WOMEN'S CLUBS AND WORK

Edited by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans.

Stop Now and Then And Size Things Up.

We wish every reader of this department—indeed, every woman, every place—might read a little Christmas book written by Margaret Collier Graham and just published by the Morgan Shepard company of New York, entitled "Gifts and Giving." She has taken for her text the saying of a friend, "It is an excellent thing to stop now and then and size things up." And right well Mrs. Graham has managed to size up the conditions of gifts and giving, and, though she calls it "a sermon for all seasons," one need but go into any of our large stores between now and Christmas to appreciate how apropos it is at this time.

She says quite truthfully: "The mind of the most logical thinker goes so easily from one point to another that it is not hard to mistake motion for progress. One innocent, even commendable, action in our modern life leads so naturally to another apparently innocent or commendable that before we are aware we are involved, by what we really believe to be good impulses, in hopeless complexity. These have grown up about all our institutions, religious and secular. In some cases they have totally obscured the original intent. About no one observance have they multiplied more dangerously than about Christmas.

"Just why humanity should agree upon one season, or a day, for being kind is past finding out. It is an accretion of the ages. Will the receiver accept as a symbol of our feelings toward him this token of our heartfelt desire for his perpetual happiness and prosperity? If one never loses sight of this desire, no matter how little or how much he gives, he is sure to have a merry Christmas. And why not have a merry Christmas? Sickness and death may prevent it, but nothing else should. The man or woman who says coarse or sordid things about 'annual swaps' says them from a coarse and sordid soul. Those who give gifts because they are 'expected' would do well to examine themselves rigorously lest they be found to cherish some sordid expectation of their own. The key to most of the evils we notice in our neighbors may be found in ourselves. Never under any circumstances send a present merely in exchange for one. This rule carefully carried out would rob Christmas of its commercial aspect and restore it to its rightful place at once. Allow your neighbor the cheerful experience of sending you a gift without humiliating her by thought of return. Presumably she wanted to make you happy, and in so doing found her own delight. Do her the honor of thinking so, at least."

And here the author says perhaps the truest thing in the whole of her attractive brochure: "If Christmas is commercial, women are largely to blame. Men and children are guiltless. There is an unsullied simplicity in men in this respect. Of course, it is your duty and mine to give wisely—flannel petticoats to the poor; coarse things to those who have never had fine in all their commonplace, stunted lives; and fine things to those who are surfeited with fineness. Of course, there is a common-sense side to it. Certainly it is foolish to cast pearls before swine, to give to the unappreciative. But never lose sight of the fact that the object in giving is to make others happy. It is well to have a care lest we emphasize by our gift the hard part of life instead of allaying it."

Mrs. Graham strongly condemns, as everyone else should, the suppression of Christmas, and says: "Generally any effort to suppress Christmas springs either from selfishness or laziness. There is always somebody to be made more cheerful, and there is nearly always a way of doing it. There has grown up among us too much of the philanthropic idea in connection with the holiday festival. People need joy quite as much as they need clothing. Some of them need it far more."

The author devotes the last few pages of her book to the art of receiving as well as of giving, which she thinks is quite as important; and our advice, added to the many good things we have quoted, is to get the book and ponder well every word of it, and you will get in joy the 75 cents it costs, if you don't profit fourfold by its helpful advice.

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Mrs. Decker's Report From Conventions Visited.

Many letters have been received asking for reports of federation conventions just visited. It would of course be impossible to give detailed accounts of the state meetings, but a word about each may be of interest. A fine feature of the program of the Indiana convention was the address of the attorney-general of the state, also the industrial inspector and the superintendent of public instruction. The figures and facts presented by them were illuminating as regards conditions and necessities in that great state and will be, without doubt, a basis of work for the federation. The social function in Indiana was unique and most enjoyable. A high tea, for delegates and visitors, which meant a delicious supper, in the great drawing-rooms of Mrs. Ball; then all remained and the evening session of the convention was held, the entertaining clubs and townspeople coming for the latter.

Illinois of course was big and grand in beautiful Mandel hall. Everybody is at home immediately at a meeting in Illinois. The finest and distinctive feature was the reception at the Art institute with "personality conducted" tours through the galleries by noted artists, a wonderful opportunity for many. Sometimes it is dreary to sit on the stage but Mrs. Frake even invested that with an "at home" atmosphere. As for the addresses, perhaps the women of Illinois are not the smartest women in the world, but they set a fine standard.

