

# WOMEN'S CLUBS

Edited by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans

# WOMEN'S WORK

## Unsympathetic Motherhood

### And What It Must Answer For.

A few days ago we were sitting in the Union depot awaiting an incoming but delayed train. As is our habit, we began speculating on the faces that were passing back and forth, seeing in some benevolence, in others temper, sorrow or joy; wondering what had been the life of this one or the future of that, and in our imagination flitting over the floor by climbing over the seats and doing all those childish things that every other little does when tired and waiting in a public place. The child was of that delicate sensitive type which indicates good breeding rather than ill health, pretty as a picture, but upon a study of the face, which had certainly not seen more than four or five summers, there was a shadow of something which was neither sorrow or unhappiness, yet was not so very far from either. The child was well indeed beautifully dressed, which would indicate the mother about the conditions where a question of finances could harass her or create ill temper, if such a thing ever was excusable. But then the shriek went up from the baby girl and a second shriek followed, then, alarmed at the resounding crack from the little one's head as it struck the cold stone floor. The well dressed, rather handsome mother sprang to her, grabbed her by one arm with which she swung her into a seat, and proceeded, after a good shake, to administer a smack on her back that nearly sent what breath she had in her little one out of her, while a continuous volume of blame and reproach was being poured upon the child for making such a scene in a public place.

The little one stuffed her tiny fist into her mouth to keep in the sound, while her face turned crimson with the effort and the hurt of the fall. We might have drawn on our imagination in thinking we saw the lines of injustice and resentment drawn tighter about the little one's eyes and mouth, but that was the only fact of the above narrative that we are not able to substantiate, but it leaves us with a thought to think about for many an hour to come.

Fortunately such cases are rare, and gross brutality not often encountered in a mother's treatment of her child, and in this case probably the mother would indignantly resent any such accusation, but it taught a deeper lesson than the mere act of unkindness.

It has always been one of our grounded beliefs that where the home training is good, the child will be a home life of a girl has been right there is no danger of her ever straying from the paths of virtue. We realize that this statement will not meet with universal approval, but in the present number will be cited to prove how this or that girl fell, after being raised in the most ideal home. Nevertheless, we abide by our first statement. A thousand things may enter in to destroy its ideal; only those within the innermost sanctuaries of the heart can tell what these influences may be, indeed very often they are not even realized until too late, and sometimes the "mist must roll away" before this knowledge comes.

Take the case of the little child who cracked her head and received a rebuke instead of that Christian science treatment known as the "mother's kiss," that is so potent in the life of every child. Possibly those nearest to that family would be saved and there would be no estrangement and trouble between the child and her mother. The home life may be all that a casual observer might think of, but it is not perfect, and the child may be provided and the child guarded by every safeguard, but the hurts of after life will and must come. When the heart is sore with the usual pathos and advice are strong upon that child, when the world is probably looking on with critical eyes at some misstep, who will the child turn to? Certainly not to the mother, who has not the healing kiss for her misdeeds. And there is where the danger lies; when the child has to seek sympathy and advice without the circle of a mother's protecting love and care.

If a child does not grow up in the firm belief that the mother's heart is the shelter place from every stormy wind that blows, she will not seek that shelter in later life.

If mothers could only realize that the very first years of the girl's life are the ones to prepare for the later trials, when sympathy often means salvation, many a girl would be saved and there would be less Crittenden homes, fewer north ends, and infinitely less suffering in the world. Inheritance is almost an exploded theory; there is nothing that cannot be done with the hands of a child; the world and all its possibilities are stored away in it, but when the campfire bottle or confidence man be found outside the doorway of home the hour of the child's peril has struck.

## Encouraging Example of Woman's Accomplishments.

As much talk has been indulged in within the past few months about the advisability of women's clubs doing civic work, and one very large club in Pittsburg having set the pace for many smaller ones to follow, by passing resolutions to hold aloof from all civic enterprises because it was wasted strength and endeavor, the account of the Woman's Improvement club of Vallejo, Cal., which has been thought worth printing in a New York paper, may be of interest to many Oregon women whose courage in civic work occasionally comes out in impatient expression.

