Women's Clubs and Their Work

Edited by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans

FROM the many letters received we judge no more interesting matter has ever appeared in this department than the committee and club reports from the La Grande convention, which have been running for several weeks.

Today we continue the individual club reports, with a number of others to follow:

It has somewhere been said, "There is no such thing as standing still, we must either go forward or retrograde." The Council of Jewish Women of Portland has tried to do more than stand still in the last two years, and I think we can safely lay claim to an era of progress since the last federation report.

Our work has continued along the same lines—educational, philanthropic and religious. The council now numbers 316 members.

The settlement work in South Portland is still of paramount importance. The schools maintained there under council supervision as explained in last year's report are non-sectarian.

The night classes in which the rudiments of the English are taught to foreigners have taken two additional evenings for the work, making four evenings in all with a corps of six volunteer teachers for each session.

The kindergarten started off with 45 children enrolled. A marked improvement in the general appearance and deportment of the little ones is traceable each year, owing to the influence radiated from the kindergarten and the mothers' meetings held once a month, where members of the council meet informally to discuss the needs of the child with the struggling mothers, many of them perplexed foreigners, unused to the customs of a new country.

The gymnasium has a men's and a boys' class this term. A rough element almost blighted last year's results. A new and popular instructor seems to hold them well in hand this term.

The sewing classes are ever growing in popularity, and although graduates are few in number, the younger children attend eagerly, and have taxed the capacity of the school to its limit, showing how successful these classes could be made in public schools.

The boys' manual training department made an excellent exhibit at the close of last term, which compared favorably with that made by many of the graded schools. Not alone training the hand and eye, but keeping the boy off the streets at night, has been one of the important results of this work. The free reading room and library has done much to lessen this evil as well.

The domestic science cooking class is under the direction of a volunteer this year. The graduating class last June invited the superintendent and directors to a course meal of their own preparation.

The Neighborhood House is fast becoming inadequate for the needs of the school. Some day soon, we hope to have a suitable building for the proper housing of the various departments.

The council has one regular meeting the first Wednesday of each month. Our program is miscellaneous in character this year, most of the papers being by non-members. This was done by way of deviation from the regular routine of years, feeling a change is often a beneficial stimulus to incite new interest.

Two Wednesdays a month are given over to a study class, where the Old Testament is reviewed under the leadership of Rabbi Jonah B. Wise.

The first week of December will mark the Fifth triennial of the Council of Jewish Women to be held in Cincinnati. If any of you are to be east at the time, you are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

May the good seed of this federation's planting bring forth an ever-increasing harvest that will bear the fruit of a cleaner, broader civic life than we have lived, to generations yet to come.

CLEMENTINE SELLER HIRSCH,
President Council of Jewish Women.

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THE Reading club of Astoria last year lost several members for unavoidable reasons, but the remaining members did good work, completing a two years' course in English history. The text used was "Essentials in English History," by Walker.

Besides the regular club work, the members petitioned our senators and representatives to congress to use their influence in behalf of a bill "to investigate and develop methods of treatment of tuberculosis," receiving favorable replies from all of them.

On May 18 the friends of the members were invited to listen to a talk on "Paul Dunbar, the Negro Poet," by Rev. W. S. Gilbert. This was the only "Guest Night" of the year.

At the annual business meeting, May 25, the following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing club year:

President, Miss J. G. Hulse; vice president, Mrs. C. A. Gearhart; treasurer, Miss E. C. Warren; secretary, Miss Dora Badollet. The text chosen for the year's work is "Four Victorian Poets: A Study of Clough, Arnold, Rossetti and Morris," by Stopford A. Brooke. All vacancies have been filled, and the club now has a full membership of 12 ladies, who are all enthusiastic over the work.

DORA BADOLLET, Secretary.

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FOLLOWING is the yearly report of the Portland Froebel association, whose officers are as follows:

President, Miss Elizabeth K. Matthews; vice president, Mabel Sherman; secretary, Miss Zell McCartney; treasurer, Miss Rebecca Walton.

During the past year the membership has increased, and interest has developed toward the establishing of kindergartens in the public schools of Portland.

The association has been most fortunate in having its president invited to address many mothers' clubs, in view of establishing kindergartens; in some instances kindergartens have been organized having a session each day, and others having a session at the time of the mothers' meeting, hoping in this way to prepare the way for an established kindergarten.

The association is much encouraged in its undertaking, and feels that the next election will decide favorably for the kindergarten in the public schools of Portland.

