

WOMEN'S CLUBS AND WORK

Edited by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans.

TO MAKE pretty and salable things and then be able to sell them are two entirely different things, as every woman knows who happens to be thrown upon her own resources and finds her wage-earning ability is confined to fancy work, dainty needlecraft, or homemade delicacies for the table. These things are not marketable at the stores where machine-made articles are so much more in demand on account of their cheapness, and few women can face the humiliation of offering the work of their hands to the friends of their more prosperous days. We find all sorts of sympathy poured out to the factory girl to the saleswoman, the woman who washes and scrubs and takes care of offices, etc., and nobody denies it to them for they certainly need it, for most of them have never known any other life; but there is another class, often just as hungry for sympathy, but who are not the favored children of fortune till often past middle life, when from one cause or another they are thrown into the streets, but no less pitiful—find themselves utterly without means, and their needs their only accomplishment. They do not know how to do manual labor and are not physically trained to do it; the occupations opened to women limited to labor are closed to them. Mind them that most woful foe to women of refinement—pride which cuts deeper than a two-edged sword. There is another class of women who must do something and yet cannot leave home—a sick husband, an invalid parent, or a child to be looked after and provided with bread. It is little wonder these things have touched the hearts of women until out of their great sympathy has grown that wonderfully helpful institution—the "Woman's Exchange."

Few cities, or even large towns but now have a place of this kind where women can do the work of their hands, whether it be dainty garments, beautiful, fancy work, or table delicacies, and leave it to be disposed of at living prices. In this excellent work Portland in no way falls behind, and since 1903 has been conducted at 133 Washington street, the "Portland Woman's Exchange," with great credit to the women who have it in charge and to the profit and support of many deserving women. It is the aim of the exchange while helping financially to also help women to do their work in the best possible manner; to assist them to acquire business habits; to convince them there is always a demand for skilled labor and to prove that efficient wage-earners command respect in every community. A few examples will show the practical nature of the exchange's work. For two years one consignee received \$128.40 for 12 months; another consignee received \$1,036, and for 18 months a third consignee received \$57.81.

To support this work the women in charge conduct a lunch room in connection with the exchange, where the most delightful and dainty lunches are served between 11:30 and 2 o'clock, with a tea from 2 to 5:30 p. m. Hot school lunches, by special arrangement with the superintendent, are served quickly. The exchange also makes a specialty of serving particular dishes and dainties for social functions, and by all these measures it works to support the exchange and to help women made in their homes. While it is a noble work it is arduous and often times tiring, for its success so largely depends on the sympathy—which means patronage, of the public and this everyone knows is a tricky matter, but the work is carried out beautifully, and a visit to the exchange will be well worth the time of anyone interested in helping rather than suffering women.

The officers of the exchange are: Miss Henrietta Felling, chairman; Mrs. Martin Winch, recording secretary; Miss Eleanor Gille, corresponding secretary; Mrs. William Alvord, treasurer.

In a letter just sent out by the board of the General Federation the following comprehensive reply is given to the question, "What is the Purpose of Federation?" The General Federation of Women's clubs is not a reform organization per se. It is broadly sympathetic with reform, but is not a philanthropic organization. It is not philanthropic in its nature, though one of the greatest agencies of the day for careful study of methods and genuine helpfulness in this direction. It is not purely sociological, though with living interests, and a splendid record of service in uplift work. It is in no sense political, yet its influence and power are to be seen in every state legislature, and it has the proud boast of having been a great factor in passing the long-disputed pure food bill. It cannot be called an academy of art, yet one of the best authorities of the age has said that the years of study and demonstration in the clubs and federations have produced the wonderful results shown in the schoolroom decoration and much of the art and craft movement, which a genuine love for and knowledge of art has instilled into the coming men and women. It is not a university, yet a surprising stimulus has been given to the study of literature, science and history in hundreds and hundreds of American homes because of the club membership of mother

or daughter. It has no bureau of publicity, yet through its membership of clubs and federations, it has been more far-reaching in disseminating knowledge to the public and solving questions which make for good citizenship than any other body of workers because of its broad, inclusive lines and their outside activities. Federation may become a mighty factor in the civilization of the century if wielded as a whole—army of builders, ready, alert, and not carried away with vagaries and irrational attempts. It is in every sense a study class and all who attend give the lessons their earnest thought and attention.

NEW YORK has just held its annual convention of the city federation, which heretofore has only been a one-day session, but the opinion of all city clubwomen is that one day is entirely too short to transact the necessary business, and hereafter two days will be given to its deliberations. In reporting the convention it was said that one of the most valuable checks upon time-wasting by many speakers was the rigid enforcement of the rule that no resolution for convention adoption could be made from the floor. It is quite true that the no single act of women's clubs generally has aroused more ill-feeling and warm words, and too often the ridicule of outside public than the presentation of half-baked, illegal or faddist resolutions.

