

WOMEN'S CLUBS AND THEIR WORK

Edited by MRS. SARAH A. EVANS

"PLEASE give us some ideas about our program and how to get our calendar." Is the earnest plea that came to us from a club this week. As this is one of the frequent questions we have to answer, we determined to answer it for the benefit of all clubs who are considering this most important feature of their club life.

Personal opinion, in a matter of this kind, is of very little account, for every individual member of a club or calendar committee will think she knows individually how it should be arranged and the fact that someone else also thinks as capable as she is, is not to be considered as a reason for not following her lead but proves the original fact that either may have been right. So to answer this question, authoritatively, we present the success and failures of other experiments that we studied and a general plan applicable to local conditions. And it is only after such study we submit our conclusions.

The first essential to a successful program is to begin making it in time. A hurried program always leaves something missing when the final summing up comes, for a program that is last through a whole year is like timber for a new house; it needs seasoning, so that when the various parts are to be fitted together.

The first question the chairman of a calendar committee should ask the members is, "What is our club organized for?" If it is a social club, plan dancing, card-playing and other amusements. Of course, this kind of a club does not come within the meaning of a women's club, and is only used for illustration, and the object was to point out that your program should be planned along the lines designated in your constitution as the objects of the club.

So it goes all through the list of federation committees. These lines of work have been taken up, after the most mature deliberation of the brainiest women of the country, and by the approval of the national convention they have met from time to time, the chaff has been sifted and blown away and the tremendous impetus with which the club work is being forward proves conclusively that the real and vital things have been raised or cast out of the literary work through political favor. If it has been, will it not be again? Can a woman of literary taste or ability afford to be ignorant upon a subject so interwoven with the history of the past and future?

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Having then settled the larger issues, smaller details will present themselves. Here is always a question as to what will present these subjects? Shall the program be used to "bring out members" (always a favorite topic of women who enjoy exploiting themselves), or shall experts, along these lines, be employed to instruct in the club? The answer to every club has women who could give it a message worth listening to, but they are not women, as a rule, who ask to be put on; they should be sought out and invited; the self-seeker should be invited, by the calendar committee, with a dear ear for as a rule they are either incompetent or are trying to get cheap advertising, which is always at the club's expense. No club is entirely sufficient unto itself and at intervals during a year outside talent should be employed.

Another important question is the time that should be allowed for papers or addresses. Necessarily this must vary, but it is fatal to a day's success if they reach to what the audience begins to feel impatient with, while on the other hand when an interesting subject is to be discussed it is far better to have one paper 20 minutes, than four of five minutes each. Chatteriness is as much to be avoided as too great length.

We have used the words "papers or address," because many women are timid about speaking, but will read a paper well. It is the opinion of some that a well read paper is preferable to a halting address, and perhaps it is, but many clubs are established as Chautauquid days ago, the "no papers" rule and it works admirably. The next question to be settled will be shall all the days be arranged for, and hard and fast rules be made about filling them? A careful scrutiny and comparison of yearbooks shows an increasing tendency to more flexibility in this respect; open days are recorded more and more often while other successful clubs have abandoned entirely giving a set program and speaking for any day and simply give the topic for that day, as for instance, "June 10, Civics." This gives the committee the opportunity to get the very best speaker available at that time on civics, whereas if it was "June 10, Civics," Mrs. Smith would have to be heard on that day, even if the best authority in the land was to be in town at that time, for Mrs. Smith's feelings would be hurt if the chairman should suggest a change, and chairmen have to grow before they will even suggest it.

Then comes the burning question which every calendar chairman must meet—the individual responsibility of the committee members, for many women do not recognize the difference between a division of labor and participation in a committee, no matter what it is working for, should receive the results of its labor as a whole, if the work is a success, as a whole they should receive the credit, if it is, or any part of it is a failure as a whole the committee take the blame. This is particularly true in regard to calendar making. It is an excellent plan to divide the days, there is no dividing the labor, but when the day is arranged for it should be submitted to the whole committee and stand or fall by its decision, thereby placing the responsibility upon the committee.

The last consideration of the calendar committee is the style and makeup of the book. To the serious minded this is a trivial question, but in fact, it is not. The year book is, in fact, therefore it should be well made. It is for convenience it should be portable, it is for reference and therefore should be get-able—three qualities every year book should have. To women who occupy official positions, it is a source of pride, and a source of honor, and it is a source of information, the irregular question, "What should the book contain?" when put together they remembered the children's side of things, and so the desirable one of five by seven and one-half inches was decided upon at a national convention, and the request was made that this size be adopted by all clubs and federations.

to be despaired, though many of the books are coming severely plain. Sentiment may be to cling to old-fashioned or to the latest designs, but a certain amount of sentiment is good for the soul, and no book is ever so well bound, provided it did not interfere with its usefulness. Year books should never be gotten up for souvenirs alone.

