

# WOMEN'S CLUBS AND WORK

Edited by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans.

## Report of Pendleton's Thursday Afternoon Club.

The last year of the Thursday Afternoon club was one of splendid activity. Our year-book, or rather folder (for we have progressed beyond ribbons and dainty lace), is a very businesslike affair. It gives all the necessary information—as the regular meetings for the year with subjects for each afternoon, etc. There are standing committees on library, education, schoolroom decoration, domestic science, forestry, banquet and year-book.

The club maintains five departments—Shakespeare, history, German, civics and recreation. The domestic science department carried on a most successful cooking school with Mrs. E. R. Miller of Portland as instructor. Our class numbered 30 members, and the gentlemen on chafing dish evenings. A Shakespeare class, consisting of 25 members, was another delightful line of work originated by the club.

The largest undertaking of the club was the art exhibit given for the public schools, which netted sufficient funds to enable us to purchase 100 large pictures for the schools. In this the club took the initiative, but was assisted by the Current Literature club, the teachers and school children.

Another excellent thing was the establishment of restrooms conveniently near the centers of business where the wives and children of farmers, tired with a day's shopping, may rest and eat their luncheons. These rooms are furnished with tables, chairs and couches, lavatories and other necessary conveniences and have been a great success.

On special days, such as Fourth of July, the horse show (an annual event), circus day and during the district fair, these rooms are always crowded to their fullest capacity, as well as the benches in front of the buildings, to observe the passing parades.

We had the pleasure of listening to a most delightful Scotch entertainment, under the auspices of the club, which also left us with a neat sum in our club treasury.

Perhaps the very best work accomplished for civic cleanliness in both town and county was the setting aside of two public "cleaning days." By enlisting the hearty support of the mayor and city council, the public schools and academies and local newspapers and through their help and cooperation we cleaned the city alleys, back yards, vacant lots, streets and cellars. What would have been consumed, the rest was carted away. As we have no public scavenger the city provided us with five teams and wagons. We divided the city into five wards with a committee of 15 on each, and every man, woman and child went to work.

We kept an account of the loads of cans and other refuse (and I would be ashamed to tell you how many there were), and when we finished everything was in perfect order. Sidewalks were repaired, fences renovated and old decayed ones torn down, but what pleased us most was the spirit of good will which prevailed. And after Pendleton all the towns in the county did the same.

In library work we have not been idle, for we are working together with the city council for a Carnegie library. We have made up one traveling case and a large box of juvenile books as a nucleus for a children's library at Irigon. The work that we have taken the most pride in and which will be productive of the best results is the fitting up of a "model room" in one of our city schools. The board of directors granted us the privilege of selecting a room for the purpose of decorating it as a model. We purchased eight large pictures and had them plainly but artistically framed. The room chosen is the eighth grade in the east end of town. The subjects are on American history and literature and include "Washington Crossing the Delaware," "Concord Bridge," "The Ship Constitution," "Mount Vernon," "Battle of Lexington," "Courtship of Miles Standish" (a beautiful etching in sepia), with portraits of Washington and Lincoln, a large-sized bust of Lincoln, one of Longfellow and cast of Paul Revere. A large flag has been promised us, and with a few palms and other potted plants will make this indeed a "model room." We have another large picture, subject, "Stratford on Avon," which we will keep for our future clubhouse.

We have been instructed by the city marshal to strictly enforce the anti-expertation ordinance, which is a law gained by our president several years ago, and it needed looking after again.

We have been agitating the matter of the removal of the stockyards outside the city limits, beautifying the depot grounds and raising a cemetery fund, all of which takes time, and we expect to accomplish much more along these lines next year.

Our regular work has been miscellaneous in character and included, besides the literary program, several delightful musicals, Tennyson's song cycle "Maud" and Ibsen's "Peer Gynt," with Grieg's orchestral suite, were, perhaps, the most charming, while a study of "Our Common Birds" and "Eastern Oregon Flora" called forth much praise.

The history department, with 20 members, has done excellent work. The Bay view course in French history and a study of art has proved exceedingly interesting and instructive. The purely social side of our club life has not been neglected, as our last banquet was a notable event, and on May 11 we were entertained with a luncheon and delightful literary program by the woman's club of Astoria, 20 miles away, and almost every member was there.

The last meeting of this year was our annual reception, May 16, at which we entertained two other local clubs, the Weston club and a large number of other guests.

While we have not done all that we have planned, we feel that we have done well, considering our limited membership, as our active members number only 14. Several have moved out of town and others on account of illness have been incapacitated and unable to assist.

MRS. JAMES A. FEE, President.

## The Oberlin Women Have Much to Be Proud Of.

In Club Notes, the official organ of the Ohio clubs, an illuminating article is given on "The Pioneer Woman's Club." It is written by Emille Royce Comings, an 1877 member of the L. L. S. She says:

"The club women of Ohio have great reason for expressing pride and satisfaction in four historic events connected with Oberlin college, probably the four most important events in the progressive march of woman's present attainments both in club and civic life.