The association has also worked along civic lines, by cooperating with the Portland Rose Festival, and the city authorities in cleaner streets.

This year the president outlined her policy: First, free kindergartens in the public schools; second, legislation toward professional certificates for teachers having had professional training; third, civic improvement.

PORTLAND FROEBEL ASSOCIATION.
President, Elizabeth K. Matthews.

* * *

THE work of the Fortnight club of Eugene has of late been confined more strictly to literary study than at some times in the past, for this reason the Commercial club of our city has organized a large and efficient auxiliary of women, who devote themselves wholly to civic improvement and kindred activities. They are better equipped for this service than are we, and we have thought it unnecessary to try to cover the same ground. Hence the club has for the time, discontinued work in this direction.

The Fortnightly has assisted in introducing domestic science into the public schools of the city, different women giving voluntary service each week in teaching sewing. The club has, at intervals, opened its rooms for educational purposes; an exhibit of good pictures, a display of work done by the arts and crafts association of Boston; and has tried to encourage all enterprises of public benefit.

The subject for the present year is Germany, including, besides a brief historical outline, programs on art, music and literature. We are to have, as usual, a limited number of lectures to which guests are invited, and which are also made a social occasion. We consider this useful in bringing our work before those who may like to assist.

If we are giving more time than usual to self improvement, it is only in an interim of waiting. We stand ready, as ever, to give a helping hand wherever a suitable occasion presents.

The members of this convention are aware that the federation is assisting a young woman at the University of Oregon to obtain an education. It may be of interest to you to hear that I have lately seen and talked with her. She is a girl of good ability and high standards. Though a freshman, she has a position on the staff of the college paper, having done some work of this kind in high school. Her special aim is to fit herself for a physician.

JESSIE E. VAN SCOY,
President Fortnightly Club.

* * *

ANOTHER year has become enrolled in the history of the past and it is with real pleasure we meet again to review the year that is gone—and glean help and strength each from the other for the year only just begun. The Work and Win club is one of the younger children of the Oregon federation, having joined the same when organized, two years and a half ago.

Last winter was spent with the frontier life of the western states, and the pioneers of Oregon became very near to us.

"Scatter flowers in their pathway—
adown declining years,
They were grand old men and women—
these old pioneers."

This year we have taken up the Bayview Italy and Greece course, and find it most enjoyable. The library is still under jurisdiction of the club, many ways and means to support the same having been tried with varying success. The most attractive of these seeming to be the flower and plant sales. Carnations and other cut flowers sold readily to the flower hungry people and this method of raising necessary funds continues to be popular.

Our little club is making a slow but steady growth in numbers, living up to its name—"working" cheerfully, and "winning" steadily.

We look upon the past year as a most successful one, but the past should not monopolize.

Look ahead. The present and future holds its share of success, and of the good the club may do, if we look for it. And as the home club needs our individual efforts, even so the federation needs our support.

We need the federation, the federation needs us, "and the world needs us all or we would not be."

FOIBEL ADAM, President.
Ontario, Or.

* * *

IT is the aim of the Oregon Woman's Press club to promote acquaintance, good fellowship and cooperation between women writers, and to advance their professional interest. Its constitution admits two grades of membership—active and associate—the former are those who are professionally engaged in literary and journalistic work, for a livelihood or as a business calling; the second consists of those who are literary women, who are not following the calling professionally, but who wish to avail themselves of the benefits of this organization, they enjoy all its privileges except the voting power. The work is divided into six divisions, with standing committees as follows: Membership, literary information, press social and fraternal, program, literature extension. Meetings are held monthly; two social receptions during the year. The program of monthly meetings consists of trade papers and all that tends to be helpful to the women writers. It has an enrollment of 32 members, some of whom are not residents of Portland, but of other points in Oregon.

The past year has been a successful one, and meetings held of much interest. The club starts in the new year with flattering prospects for good results. A neat calendar folder has just been issued, which contains the constitution and yearly topical program.

While the club has more than doubled during the year, dues have only been collected on six increases over our report of last year.

The officers of the club are as follows: President, Mrs. Lucia Faxon Aditon, Lents; vice president, Mrs. Emma Seckle Marshall; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Clara Bewick Colby; recording secretary, Mrs. Bessie Guinean Stone; treasurer, Miss Frances Eleanor Gotshall, all of Portland.