"Any skeptic as to the value and efficiency of practical civic work done by women's clubs should read the attractive little booklet sent out by the Woman's Improvement club of Vallejo, Cal., containing the annals of its three year's work. The club was organized September 24, 1900, and exactly two weeks after the first meeting 27 galvanized iron boxes were purchased for refuse on the streets at a cost of \$113.80. A travesty of a city park was next taken in hand. The place was piped for water, 100 worthless trees were removed, the ground was prepared, and a lawn was planted at a cost of \$500. Altogether \$625 was spent on the park within the first three months. An additional \$129 was spent in April, 1901, and the year 1902 was spent in purchasing for the schools of the city, and a sprinkling cart was purchased. The women paid for sprinkling the streets from May until November the first year, and the next year turned the water over to the city authorities, who agreed to pay for street sprinkling four months in each year. The agreement was carried out only that year. The park department was not very grateful for the continued efforts of the club. Although a great deal of time and money had been devoted to the beautifying of the park, flowers and shrubs planted, lawns made, and trees and shrubs installed, the trustees refused to pay for the services of a gardener or watchman. The boys destroyed the park unless a watchman is constantly on hand, from which it will be seen how badly that town was in need of an Improvement club.

More money was raised and a gardener engaged for one month, and \$1.50 a week extra for Sundays. An extra week was engaged one day in the week to help the gardener. The annals do not specify the day, but it is safe to assume that the Saturday when boys were most numerous. The work of beautifying the park went on, and it is gratifying to note that the trustees grew ashamed of themselves after a year's time, and now pay for the gardener. This was not until the park was beautified, from utter destruction by the club, for in June, 1903, in the midst of a very dry season, the trustees found it necessary to shut off the city water in the park, owing to a shortage in the city supply. The club watering cart was fitted up with a faucet and a hose, lent by the fire department, and three times a week water was purchased and hauled to the park. In this way the lawns were kept alive until the rains set in. The usual course of asking the city for citizens in keeping their lawns and gardens in order, and offering prizes for window boxes and well kept dooryards was followed, and the town began to wear a new and



MISS BINA M. WEST  
Supreme Record Keeper of the Ladies of the Maccabees.

Improved aspect. Swings and benches were purchased for the park, and band concerts on Sunday afternoons were paid for. In three years the club expended \$4,355.44. It is now engaged in beautifying school yards.

This should be an inspiration to discouraged improvement clubs and civic departments. These women worked against odds, against indifference, and very evident lack of proper appreciation. Yet they kept right on. Such unselfish devotion to a right idea is not met with every day.

## Some Work of the Patriotic Virginia Women.

Some very laughable criticism is often indulged in at the expense of what some of the well known patriotic societies, meaning the G. A. R. or D. A. R. and kindred organizations. Some of them need laughing at when they are entirely mistaken the object for which they were organized, and the other has in most cases done honor to the ancestors from which they sprung. In a recent report made at the Virginia conference, D. A. R. Mrs. Tullie of Charlottesville said: "We have erected tablets to the memory of fallen heroes, we have contributed to the various memorial funds; we are now raising money for our Continental hall, and I think we have another privilege, that of helping in the well-rounded sentences etched in cries.

The well-rounded sentences etched in cries.

Of delight as the lunch-table greeted the stars.

Oh, staved is the body and warped is the mind.

So that will not rejoice to be feted and dined!

That will not rejoice to be feted and dined!

Called forth merited praise both in prose and ballad!

While the chowder of clams, and the coffee and cake.

Were declined, as time passed, but just for the sake.

Of a feeling that some one perhaps would call shame.

But the reality doesn't matter—'twere what's in a name!

Ah! the hours flew too fast—as such hours will—

And the sun creeps over the crest of the hills!

Playtime was over, the picnic was ended;

But the guests, as their homeward ways they were ended,

To dear Mrs. Evans and her smiling daughter, who so charmed the crew by the flowing water.

Grateful hearts tendered their heartiest thanks.

For that perfect day by the river's banks.

—E. S. M.

