

WOMEN'S CLUBS

EDITED BY MRS. SARAH A. EVANS

WOMEN'S WORK

WHAT our duty is, is often one of the very hardest questions women have to answer.

Not that it is so obscure, but that sympathy, personal friendships, or a timidly born of centuries of suppression, warp our sight or pervert our judgment.

Every man that says the "amen" to the declaration of independence and says it fervently, believing in its principles, must be a supporter of universal suffrage, else why does he believe that "taxation without representation is tyranny"?

This is the whole question of woman suffrage. It is not whether politics would be purer or the country better or worse or whether woman would lose her femininity, or any of the other reasons that are brought forward to alarm her opponents.

Political Responsibility. In failing to do our duty it is one of the prevailing characteristics of human nature to want to find some excuse for failure.

Personal Application. Just stop, my dear women of Oregon, and think, if today one of the dear ones in your own home—your little child or your husband or your beautiful young daughter—were taken with the greatest

calamity and affliction that can befall any human being—namely, when your heart is assailed in finding that you must pass from your keeping with but one ray of light in all the gloom, the hope that by tender care and treatment they may be returned to you whole again.

Because you cannot walk to the polls and drop in the ballot that shall express your choice of lawmakers is no excuse for any woman in Oregon not interesting herself in politics.

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The program was delightful and every number well rendered. Miss Carrie May sang two beautiful solos, and little Lucille Collette, one of the most remarkable child musicians of the city, gave two difficult numbers on the violin, accompanied by Mrs. Simon Harris.

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MRS. HATTIE C. YOUNG OF GRANTS PASS.

JAPAN W. O. T. U. WORK.

Many of our women are now, and have been laboring in that country upon which all eyes are now turned—Japan.

Eleven years ago Miss Mary Allen West, the gifted founder and for years editor of our "Union Signal," was here. She was then on her way to Japan, where she was received with the utmost cordiality and hospitality.

Last summer the third young woman left San Francisco for Japan, Miss Kora G. Swart. On New Year's day her first report was received at Chicago headquarters.

In 10 weeks she received 457 new members, women and girls, 246 children for the Loyalty Temperance League and 475 more for the Men's Temperance League.

She addressed over 10,000 students in the schools. The official organ of the Japanese National Temperance League, in speaking of her labors, says: "Ever since she left the capital (Tokyo) for the north she has been teaching people by her public addresses and private talks that when people see and know the works in the individual house in which we live, i. e., the body—they naturally see the reason why they must not defile that body with alcoholic drink and tobacco."

The hearts of her Japanese friends are much touched with the self-sacrifice that would prompt a young woman to leave home and native land to administer to and teach a stranger people better ways of living.

Miss Swart, when last reports arrived, was still confined to her bed, the result of an accident from which she miraculously escaped without more serious results than a bruised knee, but which brought to her side a host of known and unknown friends who fairly deluged her with flowers, fruits, magazines and many sympathetic attentions.

The largest newspapers of Japan gave full particulars and much space to the accident, and as it resulted from the carelessness of a drunken jiu-jitsu man, it might be said of her as St. Paul: "It has turned out for the furtherance of the gospel." She is an heroic young woman of whom all women may feel proud.

OUR STATUE.

The San Francisco Chronicle, in an editorial of some length on the Scajawa statue projected, concluded by saying: "The project is undoubtedly commendable one. It is about the only way the present generation can pay a fitting tribute to a heroine who figured so conspicuously in early western history and performed services to the country of incalculable value. The association ought to have no trouble raising the funds."

Conquillie will take up active work for the Scajawa statue the 1st of March. Mrs. Snook, the actively interested vice-president of the association for her town has been doing excellent missionary work through the newspapers of the town who have most generously contributed much space to the history and

desirability of erecting a statue to Scajawa.

An Indian entertainment is soon to be given, when it is expected much interest with corresponding financial returns, will result.

SERVANT GIRL PROBLEM.

At the meeting called recently by the Woman's Century club and the Y. W. C. A. of Seattle, for the purpose of bringing about better relations between mistresses and maid, through an employment bureau, conducted upon new lines, Mrs. Ellen R. Miller of the Portland Woman's club, but at present conducting the school of domestic science for the Seattle Y. W. C. A., said in part: "This is a question of domestic service, not servants. We have this little corner of a big problem—to improve our relation with our servants. We want to treat them better and we want them to treat us better."

"We can't reorganize our natures, we women, and we are jealous of our class rights. But we forget that there is nothing degrading to character in house service. In fact, if you'll think, it is vastly more important to ourselves and those we love that honest hearts and good heads should help us in the house than we should have intelligent shop girls or stenographers."

"The habit we moderns possess of regarding our servants as our inferiors is the last relic of slavery. Our other servants—the grocer, butcher, hotel-keeper—are not debarred because they serve us."

"I believe the elevation of domestic service and the consequent influx of better women into it will work the only remedy we can hope to find. The only way we can effect this is to think it out. Domestic science has thought out the problem for us, and the fact that people have realized the need and worked for it for years is convinced when I say that every woman's college, industrial institution and most Y. W. C. A. branches in the country have domestic science departments."

Mrs. E. O. Carr, president of the Woman's Century club, and president of the New Housekeepers' association, and one of the most forceful and progressive women on the coast, also said:

"We have no right to complain if our husbands and sons manage the household, for the city badly when we are 100 years behind the times in our own. We women housekeepers are to blame for dissension in the household. We look down upon our servant girls and forget that anything that's necessary is right and beautiful. Think our house girl is the only person who 'serves' us out of all the class that are really so. There is a contempt in that term which will put all self-respecting girls out of the business as soon as they are able to find other employment, often inferior in effort and pay."

"If you want a good servant, how much more you want a good servant. If it is honorable to get people well, is it not also honorable to keep them so? Remember what depends on your servant girl—that cleanliness and safety of your family's food, the condition of their abode and of most of all an influence and example to your children, to whom a thousand precepts are but as one example. And then look over the servant girls in comparison to the nurses and think what we pay them. Think your girls are educated and what they exact from you. But I am sure the history of domes-

tic service will be like the history of nursing. Thirty years ago nursing was looked down upon, and now you know it is a profession for the best educated of young women. What we must do is to raise the standard of domestic service; make it a science and an art. The first step in that direction is to show our girls the advantages of a course in domestic science."

"I am in favor of resolving to ask each girl when she comes to us, 'have you any certificate that you are competent to do my work? Can you show school already?' We may be a place where we can send the girls we already have—help pay their tuition, if need be, and encourage the generation just growing up to look to it as a standard of excellence and a training school through which they must pass if they wish to earn a good place and good pay in their profession."

The views of these two women are eminently worthy of consideration and the results from an organization founded on such humane principles will certainly be interesting to watch.

SECURABLE IGNORANCE.

Women having no part in the making of the laws, could not be expected to be well versed in its many intricacies, therefore have often to confess themselves woefully ignorant as to the "why and wherefore" of the many things they meekly submit to, taking it for granted it is right "because the law."

Even the most unlearned in "Cotton & Bellinger's Code," if they read our daily papers, are aware that "ignorance is no excuse in law," and the man that did not know its mandates, gets just as long a sentence as the man who willfully breaks it.

As long as these laws confine themselves to the old Mosaic code there may be a reasonable doubt when men or women are seized in their violation and plead ignorance, but when it comes to the violation of the many laws ground out by yearly at Salem, it would seem most desired for the masses and any state could do well to encourage their study, by making them as accessible as possible to the public. In at least one branch of our state government some of the women of the state have reason to know this is not done.

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