ELLEN R. FISH writes the following interesting article about the latest accomplishment of the Seattle clubwomen. "Undoubtedly the greatest event in the history of the Women's Club of Seattle was the purchase of the new club house on Harvard Avenue, a valuable property, considered reasonable at \$20,000, one fifth of this price was included in the first business. The balance of the purchase price and the furnishing are yet to be taken care of. As acquisition, plus obligation, the responsibility is apparent that the ladies are facing grave problems, the solution of which will require unshin- ing courage and tireless energy. In great undertakings there is always the possibility of failure, but to fear and avoid undervaluing the value of the work at the outset, in fact, is worse than failure—it is cowardly. What other earnest clubwomen in other cities have found necessary and have accomplished is possible in Seattle. Eighteen years ago the first woman's club house was dedicated in Milwaukee, since which time the number has increased to 70—ranging in cost from the artistic little \$1,000 bungalow at Hialeah, Fla., to the \$120,000 Colonial club mansion in New York.

"In trying to attain any ideal it is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried at all. We admire that determined courage that bespeaks victorious effort, the freedom from which is not gradual, and the life of a live clubwoman should be growth along lines not only of self-improvement, but the development of a social conscience that shall reach out and assist in the betterment of things.

Mrs. Bryan and Mrs. Taft are both varied women of the sort that believe in and understand the important influence that women's clubs now exert on the national life. They are also intelligent persons who keep informed on the progressive tendencies of the times, that the energetic clubwoman makes the ideal companion, a more companionable companion, and adds greatly to cheerful domesticity.

In many cases the objects for which the various clubs stand be so satisfactorily carried out as through the activities of the club. The club is a workshop where worthy things may be accomplished. "Most women desire to be useful—to do something to pay for having lived. A true clubwoman, who is not content with a life of idleness, has sort of gotten into the habit of being useful and is now ready to reach out and do for others. At a certain place of meeting the club house will afford infinitely greater facilities for concerted action, with other organizations working to accomplish the same objects, and thus may duplicate effort and overlapping work be avoided.

"The house is suitably arranged for conducting all the activities of the social club, including the singing classes, the painting classes and the arts and crafts exhibit. "In the nature of a house warming will doubtless be the opening event in the fall. Following this will come the fifth annual arts and crafts exhibit, the last of which was held in some downtown building, specially adapted for the purpose at an enormous expense.

"The city federation is looking forward to an unusually active year, with a fair prospect of entertaining the state convention during the exposition season, but it firmly believes that its address responsibility in financing the new home will be cheerfully shared by every loyal club in the city. Given time and requisite amount of money, the club will not only succeed in this enterprise, but personal progress, good fellowship and public service will be greatly promoted.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Forestry club was held at Metzgar's park last Monday. This is a new and very attractive resort that has been made accessible by the Salem electric line. It is about 12 miles from Portland, and is ideal for the lovers of trees and is well equipped with conveniences for picnic parties. About 12 of the members took lunch and went out, a number being absent on account of the meeting was not as large as usual, but what was lacking in numbers was made up in enthusiasm. The program of the day was a series of lectures, as well as meetings among the various women's clubs of the city, and perhaps make something of a picnic near-by towns. Mr. Mills has consented to this arrangement, provided the government decides to continue its publicity work.

HOUSEHOLD economics and pure food committee of the Wyoming state federation has just gotten out a very complete and valuable little book for "clubs, public schools, town and country homes, educational organizations and public libraries." It is sent in response to the many demands from all over the state for information on these subjects. The domestic science work of Wyoming is very strong, and is one of the most important branches of their club work—in fact, the fact that women have neglected their homes to go out to vote.

The view of home economics, that the Wyoming women take, may be found in the following remarks of the book, they have just sent out, will save in part what is home economics or household economics. The majority of people confidently reply, "Oh, that is the name for cooking and sewing in our schools. It is the best that includes the practical and scientific preparation of foods and hand work in textiles, but it is a very small part of a very broad subject.

"Our wise students of economics tell us that home economics relates to the home and the development of the home." Other investigators say it is the nucleus of every other economy in the world, because it is the foundation and maintenance of life at its best in the safest environments. "Mrs. Helen Richards declares that there is not an 'ology' or 'ism' but touches its history, literature, language, science, art, ethics, sociology, archæology, civics and the psychology of child training, all correlate with every well balanced normal, college or university course of study leading to an academic degree or offering a certificate or diploma for special training. "Home economics is the fourth R in education—'Reading,' 'Rithmetic' and 'Right living.' "Mary Lowell Stone gives the following declaration of what home economics should be: 'The real home life for today unhampered by the traditions of the past. The utilization of the resources of modern science to improve the home life.' "The freedom of the home from domestic things and their due subordination to ideal life." "The simplicity of material surroundings which will most free the spirit for the more important and permanent interest of the home and society."

ings which will most free the spirit for the more important and permanent interest of the home and society. The little book contains several other authoritative statements regarding the work of the home and society. It contains a list of reference books upon the subject, beside a list of government circulars and documents which may be had upon application to the agricultural department.

THE story that Thomas B. Reed was opposed to woman suffrage, now going the rounds of the press, is so utterly without foundation in fact as to be absurd. It appears to have originated from a remark reported to Chairman Jenkins of the Judiciary committee of the house of representatives, who is reported as saying that he was sorry to deny any request of the daughter of the ex-speaker, Mrs. Katherine Reed, Valentine having interviewed the interests of a sixteenth amendment enfranchising women, but that her own father would not vote for such a measure.

