Work of Women's Organizations in Portland Felt in Civic, Charitable and Educational Affairs

In Almost Every Sphere Their Influence Is Dominant—Betterment of Conditions of Less Fortunate Sisters Is Keynote of Their Activities—Homes for Waifs Provided.

By Edith Knight Holmes, Editor Woman's Club Department.

DURING the past year the women's clubs and other organizations have been busy and to their credit are many deeds of kindness, many acts worth while. In almost every sphere their influence has been felt and always for the betterment of conditions. They have upheld the standard of right. They have given help to their less fortunate sisters. They have been a power for good in civic and educational affairs.

Work of Y. W. C. A. Praised.

To the stranger within our gates and to the girls who live in Portland, the Young Women's Christian Association of Portland, is one of the most home-like places on earth.

In addition to all the attractions that go to make up the association, there is an atmosphere of good cheer and friendliness that is its great asset. Much of the good management and general air of the place is due to the splendid leadership of the general secretary, Miss Lina B. James. Assisting her are capable secretaries and workers. The board is headed by Miss Carrie A. Holbrook and the personnel of this board includes devoted and splendid women. The departments of domestic science, millinery, swimming, commercial training, employment and the social activities are all efficiently handled. Everything is done to make the girls feel happy.

Council Conducts Settlement.

While the Council of Jewish Women is a part of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, the great good it does in the Neighborhood House gives it a place of distinction. At this settlement in South Portland, hundreds of boys and girls and men and women, too, are given lessons in English, grammar, reading, writing, sewing, manual training, gymnasium work and other branches that help to fit them for good citizenship. Mrs. S. M. Blumauer is chairman of the Neighborhood House committee; Miss Ida Loewenberg is head worker, Mrs. Isaac Swett is president of the council. Assisting Mrs. Blumauer on her committee are Mrs. A. J. Meier, Mrs. Marcus Fleischner, Mrs. Julius Lippitt, Mrs. Gustav Simon, Miss Ella Hirsch and Miss Fanny Sonnenfeld.

The kindergarten is in charge of Miss Christine Denholm; sewing, Mrs. Ben Selling; dressmaking, Miss Regina Schechtman; cooking, Miss Sophie Blumauer; gymnasium, Robert Krohn; story-hour, Miss Lohengrin and Miss Silverthorn; Sabbath school, Miss Mollie Segal. The free dispensary in the Neighborhood House cares for scores of patients every month. The mothers' club is the source of pleasure and profit to many mothers of the district. The night school, the kindergarten, library, in fact all of the many activities that are found in the Neighborhood House make it one of the most helpful institutions in the West. The penny bank is proving a great success, teaching the children thrift and the value of money. The dental clinic, recently established takes care of the teeth of scores of children and is a great blessing.

The Daughters of the American Revolution of the State of Oregon, have grown in membership in the last year. There are chapters in Albany and Eugene and the baby chapter is Salem. Portland has two chapters—Willamette and Multnomah—the latter being the "mother" of all the others. Mrs. Isaac Lee Patterson is regent of the state chapter. Miss Ruth Guppy, dean of women at the University of Oregon, is vice-regent.

The daughters are deeply interested in preserving old landmarks, assisting in marking the old Oregon Trail and in encouraging the study of the history of the country.

Visiting Nurses Efficient.

Thousands of errands of mercy have been made this year by the Visiting Nurses' Association. General cases, confinement cases, tubercular patients have all been befriended and given medical care and the expert attention of trained nurses.

The association has offices in the Medical building and its nurses go to every part of the city. No call meets with refusal. To do all this, large sums of money should be given gladly by those to whom life's blessings have been numerous.

