

# WOMEN'S CLUBS AND THEIR WORK

Edited by MRS. SARAH A. EVANS

**A** RULE exists in the general federation which requires an organization to be in existence at least a year before it can be admitted to membership in the national body. But at the Boston convention a resolution was hurriedly put through in the early days of the meeting making clubs in our colonies, or outside the United States, exceptions to this rule. This unusual action was taken that five women who had traveled from Panama to be at the convention might be seated as delegates.

It will be remembered that so urgent became the necessity for doing something that would make the women whose husbands had employment in Panama in the canal zone satisfied to stay and thereby insuring to the government good steady men, that the government decided to send Miss Helen Yerick Boswell to Panama to organize women's clubs and to bring into their lives some interest that would attract them to Panama. She was so successful that she not only organized clubs, but before she left had organized a canal zone federation that these women had journeyed all this distance.

Miss Boswell is a strong, forceful woman, alert and intelligent and possessed of the saving grace of humor; she is a vivacious and charming speaker and one has but to hear her to know why she was so successful in her mission to Panama.

Miss Boswell went to the canal zone to look into social conditions the first week in September, 1907. During the first two weeks of her stay here she went up and down the line getting acquainted with the women in the different social sets in the zone and desirability of establishing women's clubs on the zone.

After discovering the great lack of interest for women it became most apparent that united club effort was much needed, but the task of getting together the different elements in a common cause seemed at first almost impossible. Every opportunity for meeting the women of the zone was seized, and the force and of the mechanical operatives set was afforded by the backing given to the undertaking by Colonel Gorbala, chairman of the canal commission, and other members of the commission and high officials.

After a while out of the many people met and the many interests discussed it became possible in each of the eight towns of the zone to organize a woman's club. Into these clubs the women from all the social grades came, finding a common tie in their respective departments of the clubs established. As a rule there were four departments in each club, the home, the educational, the philanthropic, and the entertainment. In one or the other of these each woman found a longer there. The splendid achievements of the clubs in this canal zone federation are the answer to this question.

**Home Department.**

Under the home department the development of horticulture has helped to beautify and make attractive the homes of the residents. The servant problem and domestic science generally has been looked into and acted upon, and under this department committees were formed to meet at the commissary and introduce the strange women arriving each other and to the methods of purchasing their household stores in the commissary. Agitation and interest in the home department has caused much improvement in the management of the commissaries and much variety in the supplies not only as regards edibles, but in other merchandise handled.

**Educational.**

Under the educational departments the establishment of better educational facilities for the younger children and advanced methods whereby the older children could remain on the zone and receive proper instruction were considered and an outline of the zone, with in many instances were members of the women's clubs, have attained a high level of association, which is doing splendid work in the uplift of the educational system on the zone. These departments have established classes in Spanish and the American women residents on the zone have been very keen in grasping the opportunity of acquiring the Spanish language in classes within their own clubs. Traveling libraries have been started. Several clubs are gathering books for a children's library.

**Philanthropic.**

The philanthropic department has had a wide scope for its activities. Of course we do not have among our residents there the extreme poverty and suffering that one encounters in home cities where we have the ever standing army of the unemployed. Every one down there more or less has a job, but the men, many of them through lack of attention to the sanitary order and for other reasons, are stricken with illness and taken to the hospitals. The philanthropic department of the club have done much to bring good cheer and little comforts to those in the hospitals and have also interested themselves in looking after the needs of the men who are ill and seeing that they do not suffer in any way. These departments also reach out and do some work among the natives. Notable under the philanthropic work is the fact that through the women of the departments the chief sanitary officer of the zone, Colonel Gorgas, has had the cots on which the sick men are conveyed to the trains and from thence to the hospitals rigged up with little awnings and screens of net at the sides to protect the invalids from the rain and the gnats. Also at the request of these committees guards have been placed at certain dangerous points on the road to protect the children who might wander

**The Remedy That Does.**

"Dr. King's New Discovery is the remedy that does the healing others promise but fail to perform," says Mrs. E. H. Brown of Auburn, Centre, Va. "It is curing me of throat and lung trouble of long standing, that other treatments have failed to cure. Dr. King's New Discovery is doing me so much good that I feel confident its continued use for a reasonable length of time will restore me to perfect health." This renowned cough and cold remedy and throat and lung healer is sold in 50-cent bottles for 50c and \$1.00 for a trial bottle free.

away from the safety of the home environment.

**Social Department.**

Under the entertainment department, which is called the department of music and literature, many delightful entertainments have been planned that have benefited and elevated the men and women of the several towns. The music and literature of the zone is much, but which was lying dormant, has been developed under these departments.

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**Meal Accomplishments.**

So much could be said of the real accomplishments in the promotion of true civics by these clubs, but there is no time to say it. We can only indicate that when the National Civic Federation through its representatives suggested the need of social interests for women and when these suggestions were put into effect by order of the secretary of war a great forward movement in the whole work of the canal zone was made. It therefore is not a far cry from the digging of the world's greatest waterway to the establishment of women's clubs. What the government wanted was men of skill who would stay on the isthmus. To have such men must be family life. To make the women who came down contented interests must be created for them, and in the woman's club the government found a true panacea for many of the ills of dissatisfaction which had previously afflicted the canal zone.

