition than inequality, then the step would certainly be hailed with rejoicing by men."

Mrs. C. W. Damon of Omaha referred to Wyoming, which admitted women to full suffrage in 1869. In 1882 Governor Hoyt declared that "under this regime we have had better laws, better officers, better institutions, better morals, and a higher social condition in general." The opinion of Governor