## Forestry Club Meets at Chautauque and Picnic.

The July meeting was postponed one week that the members might study forestry in the beautiful groves at Gladstone Park, so on Tuesday almost the full complement of members journeyed to the Chautauque, bent upon study from nature pure and simple.

"Thereby hangs a tale," and probably Mrs. Ogden's neighbors, where the party lunched, know more about the dignity of the forestry club than the members would be willing to admit, but as it was a day calculated to break out of harness the shouts of laughter that rang out over the wooded landscape, which certainly must have had more quieting effect than the lunch coffee, for the much tried president was able to herd them together about 4 p. m. and maintain order while the very interesting paper on the eucalyptus tree was read by Mrs. Wetmore, who had prepared it with much care and trouble and had brought specimens sent her from California. The paper was much enjoyed and attentively listened to, the only sign of refractoriness being when a hungry member began devouring the peppermint corns.

"There is the natural reaction after the picnic, and we feel disinclined for work. But if we do absolutely nothing it is much harder to make a new start in the autumn. I shall hope to have many communications during the summer and, above all, I trust that I may have a letter of your loyalty and friendship. There is not one woman in the federation who has not the power to send inspiration of some kind to her president and officers. My hope is for a close touch of heart between you and the federation, that together we may further the great purpose and aims of the general federation. Faithfully and sincerely yours.

"PRESIDENT GEORGE F. HAAS.

## Official Organ of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The first official communication to be sent to the clubs over the country from the new president, Mrs. Sarah Platt-Decker, is in regard to the Club Woman, the official organ of the general federation. The first official communication to be sent to the clubs over the country from the new president, Mrs. Sarah Platt-Decker, is in regard to the Club Woman, the official organ of the general federation. The first official communication to be sent to the clubs over the country from the new president, Mrs. Sarah Platt-Decker, is in regard to the Club Woman, the official organ of the general federation.

## Iceland Women's Progress and Legal Status.

"Way up under the aurora borealis in the 'Snowland' of the ancients, in the Iceland of today dwells a people who have borne and bred a race neither known to fame or glory, yet before Dante or Boccaccio they wrote stories, created romances and suns of valiant deeds on land and sea. As early as 874 this island was inhabited by a superior class of people, and although for a time all records seem to be lost and the place to all intents forgotten, the legends, songs and traditions have been preserved and today are forming the ground work for many a fairy tale or historic novel. Through it all there runs a thread of information to lead one to believe that in the very earliest times their women were of a superior order. Today for advanced and progressive ideas, strong personal characteristics and independence of thought they stand preeminent among the women of the earth.

Like all the dependencies of European powers there is much jealousy felt by the mother country, but the colony outgrows the restraining influence and begins to assert herself. Under the present system it is necessary in order to enter a profession to qualify in Denmark. This entails great hardships of travel and an expense almost beyond the ability of the Icelanders to pay. The matter of a home university has

## Landmarks Committee And Its Method of Work.

A new thing in club committees is projected by the Wisconsin state federation. The members are interested in a movement to preserve and restore old landmarks in the state and propose to appoint a landmarks committee to take charge of the work. Mr. Reuben G. Thwaites of the State Historical society has, at their request, formulated suggestions for the club women interested as follows: (1) The location, description and preservation of the Indian mounds; (2) the location and history of first buildings in a community—trading posts, fortifications, first dwellings, school houses, churches—obtaining photographs whenever possible; (3) the careful preservation of local records; (4) a study of the nomenclature of towns, streets and natural points of interest.

If the Oregon federation could find enough interested women in its ranks to take up this work, there is certainly no greater field for it, or better time. The work is of a nature which is both interesting and profitable. It is not only a valuable work to be done. As a rule women have more time to devote to these things and in the course of nature they learn more of the unrecorded history of the state than the men, and by attempting to gather it systematically much could now be saved while many pioneers are still among us, that will be gone with their passing. It would be a valuable work to be done. As a rule women have more time to devote to these things and in the course of nature they learn more of the unrecorded history of the state than the men, and by attempting to gather it systematically much could now be saved while many pioneers are still among us, that will be gone with their passing. It would be a valuable work to be done. 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