

# WOMEN'S CLUBS AND THEIR WORK

Edited by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans

**D**O YOU approve of limiting the membership of a club? This is a question that has been sent to this department from a club in a distant part of the state. Taking it in its broadest sense, we answer emphatically, "No!" The club that lodges itself about by such a restriction can never grow to its full stature. We can hear the few remaining clubs of the state that still have a limited membership, protest and bring forward the time worn excuse: "If we did not limit our membership our club would be too large to do good study work." In response to this we would like to ask: "Did you ever see a club, where every member was compelled to do some good, hard, study work that had too large a membership?"

"Did you ever find too many workers in any organization for the good of the organization?" We feel sure that if the limited clubs will carry this thought due consideration they will not remember any such condition in any society they have ever known. The next objection the limited club presents is this: "If we took off the limit we could not meet at the homes of the members; there would be too many, the courses would be overcrowded." Did anyone ever restrict their property because their house would be too small to enjoy it in? No, they went immediately and procured another, and still another, as their wealth and family increased. More members—always providing each the right kind, of which we will speak later—means greater property, both financially and socially, for the work. There is no question that it is more puzzling, or a greater problem in club work than that of club membership, but it will be a great benefit to the club, and a great benefit to the community. To limit club membership is contrary to democratic principles, and just as contrary to the principles of the club.

"Shall we then let down the bars for everyone to come in?" you ask. Not by any means, and no more than our government, knowing the value of the immigrant, would annul our immigration regulations. The foundation upon which all club life is based is the desire to build, construct and uplift. It matters not at all whether it be a purely literary club or a civic society, or a self-improvement, or the improvement of the community, the whole town or city is benefited, if just one woman grows more intelligent, or made a better mother, or a better housekeeper by her club, why then should a few women who carry on even if they did organize it and nurse it through its teething years? Why should they be denied the opportunity of the benefit that other women would be to it, if she had the advantages of the club?

Some one has said that a thought once put into words no longer belongs to the thinker, but to the world. It is spoken to the club, to the community and not to the members. It is only in their custody and they are responsible for its proper conduct, as the custodian of any other public institution would be. Suppose a club does some overt act, something that would shock the world, and the press of the country rolls it, as a sweet morsel, under its tongue, who is the blame? Is it the club, or the individual members, certainly, except to the very small circle of personal acquaintances, but it falls upon the whole community; it is the women of such and such a town, and probably the large majority of the women of the town have prevented these very things if they had been members. Therefore, in answer to our correspondent we would say further we don't believe any club has a right, morally, to limit its membership.

So far we have argued upon the basis of desirable membership—we do not use the word desirable in a personal sense, but rather in the broader sense of qualification. When we answer the question of united membership from the standpoint of undesirable membership we would say the limitation should not be a bar but a stone wall. Members should never enter into the consideration of club membership, but quality always. Not the quality of aristocracy, or money, or education, or of intellect but it should always be the qualification of responsibility; a conviction that membership carries an obligation. This is the only real club spirit. The woman that desires to enter the club because she wishes to have an opportunity to climb a little higher on the social ladder, who uses it to escape from her domestic duties, or who sees in it an avenue to gratify her personal ambitions, should, when she puts in her application, meet, not with the limited membership clause, but with a stone wall in the shape of a membership committee who is guarding, through its membership, the fraternalistic principles of club life. In short, strike out your limit and let all

qualified women enter, but set up your stone wall and guard your membership with jealous care.