Mrs. Robert G. Dieck, president, and her board of directors work untiringly. The other officers are: First vice-president, Mrs. Thomas D. Honeyman; second vice-president, Mrs. S. S. Montague; treasurer, Mrs. Sigmund Frank; assistant treasurer, Mrs. H. Thanhauser; corresponding secretary, Mrs. R. J. Marsh; directors, Mrs. A. A. Morrison, Miss Virginia Wilson, Mrs. P. J. Cronin, Miss Katharine Gile, Mrs. Kate Mather, Mrs. R. L. Sabin, Mrs. H. L. Corbett, Miss Valentine Prichard, Mrs. James Kerr, Mrs. C. U. Gantenbein, Mrs. J. C. E. King, Mrs. A. F. Biles.

The great event of the coming year will be the annual Valentine tea which will be given by the Visiting Nurse Association.

Grade Teachers Active.

The Portland Grade Teachers' Association has approximately 600 members. The association was organized to secure sociability among the members, to stimulate professional study and to protect interests of grade teachers. Because women of Oregon have full vote, the association has been able to help in securing laws for the welfare of women and children. They have assisted the other federated clubs in carrying through five laws. They have given money for various causes for the general good, such as for the biennial council meeting, the scholarship loan fund and for charity.

Through the committee of teachers' affairs suggestions have been made to the School Board for improving school conditions. Because the teachers are organized, access to courses of study has been obtained. These classes include swimming, dancing, Spanish, first-aid to the injured and college extension. Receptions to new teachers, banquets, parties and teas have been given. A monthly business meeting is held and semi-monthly representative meetings. In the latter the president meets one representative from each school building.

Through organization the association has kept in close touch with the School Boards and Superintendents. Teachers' positions have been taken out of politics and efficient teachers have been secured through tenure. Miss Viola Ortschild is president of the association.

Catholic League Practical.

In all the country it would be difficult to find a better organization than the Catholic Woman's League. At their headquarters, 129 Fourth street, they conduct a lunchroom, restroom and employment bureau. The spirit of friendliness that the stranger feels immediately on stepping within the doors is one of the factors in the league's success. About seven years ago the organization was formed with a mere handful of members and a limited scope of work. Now at the headquarters daily at noon hundreds of girls get their lunch—it is not necessary to buy everything. One may take a little sandwich and piece of cake in a paper bag and buy a cup of tea, a glass of milk or some hot soup. The girl who spends a dime is as welcome as she who buys a more elaborate meal; however, one cannot run up a very large bill, for everything is so reasonable in price.

In the restroom, which is open to any girls who wish to use it, there are easy chairs, a table filled with magazines, a clean, comfortable bed screened off from the rest of the room and ever so many "homey" things that attract the eye and are restful and in good taste.

The employment bureau is in charge of Miss Nellie Bruce, who is a genius in her department. She investigates every case and finds the jobs to suit the girls, the girls to suit the employers. Another jewel is Miss Margaret Flaherty, superintendent, who knows all about the league, the members, directors and the girls who come there for friendship.

Before Christmas the league conducted a sale of holiday articles for the benefit of women who needed to earn money by making fancy work. No commission was charged the consignors.

The officers of the Catholic Woman's League are: Mrs. Felix Isherwood, president; Mrs. John Manning, first vice-president; Mrs. J. C. Costello, second vice-president; Mrs. Andrew C. Smith, third vice-president; Mrs. John Maginnis, secretary; Mrs. B. Gildner, financial secretary; Mrs. Mary McKay, treasurer; Mrs. J. B. Coffey, assistant secretary.

Mrs. James Laidlaw was the first president of the league. Mrs. J. D. Sullivan followed her and then came Mrs. John Manning, who was Mrs. Isherwood's predecessor.

The Fruit and Flower Mission was organized in 1885 by eight young girls. The object was to make weekly visits to hospitals and to individuals who were ill, carrying to them fruit, flowers, jellies and similar gifts. In 1906, with the assistance of Mrs. Arthur M. Dodge, president of the Federation of Day Nurseries, the first Day Nursery was organized. Money was obtained from the contest conducted by Olds, Wortman & King for the most popular charity. The opening was on Easter Monday, 1906. At that time the average daily attendance was six children. At present the average per day is 30. There are 49 families represented among the children who are cared for at the day nursery. Last year there were 10,864 children cared for.

