

WOMEN'S CLUBS AND WORK

Edited by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans.

A Strong Letter For Child Protection.

Editor Club Department, The Journal—I have seen it frequently stated in your department, and pardon me for saying it—with a good deal of flourish and pride of circumstance, that the child labor bill required three club women on its commission of five members. If this is so, may I ask, and I assure you it is in no spirit of unkind criticism, I seek the information, why do they permit tiny boys, scarcely out of milk to roam the streets until nine or ten o'clock at night under the guise of selling newspapers? These tiny tots have been in the streets for years and years, and I have gone out of my way to watch what they really were about, and sometimes my heart has been made sad indeed in solving the problems of these little boys who I am positive has not gone beyond his sixth year. If for no other reason than his baby lip, he would be rejected, on age limit, from any school. This child is seen every night on the most thickly peopled thoroughfares of the city, and he hawks his wares unmolested by child labor commission or juvenile court.

I have thought perhaps he had not become hardened enough to come under the jurisdiction of the latter, but where is our child labor commission? But again we ask, is this baby not hardened enough to have some restrictions put either upon himself or his parents? I find my answer in the boy himself. To my questions regarding his name, age, last residence, I have found him quite an accomplished dodger of the law. He has already given me three different names, and has always answered, "I don't know," regarding his residence. The same answer has invariably been given when asked about his age, with one exception when he was subjected to a sort of sweating process, and admitted that "he wasn't seven, but his brother told him to say he was."

Something like 12 years ago, almost identically the same situation presented itself to me in the streets of Portland, and for days and through many weeks I interested myself in another baby boy whom I saw being allowed to roam the streets with a pack of papers under his arm. We had no child labor laws, no juvenile courts and no probation officers or any of the modern institutions for the prevention of crime, and moral suasion was an impotent force.

This morning's paper announces that this little boy, who I had seen in the streets of 12 or more years ago—while under the influence of liquor last night shot three men, one probably fatally, and he is today languishing in a criminal's cell. Perhaps it is in the interest of responsibility rests so heavily upon me today and I am constrained to ask, where is the arm of the law? If parents won't the state must look after these children, and that means a more boasted civilization and Oregon progress in law making, it is not being done is a reproach to the state and a crying denunciation against those whose duty it is.

(Mrs. J. H. E.)

The Forestry Club
Considers Things Practical.

The regular monthly meeting of the Forestry Club was held at the home of the president, Mrs. A. H. Breyman, Monday, March 11. An unusually large number of members and visitors were present. The principal talk of the afternoon was given by Mrs. J. D. Hayes, corresponding secretary of the state federation, on "Practical Work This Club Could Do." Mrs. Hayes is a good speaker and does not use paper or notes, which greatly added to the interest of her talk. She took up several subjects which related to the civic conditions of Portland, and which would add greatly to the beauty of the city if they could be carried to success. One of them was the beautifying of the grounds around the terminal depot. Very truly, as the speaker pointed out, first impressions are lasting ones, and the stranger upon arriving in the city very often forms away the opinion of the entire city by the impression he receives upon entering it. Mrs. Hayes illustrated these facts from her own personal experiences gathered in an extended tour of the west last summer. Another point the speaker brought out was the ease with which some of our park blocks could be converted into public gardens, where Oregon wild flowers and shrubs could be preserved from extermination and thereby add to the beauty of the city and the education of the botanist. Many other, equally good suggestions were offered, which brought out a general discussion and many questions relating to the flora and forests of Oregon.

Some plans were entered into for the observance of Arbor day, and it was decided that the April meeting should be devoted to a study of its history and significance.

At the close of the meeting the hostess, assisted by her daughter and Miss Cranston, served dainty refreshments.

Greater Organization
Watchword of the Y. W. C. A.

"Greater organization" will be the watchword of the Young Woman's Christian Association from now on. Heretofore there has been but one vice-president who performed the functions usually assigned to this officer, which, in most societies, is but a lay figure for the president. Determining to take up departmental work, which really means better organization, four vice-presidents have been elected, one to have supervision over each of the four branches of legitimate Y. W. C. A. work.