**O**NE of Pendleton's fine clubs is the Current Literature. It is limited to 25 members and always has two or three names on the waiting list. The officers of the club this year are: President, Mrs. Grace Tatum; vice president, Mrs. Florence Birkley; secretary, Mrs. Wood Pasley; treasurer, Mrs. Della Gwin. In its report, the president says: "Our year's work was arranged in the form of a calendar, each hostess preparing the program. We had some fine days, which I would like to tell you about, but time is too limited and can only say that each hostess spent much time and thought on her afternoon and all very much enjoyed the time. "Our annual social event took the form of a colonial reception, the ladies, many of them, being in costume. It was held at the home of Mrs. Alexander, who kindly opened her house for the occasion. "As a club we do not do much outside work but did assist in buying and framing the pictures for our public school, and also in bringing Mrs. Trumble of Portland to Pendleton to speak to the children at the county fair, in honor of which the schools were dismissed and the children attended in a body. "A committee, in cooperation with the Thursday afternoon club, visited the city council in the interest of installing a restroom in the new city hall. A civic committee was appointed to assist in keeping clean and beautiful the town and, if possible, procure a city park. The club sent a large number of books to the school in Irigoin, and a committee was appointed to provide Christmas dinner for a destitute family. "The entire year has been a most profitable and enjoyable one."

**M**ISS JANE ADDAMS of Hull House, Chicago, who is acting as chairman of the allied forces of Chicago women seeking municipal suffrage was asked how long she had been interested in woman suffrage. She replied that she had always been intellectually convinced that woman suffrage was right and expected it some time. She had not felt the necessity of working hard for it until the last few years when she had learned more of conditions in city and state where woman's vote was needed. She had been called many times to the state legislature to beg for the passage of certain bills protecting women and children or to protest against their repeal. She felt that this was less convenient and less dignified than to go to the ballot box. No, she did not think she would be out of her sphere at a polling place, as the polling place of her precinct was located in her own drawing room. She has been most generous in speaking for women's organizations inviting their help. Thus far 194 women's societies have declared their support of suffrage for Chicago women. She has the greatest skill in securing cooperation of able women. Perhaps no greater city is more fortunate in the ability its women show in working together. Mrs. Henrotin is speaking for the campaign and working on committees. Ella S. Stewart is treasurer of the allied forces and member of almost every committee. She is also in great demand as a speaker. The first great Sunday mass meeting was held November 30 in Fine Arts building.

**M**RS. EDWIN F. MOULTON of Warren, Ohio, chairman of the cities committee of the General Federation, has just sent out a very suggestive and comprehensive circular which should be of great value to clubs, particularly these clubs that are desirous of benefiting their town but don't know just how to take hold. The list of suggestions is particularly good, for there are few clubs that will not see in it something their town needs, but which had not occurred to them before. The circular is signed by the entire committee, one of whom is Mrs. Turner Oliver of La Grande. The circular says in part: "The civic committees of the G. F. W. C. is alert to the power women are wielding in the betterment of local and national conditions. City-keeping being so closely allied to housekeeping, and through this avenue women are well qualified to suggest methods of civic improvement and to direct plans to carry them to completion. "It is largely through women's clubs that the cry for a more beautiful America has been echoed over the length and breadth of our land. Women have a keen perception of the beautiful and appreciate the value of developing the

esthetic side of our nature, for through this we may receive our greatest joy. "Since leading men of our country are calling attention to the vast influence for good of this organization, who is there we may not accomplish in civic in every city, village and rural district in our borders, if we earnestly desire? Open spaces are not only the key note to the city beautiful, but are to the body—affording fresh air to circulate freely, therefore let us labor zealously to secure them. Endeavor to create civic pride and a right civic spirit. "We must be aroused to our great opportunities; we must educate the public to the influence of environment. Create public sentiment for national issues—the preservation of Niagara Falls—increased forestry reserves, etc. Cities and villages have individuality as do people, so each civic center has its own peculiar needs. Study the needs of your municipality, then take up one main one, betterment and carry it to a finish. The following list is suggestive: Smoke is a menace to health; seek to abate it. Encourage legitimate and artistic advertisements. City rest rooms for rural women and children. Play grounds, parks, etc. Preservation of natural features. Arborescent recognition. Home gardening. Care of vacant lots and extermination of weeds. Street cleaning. Beautifying districts and school grounds. Artistic grouping of public buildings. Abatement of useless signs. Against pernicious bill boards. Preservation of birds. Preservation of wild flowers. Railway stations and terminals. Junior civics leagues. At least one civic topic on your club calendar. Addresses and lectures on civics. Seek to promote those things that insure higher ideals in citizenship—good citizenship inspires loyalty to city and to country."

