

WOMEN'S CLUBS

EDITED BY MRS. SARAH A. EVANS

WOMEN'S WORK

The Club Is Not the Place for Petty Personal Quarrels

One of the greatest charms, as well as one of the most remarkable features of club life is its perfect freedom from the restraining powers usually delegated to organized bodies. Nearly a million women, held together with an imaginary line as the zones of envy, of the earth, yet a definitely understood, and yet as powerless to assert themselves. Except the few by-laws adopted to govern the individual clubs, and a few general rules to control the national body the organizations are absolutely without restraining power.

The general federation might be likened to a hive of a million bees with almost every one making a different kind of honey and yet not a queen bee among them.

A "test of membership" even will deter a club from coming within the benign influence or charmed circle of federation. In fact the whole scheme is based upon the unceremonious foundation of "club courtesy" and good breeding, and every woman entering a club is put, by an unwritten law upon her honor to uphold the principles which go to the making of a lady. That the club movement has gone forward, steadily increasing in numbers, and usefulness, speaks volumes for American womanhood.

Based upon this foundation it becomes the duty of every club woman to uphold the club with a toleration, unselfishness and courtesy greater even than in her own home, and yet how many women do and say things in their club that would debar them from a well-bred home, that she herself would not tolerate in her own drawing room.

This is the deadly microbe that is the undoing of more than one club. It takes various forms; sometimes beginning with a neglect of the little amenities of society which should be the rule of every woman's club life, and sometimes in the form of a "rankling sore." The club hall should be a plain where all women could meet upon perfect equality. The club woman that holds herself aloof from another member who does not happen to be of her social circle, only makes herself more conspicuous to all who wait for an introduction to a new

Bread Making Machine Awarded the First Prize.

It has often been a subject of wonder how many inventions had their origin in the brain of some woman, for it is a matter of record that the principles of many little home-made conveniences, crudely constructed to save labor by the busy housewife, have been taken out by the inventor and made into a great invention, for which he alone received money and honors. Someone even went so far as to make a tour of the patent office and "compile statistics" from the inventions that must have been inspired by women. The number would never have known of the necessity.

Probably it was this feeling of injustice that induced the Woman's Educational and Industrial union of Boston to offer a prize of \$50 for the best labor saving machine designed by a woman.

Twenty devices were submitted, the one taking a prize was a bread-making machine, which is a remarkable invention in itself and bids fair to revolutionize the bread-making industry of the world.

The inventor is Mrs. Lydia Cole Sharpless, the daughter of an old Philadelphia Quaker family.

An invalid husband caused Mrs. Sharpless to investigate more scientific methods of making bread.

She soon learned that the digestibility of bread depended upon how completely the tiny particles of starch have burst and become transformed into sugar of starch or dextrine. The result of this discovery was the bread-making machine.

Researcher's Magazine of recent date gives the machine several pages of matter and a number of instructive illustrations. In describing the principles upon which the machine is constructed, it says: "At the bottom there is a receptacle into which the prescribed quantity of water and milk is put and at the top a sieve into which the flour is measured. Between are two rollers set spirally with knives. By turning a handle the two rollers are made to revolve, the knives striking the flour lightly with the edges without pressure. This enables every tiny starch granule to become moistened and thus to swell and burst, transforming into dextrine as the bread rises. With this machine the dough is perfectly mixed in three minutes. A thermometer at the side marks the proper temperature."

When the bread is risen it can be put into the pans for baking without using any more flour to keep it from sticking to the hands, as when mixed thus lightly it does not form a sticky paste, as it does when kneaded under pressure.

The description of Mrs. Sharpless' first model is very interesting as well as amusing. With the assistance of a daughter, who was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, she constructed the model out of pasteboard—the daughter cutting the pieces while

the mother sewed them together. When completed Mrs. Sharpless submitted it to her friend, Cyrus Chambers, the inventor of many valuable patents.

At the sight of her model, he laughed and said: "Anybody might know that that was a woman's work made of pasteboard and sewed together." He took it away with him. The next morning he came back and said: "I have more respect for women than I had before. That model works beautifully. It saves me a lot of the mathematical part yourself." "No," replied Mrs. Sharpless, "I owe that to my college girl. Later when he put this rough model before the board of patent lawyers they were convulsed with laughter. Mr. Chambers said: 'You may laugh, gentlemen, but we seldom have seen an amateur model that worked out so perfectly.'"

Later Prof. F. D. Ives exhibited the machine at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, at which many eminent scientists and practical millers were present. Every one was more than satisfied. At the close Mr. Chambers said: "The thought that by the new process she could get from 12 to 25 per cent more nourishment out of the flour, but we have proved that she can get about 50 per cent more." When the first pasteboard model was later exhibited he said: "I knew she made the holes in the sieve with a darned needle, and she could not deny the allegation."

