

federation has no work except to hold these clubs together and create a perfect correlation.

It is contemplated that it shall act as a federation in distinction from other organizations. In forming the movement, especially with such timid elements as we have to deal with, we must not go too fast. We cannot commit the movement to any one cause. For instance, we would not join the National Council because we felt that it was committed to woman suffrage.

I think the first object of the federation should be the formation of State organizations. Illinois, thus far, is the banner State in the number of clubs, having sixty-four women's clubs. These could easily be made into a State organization, wielding a tremendous influence in any cause they might espouse. We might take for instance that of municipal government. There should be as many of these organizations as there are States.

I think the next most important work of the federation will be the formation of city federations. For instance, in Chicago, there are twenty-five federated clubs, and the possibilities of city federation of clubs elsewhere are boundless. As yet there are no city federations, but we could establish them in every city in the Union. Perhaps Chicago now exemplifies this idea better than has ever been done before. The advantages of the federation of clubs in the emergency work of Chicago have been very apparent. The clubs opened work-rooms for women, each club under the direction of the Chicago Women's Club, which is the largest. Together they called the Emergency Association into being, and, in my opinion, absolutely kept this city from anarchy last winter. They gave no charity, but wages for work done, and made a wonderful record. They gave these women 50 cents a day for work done from 9 in the morning until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. They had work-rooms in every part of the city, so that the women were not obliged to spend their wages in car fare, and gave them a warm, substantial lunch at 12 o'clock. They had an emergency fund, which they applied in case of chattel mortgage and evictions. Every family represented by women working in their work-rooms was visited, and the circumstances ascertained. The children were sent to school and clothed by the Children's Aid Society. The hold which they established in this way over these women had a remarkable moral effect. They have on record in the rooms of the Chicago Women's Club the name and residence of every woman who worked in their rooms, for future reference and use as circumstances might require. Many of the clubs having the work-rooms in charge arranged for addresses and lectures to the women in the afternoons.

In the matter of city federations the municipal government is a point which the women, with great

advantage, could inquire into. They could try to rectify some of its evils. This cannot be done in a day. You have to get it out of your mind that anybody is to blame for it, and follow out the great laws of progress and evolution; and when you are in that frame of mind you can see where the weakness is and what the remedies to be applied are. Most people working reforms spend most of their time in abusing the people who are the least responsible, without attacking the weakness of the system.

Now, suppose that the federated clubs of a city should take up the school question and concentrate their power on that. You must remember always that the women who are members of these clubs represent the best women in the community. How much could be accomplished for the public school system? They could accomplish much by visiting the schools in the first place. There is nothing so much needed as the influence of the outside on the inside of the schools. Not one parent in 1,000 ever visits the school-room where their children attend school and receive their entire education. The school-rooms are bare, unsightly, and badly ventilated, except those that are new; and it is impossible, no matter with what good will the school board of a large city endeavours to perform its duty, for it to exercise that constant vigilance which is required to keep the schools in good order, and to keep the teachings within the advanced lines of thought. Then the federated clubs can advocate the placing of women on the School Board. This has worked well wherever it has been tried—so well, in fact, that the cities that have placed them on the board, have never dropped them.

Further, there are ten women in the schools employed as teachers, to one man connected with the public school system. The constant cry of the people interested in the advancement of education and in the school system, is to put business men on the board, while the truth is that a committee of three business men and two business women could transact to far greater advantage the business and financial part of the school board work, and in that case, somebody could be held responsible. There is another point taken up by the clubs, which I think is extremely interesting in regard to education. I met, while I was East, a gentleman, sent by one of the great universities, whose name I cannot give. He had lived for five days with Coxey's army. He was with them five days while they were outside Washington. He was a student of social economics, and was sent by one of the largest and most advanced universities of the country to study those men. He gave me the result of those five days' study. He mentioned, as the first result, the youth of most of the men belonging to the Coxey army. They were extremé-

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