**I**T is 30 years this month since the death of a woman, who, like Seneca, lamented, "found a way" to lighten "the demerol grins." It seems that Orlando Montague, a Troy shoe manufacturer, was scrupulously neat, and that his wife found the labor of washing his shirts burdensome. The shirts of the time had collars and cuffs attached; to avoid washing the whole shirt, she cut the collar and cuffs, and Mrs. Montague's linen bands tied around the neck with tape. Under this arrangement her husband could put on a clean collar every morning and every evening without compelling her to spend too much time over the wash tub. Her neighbors followed her example and the demand for such collars was so great that a Methodist minister, who kept a notion store in town, soon employed several women to make them, while he peddled them from house to house. Mr. Montague saw that the business might be profitable, and opened a collar factory, where his wife's invention was right and he was exploited. Unlike many inventors, Mrs. Montague's invention prospered, for her husband, profited by her discovery.

**A**T a recent conference of club presidents in Boston, Miss George A. Bacon, president of the Massachusetts State federation and chairman of the ninth biennial board, stated that when it was decided that the biennial was to be held in Boston the federated clubs of the state were asked to raise a fund of \$10,000 which would be necessary for the expenses of entertainment. The clubs promptly responded with contributions which amounted to over \$11,000. The committee expended the fund so judiciously that, although the biennial meeting was liberally and satisfactorily provided for, the balance of \$6000 after all bills were paid. The amount of the balance was an unexpected surprise, and the president's conference passed a vote of thanks to the members of the biennial committees who had so successfully financed the convention. The executive board of the State federation recommended that this balance of \$6000 be added to the federation's special fund for the purpose of carrying on educational work in the south with the Georgia model school and the mountain schools of Tennessee.

**I**T IS with much pleasure that I report to you that the Forestry association is prospering. While the membership has not increased as we would like to be able to report, the members that we have are faithful, earnest and very much interested in our work, and we feel that we have accomplished much in the way of study. We have distributed through the state several hundred of Gifford Pinchot's books on forestry. Keeping pace with the times we have tried to widen the field of our interests and activities and have added birds and flowers to our list of studies. We have had fine lectures on birds and their habits, showing the value of the birds to fruitgrowers as insect destroyers, and one fine lecture from Dr. Mayson, who has traveled extensively through Europe, having visited the famous black forests in Germany. We were surprised to learn that there are but few native trees to be found in the forests of Europe, for the trees are in regular rows, showing that they have been planted by man instead

# PASTOR ELWIS CHURCH MUSIC

### Some of It Makes Him Feel Wicked; Prayers That Tire the Almighty.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)  
Chicago, Dec. 25.—"I have heard music in churches that made me feel like the devil," said Rev. Joseph A. Milburn, pastor of the Plymouth Congregational church, 2348 Michigan avenue, started his congregation with these declarations in a sermon on "The Common Sense Church," the first of a series of seven sermons on "Common Sense Approval."  
Mr. Milburn discussed church music at length, and his discourse on the subject impressed Mrs. Ethel Carter, 423 Stewart avenue, the soprano soloist of the service, who sang in the church that day for the first time.

After the sermon Mrs. Carter approached Dr. Milburn and said: "If I could have sung my solo after your sermon, instead of before, I would have sung as I never did before in my life."  
"Some of the music I have heard in churches," continued Dr. Milburn, "has made me feel like hitting somebody or smashing something, a ferocious hymn, a hymn of boasting and bragging and not nearly everybody to sleep. I have preached in the past against extravagant music, and I am sorry now that I ever did. What we must have in the common sense church is bright, enlivening, beautiful music."  
Prayers Dr. Milburn discussed in the same way, suggesting that those which made people groan must necessarily weary the Creator.

