

Dwight Star and Herald.

DUSTIN & PRIME.

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Fraternal Features.

History of the Ladies' Benevolent Society of the Congregational Churches.

In Dwight, Ill., in the afternoon of February 2, 1880, fifteen ladies met with Mrs. Hetzel in her home to organize a society to be known as the Ladies' Benevolent Society of the Congregational Church. The plan of organization was this: A lady could become a member of this society on the payment of an initiation fee of 25 cents, and pledge herself to assist in whatever work the society should engage. To recompence her for three hours' work per week, receive credit for five cents, and if she should be absent, or present, and work for herself, she must pay a fine of 5 cents to the society.

The object of this society in the minds of all, was to do that work, for aid of the church, which presented itself. The first object in the minds of some, was to raise funds to purchase a bell for the church. The charter-members were the following ladies: Mesdames Adams, Brubaker, Cornell, Cadwallader, Cary, Eldridge, S. Eldridge, Estes, Hartley, McClure, Newell, Jorden, Parsons and Pool. Mrs. Hartley was elected president; Mrs. Jorden, secretary; Mrs. Hetzel, treasurer. The latter retained the office ten years, and on her retiring Mrs. Adams was elected and still continues in office.

In these years many ladies have joined the society and have withdrawn only to engage in work in new fields, while but three have severed the tie to join the society angels. For the first years of its existence this society followed so close the scriptural injunction, "Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth," that they kept no records, save of moneys raised and expended. Nothing was said of the money given to buy back the cow taken from a poor woman for debt, nor of the boxes of clothing sent to sufferers from fire, flood and famine, and yet each box represented money as well as hours and days of weary work, and often a great sacrifice of strength. Not one word as to where applied. In 1886 the ladies, believing their business policy to be defective, appointed a committee to draft a constitution. The report of this committee, by a full vote, was adopted. Since which time one hour each week is devoted to business which is duly recorded for future reference—a great help to poor memories. Now, the fifteenth year of this society's existence has nearly closed. Fifteen years organized to aid the cause of Christ. Let us see if it has, and how it has, met its obligations. You will say, on first thought, that it has failed in one of its first objects. It has purchased no bell. We declare that in these fifteen years it has purchased many bells, the tones of which are not audible to human ears, for, only by God, and the angels, are they heard.

These ladies seem never to shrink from any strain to nerve or muscles, but take up with cheerfulness whatever work is offered them, from the scrubbing of the church to the tying of eighteen comforts for one of our leading merchants. During these years, and by these means, have they been enabled to help at different times to pay the pastor's salary, and for six years paid all the incidental expenses of the church, contributed quite a sum to the organ fund, and last, but not least, paid many old debts, of their own choice, although in no way were they responsible for them. The society's membership has never exceeded thirty-five, and yet it has raised in these years \$2,520.42. The greatest amount ever raised in one year being \$282.54, and the least \$72.95. Along with this hard work has come much of brightness and pleasure, as the yearly anniversaries show, at which times the honorary members of the society (namely, the husbands) are invited to a great spread and the hours are spent in feasting and merriment. The present list of officers are the following ladies: President, Mrs. J. C. Lewis; vice-president, Mrs. B. A. Buck; secretary, Mrs. John Koehler; treasurer, Mrs. A. E. Adams. Executive Committee—Mesdames Baker, Spencer, Doty, Adams and Buck.

On these ladies you may call if you have any piece of work you want done, from that of the artist to the cook or nurse.

Missionary Society.

The Dwight Auxiliary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the M. E. church is at present in a very prosperous condition. It was organized in May, 1889, with a membership of sixteen. Since that time the interest has been constantly increasing, new members being added until there are now enrolled fifty-eight. Meetings are held once a month, at which very interesting and instructive papers are read on different fields of missionary work, and thus the members are all interested in the work of helping send the gospel to foreign lands, the purpose

of the organization, \$135 being sent this past conference year. The officers are as follows: President, Mrs. Manning Smith; first vice-president, Mrs. Darwin Stevens; second vice-president, Mrs. John Leach; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Frank Haise; recording secretary, Miss Luella Stevens; treasurer, Mrs. Frank Bell.