From Chicago to Park City, Utah! A long trip, delayed by the blizzard and only arriving in time for the meeting, through the timely assitance of a "federated" husband from Salt Lake, who was providentially a fellow passenger. Splendid vigor and courage have the Utah women, one of their notable achievements being the establishment of a home for friendless boys called "Carlon Crest Farm," where agriculture and trades will be taught. In

Mrs. W. A. Johnston, member of the Board of Directors of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

a solid phalanx, too, the Utah federation has stood back of Judge Brown and his juvenile court work. The general federation art gallery was enjoyed by all at the meeting and its next destination was a city which is 14 miles from the railroad. It was warming to the "cockles of one's heart" to think of those 80 originals, and the pleasure and profit they will bring to remote towns.

From Utah to beautiful Boise, Idaho, our first-born and only new state federation during the past two years. No weak and sickly child that, but strong and sturdy with red blood in her veins, witness to that fact being that the new work proposed, the loan scholarship, received subscriptions of nearly $200 in 15 minutes of time. Some of the members attending the convention came 500 miles for that purpose. The report of the chairman of the legislative committee in this convention was one of the best ever heard, and it would be good reading for the Bulletin. The meetings were held in the Carnegie library building, which was erected through the efforts of the famous Columbian club of Boise.

Then to Portland, Oregon. Very appropriately this convention held its sessions in a woman's building, the fine stone structure, headquarters of the Women of Woodcraft." A friend wrote before the journey that one need not look for enthusiasm in Portland, because it was necessary to be "made in Oregon" if one expected welcome in the Rose City. It was therefore a delightful surprise to be received with open arms, to see how any possible reserve melted away until even the westernmost woman would be satisfied. Mrs. Evans, the newly elected member of the general federation board, is president of Oregon, a fine, just presiding officer, an indefatigable worker with a dauntless spirit. Many plans were made for new work, loan scholarships, civic work, which is much needed in Oregon, and which would give such bountiful reward. Rarely has a state such advantage of climate and natural beauty, the only needs being public spirit and love of the work. An evening banquet for 200 was the social feature and the exquisite picture of the big white hall with its decorations of autumn leaves and pink roses will be long remembered. One unusual happening in this convention was the presence of perhaps 100 men at the evening meeting, which was held in a fine church. A most interesting close to the three days was the visit to the Neighborhood house, really a home and industrial school, conducted by the Council of Jewish Women.

After Portland, four nights on the sleepers, trains five hours late, several time no diner, and trunks lost! but every bit of it worth while!

SARAH S. PLATT DECKER.

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Forestry Club Holds Monthly Meeting.

The regular monthly meeting of the Forestry club was held on Monday at the home of Mrs. John McRobert. The full membership was present and a number of visitors as well. The topic for the afternoon was "Forest Reserves," and the principal paper of the afternoon was read by Mrs. C. M. Cartwright. It is a subject the writer is peculiarly familiar with, and the paper not only reflected the interest Mrs. Cartwright has always shown in the preservation of the forests, but it showed earnest thought and research. The club was astonished at the figures and facts presented, and from henceforth forest reserves will assume very different proportions in the minds of the club members. At the close of the program light refreshments were served. The next meeting will be with the president, Mrs. A. H. Breyman, at her new home on the heights.

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Ex-Govenor Adams on Suffrage.

Ex-Governor Adams of Colorado says regarding the part taken by their women in the political corruption of their state:

"While the antis have charged Colorado's political evils to woman suffrage, it is no more responsible for our political shame than California women are chargeable with the San Francisco earthquake. Our election crimes have been men's crimes. Women voters have not stopped election frauds and corruption—true; but wherever their influence can be felt, it has been for good, never for evil. Good men have tried to break up corrupt machines and dethrone bosses, and have failed; but with the aid of good woman these evils can be curbed and destroyed. In Colorado our disgrace has come through the alliance of great corporations and party managers. While no revolution has come, no man acquainted with the facts can say that the woman vote in Colorado has been for the bad. Equal suffrage has brought no harm to either the citizen or the state. You may find a very few in Colorado who denounce woman suffrage as a failure. Before taking their word, their antecedents and environment should be investigated. The political ringster, the gambler, the lawbreaker, every interest that gains from the non-enforcement of moral and statute laws, are generally against woman suffrage. The very enemies of the proposition should commend equal suffrage to all good citizens. A cause may well be loved for those who fight it."