**C**hurch Not a Drug Store.  
"I do not believe the church should be the rendezvous place for all sorts of healing ideas," said Dr. Milburn. "It seems to me to be absurd to turn the church of God into a pharmaceutical institute, and to have the edification of the spirit, for the bringing of God down to man and uplifting man by God."  
There is too much responsibility in the present day churches upon the shoulders of a few. This is an age of consolidation and concentration, and believe in church consolidation. We have the railroad trusts and the sugar trusts and the oil trusts, and the spirit of cooperation and consolidation in the churches, each joining with the other for the common welfare."

# MOUNTAIN CLIMBER'S VERY CLOSE CALL

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)  
New York, Dec. 26.—Fresh from a triumphant tour of the Peruvian and Ecuadorian trip, where she climbed the summit of Mount Huaracaran, one of the highest peaks in the world, Miss Annie S. Peck of Providence, R. I., has arrived here with a very close call. In speaking of her perilous trip up the precipitous slopes of Mount Huaracaran, Miss Peck asserted that much of her success to two Swiss guides who accompanied her.  
It was thanks to the experience of these two men, said Miss Peck, that I succeeded in reaching the 20,000 foot altitude which marks the summit of Huaracaran. This height, believe me, surpasses that reached by any one before. Heretofore the record has been held by W. W. Graham, whose ascent of one of the Andes peaks was set down as a climb of 23,800 feet. One of my guides, Rudolph Taugwalder, lost his gloves on the way up, and he had both hands frozen. He has since had to have one hand amputated.  
"We reached the summit on September 2, and that night, as we were making our way down, Taugwalder, who was leading, slipped, and carried me with him over the edge of a fissure. The other guide, Gabriel Ziegler, Taugwalder, fortunately for us, had seen the misstep and braced himself with his sledge, so that when the rope that bound us all together yanked, he retained sufficient purchase in the ice to hold our combined weight. He called out to us instructions to dig ourselves footholds, that would lighten the strain both on the rope and himself, and gradually pulled us both back to him. It was the closest call I ever had."

of nature. Let us take a lesson from this before it is too late. The association, which established an Arbor day, and propose to plant a tree in some park, or where it will be a joy and comfort to the greatest number. They were good enough to present the first to their president, which was greatly appreciated, I can assure you. Last year we reported that the association made an effort to induce the railroads to beautify the depots throughout the state, and we are glad to report that the effort was successful, bringing some benefit of our labor, for they are improving and beautifying them in many places. The association meets on the second Monday of each month throughout the year. During the summer months we meet out of doors in some grove of oaks, firs or pines so that we can study the trees where nature planted them. And I will add that visitors from a distance or at home are always welcome. P. A. BREYMAN, President Forestry Association.

**B**ARONESS IN JAIL FOR STEALING FORKS  
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)  
Washington, Dec. 25.—"I am the wife of Count Brockenheims von Lowenbellin, a Dane, not a Russian, although we were intimate with a number of the Russian nobility. My husband debbed in Russian politics, and had some narrow escapes."  
This was the statement in the police court by Mrs. A. L. Rogers, an American, who was convicted of stealing six silver forks while housekeeper at the home of Ralph L. Galt, in this city, and sentenced to 30 days in jail in default of \$50 fine. The woman suffered keenly, and said the charge was a mistake. She appealed to the Danish minister, who, she said, knew her. She testified that her father was a successful business man in Dallas, Texas, where she was married and that she had been separated from her husband. She afterward tried chicken raising at Laurel, Md., which venture did not pay, and she became a housekeeper.

"It was another one of those international marriages," said she. "My husband kissed me one morning and walked out of the door, and I have never seen him since. Of course, we had some exciting times in Russia. But these don't refer to my life in Europe. It's all past now."

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