Eastern Star.

Dwight Chapter No. 166, of the order of the Eastern Star, was organized October 31, 1890, with thirteen charter members.

This order was instituted to afford a larger reign of peace and love upon earth, to erect a shrine where the burdened heart could pour out its sorrows and distress find relief.

The Eastern Star is closely related to the Masonic fraternity, and although related to it by the dearest ties, yet it is no part of the ancient order. But woman's heart beats responsive to the same inspiration that prompts man to noble deeds, and seeks through the Eastern Star to become a co-worker with the Masonic brotherhood. And it is for this purpose that we assemble in our chapter room.

During the five years of our existence many pleasant evenings have been spent together, several banquets spread and picnics enjoyed, each one binding the sisters closer together.

The officers have secured for themselves an elegant set of robes, which adds greatly to the interest of the work.

We congratulate ourselves upon having in our number one proficient in drill work as Brother John Pettett, who, with untiring zeal, has taken much pride as well as given much labor in drilling a Floral Team, "second to none in the state."

Death has entered our chapter room and severed two of the "links in our golden chain." Thus twice has this order been called upon to perform our beautiful funeral ceremonies, the floral star being formed at the graves of Sisters Alice Oakshott and Johanna Crandall. Two have gone from us by demit to other fields of labor, making the present membership forty-two, with peace and harmony prevailing. The stated time of meeting is the second and Friday of each month. The officers are, Worthy Matron Margaret Leach; Worthy Patron, Rev. C. W. Ayling; Associate Matron, Emma Taylor; Secretary, Nora Goodman; Treasurer, Delia Miller; Conductress, Anna E. Buck; Assistant Conductress, Ella Doty; Warder, Matilda Pettett; Guard, Mr. Petersen; Adal, Anna Boivik; Ruth, Maggie Palm; Esther, Rose Miller; Martha, Estella Baker; Electa, Lucy Crandall; Chaplain, Nellie Romberger.

A STAR.

Illini Club, No. 950, Lyceum League of America.

This society enjoys the distinction of being the latest organization, of a social or literary character, in Dwight.

The idea of having a boys' literary society, modeled after those in our colleges and academies, originated and has long been a pet project in the minds of some young men of the village, and, at the beginning of the present school year, these boys, with the help of the principal of the Dwight schools, succeeded in bringing together seventeen young men who organized themselves into a literary society, their purpose, as declared in the preamble of their constitution, being to give the members of the order a thorough drill in parliamentary procedure and the art of public speaking, and to create and encourage among themselves an interest in the principal questions of the day. Later the society was organized into a local lodge of the Lyceum League of America, of which the Hon. Theodore Roosevelt is the national president, adopting as their distinguishing title the old Indian name for Illinois—Illini.

The Illini has met with nothing but the best wishes and encouragement of our people, the Sons of Veterans kindly allowing them the use of their hall for a month free of charge. In return the society has given the people of Dwight and vicinity a course of five lectures, which, if not delivered by the most eminent men in the profession, has certainly offered, for the money invested, extraordinarily generous returns. Whether or not the society will realize the hopes of its founders, it is yet too early to determine, but certain it is that, interfering with no other occupation of its members, it has given them something to occupy their spare time, and from which they may derive both pleasure and profit. The ultimate success of the project means a step forward in the practical education of America's future voters.

Following are the officers: President, John Goodspeed; vice-president, Chad Bell; recording secretary, Charles J. Perry; corresponding secretary, Will Geis; marshal, Howe Parker.

All visitors are welcome.

Y. P. S. C. E.

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor of the Congregational church, of Dwight, was organized February 12, 1887. The late Prof. H. D. Fisk was the first president, Rev. Mr. Wilson, pastor. The Endeavor society has for its motto, "For Christ and the Church," and its object, to help young people to live nearer to Christ, to assist the pastor of the church in his work, in

every way possible and to promote the principles of good citizenship. Also seeks to cultivate a spirit of friendliness and sociability among its members, and kindness to strangers.