Woman suffrage never had a warmer supporter in congress than Mr. Reed. As a member of the Judiciary committee he wrote an able minority report in 1874, which the suffragists have been quoting as equivalent to a vote for the house when Wyoming was admitted to the union, and used all his influence to prevent Congress from striking out the woman suffrage clause in the state's constitution. His position on this question never changed. Mrs. Reed, who is quoted, so widely, was amazed to have President Roosevelt interrogate her on this point during a recent interview. She took it for granted that every man who had known her father in public would be familiar with his record on this question.

PERSIA'S SOLDIERY
A Queer Conglomeration Is the Shah's Army.

The Persian soldier, in torn clothing and barefoot, is more like a beggar than a warrior. For all this he killed the recent counter revolution when he re- sisted the parliament. As to the size of Persia's fighting hosts, it is difficult to arrive at accuracy. Officially the Persian army numbers 195,500 men, but the actual "standing army," says the London Globe, consists of only 24,500 men, who are quartered in the larger towns and on the frontiers. The infantry numbers 75 to 80 battalions, each of 800 to 1,000 men, but they are not paid, and the soldiers are forced to work at a trade or to become beggars. There are no proper barracks in most of the towns, and the men live with their families in private houses.

There is no systematic drilling, and there is no practical instruction in rifle firing, in fact, many men can not handle a rifle at all. The rifles used are mostly the old-fashioned ones rejected by Austria in the '80s and sold to Persia, but there are also Peabody and Martini rifles. The average men serving use nearly always guns with percussion caps and ramrods. The ages of the men vary very much; there are undeveloped and toothless men of 60 years, for the unfit are not weeded out at the right time. The lists of names of the soldiers are badly kept, so that on a levy it is found that some of the men called up have been dead for several years.

The army is a source of revenue to the governors of the provinces. On his appointment a governor is told that he wishes to get rid of the older men and to have a younger type of soldier. The local people know what that means; a deputized waiter, for example, a new governor, he is asked to name a sum which shall induce him to let things go as before. He does so, and everybody is content.

More than 25 regiments are recruited from the Ararat province in northern Persia, while 40 regiments come from the Aratschik-E-Anjim province; the rest are recruited in Khorassan and Kerman. The "blood" of the army is military service varies; in some provinces it is as much as 16 per man, in others it is only 10 per man.

The town populations, certain khans and the leaders of crown domains are free from service. The Armenians, the Fire Worshipers, but the best named are made by the governors of Kerman to contribute the maintenance of 20 foot soldiers. The artillery branch is similar to the infantry, but the men are much better trained and clothed while they receive their pay more regularly. Although this force, on paper, consists of 8,000 men, yet only 2,000 men are on service, and they are in battalions, each of from 200 to 250 men.

The cavalry, horses and guns are all managed by independent officials, but the horses are in the care of a general who keeps them not near the guns in the arsenal, but in some place where the forage is cheap. The horses are trained to gun firing. The projectiles are kept in the arsenal and generally are not charged. The powder is made in private powder mills, and is of very poor quality. There are about 50 guns of the caliber of the Persians, and nearly 1,000 obsolete guns, of which scarcely a hundred can be used.

The infantry now has a properly organized system of transport. In case of need the people are commanded, especially the villagers, when they bring their garden stuff to the town, then the villagers stay at home until the soldiers have been moved. The conscription is as much as 12,200 to 12,000. Excessively wishes to become an officer as an officer's pay is continued to his family after his death, thus there are many detachments of 50 men with 12 officers.

Persia's cavalry is regular and irregular. The former comprises the 15th and 16th regiments, the latter the 17th and 18th. The 15th and 16th are equipped with the Russian cavalry type of the horse, the 17th and 18th are equipped with the Russian cavalry type of the horse, the 17th and 18th are equipped with the Russian cavalry type of the horse, the 17th and 18th are equipped with the Russian cavalry type of the horse.

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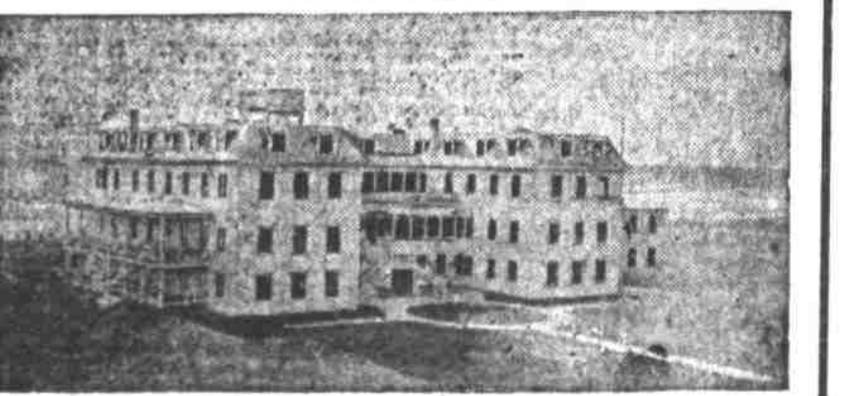
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