The object of the nursery is to give the proper care and attention to children of working women. Ten cents per day is the fee and little ones from tiny infants to those of 7 years are taken. The hours are from 7 A. M. to 6:30 P. M. The medical care is under the charge of Dr. James W. Rosenfeld; the dental care, under Dr. J. E. Stevenson. The sleeping-room with its tiny, clean white cribs; the living-room, where the youngsters play; and the dining-room are spotless and inviting; every room, in fact, is a model of cleanliness and good order. Trained nurses care for the little charges; some of the young women of the mission go to the nursery and tell the children stories; two meals are provided; mothers are given assistance when they are out of work; on Thanksgiving there is always a big dinner and on Christmas a tree with gifts for the youngsters and boxes for the mothers.

Other work done by the mission includes weekly visits to the County Hospital, giving flowers, fruits and magazines to the sick and an annual May day visit to the Multnomah Poor Farm. The Fruit and Flower Mission is supported by the dues of the 306 members; the annual subscriptions, donations and an annual affair at which money is raised.

It is the aim of the organization to establish the nursery in a downtown district; to be able to care for more children; to have a kindergarten at least six months in the year and to establish an employment bureau.

The cause is worthy and should be supported. Poor women are permitted to go to work in perfect peace of mind, knowing full well that their babes are being cared for by skilled and loving hands. The officers of the Fruit and Flower Mission are: Miss Harriet Jellison, president; Miss Gresta Butterfield, first vice-president; Mrs. Everett Ames, second vice-president; Mrs. Lawrence Knapp, secretary; Mrs. W. C. Fox, treasurer; Mrs. Alma D. Katz, Miss Augusta Marshall, Mrs. George W. McPherson and Mrs. Otis B. Wright, directors.

Baby Home Well Managed.

The Baby Home was organized over 25 years ago and has in that time sheltered a large number of homeless little mites of humanity — orphans, foundlings, half orphans, children of widows and babies born out of wedlock. And to all of these the best of care has been given. The children are cared for until they reach the age of three. Many are placed out for adoption, but in all cases the homes to which they are sent are thoroughly investigated. The child is placed out on trial for six months and then if all is satisfactory adoption papers are taken out.

The babies are fed scientifically-prepared modified milk and each individual case is given individual thought and care. There is no wholesale business in the planning for these youngsters. To the doctors who have looked after the health of the children great praise is due. To the matron and nurses, also, honors are due. In the Baby Home the spirit of love abides. There is not the coldness found in so many places of the kind. Mrs. D. C. Burns is president. Many of the officers have served for several years.

Federation Is Effectual.

Mrs. C. H. Castner, president of the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs, started her term of office by appointing capable women as committee chairmen. Prior to her election she was chairman of civics for the state and for her successor she has named Mrs. J. Riley Craven, of Dallas, chairman of the civics committee, who will be in charge of next year's Cleanup day.

Other chairmen of standing committees are: Art, Mrs. Alice Welster, of Portland; chautauqua, Mrs. C. W. Evans, of Oregon City; civil service, Mrs. John Hailey, Jr., of Pendleton; education, Mrs. W. W. Rodwell, of Hood River; conservation, Mrs. F. A. Elliott, of Salem; home economics, Miss Eva Milam, of Corvallis; immigration, Mrs. A. Bernstein, of Portland; legislative, Mrs. Millie Trumbull, of Portland; literature and library, Mrs. C. J. Edwards, of Tillamook; music, Mrs. H. A. Heppner, of Portland; press, Miss Alice Joyce, of Portland; public health, Mrs. Sarah A. Evans, of Portland; transportation, Jewel E. Bruce, of Portland; scholarship loan fund, Mrs. F. Eggert, of Portland.

Chairmen of special committees are: Duniway memorial, Mrs. A. C. Hampton, of Pendleton; industrial relations, Mrs. L. F. Additon, of Lents; revision of constitution, Mrs. F. W. Brooks, of Portland; resolutions, Mrs. S. M. Blumauer, of Portland.