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THURSDAY Afternoon club of Pendleton submitted the following report: At the beginning of the club year the work of furnishing a model schoolroom was completed by the framing and hanging of the pictures which had been purchased and which were mentioned in the last report.

Our library committee reported that the mayor and council assured them that a room would be furnished for a library in the new city hall now nearly completed. So the prospect for a free public library in Pendleton is brighter than it has ever been, and by next year we hope to be able to point with pride to our public library.

The work of our civic committee has been reported elsewhere, so need not be repeated here.

Two afternoons have been devoted to domestic science demonstrations and were both instructive and enjoyable.

The general work of the club has been miscellaneous in character and has included the study of art and literature and history. The subjects studied have been "Some American Sculptors," and "The Madonna in Art," "Tennyson" and "Robert Louis Stevenson," "The Court of Louis XIV," "The State of Maine," and "Old Missions." Several musical afternoons have been greatly enjoyed. One fortunate member of the club spent most of the year in an extended tour through the countries of the old world across the water, and at our last meeting for the year gave a most interesting account of her journeyings to and through the Holy Land, from which country she brought a beautiful gavel and presented to the club.

The average attendance for the year has been very good indeed, and great interest in the subjects studied has been shown throughout the year.

CLARE BURROUGHS, President.

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AT A SPECIAL meeting of the Portia club held last Tuesday for the purpose of hearing the report of the committee on resolutions of sympathy with Mrs. R. B. Fisher upon the death of her husband, R. B. Fisher, the following resolutions were read and adopted, and Mrs. J. B. Hosford, secretary of the club, was directed to forward a copy of same to Mrs. R. B. Fisher, and to each of the Portland daily papers:

Whereas, Mrs. R. B. Fisher, an esteemed and beloved member of the Portia club, has been, by the hand of a most cowardly assassin, deprived of the companionship and the protecting care of a faithful, devoted and loving husband, whose sudden and uncalled for death is universally and most sorrowfully regretted. Now therefore, be it

Resolved, By the members of the Portia club that we greatly deplore the tragic death of Mr. Fisher and extend to Mrs. Fisher and to her little son our profound and heartfelt sympathy in their sad bereavement, and in the great loss they have sustained. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forthwith sent to Mrs. Fisher, one to the Portland daily papers and one filed with the records of this club.

THE PORTIA CLUB,
Portland, Or.
MRS. OGLESBY YOUNG,
MRS. GEO. W. CALDWELL,
MRS. R. P. GRAHAM,
Committee.

* * *

THE past year's work of the Lyle Tuesday musicale of La Grande has been one of great satisfaction to its members. We have had a large attendance at all our regular sessions, with a genuine interest shown in the work by our members.

Unfortunately for us, at the first of the year, the president and founder of our club, Mrs. Robert Lyle, was called away, leaving us without her valuable counsel.

We have pursued no regular course of study this year, with the exception of our chorus under the direction of Mrs. Silvershorn, which is a good feature of our club life, and stimulates a greater interest in our organization, and also proves to be a profitable and pleasing feature of our open meetings.

Our membership at the commencement of the year was 39, to this has been added, the past 12 months, 15, making a total membership of 54. During the year we have had five public meetings, at which a nominal admission fee was charged. The coming year we expect to continue the chorus work with our usual musical program and take up the study of the life work of the different masters in music.

This club was organized 13 years ago. Besides belonging to the state federation, we are members of the National federation of music clubs.

Judging from the cordial reception accorded our organization in the past, we confidentially look forward to a very prosperous year awaiting us.

MRS. N. MOLITON,
Vice President.

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THE Present Day club held its regular meeting Tuesday of this week at the home of Mrs. R. C. R. Giltner, 227 Chapman street. William Galvani gave a very interesting talk on the Russian women. Mrs. Morgan's charming paper took the club from Stockholm to Moscow via St. Petersburg.

The club has decided to give a theatre party at the Heilig to see Peer Gynt during Christmas week. The club will meet with Mrs. Ballon next time.

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THE Woman's club of Portland, having received 35 new members during the year, closed this period with an enrollment of 300. With an executive board so wise and discreet as to be a constant tower of strength to the president, including a financial secretary and a treasurer of such business acumen as to insure the most accurate and businesslike methods of conducting the business affairs of the club, that part of the work moved on with clocklike precision and regularity.

The calendar and social committees were so efficient and resourceful in their sphere of work that the year was one of delightful entertaining and instructive programs, with not a failure or hitch during the whole term and the social features were ever a source of enjoyable fellowship, good cheer and hospitality.