That all the committee workers might have an opportunity of becoming familiar with the plans, a supper was arranged a few nights ago, to which about 100 members of committees responded. The plan of department work was fully explained and a vice-president for each department was elected. An outline of the work each was expected to do for the following year. The vice-presidents for the four departments are: Mrs. H. C. Campbell, business; Mrs. Helen Ladd Corbett, education; Miss Holbrook, religious; and Mrs. Albee, membership. Each vice-president seemed to have her scheme of procedure thoroughly worked out, and gave it in a clear, lucid manner, each showing time and attention given to the work.

A strong religious sentiment characterized the tone of all that was proposed, and made evident the fact that while the temporal welfare of the girls was of primary importance it must be grounded in a deeper influence for her spiritual uplifting.

The new building naturally came in for much of the deliberations, and discussion that went on around the tables, and while there is to be a cessation of aggressive campaign work until the plan now being formulated, under the leadership of Walter Goss, is launched, it was the keynote to many of the future plans for work to be accomplished. Mrs. Lois Baldwin particularly was inspired by the vision

of a new home that would be open at all times and where weary girls could drop in of an evening for rest and companionship.

Miss McCorkle, the executive secretary, lifted her audience to the mountain tops and showed them, as God did Abraham of old, the land to be acquired, but drawing her simile most beautifully, showed them also that they could not possess it by remaining upon the heights, but by the command of God they must walk through the land conquering the giants of sin and misery that stalked abroad.

The evening proved not only a delightful social affair, but was pregnant with promises for great accomplishments in the future, and with a prophetic foreshadowing of what Miss Gage pronounced the Y. W. C. A. now to be—the greatest organization in the world for the uplifting of young women.

The Eugene Club Has Banner Enrollment.

The fortnightly club of Eugene is enjoying a season of unprecedented prosperity and popularity. Its membership the present year ran up to 60, which is probably larger in proportion to the size of the club and number of inhabitants of the city than any other club in the state. Library work has engaged the attention of the club for some years more largely than any other line of club work and the library conditions of Eugene at present testify to the efficiency of the work. While the club has in no way abated its interest in the child of its first endeavor, this child is so well matured that the attention can be divided and the club is now launched in active civic improvement. Many bettered conditions in the university city are due to the efforts of the fortnightly club and recent reports confirm the belief that some active and aggressive work is about to begin in a much needed direction. At the last meeting of the club the annual election of officers took place and resulted as follows: President, Mrs. E. O. Potter; vice-president, Mrs. Jessie Van Scoy; recording secretary, Miss Ida Patterson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. F. Osburn; treasurer, Mrs. F. G. Young.

Jane Pens Snappy Letter to the Editor.

My Dear Sarah Ann:
Joshua and I stopped in Portland for a couple of weeks on our way home from Salem, and I have been wanting to tell you how much Joshua got about the way the legislators acted. He said he had always supposed they had some sort of decent idea that they represented their neighbors' interests, but when he saw how they acted on things that were nothing about, he just made up his mind that he'd be more careful about the man he voted for next time.

I really don't believe he will speak to the man from our district. The funny part of it is—you know there is always a funny side—he has never been real sure that the woman suffragist is a civilized sort of a woman. Well, watching those men up there converted him. He's quite sure that the mother of his boys had as much intelligence as they had, and he said he was sure she had a cleaner conscience.

We were in the senate the day Mrs. Duniway's bill came up and heard that letter from the Anti-Suffrage society read. Do you know, my dear, that I think that was the smallest, most contemptible piece of work? Those women now as college students and ladies, and yet whoever planned that letter guilty of a low down political trick, doing just exactly one of the things they say politics will teach women how to do.

Really, Sarah, the more I see of the anti-suffragists the more I think that as far as they go they are right—I really don't think that you could safely trust the ballot in their hands.