Portland Woman's Union.

Anna Lewis Hall, the boarding home for self-supporting young women, at 510 Flanders street, is under the auspices of the Portland Woman's Union, which was organized in May, 1887. For 28 years it has provided a pleasant, comfortable home at a very moderate price. Mrs. J. B. Crozier, the superintendent, is well fitted by nature and years of experience to be a house mother to the 40 young women who make this place their home.

The industrial school conducted by the Portland Woman's Union at 510 Flanders street has 68 children enrolled for the Winter term. The kitchen garden class meets on Tuesday afternoons and the sewing class on Fridays. Mrs. Jay Smith is chairman of the industrial committee and Miss Margaret Hughey is teacher. She is assisted by Miss Mary Stuart Smith, Miss Rhoda Rumelin, Miss V'Ona Guthrie, Mrs. W. H. Burt and Miss Bertha Green.

The following are the officers and committee chairmen of Portland Woman's Union:

President, Mrs. Julia B. Comstock; first vice-president, Mrs. Elliott R. Corbett; second vice-president, Miss Elsa Grelle; secretary, Mrs. Max S. Smith; corresponding secretary, Mrs. H. J. Wilkins; treasurer, Mrs. William A. MacRae.

Directors: Mrs. Henry L. Corbett, Mrs. H. H. Northup, Mrs. M. A. M. Ashley, Mrs. A. J. Meier, Mrs. A. T. Smith, Mrs. J. W. Cook, Mrs. F. Steinhardt, Mrs. M. C. George and Mrs. Adolph A. Dekum.

Trustees: William D. Wheelwright, Elliott R. Corbett, Joseph Simon, J. W. Kerr and Fred W. Leadbetter.

Committees: Building, Mrs. A. J. Meier; finance, Mrs. Henry E. Jones; household, Mrs. Charles E. Rumelin; membership, Mrs. A. Ella S. Stearns; industrial, Mrs. Jay Smith; printing, Mrs. E. A. Sommer; publicity, Mrs. A. C. Holmes; Big Sisters, Mrs. Guy L. Wallace; traveler aid, Mrs. Elliott R. Corbett.

Among the other organizations that have accomplished great things have been the Portland Woman's Club, the MacDowell Club, the Ladies' Relief Society, Association of Collegiate Alumnae, Brooklyn Mothers' and Teachers' Club (one of the pioneers), Shakespeare Club, Monday Musical Club, Overlook Club, P. E. O. Sisterhood and many more.

The MacDowell Club has been helpful in music and in the study of the symphonies. The Monday Musical has given many fine afternoon programmes and has conducted classes. To tell the good each club in the state does would be to write a book. Each is doing a part and each is deserving of praise.

Apartment-house Construction in Portland One of Important Features of City's Development

More Than 200 Apartment Buildings, Containing Accommodations for 6000 Families and Representing Total Cost of $8,000,000, Erected in Past 10 Years—Many Structures Modern.

THE rapid growth of modern cities and the necessity of housing economically the increased population sufficiently near the trade or manufacturing center as to make access thereto easy and quick has proved the incentive for one of the greatest developments of all time—the modern apartment-house. Two decades ago the real apartment-house was an unknown quantity, and even 10 years ago it was almost a curiosity; in fact, the flat was the apartment-house of 10 years ago, while today in some of the larger cities as high as 75 per cent of the population is housed in apartments, and the percentage is still on the increase.

Portland has not been a laggard in the construction of apartment-houses, as is evidenced by the scores of buildings of this type on both sides of the Willamette River. There are in all more than 200 apartment buildings in the city, containing accommodations for perhaps 6000 families, and representing a total investment of about $8,000,000. An unbiased comparison of the apartment buildings to be found in the various cities of the Pacific Coast or even the whole country, will prove conclusively that the average of excellency of this type of building in Portland is fully equal to that of other cities, and superior to many of them. A careful comparison also will disclose the fact that rentals are lower for apartments in Portland than for similar apartments in almost any other city of the country. Apartments may be had to suit the purse of anyone—ranging in price anywhere from $15 to $200 a month.