Through the publicity committee constituted for the first time of the past presidents of the club extended courtesies to visitors of note, among such visitors being Mrs. Rachel Foster Avery, secretary of the International Council of Women; Mrs. Phillip M. Moore, then vice president, now president of the general federation, also in response to the invitation of the commercial club, joined in welcoming the ladies of the Inland empire excursion.

Other committees both standing and special, all promptly met and faithfully discharged every duty asigned them.

The increasing interest in department work is a most promising sign of vital growth and power. We are justly proud of the youngest art department organized during this administration. In membership and interest it vies with the oldest.

The club identified itself with affairs of public interest in contributing toward the support of the Brooklyn kindergarten, did well its part toward raising funds for the education loan fund and contributed to the furtherance of the Rose Festival, by offering a handsome trophy cup.

Out of the year's receipts an unusually large sum has been set aside for its own building fund.

The club put itself on public record in favor of a number of good movements, notably the State University appropriation, increase of salaries for the public school teachers, free kindergartens as a part of the public school system, the petition asking congress for the institution of measures to prevent the spread of tuberculosis, helped to save the birds from wholesale slaughter, placed its bans of disapproval upon the algrette as a badge of unspeakable cruelty and indorsed other measures of moral and philanthropic import.

Recognizing the growing importance of department work, the administration in its closing days, announced as its distinctive policy its recommendation for the institution of measures defining more closely the relation to and claim upon the club of its departments, and a committee was appointed to formulate a plan with that end in view.

These conditions and the fact that nearly a score of its members are in attendance upon this convention and that five of its members crossed the continent and were in attendance at the National Federation in Boston, is evidence that the Woman's club of Portland is gradually aproaching the place it should occupy in the sisterhood of clubs of the Pacific coast.

ELISABETH EGGERT,
Past President.

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THE Tuesday Afternoon club met with Mrs. G. M. Glines, 942 East Everett street. The study was a continuation of Thackeray. Rollcall was responded to by comments from critics' opinion of Thackeray. A special study was made of "Henry Esmond." Mrs. F. M. Miles gave the outline and general setting. A sketch of the principal characters was given by Mrs. Merwin Pugh. Mrs. Hayes gave a comparison of Thackeray and Dickens, as writers.

Mrs. H. J. Jackson gave a paper on the social condition of England as told by Thackeray. Thackeray "as a cynic" was given by Mesdames Harry Vorse and G. Anthony Bateson. Thackeray as a moralist was given by Mesdames William F. Amos and Robert Smith.

A Captious Audience.

Here is a news item the like of which one does not find in the newspapers of the United States. It comes from the City of Mexico and describes an exciting incident at Queretaro:

"Yesterday's bullfight," the reader is informed, "was wretched, and started a tremendous row. The management announced that the bulls would be first class, but those which appeared were very small and showed no fight whatever. Four of these ridiculous beasts were sent back to the corral, another barely qualified, and only one turned out to be a real bull.

"The public, unable to repress its indignation, laid hold of everything it could get its hands on and threw it into the bull ring, causing serious damage.

"In the midst of the excitement the announcement was made that the management had been fined $100, but this was not sufficient to allay the public indignation. The manager of the bull ring was compelled to hide, owing to the fact that some of the most excited individuals in the audience were making a diligent search for him.

"It was a tremendous row, as we remarked before, and would have had more serious consequences had not the Fifth corps of rural police arrived on the scene most opportunely. The policemen made the discontented audience disperse, and then mounted guard over the bull ring and the residence of the manager."

Miniature electric trains, running automatically in tunnels, are being tested by the Berlin postal authorities as better in many ways than the pneumatic tube for carrying mail.

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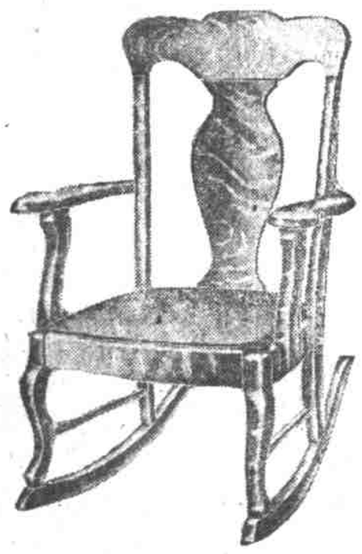

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