I heard, too, that the chairman of the pure food committee of the Consumers' league is an anti-suffragist. Did you hear about the trick the jobbers played on her? I guess she has changed her mind now about the influence of women in politics. They say that, ordinarily, she is a woman of good, sound sense, but it looks to me as though she forgot how to use it. They tell me, too, that it was a great disappointment to the women who were depending on her cooperation. Well, we are never too old to learn and I learned a lot the last month.

Are you getting ready to put another woman on your school board? Isn't there an election in June? I hope you are thinking about it.

I have been reading accounts in the newspapers about the Y. W. C. A. work, and I think it is just splendid, but I do wish you would answer my question for me. Do the people who manage the association ever think seriously of the reason why such a place as theirs is necessary? Don't they know that if the young women got wages enough to keep decent and to live decent lives, we would not need cheap lunchrooms, and rescue workers and such things.

I looked in vain for any word that would indicate that these women were studying the wage question. It looks to me, Sarah, as if they were simply skimming off the top of the cup of troubles. I really think that instead of praying quite so much for comfortable quarters that they would learn

intensely amusing to listen to her comments, but you can't help but have an uneasy consciousness that you take your turn with her other victims.

As an entertaining woman she is sought by all men, but no one man seems to fall in love with her. They fight shy of that highly developed sense of humor of hers.

A man of my acquaintance says his chief amusement in life is his wife's failure to see the point in a joke. "She is so deliciously at sea," he says, "and when she does grasp a point it is never the one you mean."

That man's sense of humor is exceedingly well developed, I should say, when he is able to see a joke in what would drive some people to distraction or divorce.

Far be it from me to commend stupidity in my own sex, and a woman without having an especially highly developed sense of humor still be able to intelligently grasp a joke.

I merely maintain that it is a great mistake for a woman to place humor above sympathy.

Humor frequently makes enemies; sympathy invariably makes friends.

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WOMAN'S SENSE OF HUMOR
By Beatrice Fairfax.

WOMAN, as a whole, is considered to have no sense of humor.

In fact, her lack of appreciation of a joke is a standard jest among the men folk.

The write funny stories about it and get paid large prices. The jokes in comic papers, and all because woman's sense of humor does not lie along the same lines as their own.

The real truth of the matter is that men don't want woman to have a sense of humor. They are afraid of the woman who is very quick to see a joke.

They feel that as she is so quick to see the ridiculous side of things, she will be equally quick to see the ridiculous side of them, and that no man can stand.

The voltaire, who so thoroughly understood mankind, prayed "God, make my enemies ridiculous."

A keen sense of humor makes life much easier for the person who possesses it, but in the case of a woman there is great danger of sacrificing her loveliness at the altar of her humor.

It is better for a woman to be sympathetic than humorous.

The person with a very keen sense of humor is apt to laugh in the wrong place, and is constantly hurting the feelings of others. The funny side always strikes first.

I know a woman who always sees the funny side of every person. It's

more and receive more "guidance" if they worked more in uncomfortable neighborhoods.

I don't blame them, they are doing their best, but they are working without positive knowledge of conditions. And you remember how our old professor at school used to hammer at us that we must not expect to achieve lasting results unless we based some part of our calculations on "positive knowledge."

Goodbye, my dear; I shall save the rest of the things that trouble me until my next letter. Your affectionate

JANE

Some Conclusive Facts Favoring Women School Directors.

Chester county, Pennsylvania, has 34 women school directors, out of the whole number of 456. They represent 17 districts. As to whether the women directors are a success, the Reading (Pa.) Eagle says:

"The question is best answered by observing results. In a Chester county school directors' convention a visitor might imagine women in the majority as holders of this office. As a rule, the women directors attend these gatherings, while other business often prevents many of the men from being present. . . . Teachers seem to agree that the ideal school board should be composed of three women and three men. Such a happy state of affairs exists in London Grove, Pennsylvania and West Whiteland, East Bradford and four women on its school board. Several other townships have two, while in a few instances one lone woman is found. It is said that women directors visit the schools more frequently than the men, and take a more personal interest in the school work."