During the past year the city federation of New York has increased from 12,000 to 35,000 members. Seventy-seven clubs are members of the federation and an associated membership of 350. There is a scholarship fund, which pays each month to a poor family the wage that a girl would earn were she put to work instead of school and it is paid regularly to the beneficiary. The City Federation hotel for working girls will soon be an accomplished fact.

The chairman of the art committee reported that resolutions had been sent to the mayor and charter commission asking that at least 1 per cent of the total appropriation for each school building be set aside for the beautifying of such buildings by the decoration of the schoolhouse instead of a prison or a hall of justice. Many other committees reported equally as good work.

MRS. SARAH S. PLATT DECKER, president of the General Federation of Women's clubs, is a rare story-teller, and the situation is well portrayed in the following incident, which she tells herself. Her name had been attached to a petition to the city council of Denver, but she had failed to indicate her occupation. Upon this point a man was sent to her home to inquire: "What is your occupation, madam?"

"I am a housekeeper, sir," she replied. "Well, that doesn't count," said the man promptly. "Well, I am both father and mother to my family," she said. "That doesn't count either," he replied firmly. "Well, I transact all my own business," she said briskly. "I collect my own rents and manage all my own affairs." (Mrs. Decker has a private fortune that it would keep the ordinary man busy to take care of.) "Have you got an office down town?" inquired the man.

"No," she said. "I transact all my business from my desk here in my home." "Ah, that doesn't count either," the man replied obdurately. "Well, sir," said Mrs. Decker at last. "I am president of the General Federation of Women's clubs, an organization of over 300,000 women, and attend to all my own correspondence," confident that this time she had provided something worthy the name of occupation; but that man just took out his memorandum book and said, "Well, I'll put you down as 'not doing anything'."

A HOME for girls earning not more than \$10 a week was lately opened at 239 East Thirty-second street, New York, and promptly filled. It is non-sectarian, and is to be maintained by the young people of the Epworth leagues in the New York district. It accommodates 18 girls, but the Y. W. C. A. says 50 such homes in the big city could be filled almost immediately. The board is \$4 a week. The girls make up their own beds and keep their rooms tidy. The heavier weekly cleaning is done for them.

DR. ROSA FLETCHER has been appointed a school medical inspector in North Adams, Massachusetts. The North Adams Transcript says: "It is not such a bad idea to have on the board of medical inspectors one member who is a woman, and consequently the appointment of Dr. Rosa Fletcher by the board of health to fill a vacancy in the office of medical inspector will be generally commended by the people of the city."

LANDSCAPE painting was touched upon at the 17th century that it became really important. Claude, of the naturalistic school of the Dutch painters are the pioneers. These rival schools hang side by side in every gallery. It was in the 18th century that modern landscape art was born, for to the faithful rendering of the outward form was added an appreciation of nature's moods. This is the essential characteristic of modern landscape art, this penetrating beyond the outward form into the very soul of nature.

For the next meeting of the department, papers were assigned to Mrs. Miller on "Historic Painting," and Mrs. Frame on "Oriental Rugs." The entertainment given by the art department on Murillo in which his most famous works will be shown in a study of his art to be held at the main waiting room of the Union depot, kindly placed at the disposal of the club through the efforts of Lester W. Ewing, on Monday evening, March 2. This entertainment is to further the general purpose of the study class, that is, to make us feel at home in a collection of pictures instead of lost in a strange world and out of touch with its inhabitants.

THAT the educational loan fund of Oregon Federation of Woman's clubs has been increased through the efforts of the Portland clubs at their recent card party, several hundred dollars, is a matter of congratulation, and great pleasure to every one interested in the work. The party was a success in every particular; every committee gave of her best, her time, her strength and her money. Never in the history of the organization has there been such unanimity of action. The women that worked went in to win, and not for self or glory, and the results proved the efficiency of this kind of labor. The burden of the work fell upon the four main committees—those who arranged for the hall and its equipment; the floor committee, who arranged the tables, made reservations and seated the guests; the committee that solicited and served the refreshments, and the committee that distributed the tickets, paid the bills and took care of the money, and to all their helpers who made the whole thing move like clock work.

THE Michigan constitutional convention has adopted a clause to allow tax-paying women to vote on tax questions. It provides that on any question submitted to a vote of the electors which involves the direct expenditure of public money or the issue of bonds, every woman having the qualifications of male electors as to residence and registration, and whose name appears on any tax roll for the same or preceding year in any part of the district or territory to be affected by the result of such election, shall be entitled to vote thereon. The proposal gives women general suffrage; was lost, but by a narrow margin; the change of seven votes would have carried it.