**CLUB women throughout this part of the state have felt a great benefit from the presence of Miss Anna Lewis Clark of Coonville, Mo., who came to conduct the club institute at Chautauqua.**

After Chautauqua she was the guest of the state president and was extensively entertained by the clubwomen of the zone. Miss Clark has made a study of club work and has attended almost all the biennial conventions, and brought to her work at Gladstone park, the latest and best club life as it was presented at Boston in June. The club women of Oregon feel they owe a debt of gratitude to the government management for bearing the expense of the club institute and doing so much to make it pleasant for club women on the ground.

**CLUB women were more in evidence at Chautauqua this year than ever before, and the experiment of asking the different clubs to act as hostesses at the federation tent proved a great success, though another year the duties may be somewhat better understood. It, however, had the effect of creating a great deal of interest in Chautauqua, and brought many club women from adjacent towns who would otherwise not have come.**

The large tent proved most satisfactory and was a source of real comfort and pleasure to the hundreds of tired women who sought it for rest and quiet. The large tent near the headquarters of the Women's club of Portland, was a center of hospitality and was presided over by the committee appointed for the purpose.

On women's day, the club picnic up in the old auditorium was most enjoyable and was participated in by many. During the afternoon ice cream was served to all club women visiting the Women's club tent, through the courtesy of the president, Mrs. Robert Lutke.

The state federation had cause to be proud of many of the clubs that responded to the invitation to take part in the Chautauqua. Among these was the Minthorn Flower club—an organization of girls in their teens, who are banded together for the purpose of carrying flowers to the hospitals. During the present summer they have taken, on an average, 100 bouquets a week. On women's day these girls, led by their president, Mrs. Martha Roberts, gave a beautiful flower drill.

The council of Jewish women came in large numbers on their day, and at noon had a very pleasant picnic.

On mothers' day the Froebel association and the Arista Mothers and Teachers' club entertained in the kindergarten pavilion. The Social Science club of Silverton maintained headquarters on the ground, and were hostesses on their day.

No greater evidence of club loyalty and a desire to do its duty was displayed by any club than that shown by the members of the Women's club of Aurora. The train, not running conveniently, 15 of the members hired a conveyance and drove 15 miles and reached the Chautauqua grounds in time for the morning exercises and remained till after the close of the evening program and drove the 15 miles home that night. With a club of this much energy, perseverance and courage in a town what may it not do? And this club does things. There is no club in the state that does better or more conscientious work and the town is bound to feel the benefit of such an organization.

litical activities, but of the indispensable element of woman's economic independence, we cannot any longer delay the vision of sex equality, even though we indefinitely delay its accomplishment.

"I am not asking you to believe that culture demands that you insist upon woman's economic independence, or that you admit the justice of their demands for a vote or approve of these things, but to be ignorant or them is not only more of a flaw in your culture than not to know how they lived in Greece, but a moral flaw of momentous character."

"I am going to suggest three things

## WIFE COMES IN NICK OF TIME.



Cut shows Henry F. Hallfeld and his wife. Henry Hallfeld was beaten, drugged, gagged and robbed, and was found by his wife senseless on the floor of their home in New York City. Hallfeld conducts a grocery store in that city.

## NEGROS BANDIT LEADER

**His Trick to Secure the Allegiance of the Superstitious Islanders.**

From the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

A war of extermination against the bandits in the island of Negros, in the Philippines, with the killing of several hundred natives, is the prediction of the Rev. Harry Maxfield, missionary of the Tabernacle Baptist church to this island, who is now at home on a furlough.

"The bandits of the island gave the Spaniards trouble for eight years, and it was only a year ago that our troops wiped out the leader and broke up the band," said the Rev. Mr. Maxfield. "The leader of the band was an ox-

driver named Dionici, who was oppressed by the Spaniards in 1890 and fled to the hills, where he quickly gathered a band around him. The band increased to several hundred men. In 1900 he could muster 2,000 men.

"He found that it was difficult to govern such a large band of wild and unruly spirits and so manufactured a scheme of worship. He dressed one of his lieutenants in a black suit, put a mosquito net over him, and between the mosquito net and the suit placed thousands of huge fireflies.

"Then he manufactured a mechanical device to slide up and down, by which this man slid down during the night, making it appear as though he came from the heavens and as though he were clothed in fire. The bandits thought he was the Lord, and when he spoke every one groveled on the ground. The manu-

factured lord then appointed Daniel his mountain pope and called him Papa Yslo.

"After that the bandits who were very superstitious, obeyed every command. Every time they began to forget their obedience Yslo, the manufactured god, would appear and frighten them again. Finally they were stirred up to such a fanatical frenzy that they would do anything for the pope. In a battle with Spanish troops in 1896 200 soldiers were killed. When the Americans took the island Papa Yslo was at his post, but the troops drove him into the mountains. Later the troops were recalled from the islands and the native scouts left in charge.

Knicker—England is trying to get more daylight.  
Hoker—To be able to see a joke?

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