President McCallister of Drexel institute, who is a chemist, has seen the machine and says: "Why Mrs. Sharpless, you don't know what you have done here. You have done something that the technologists have been working on for years without success."

Mrs. Sharpless is an enthusiast for the higher education for women and when she is asked why she kept her daughter at college if she was educating her for a teacher, she replied, "No, I am educating her for life."

The United States government has just purchased for use in the navy one of Mrs. Sharpless' machines with a capacity for turning out 1,200 loaves at one operation.

Women of Massachusetts, and whose ages averaged 70 years. The club has always kept to just the lines it was organized upon in 1891. "Rest for the club women; rest from the exactness and limitations of the clubs." As a result of the "healthy bit of gossip" would form a delightful program for any other club. Julia Houston West, who was a charter member, and whose voice retains its rich contralto tones, always sings at least one song, and at the close of each meeting a circle is formed and all sing "Auld Lang Syne."

Helen Gardner, who was once entertained at the club, wrote: "Those dear old, cheery old Wintergreen still steadfastly playing their parts; They stood by the cradle when we were not— Yet today they have evergreen hearts."

Clubs Bound to Abide By Rulings of Federation.

In view of the approaching convention of our city federation, a short resume of some of the difficulties which were recognized at the recent convention of the New York City federation, may not be inappropos. Like our own federation, they have not been organized long enough to feel properly adjusted to take up the work in systematized order. Even with the years of experience back of the New York club women, the federation principles are not so thoroughly grounded but they pride themselves insisting upon a "go-as-you-please" pace in many of their public endeavors.

The first encounter in the New York convention came over the report of the committee on summer playgrounds, enabling the child to attend school till it attained the legal working age.

This work was decided upon by the majority of the delegates as the best way to supplement the work of the women who are making such strenuous efforts to enforce the child labor and compulsory school laws. It required \$130. Miss O'Brien reported that she had collected but \$90, the deficit being due to the misunderstanding that all the clubs were not bound to abide by a majority vote of the delegates. Until clubs realize this in any federation they had better remain out, and it was so forcibly impressed upon the New York women there is no likelihood of another misunderstanding, upon that score.

The club house ghost was also present, and was discussed to a finish with a strong sentiment in favor of securing a building. The high price of property was the barrier, but the consensus of opinion was that "club houses always pay."

Miss Priscilla Hackstaff urged that Mrs. Nathan's plea, that each individual club should have an industrial committee be adopted. Among other things she said: "Inform yourselves as to the laws relating to women's trades and industries, and publish each year a summary of what you have learned. You will be astonished to learn exactly how much influence women have without the ballot."

Mrs. Hackstaff's well-known position in regard to woman suffrage, and the ironical tone in which her words were spoken, provoked a burst of applause and laughter in an assemblage which is sworn to avoid political allusions. She also referred to the late decision and apparent victory of the teachers who had just applied for re-admission to the New York public schools.

By the decision of the court no teacher can be dismissed except on charges, but a by-law of the board of education places parents as to the school life of their children, and the teacher was dismissed on this ground.

The need of women factory inspectors, more probation officers, and more juvenile courts were presented. These went to the various committees, but the clubs in the city of New York, after include industrial committees and will devote at least one session in the club year to an industrial program.

Nor was the social side of life neglected. An elegant luncheon was served in the banquet hall of the Danmore, where the convention was held, at which many distinguished women were present.

Spread of School Garden Idea Among the City Poor.

The spread of the school garden idea has been most gratifyingly rapid, as early as this conference are being held in several cities to make plans for the work as soon as spring opens. In Philadelphia last Wednesday the Public Education association held a meeting to discuss the history of the school garden, the entire care of strangers without our frequent superintendence and thought; yet, with startling inconsistency, we will relegate the training and development of our children mentally, morally and physically, for the larger portion of the day during nine months of the year, to strangers, without a thought of occasional visit.

Mrs. Roy Wilson favored the meeting with a sister solo, after which the teachers and mothers discussed the subject of "punctuality," the great importance of instilling that principle, the bearing that such principles have on success in life, and the responsibility

Enjoys Club That Has Done Away With the Gavel.

The current number of the "Club Woman" gives a picture of Mrs. Michah Dyer Jr., who is said to be the champion "jiner" of clubdom. Among her many affiliations is one which lies very heavily upon the days of the gavel, and according to the "Club Woman," Mrs. Dyer wanted a club that would do away with "Madam President," and all parliamentary proceedings, to take one's knitting along, have a cup of tea, and a healthy bit of gossip as in the olden days before the days of the gavel. It would appear that Mrs. Dyer also wanted it to be very exclusive, for in shaping her plans one had to be 60 years of age to be eligible for membership. Among her charter members appear the names of some of the most distinguished

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hardship and want are the scenes that pass with right, sunny days. A young girl, inspired with the spirit of Joan of Arc, roared into action by the sufferings and wrongs of her fellow workers, instigates a strike. Failure disheartens the heroine, but the hero returns to Paris in 1870, and after two years, it was in the home of Maurice he found shelter during the siege. His most devoted service was made manifest when, after Hugo's death in 1885, he gave up his own literary career to found a club that some are pleased to call "Hugolatry."