MICHIGAN will not be alone in giving women tax-payers a vote. The tax-paying women of Montana were given a vote on tax questions in 1887, those of Louisiana in 1898, and those of New York state (outside the cities) in 1901. In 1874 Iowa gave women, whether tax-payers or not, a vote on questions of local taxation.

THE art department of the Woman's club, meeting at the City library at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, was favored by a visit from Mrs. Frederick Egger, president of the general club, who in a few brief remarks expressed her approval of the progress the club is making under the able leadership of Mrs. Alice Weister.

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NEW BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

The following list of books will be on inspection in the circulating department of the Public Library for one week and will go into circulation on March 9.

BIOGRAPHY.
Addison—Life and Writings of Addison; by T. B. Macaulay, 1898.
Augustus—Augustus: The Life and Times of the Founder of the Roman Empire; by E. S. Shuckburgh, 1905.
New England Historical and Genealogical Register, v. 41, 1875-1905.
Petraea—Petraea, His Life and Times; by H. C. H. Calhoun, 1907.
BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.
Bailey—Firelight Stories.
Chapman—Golden Fleece; More Old Greek Stories.
Burrage—Far and Near.

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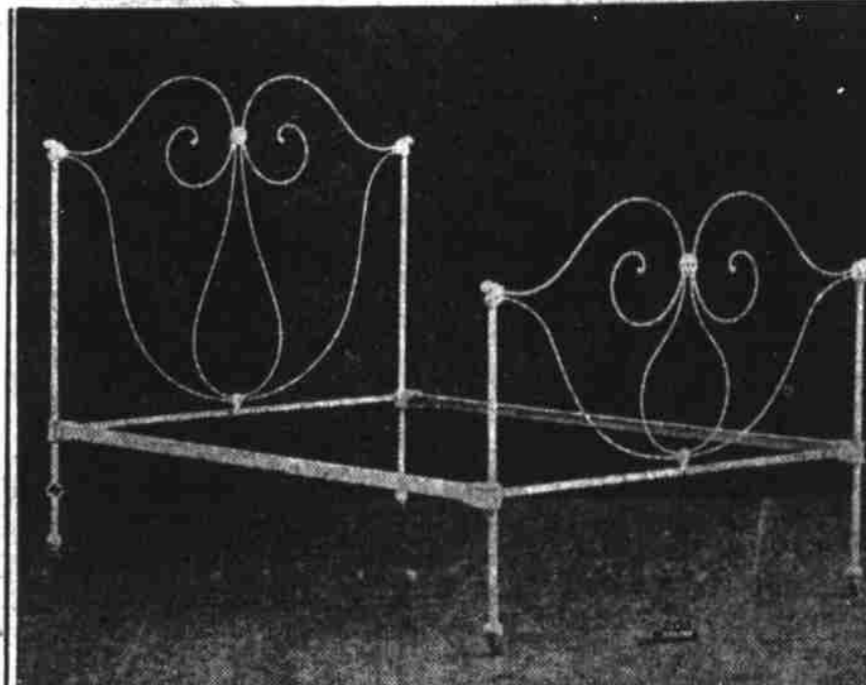


COMFORT CAN BE ASSURED

If you furnish your home at our store. A long pocketbook may add to it, but an economical disposition cannot keep anyone from securing cozy home furnishings from the list of specials we advertise this week. A house full of comfort is yours for a comparatively small outlay.



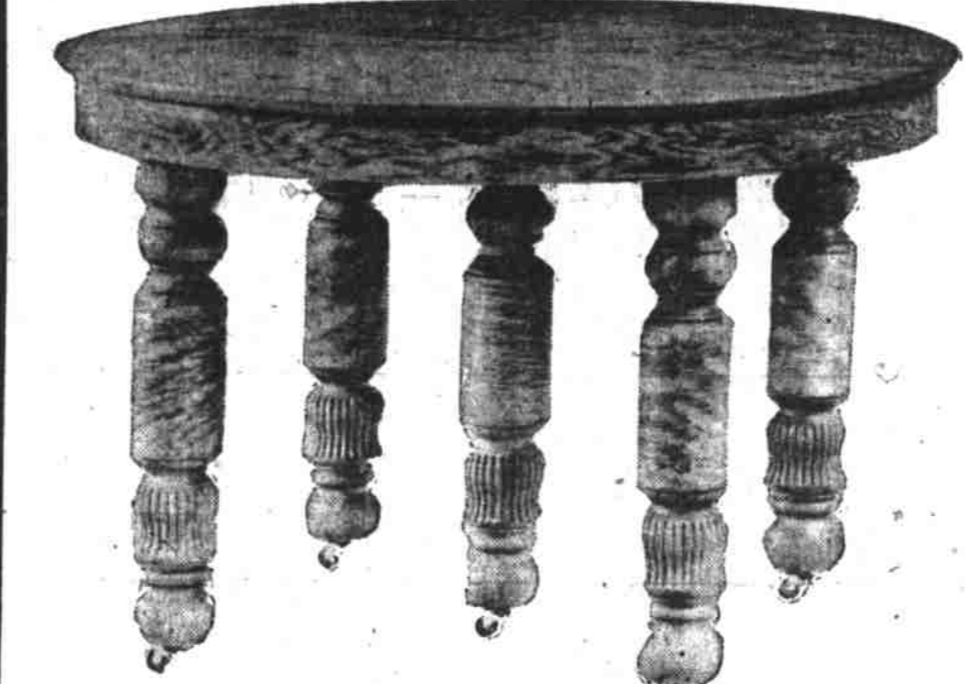
\$18.00 Oval French-plate Dresser, in quarter-sawed oak finish, on special sale at.....\$12.50