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Women Called Upon To Discard Birds and Wings.

At the last meeting of the biennial it was decided to add an outlook committee to the list of standing committees whose duty it would be to investigate and answer all suggestions that might be made to the general federation for work to be undertaken by that body. The volume of correspondence along this line is enormous and the president cannot give it the time it requires or deserves, so this committee was appointed to relieve her of this burden. Miss Alice Fletcher, of Marshalltown, Iowa, who is chairman of this committee, sends out her first message through the official bulletin, which is an earnest appeal on behalf of the birds. She says: "The protection of the birds is a subject that should be agitated until at least no club woman will wear a bird wing or aigrette on her hat. We are told that the birds are manufactured, etc., but let us not countenance anything that looks like a bird on our hats. Let us recognize not only the bad taste, but the cruelty of it.

We urge the clubwomen to send us just a few words promising not to wear birds or wings. Of course we all know this does not include ostrich feathers." It is hoped that if any club women of Oregon feel in sympathy with Miss Fletcher's work they will encourage her by writing to her, for it is a herculean task she has undertaken, and one that deserves support.

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Committees Named For the Next Biennial.

"The king is dead, long live the king," is exemplified in the history of the conventions of the General Federation. We hardly realize that the eighth biennial has passed into history before the committees are named and preparations are begun for the ninth, which will be held in Boston in 1908.

This week's mail brought us the list of the chairmen of the local committees which are as follows:

Mrs. Philip N. Moore, chairman, 8125 Lafayette avenue, St. Louis, Mo., Miss Helen A. Whittier, Boston, Mass., and Mrs. Charles H. Bonney, Cambridge, Mass.

Executive committee—Chairman, Miss Georgie A. Bacon, 39 Dean street, Worcester; recording secretary, Mrs. Lillian Breed, Lynn; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Lelia C. Pennock, Somerville; treasurer, Mrs. Mary Morton Kehew, Boston; directors, Mrs. May Alden Ward, Boston, Miss Helen A. Whittier, Boston, Mrs. E. A. Whitman, Cambridge, Mrs. Bertha B. Wier, Lowell, Mrs. Elisa J. Bates, Allston, Mrs. David G. Pratt, Middleboro, Mrs. O. H. Merrick, Brookline, Mrs. Emmons Crocker, Fitchburg.

The executive committee is authorized to appoint the remainder of the local biennial board and all committees that shall be necessary.

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Tuesday Afternoon Club Has Afternoon With Milton.

The Tuesday Afternoon club was pleasantly entertained at the home of Mrs. G. M. Gilines this week. Another Milton afternoon was much enjoyed by the members.

Roll call quotations from "Paradise Lost" opened the meeting. "The Author's Preparation" was a fine article by Mrs. C. Crogster. Mrs. H. J. Jackson gave an able review, "Outline Book I. Paradise Lost." "Satan" was at the mercy of Mrs. F. M. Miles, and "Fallen Angels" was discussed by Mrs. F. H. Madison. "Milton's Conception of Hell" was well treated by Mrs. W. F. Amos and Robert Smith. The general discussion was led by Mrs. A. J. Stiles.

At the close of the program dainty refreshments were served by the hostess.

The guests of the afternoon were Mrs. J. C. Pritchard, Mrs. Charles Steadman, Mrs. G. O. Jefferson. The next meeting will be held with Mrs. J. D. Hayes, 351 West Park street.

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A New Solution For Servant Girl Problem.

The overburdened housewives of New York see a new star of hope arising in the fact that a wealthy Italian banker of that city is about to open a school of domestic science in northern Italy, where the girls of that section may be trained in American ways and taught enough English to get along with in American families. It is said the girls of northern Italy are much superior in intelligence to those of the south and prefer housework to working in the field.

New York women are trying to believe that this will furnish a new source of supply, and will help to solve the servant-girl problem.

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The International Feature Of the General Federation.

The international feature of woman's clubs is the means of bringing women the world over more closely together in great reform movements, while the social interchange between women of all nations is full of promise toward the great goal of universal sympathetic understanding.

