

### The Federation of Women's Clubs.

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In the autumn of 1894, Mrs. J. C. Croly, as Chairman of the Federation Committee formed by Sorosis, sent out a call to the Women's Clubs of the State of New York, to meet in convention and form a Federation of Women's Clubs of the State of New York. The aim of the Federation was to carry further the benefits of organization—already acknowledged by the formation of the individual club.

The Associate Alumnæ of the Normal College received the call, and decided, through the Executive Committee, that the Association should send its President and one delegate to the Convention. These could then judge, from full data, as to the advisability of joining the Federation.

On November 19th, one hundred and eighteen delegates met at Sherry's. Mrs. Helmuth, President of Sorosis, which was the club that began the work of forming a Federation, was in the chair.

We regret that we cannot print a full list of the clubs which sent delegates. We name a few, taken at random: Woman's Health Protective Association, Brooklyn; United Italian Charities, New York; Association of the Working Girls' Clubs, Brooklyn; Twelfth Night Club; Woman's Press Club, New York City; New York Medical College and Hospital for Women; Women's Conference, Society for Ethical Culture, New York City; Professional Woman's League, New York City; Daughters of the Revolution, Society for Political Study, New York City.

Mrs. Helmuth welcomed the delegates, and, after speaking a few words of pleasure at meeting them, spoke of the object of the Federation—"To harmonize the different elements that tend toward the development and education of our sex, and to unite in one common interest, women of all ranks, professions, industries and faiths."

Mrs. Croly spoke next, and cited the instance of other States where State Federation had been formed. She said: "New York is the mother of the Woman's Club, and of that idea of a unified womanhood which is the soul of the Woman's Club movement. . .

"There are many specialized clubs and associations that do splendid work upon their own lines, that could both give and receive aid and stimulus toward the extension of all worthy effort—the humanizing of all gifts and advantages."

Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer spoke, in part, as follows: "I sometimes think that the patch-work quilts that our grandmothers were so fond of making were symbols of our club life, which

makes one useful whole out of detached and isolated fragments of womankind. Let us pray that we may form an organization, beautiful and symmetrical, and not one of those strange conglomerations of form and color so appropriately denominated crazy quilts."

Other delegates then spoke, giving brief outlines of the special work of their clubs. After this the meeting adjourned.

Many of the delegates attended the reception given by Dr. and Mrs. William Tod Helmuth to the delegates on the evening of the same day.

On November 20th, after some business had been concluded and the roll called, Mrs. Lozier made the motion that a New York State Federation be formed. This was adopted unanimously, and a Committee on Constitution and By-Laws was appointed. This committee, together with the Nominating Committee, withdrew for action. Clubs which had not been heard from the day before, then reported upon their aims and lines of work. The Associate Alumnæ, through our President, Mrs. Northrop, gave a short sketch of its work and purpose. Much interest was excited by the fact that we are a working Alumnæ, an active association.

It is especially interesting to note the variety of interests represented by the delegates. Many came from Alumnæ of the various women's colleges—academical, medical and law—others represented clubs for social study, for political purposes; others came, again, from literary and social clubs. The Working Girls' and charitable clubs were not left out, and many clubs whose aims fall under none of the above heads answered to the roll call.

It is on account of this very diversity of interest, work and aim, that it is proposed to form within the Federation a number of groups, thus placing in closer correspondence those clubs which have similar objects, and so giving them larger and better opportunities of mutual help. It will be noticed that this grouping is one of the first things provided for in the Constitution, which was then voted upon.

Each article of both the By-Laws and the Constitution was considered by the Convention, and then both were adopted unanimously as a whole. Perhaps Article II, and Section 2, Article I, of the Constitution, may prove interesting. The former reads: "Its (the Federation's) object shall be to bring into relations of mutual helpfulness the various clubs and organizations of women throughout the State." The latter is as follows: "Constitutions of societies applying for membership must be free from

sectarian or political bias, and must express the spirit of progress on broad and human lines.”

After election by ballot, Mrs. J. C. Croly was chosen President of the Federation. Other officers are : Mrs. E. D. Clymer, Mrs. F. D. Vose, Mrs. Allen C. Washington, of Brooklyn (Corresponding Secretary), Mrs. John McCollough, Mrs. Mary F. Warner.

Musical entertainment was furnished during the afternoon. At the close of the session a vote of thanks was tendered to Sorosis by the delegates, for its generous hospitality during their sojourn in New York—to the President, Mrs. Helmuth ; to Mrs. Palmer ; to Mrs. Maude K. Clarke.

The Associate Alumnae, through its Executive Committee, joined the Federation. If we, as individuals, have joined the association in order that our work may prove more effective when set in the general work of an organized body, will not the association itself gain in power by joining with other clubs in their work? If the company fight better than the same number of men undrilled, will not the regiment, sensible of a unity of purpose and trained to unity of action, fight better than separate companies brought together? In the struggle for the better life, let us join those who also are pushing obstacles away—that our strength may be as twice our number.

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