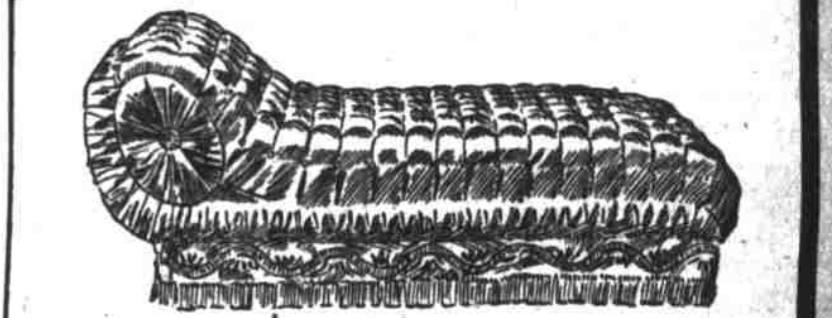
\$15.00 Iron Bed, any finish, variety of colors.....\$9.50
\$38.00 genuine mahogany veneered Parlor Suit, 3 pieces, covered in best Verona velour.....\$27.50



\$4 Rocking Chairs, hardwood, made for comfort.....\$2.75



\$25.00 famous Victor Table, with leaves ready at moment's notice, construction guaranteed, will not get out of order; quarter-sawed oak table, highly polished.....\$16.75



\$18.00 Couches, made with best steel construction, covered with high-grade velours.....\$12.25

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Prefers a Husband to a Fat Bank Account, Says Widow Who Wed Boarder.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Norristown, Feb. 29.—"I would sooner have the love and affection of a husband than wealth," said Mrs. Anna M. Bisbing, who a few days ago was married to Benjamin F. Bisbing of 719 West Lafayette street.

Mrs. Bisbing was the widow of M. Filmore Stemple of Conshohocken. Though a grandmother and enjoying the use of a comfortable home on East Hector street, Conshohocken, she preferred to go with her old-time boarder, Bisbing is 35 years old and his bride is 45.

M. Filmore Stemple, formerly high constable, councilman and Republican leader, died two years ago leaving an estate worth probably \$30,000. Mr. Stemple left a will naming his wife and two sons executors.

The will gave to the widow the use of all the real estate and personal property as long as she remained a widow; on her marriage, or in case of her death, the property was to be divided between her two sons.

In view of her intent to carry out the provisions of the will, Mrs. Bisbing yesterday moved her effects from the family home in Conshohocken to the new home here.

Bisbing had been divorced 13 days when he escorted Mrs. Stemple to the altar. She secured a release from her first wife on the ground of desertion.

Mrs. Bisbing said today: "Well, I am happy, so I don't think it is anybody's business. I chose a husband in preference to a bank account."

Students committed themselves to work for the movement there. It was suggested that the legislature should be appealed to in order to have closed all saloons in college towns in the state of Michigan.

Chancellor Day of Syracuse not so long ago issued an edict that any student seen entering or leaving a saloon in that city would be in danger of losing his degree. At the University of California there is a rule that no student within a mile of the campus limits.

What would become of The Widener, 25 yards from one entrance to the university grounds, what would become of Mory's, Zink's and the others if the temperance movement should sweep over the colleges?

MICHIGAN AND WAGON.

Students Preparing to Begin a Great Temperance Move.

The temperance movement that has swept the south and is making progress from spot to spot halted only recently at Ann Arbor, where the University of Michigan was. There was a deal of speechmaking in which various of the

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1-K Crown.....\$5.00
Bridge Work, per tooth.....\$5.00
Logan Crown.....\$3.50 to \$5.00
Best Rubber Plate.....\$5.00
Aluminum Lined Plates.....\$10.00 to \$15.00
Silver Fillings.....\$1.00
Gold Fillings.....\$2.00 to \$5.00
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