Many American women are active members of clubs in London, Berlin, Paris and other European centers. It is a constant experience of such women to receive letters from women who are about to visit Europe, asking how they may become members of foreign clubs. While the women visiting our country provide themselves with a list of American members of the foreign clubs, knowing that the presentation of a visiting card bearing the name of their common club insures a personal welcome and interest that tends to make a visit to our country doubly attractive.

The General Federation of Women's clubs recognizes the great value of international courtesies, and has a committee appointed for the extension of the work of bringing women together in a great universal bond. Mrs. Philip N. Moore, as foreign correspondent, has published her report, which says:

"Organized work is certainly not confined to America, but possibly the first incentive across the water came from our American women who, for one reason or another, are established on foreign soil.

"An example we are proud to point out is the Society of American Women in London, whose president sends a plan of work for the educational department. Others are the American Woman's Literary Society of Shanghai, China; the Pioneer club of London; Sorosis of Bombay; the interesting Museus School of Colombo, India; Sorosis of Saltillo, Mexico, sending a delegate to this convention, and the Karrakatta club of Perth, Australia, with a most interesting report from the president.

"An important factor in the life of the American colony in Berlin is the American Woman's club, of which Mrs. Charlemagne Tower is president. It is the first woman's club in Germany, founded 12 years ago; is serious in purpose, comprehensive in scope, and around it is rallied all that is best in the energetic American life of the German capital. It was established as a charity relief organization, assisting girls who came to Germany to study. It now furnishes dormitory accommodations and class work in French and German, and a general information bureau, besides being a rendezvous for all Americans."

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A Little Story With a Big Moral.

In one of the clubs recently, in discussing the evils of the slot machine, the question was asked if any of the members ever played for prizes at bridge, when another member told the following incident: A clubwoman had carried off the prize, which was a handsome one, at an afternoon card party and on arriving home called her son to see what a fine thing she had won. Looking at it with disdain, he said: "That's nothing, I won $20 at the slot machine this afternoon."

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Some Active Work By Kansas Club Women.

The Kansas State Federation has the best traveling art gallery in the country. It contains over a thousand dollars' worth of fine carbon photographs of the world's famous pictures, besides great numbers of books, magazines and prints sent out for study purposes. The magnificent state system of traveling libraries was established and presented to the state by the clubwomen. More individual clubs are working for the maintenance of local libraries than for any other one thing.

Then come parks, highways, cemeteries, public schools and other branches of civic improvement. The federation has furnished 15 free scholarships in Kansas institutions. It is now in an active campaign for a state law incorporating the free kindergarten in the public school system. Each year new manual training departments are secured in local schools, through local clubs. The Kansas clubwomen also support an excellent little magazine called The Cub Member and edited by Margaret Hill McCarter. It is published at Topeka. The October number contains a fine portrait of Mrs. W. A. Johnston, who is a member of the board of directors of the General Federation. There is also a little sketch of Mrs. Johnston's life and work, which is the history of a beautiful and well-spent life full of rich achievements and useful endeavor. One of the pleasures at the recent national board meeting at Saratoga was making the acquaintance of Mrs. Johnston, to whom this department is indebted for copies of Kansas papers and club news.

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A Deserved Honor And Well Bestowed.

The women of Oregon, and particularly the women of Portland, have been as a unit in expressing their pleasure and gratification that Miss Alpha Dimick was chosen president of the State Teachers' association. It was an honor well deserved, but in bestowing it the teachers of the state honored themselves by giving their highest office to Miss Dimick as well as honoring her.

Miss Dimick has been the principal of Brooklyn school for some years and there is no school in the city that stands higher in scholarship and efficency than the Brooklyn school, and it is doubtful if from any school in the city there has emanated so strong an ethical influence or so much been done to educate the children into good citizens as well as good pupils.

Miss Dimick has never considered her duty done when the closing bell rang, but has felt that the other half of the child's life—the time he was at home—should be made to coordinate with the school hours, and the school and the home work jointly in the education of the child. In this way Miss Dimick has gathered about her the mothers of her pupils and together they have learned lessons which she may now extend to larger fields.