"First—The founding in 1832 of an institution of higher education where for the first time woman could sit in the classroom with her brother and study Latin, Greek and Hebrew books.

"Second—Having completed the same course of study, she was granted the same degree of A. B. or A. M.

"Third—The opening of the college doors on February 9, 1835, to colored men and women.

"And last, but not least in its influence upon women, the founding of the pioneer woman's club of this country."

The history of the club as related by Mrs. Comings is an interesting one, but too long to repeat at this time, suffice it to say, that it was the outgrowth of a desire among a few young college women for greater intellectual growth than the college was giving them, and perhaps with a desire to keep pace with their brothers in this respect. At the first meeting a constitution was adopted beginning as follows:

"We, the undersigned members of the female department of the Oberlin Collegiate institute, associate ourselves to be called and known by the name of the Young Ladies' Association of the Oberlin Collegiate institute for the promotion of literature and religion."

The article relating to the name was changed to the Ladies' Literary society, and that about the same date a fine of 6 1/2 cents was imposed upon the members for absence or tardiness, and this, undoubtedly, had the effect of producing a general feeling of Oberlin women who are noted throughout the country for being on time."

## An Effective Plan For Civic Betterment.

The "Society for the Protection of Passengers' Rights," composed of about 40 prominent New York women with Mrs. John Fowler Trow as president, is preparing to make a thorough investigation of all things pertaining to street transportation of passengers in the city and its environs. Five committees have been appointed; one to attend to the elevated, another to the subway, and another to the surface lines. Another will investigate transfer evils, and another will look after the Fifth avenue stages. The causes for overcrowded cars, for Brooklyn bridge breakdowns, the car ahead changes which are a great inconvenience, the dirt of the cars, and the lack of courtesy on the part of conductors, are some of the matters which the society will consider with a view to improving the transportation service. If, after laboring with the heads of the combined railroad system, a marked improvement is not evident, the society will take the case into court, fully prepared to sustain the cause of the people against the corporation.

## Report of the Work and Win Club.

The "Work and Win Club" of Ontario, Oregon, has been organized less than a year and what work they have accomplished has all been since October last.

The club consists of 15 members who have conducted a varied literary program twice a month during the past season. They have secured the use of a paper, painted and furnished a pleasant club and reading-room, where they have already established a 300-volume public library, and are caring for the same until it may become self-supporting or until the town will vote a tax to hire a permanent librarian.

Considering the small membership and the short time they have been organized, the members feel that they have reason to be proud of what they have accomplished during the past winter.

MRS. EFFIE LAWRENCE, President W. and W. C.

## Congress of Mothers Listened to Rev. Burdette.

On the Sunday during the session of the Mothers' congress, which just closed at Los Angeles, Rev. Robert J. Burdette preached a very effective sermon and one long to be remembered by the mothers who heard him. He took for his text Timothy's tribute to his mother Eunice and Grandmother Lois, saying in part:

"Thy Grandmother Lois and thy Mother Eunice. Two good mothers—one the daughters of the other. No wonder Timothy was such a son as commended the eastern and the love of Paul, one of the noblest figures in the world's gallery of great men. A Christ-like man among the heroes of faith. A great man and a busy man; but he finds time for a long, thoughtful letter to Timothy. And as soon as he begins the letter, he straightway falls to thinking of the young man's mother and grandmother. Why, the gospel of Christ had been preached only about 70 years, and here is a pedigree of three generations of Christians, and the third is a preacher. And that led the greatest preacher in the world to thank God for grandmothers and mothers.

"Paul must have known when he was a boy that priceless treasure of a grandmother. The dear, sweet, old-fashioned grandmother, who loved the title and the dignity that went with it. She didn't shine in her general knowledge of house ventilation, practical plumbing, village sanitation, general sewage and filtration systems as applied to great cities, and a great many other things that were wonderful when invented until grandmother had passed on to the world where all things are known; but the entire neighborhood shook their heads and looked sadly at the doctor if his diagnosis differed ever a little from grandmother's. And her children, and your Uncle Jim is another. And the generations don't improve much on that style of training, do they?"

"But they do a little. For if every succeeding generation of mothers were not wiser than the generation which bore them, the old world would stand still. Add to the old-fashioned grandmother the new-fashioned mother, who has justified grandmother's wisdom where it was the best, and has corrected it where it was faulty, and has improved upon it a score of ways as science and study, experiment and investigation have again and again trimmed the wick and replenished the oil in the lamps of knowledge, and we have today such a race of mothers as the world has never known until our day—such mothers as can be surpassed in all the practical wisdom and strength and glory of motherhood, only by their own daughters.

"What the mothers of their grandsons will be, depends upon the wisdom and the love and the righteousness of the mothers of today. Gloriously they will make, or terribly they will mar, the men and the women that will come marching out of the womb of tomorrow. God keep the world from idle, frivolous, wicked mothers. For as a good woman is surely the best and loveliest creature of God on earth, so a wicked mother is the most terrible.

