

Had they had any supper that night? Impulse was fast running away with reason when a gust of cold wind blowing through the house brought a higher authority to the scene. Judgment was quickly formed. Some spicy ginger snaps "to keep boys warm on the way home" were put into a jacket pocket while the older boy was invited to return at 8. Mingled with the disappointment for his brother were pride and dignity in the child's attitude and quick answer:—

"Oh! you needn't mind about that, missis. And he—he can come in three years, can't he?" The last was said with such cheer that the little one's face brightened. They trudged away to begin the three years, and we wished the cakes had been omitted.

M. P.

The New York State Federation.

The first annual convention of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs and Societies took place on November 20th and 21st, in Brooklyn, at the Young Women's Christian Association Building, under the auspices, and by the invitation of a large number of the federated clubs and societies of the sister city.

Although but one year old, the Federation already numbers one hundred and two organizations, representing almost every associated interest that is not a propaganda; and a large number of delegates were promptly on hand to exchange their credential cards for luncheon tickets, and also for tickets to the reception proffered to the delegates by the Brooklyn Woman's Club and its kindred organizations.

Space does not admit of extracts from the president's address, from the welcoming response made by Mrs. M. W. Chapman, President of the Brooklyn Woman's Club, or from the reports of the secretaries. All of these showed signs of vigorous and healthy life on the part of the young Federation, and a degree of prosperity hardly to be accounted for; the upwards of \$200 in the treasury amounting to considerably more than could have been received as dues, at the rate of \$2 per annum.

The educational element being strong in the Federation, and all women's clubs having a strong interest in every side of educational work, the following subject was adopted as the basis for papers and discussions: "The Education of Public Sentiment, as Effected and Contemplated by Women's Clubs and Societies."

The important papers contributed under this formula were one from Mrs. Alice R. Northrop, upon Public Schools; Mrs. Chadwick, upon the Kindergarten; Mrs. H. H. Backus, upon Collegiate Education, and Mrs. M. M. Greeley, upon Professional Education. An important division—that of “Industrial Education”—was omitted on account of the absence of Mrs. J. de la M. Lozier, to whom it was assigned, and who was unfortunately detained by sickness in her family.

Her time was occupied, however, by Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, who summarized the development of the club movement.

Mrs. Northrop took advantage of the opportunity afforded her to make a somewhat severe arraignment of the system in the public schools and their consequent shortcomings. An animated discussion followed. Mrs. Chadwick’s paper gave food for thought, but not for talk. It was a most earnest and finished address—as remarkable for its fine style, its exquisite form, in which there was not the slightest redundancy of language, as for sympathetic insight and intensity. It was listened to with absorbing interest.

Grouped reports were made by Mrs. Goodale, Chairman of State Correspondence for the G. F. W. C.; by Mrs. Julia F. Parsons, upon “Village Improvements;” from the Health Protective Association, of Brooklyn, upon “Municipal Reform;” from Rev. Phebe A. Hanaford and Mrs. J. M. Leeper. Mrs. Goodale’s was a fine summary of the work of sixty clubs, though exception was taken to her classification.

There were local reports from the “Post Parliament” Club, the Emma Willard Association, the Women’s Educational and Industrial Union, of Buffalo; “Greater Saratoga” and others that I have not space to enumerate.

Greater Saratoga is an organization of 1,500 women, to enlarge, eliminate, improve and bring that famous village up to the mark. Through Mrs. Walworth, and in conjunction with the Art and Science Club of Saratoga, an invitation was extended to the delegates, which was promptly accepted, to be their guests for two days next July at a midsummer “outing” at this celebrated summer resort. The meeting will probably be in July, and will not be “heavy.” The general topic will probably be: “Town and Village Improvements,” with Saratoga for an object lesson.

I have to pass over the hospitable luncheons, the very beautiful reception given in the club parlors of the Y. W. C. A. building by the Brooklyn clubs to delegates and invited guests, and all the details of a somewhat exciting election, to come to that which will most interest the readers of the "Alumnæ News"—the evening at Pratt Institute and the lecture of Miss Myrtila Avery.

Miss Avery will be known to many as an assistant in the office of the State Librarian, Mr. Melvil Dewey, at Albany, her department being in connection with the university extension scheme of traveling libraries for the study clubs.

The visit to Pratt Institute was by invitation of Mr. Charles H. Pratt, whose brief address of welcome was most cordial and inspiring, and followed by a brief paper descriptive of the work of the Institute, from Mrs. Plummer, librarian of the P. I., read by Miss Weeks. The important literary feature of the evening was the lecture by Miss Avery upon the State Library in its relation to club work among women. She surprised some of her hearers by ascribing the original idea of the traveling library to Napoleon, whose conduct of them was, however, decidedly Napoleonic.

Naturally the books were works upon warfare or military tactics, but if they did not fit into their places, Napoleon had no hesitation in cutting them down to the required size, though it lopped all the headlines and terminations. Miss Avery suggested, in the course of her address, that a "Correspondence Bureau" should be established within the educational limits of the New York State Federation, to work in connection with the libraries and the study clubs, when required, furnishing direction in the use of books, and outlines for study, when needed. She said she was ashamed to have to go out of the State to have this work done, and that exactly the material needed to form such a Bureau of Correspondence could be found in the splendid group of educational associations gathered in the State Federation.

This idea has been acted upon by the Executive Committee. The chairmanship of this bureau was offered to Mrs. H. H. Backus, of Brooklyn, who has done such excellent work in the interest of the S. F. during the past year. Pressure of other duties and somewhat impaired health obliged her, however,

to decline, and it is probable that the place will be filled by Mrs. Frances Hardin Hess, assistant librarian at the University of the City of New York, who will have the aid and co-operation of Mrs. Backus in forming a Correspondence Bureau that may be relied upon for work of literary and educational value.

The recently elected officers of the Federation are: President, Mrs. Croly; Vice-President, Mrs. Clymer; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Tiftt (Buffalo); Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Chapin; Treasurer, Mrs. Silsby (Seneca Falls); Auditor, Mrs. Warner, Rochester. The Executive Committee are Mrs. M. W. Chapman, Brooklyn; Mrs. Hamilton Ward, Belmont; Mrs. Alice Northrop, Yonkers; Mrs. Julia Parsons, Hempstead, L. I.; Mrs. Russell Sage, Mrs. Maud Humphrey, Warsaw; Mrs. H. T. Danforth, Dunkirk.

The summer meeting at Saratoga promises to be one of exceptional interest, and already a most cordial invitation has been received from the Buffalo Educational and Industrial Union to hold the next annual convention in that beautiful and thriving city. By that time it is hoped that the representative organizations, including literary clubs, philanthropic societies, educational and patriotic associations, clubs for political study, and societies for town and village improvement, will be so grouped and unified as to present results in collective form that shall serve a more useful purpose than they could as the scattered and fragmentary records of local societies.

J. C. CROLY.