Aside from the personality in the election of Miss Dimick, it is a handsome recognition of the women teachers of the state, who are vastly in the majority but who, for some reason, have never before been placed at the head of the association. It is one more step forward in the progress of women and but anticipates the time which is fast approaching when women shall stand the equal in all things with men, and brains and ability and not sex shall determine who shall occupy the exalted positions.

LAST CALL FOR THE

Prize Cookie Baking Contest

NOW, LITTLE GIRLS, MAKE THE MOST OF THE LAST FEW DAYS—PUT IN YOUR FINISHING PRACTICE TOUCHES AND BE READY TO

BRING YOUR COOKIES TO US ON FRIDAY OR SATURDAY OF THIS WEEK, DECEMBER 21 OR 22

We shall expect to see some pretty fine cookies, for pretty nearly every little girl in town will want to try for the splendid prizes, and we know there are some very fine little cooks among you all. Just think what an honor it will be to find yourself selected as one of the very best little cooks in Portland! And think of the splendid prizes! And it's all absolutely free.

Now, don't forget what you must do: Just bake us a little batch of cookies—any kind you like—all yourself—then write us a little composition on

"COOKING WITH GAS"

wrap the cookies in paper, pin fast your little essay, to which you have plainly written your name, age and address, and bring them to us on either of the dates named above.

THE SPLENDID AND VALUABLE PRIZES WHICH WE SHALL AWARD ARE NOW ON EXHIBITION IN OUR WINDOWS—SEE THEM!

FIRST PRIZE—A BEAUTIFUL $50.00 ELEVATED GAS RANGE. SECOND PRIZE—A HANDSOME GAS READING LAMP, ALL COMPLETE, and FIFTY OTHER PRIZES OF HANDY HOUSEHOLD TOASTERS.

A committee of prominent Portland ladies will decide which cookies are the best, and which compositions are the neatest, and these will win. After the judging all the cookies will go to the city's charitable institutions to help along their Christmas dinners.

Contest Open to Every Little Portland Lass Under the Age of 15

If there is anything you do not understand just phone our "Information Department"—Private Exchange 26—and we'll gladly tell you.

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RIVAL HEARSES IN WAR OF CHURCH AND STATE

Unblessed Wagon Refused Admission to Churchyard—Barred From Streets.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

Paris, Dec. 15.—The quarrel raging in France between church and state has been productive of much unseemly wrangling and some strange scenes, but nowhere has the conflict borne queerer fruit than in La Canourgue, a small town of the Lozere.

The progressive town council there has established a municipal hearse for burials. The charge made for its use is $1.25. As a further inducement to the public to patronize it, it is announced that when the cost price of the hearse has been paid, its service will be given free.

The church also runs a hearse for which the charges are somewhat higher than those made for the municipal vehicle. Consequently, the thrifty public manifested a preference for the municipal wagon of woe. But the pastor is a man of resource, and because it was unblessed, he refused to allow the precincts of the churchyard to be polluted by its unconsecrated wheels.

The town council met this move by passing a by-law prohibiting the church hearse from using the public streets. Thus, on the one hand, the town council has established a funeral monopoly so far as the streets are concerned; and, on the other hand, the priest has established a similar monopoly in the churchyard.

But bodies must be buried, however the temporal and spiritual powers may quarrel, and to avoid an absolute impasse, this form of modus vivendi has been adopted: The unblessed municipal hearse transports the coffin to the cemetery gates. There it is transferred to the blessed church hearse, while mayor and priest watch the procedure with jealous eyes, to see that neither funeral vehicle passes the boundary line which separates the territory of the church from that of the state. Meanwhile, funerals cost more than before. But until one side or the other gives way, or parliament intervenes, there is no help for it.

How a Ship Was Named.

How the Vixen got her present name is a favorite navy story. Commander Alexander Sharp, Jr., now of the cruiser Chattanooga, was navel aid to Theodore Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy, and at the outbreak of the Spanish war he applied for the command of a vessel. He was then only a lieutenant and was not entitled to a large ship. John D. Long, secretary of the navy, decided to assign him to command the Josephine. "Mr. Secretary," said Sharp, "my wife's name is Josephine and I wish you would change the name of the yacht I am to command." "And what does Mrs. Sharp say?" asked Mr. Long. "She said," answered Sharp, "that if you kept the name it would be the only Josephine I ever commanded." "Ah," said the secretary of the navy, "I shall change the vessel's name to the Vixen," and the Vixen she became.

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