The matter of women school directors is now under discussion in the Massachusetts legislature. Thirty-three years ago matters had arrived at such a condition in the Boston schools that it was imperative that women be given a place on the school board and a law was enacted to that effect and two women were elected, Lucy M. Peabody and Abby M. May, who served with excellent results. One woman, Mrs. Emily A. Field, was continuously elected for 20 years. But the position of school director has its political advantages. If for nothing but as a stepping stone to greater political prominence, and by some method of restricting and cutting down the number it now seems probable that Boston, at least, will be without a woman on her school board.

To obviate this the people who are vitally interested in this subject have presented a bill to the legislature which if passed will require every school board of the state to have on it at least one woman.

A Distinguished Woman Decides the Important Question.

Propos of the recent debate in one of the Portland churches as to whether men or women talk the most, the following from a New York paper will be of especial interest:

"Mrs. Lillie Devereaux Blake broke down the judgment of ages when she told the Kings county W. C. T. U. that women are the silent sex."

"The men do all the talking," she said, "and we are the silent sex. There they are on the lecture platform, in the pulpit, in the public meetings. Why can't we be there? If we could talk I tell you we'd get a few things we want—we'd have some laws passed. The men say that we are the talkers, but they only say that so that we won't be able to hear their steady chatter."

"She gave a detailed account of the episode of the London suffragists and claimed that it was outrageous, and that they were perfect ladies, notwithstanding reports to the contrary. She also advised the women to make their husbands make wills, telling how unjust the widow's rights laws are."

"Go home and make your husbands make wills," Mrs. Blake said. "Don't let them go to sleep tonight until they have attended to this. Don't let them think that making a will means that they are going to die. They won't die!"

Our Legislative Defeat Is Given Wide Notoriety.

Mrs. A. B. Duniway caused to be introduced in the Oregon legislature a proposition for resubmitting the suffrage amendment. The women can get their own way through the initiative, referendum and referendum without legislative action, but if the legislature had voted to submit it this would have saved them a great deal of labor in the collection of signatures. The bill passed the house, but was lost in the senate. Mrs. Duniway was given the privilege of the floor in both houses and received many courtesies.—Boston Journal.

A Public Move
Worthy of Imitation.

Miss Katherine L. Craig, state superintendent of public instruction for Colorado, has given a prominent place in her official report to kitchen and flower garden work. She started this work in her state, and it has spread rapidly through the country. Las Animas alone reports 150 gardens.

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- Dressers in maple, ash or elm \$14.00
- Chairs, cane seat, solid oak \$1.25
- Extension Tables, solid oak \$9.50
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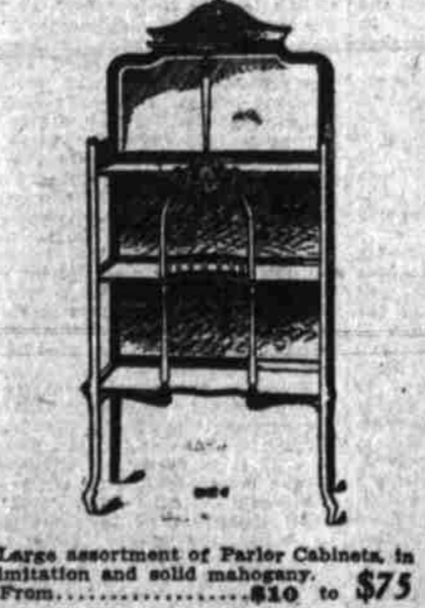


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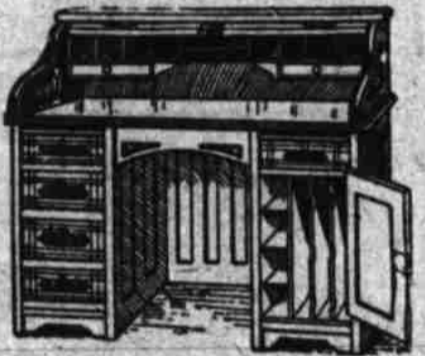
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