Apartment Building Reviewed.

While covering a period of approximately only 11 years, the history of apartment construction in Portland would make an interesting book. It commences with the construction of the frame Jeffersonian apartments at Sixteenth and Jefferson streets, in 1904, by W. L. Morgan, who up to that time had been devoting all his energies to the insurance business; after proving to himself the possibilities of financial success in this type of building, Mr. Morgan followed his first experiment by the construction of the Wellington Court, at Fifteenth and Everett, and the Braintree apartments at Twelfth and Columbia. By this time the feasibility of comfortably housing many families under one roof was becoming fairly well recognized, and many property owners and investors began to consider the apartment-house as an investment. For the first few years, however, they were considered in the light of an "overgrown" flat, and were constructed rather inexpensively, being mostly frame buildings and without elevators and much of the devices for conveniences which have since become indispensable for the up-to-date apartment building.

In 1908 the more permanent and substantial construction of apartment buildings commenced. Brick buildings of four, five and six stories, equipped with elevators and various mechanical devices for the convenience and comfort of the tenants, were constructed.

About this time Mrs. A. B. Wheeldon (now Mrs. C. L. Horn), then proprietor of the Hobart-Curtis, conceived the idea of furnishing apartments for the use of those who were forced to live in hotels because of the uncertainty of their stay in the city or because of the desire to be free from the cares and necessary work of maintaining a house. Accordingly she persuaded E. R. Pittelkau, then proprietor of the Portland Restaurant, to erect the four-story building at Park and Taylor streets. This building was completed in November, 1908, and operated as "The Wheeldon" until 1913, when it was sold and rechristened "Glen Court."

During the years between 1908 and 1913 the population of Portland increased perhaps more rapidly than in any other like period, and apartments became very popular and were very much at a premium during the first half of that period. It was during this time that the greatest number of Portland's present apartment buildings were erected—as many as 50 such buildings being under way at one time. Each succeeding year has shown an increase in the average excellence of the type of apartments constructed—not particularly that all buildings are better than those of preceding years, for some which were erected four or five years ago are still equal or superior to any which have been erected since—but there is a smaller percentage of the inferior type erected each succeeding year.

Many Apartments Furnished.

After the advent of the "furnished apartment," few apartment buildings were erected for nearly four years that were not furnished either by the owner or a lessee, and today several of the best in the city are operated "furnished," and even Portland's most discriminating, semi-transient residents may enjoy the comforts and conveniences of the highest type of apartment-house just as well as the permanent resident; in fact, one of Portland's finest apartment-houses is conducted along hotel lines, caters to transient as well as permanent patronage, and is perhaps the most completely equipped establishment of this type in the Northwest, containing in addition to a fine lobby, ladies' parlors, ballroom, billiard and card rooms and other features for the pleasure, convenience and entertainment of its guests. The tendency, however, during the past two years has been toward a discontinuance of furnishing new apartment buildings.

In some of the Eastern cities there has been threatened legislation demanding the admission of children as tenants of apartments. No such agitation has been heard in Portland, nor is there any probability of it, for very few local apartment-houses bar well-behaved children, and it is a noteworthy fact that in many apartment buildings where children are found there are no indications of their presence so far as the usually expected noise is concerned.

It is also to be noted that with the increase of the number of buildings of this type and the improvement in the class of construction, finish and equipment, the general public has become familiar with its merits, and there has been a complete readjustment of public opinion relative to the apartment building. At first it was considered by many as a sort of makeshift or temporary "place to crawl into" and those who would occupy them as improvident or shiftless. Now the apartment-house is recognized not only as a necessity but also as the only successful economic solution of the problem of housing the rapidly increasing population of cities comfortably and conveniently near the business center. It is recognized by many of our most prominent, intelligent and thinking citizens as the ideal city home for the busy city man.

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