"Joan of the Alley"—By F. O. Bartlett. A woman who had been reared in affluence, but upon the loss of a large fortune was compelled to earn her own living and brush against the "common people," while contemplating the seamy side of life, had this criticism to make of Dickens: "When I could read of these things without actual experience I thought Dickens was great, but now that I have as my daily associates a butcher, the baker and the candle-stick maker, and I contemplate them from personal experience, Dickens is detestable."

The point of view changed her entire conception of the worth of the great English novelist, for she could not reach down into the depths of poverty and commonplace toil and find the beauty of the human soul. And this is what one must do to enjoy Mr. Bartlett's book, for it is made up of graphic incidents in the lives of the tenement dwellers. Poverty, misery,

physical, mental and moral development than the boys of the same neighborhood. They were formerly known as the "Sildertown Toughs," and make their locality so unpopular that building lots sold for \$300 and \$400 each. That they are now worth from \$900 to \$1,500 each will show something of what the boys' gardens will have done toward developing the best traits."

After that it must have been both discouraging and inspiring to the association to hear from the chairman of the board of education, who warned them that in view of the many school needs he did not think it possible to secure an appropriation for a school garden at the present time.

Mothers' Meetings Are in Favor at Grants Pass.

The mothers' meeting held at the East school building Wednesday, February 24, was the first of a series planned by a committee from the Women's club of this city to be held at intervals during the spring term at the several departments of our public schools. About 35 of the mothers were present, and participated in a discussion of the subject of "Punctuality."

A continuation of these meetings cannot fail to have a salutary influence on all concerned; and will in time, as the meetings become well organized, and teachers and parents become acquainted with each other's methods, each taking up the thread of discipline and character-building where the other leaves off, and with the assurance of each other's sympathy and encouragement, bear rich fruit.

No formal program was adhered to for the first afternoon. Superintendent Young welcomed the mothers and assured them of the appreciation and interest of the school in their presence, and the interest and sympathy manifested as to their efforts on behalf of the children. He also gave them a pertinent illustration of the apparent lack of interest frequently shown by parents as to the school life of their children; too often allowing it to be entirely secondary to social and business life. For instance, we would not for an instant entrust our household duties, the management of our property, or the care of our children, to the entire care of strangers without our frequent superintendence and thought; yet, with startling inconsistency, we will relegate the training and development of our children mentally, morally and physically, for the larger portion of the day during nine months of the year, to strangers, without a thought of occasional visit.

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That Parents and Teachers Mutually Sustain in the Matter.

It was very apparent that those present fully realized their responsibility and were ready to assist and sustain each other in the discharge of it.

A larger attendance is hoped for at the future meetings. The subjects for discussion will be announced later.

"Indian Day" Becoming Popular Among the Clubs.

"Indian Day" is becoming one of the most popular features on the club program, and if the beauty of Indian traditions were better known, to say nothing of the historic value to be derived from a closer study of the American aboriginals it would prove such an attractive subject, there are but few clubs would feel they could afford to overlook it. There has come to the Scaevawa association a donation of tiny books of Birch bark, upon which is printed the Pottawatamie legend of the "Creation of Man."

The book is but a few inches square but contains quite enough material for work, to entertain a club for several meetings, if the thoughts it contained were analyzed and studied.

From whatever origin the Indians may have sprung there is a close resemblance in all their legendary to the historic chronicles of the Christian Bible. Here for instance, the light of the story of Lot's wife is almost repeated, and believed in by the Sioux Indians as firmly as the Presbyterian Ministerial association ever held to Bible authority.

"A beautiful tradition or myth is held by the Indians concerning the name of the Standing Rock reservation, North Dakota. On a pedestal in front of the agency building, is a rock about two feet high. In outline it is that of an Indian woman with a blanket covering her head, and a baby on her back wrapped in the folds of the blanket. The Sioux believe that this rock was a Ree woman. She was jealous of her husband and refused to go when the band broke camp to go to their camping grounds. The Indians have great respect for a brother or sister-in-law. So her two brothers-in-law went after her, and when they spoke to her she did not answer. One of them left his pony, and laid his hand upon her head, and he found she had turned into a rock. The Sioux believe that this rock was a Ree woman. She was jealous of her husband and refused to go when the band broke camp to go to their camping grounds. The Indians have great respect for a brother or sister-in-law. 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