"Good daughter of a good mother, choose for the boy and the girl as though you were the angel of God sent on the earth for that deed. Let the mother sanctify her life before God to

clean living, clean thinking; to the best and noblest and the purest in thought and word and deed; let hers be the life of a handmaid of the Most High.

"The mother wisdom may differ, but the mother love is alike the world over and through all the generations. I have known—I do know many women whose daily lives bring into my mind beautiful pictures of the Christ-life—the truest ones I know. Singing over the humblest service as though it was the highest joy. That's mother. Staying at home when she wants to go out, that the others may go out and enjoy themselves better without her. That's mother. Sacrificing this hope, that comfort, that desire, and that rest for people who forget to say, 'thank you.' That's mother.

"But maybe—and it would be done, too, if I was at the gate—maybe the good Lord will shut out a lot of families for about a thousand-years probation, while mother gets a little rest and has the best and most of everything brought to her by angels who just love to see mother enjoy herself. But then, going to heaven wouldn't make her any less of a mother, and she'd be at the gate every minute of the hourless day, watching for the children. So I guess I'd have to let them in, anyhow. But some of them wouldn't enjoy it, if mother was along."

## The Great Author Objects to "Harem Civilization."

Israel Zangwill, the well known Jewish novelist, has written a letter to the London Times, in answer to its assertion that the recent disturbance made by the suffragettes showed women's unfitness for the ballot. Mr. Zangwill reminds the Times of the Bristol riots, the "Manchester massacre," and other tumults that attended the efforts of English workingmen to get the suffrage, and says: "We should rather be grateful to these women for the feminine mildness of their methods." He adds: "The objection to female franchise is so antiquated that it has been abandoned even by such an oriental people as the Jews, the Zionist congress, which the nearest approach to a Jewish parliament permitting women deputies equally with men. But Europe still persists in retaining this vestige of the harem stage of civilization."

## Proves Her Faith In a Practical Way.

Miss Mary E. Anthony divided her estate of \$22,000 equally between Anna Shaw and Lucy Anthony, to be used for suffrage work. She directed that part of it should be used for work in New York state, and named Mrs. Crosssett, Harriet May Mills and Isabel Howland as the persons in whose hands she would like to have the gift for New York placed. The executors have written Mrs. Crosssett that they would be glad to turn it over at once, but under the present law it must be held for a year to meet any possible debts or other claims against the estate. It is now deposited with the Security Trust company of Rochester, and will become available a year after Miss Mary's death.

## Practical Disadvantage Of Not Having the Franchise.

Mrs. Laura Howie, secretary of the state library board in Helena, Montana, is having experience of the practical disadvantage of being without a vote. The attorney general has given it as his opinion that she is not legally qualified to hold a state office because she is not a voter. She has been secretary of the board for years, and has given good satisfaction. Now she and all the other women serving on different state boards find their positions endangered. A test case will be made and taken to the supreme court as soon as possible.

## An Astoria Club Doing Good Work.

The Astoria Reading club has spent a very pleasant and profitable year studying English history and reading Shakespeare's historical plays and other selections by English writers in connection with the regular season.

The club has used Walker's "Essentials in English History" for a text book. The club expects to continue this same course of study, next year.

## TROPICAL PLANT COUGHS

### Way of Freeing Itself From Coating of Desert Sand.

From the New Orleans Times-Democrat. "I heard a cough and looked behind me nervously," said a huntsman, "for I was stalking gazelle and lion in the Sahara desert, and having gotten rather too far south, I expected at any moment to become a pin-cushion for the poisoned darts of the dread Tougara."

"But there was no one there. The flat desert quivered in the sunshine, and here and there a dusty plant stood wearily. But though I commanded the landscape for a radius of 50 miles, not a living creature was in sight.

"Another cough, which swung around quickly. The same plant, yellow with dust, drooped in the dry heat. That was all.

"Hack! Hack!"

"On my left this time. I swung around again. A like plant met my eye. The thing was growing rather ghastly.

"As I regarded this last plant a cough came from it. Believe me, the plant coughed as though all over, and then, tightening up as a man does when he is about to sneeze, it gave a violent cough, and a little cloud of dust arose.

"I found out afterward that the plant was the coughing bean, which is common in many tropical countries. In the long, dry heats this weird growth's pores become choked with dust, and it would die of suffocation were it not that a powerful gas accumulates inside it, which, when it gains sufficient pressure, explodes with a sound precisely like the human cough. The explosion shakes the plant pores free of their dust and the coughing bean is in good health again."

## Involute.

Rare pearls are buried in the sea,  
Gems are hidden in the earth's deep breast;  
Leaves screen the rose, and tenderly  
The mother bird secluded her nest;  
But love, and love alone, conceals  
A wonder that no sign reveals.

We catch the sparkle of its foam,  
The far-off rainbow gleam eludes;  
Above the warm, sequestered home,  
Dove-like the spell of heaven broods;  
Yet with more grace, fold on fold,  
Love veils its inmost heart of gold.

—Ada Foster Murray.

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