Our society now has forty members. The officers are elected semi-annually, in January and June. Those for the current half year are: Pastor, Rev. E. F. Wright; president, Mrs. J. A. Spencer; vice-president, Mary Nelson; treasurer, Mrs. J. L. VanEman; corresponding secretary, Bessie Baker; recording secretary, Alida A. Martin.

We welcome all to our meetings at 6:45 Sunday evenings. The society is now organizing a good citizenship class.

All who will, who are interested in the welfare of their country and in developing a higher degree of social life, are invited to join, whether they are members of the society or church or not.

Rebekahs.

Prairie Queen Lodge Daughters of Rebekahs, No. 370, I. O. O. F., was organized in Dwight, Ill., January 29, 1895.

The officers of the current term are:

N. G., Miss Nora Goodman; V. G., Miss M. F. Pettett; Secretary, Mrs. F. Starrett; Treasurer, Mrs. N. A. Ketcham; Deputy for G. M., Mrs. H. A. Fox; W., Miss M. E. Reader; C. Miss N. C. Taylor; Chaplain, John Geis; R. S. N. G., John Pettett; L. S. N. G., Mrs. E. Chamberlin; R. S. V. G., Miss P. E. Fox; L. S. V. G., Miss E. Baker; O. G., J. K. Buffham; I. G., W. J. Taylor.

The object of the Rebekah Degree Lodge is, to assist the Odd Fellows in preparing and maintaining homes for their widows and orphans, taking care of the sick and to promote the fraternal and social feelings among its members.

This degree was presented to the Sovereign Grand Lodge of the United States by Schuyler Colfax and adopted in September, 1851.

It has long been considered among men that by far the best part of our physically developed humanity, are the women, and it is no wonder that a fraternity like Odd Fellowship, recognizing women's great mission, and the aptness of the association to her nature, should provide a degree especially for her.

The objects, aims, principles and teachings of the order are such that, when fully understood, they will captivate woman. Lodges of Odd Fellows are formed, and in them men are banded together to do what it is natural for women to do. The leading principles of the order are but the innate principles of women's nature.

The acknowledged motto of the order of Odd Fellows is "Friendship, Love and Truth." The order teaches that no one has a right to live simply for himself. No one has a right to enjoy the blessings of the common Father alone. Selfishness, the great sin of our humanity, should be avoided, and benevolence, the great principle of the fraternity, should be practiced.

The great cornerstone of Odd Fellowship is fraternity, a true fraternity in the family of man. On this cornerstone, as a solid basis, the whole superstructure securely rests, and will continue to rest until time shall be no more.

The maxim of Odd Fellowship, "We visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan," has touched the feelings and stirred up the tender hearts of women; and the work of the order has exhibited to our American women and to the women of the world, what our order is accomplishing.

I cannot tell why the degree was called Rebekah, except it was because of the circumstances recorded of Rebekah, so much like the practical workings of Odd Fellowship.

EMBLEMS OF THE DEGREE.

As life is passing, we are taught by the emblem of the "Beehive" industriously to do the work of life, and for the purpose of helping each other we are banded together in our lodges.

The emblem of the "Moon and Stars" is intended to represent good life which does not come to anyone as a matter of course, but is the result of divine favor attending our earnest efforts to do good.

The emblem of the "Dove" tells us that we, too, may have the visits of that comforting messenger typified by Noah's dove. We may learn in its blessed influence on our hearts that the waters of Jehovah's wrath are assuaged, and that in the salvation provided, so beautifully typified by the ark, the offender may be reconciled to the offended.

A REBEKAH.

Woman's Auxiliary Keeley League.

The Woman's Auxiliary Keeley League, No. 1, of Dwight, was first organized in February, 1892, by a few earnest women who were at that time taking treatment. It was then called the B. C. of Gold Club of Dwight. Only ladies who had, or were taking the treatment, were eligible to membership.

Their object was to bind together in one fraternal bond all the women who had taken the Keeley cure, and assist worthy applicants who were unable to do so. Their motto was "Charity," and the first money they expended was to pay for a patient who was a sleeping car for a patient who was returning home and was unable to procure it herself.

The Ladies B. C. of G. Club, of

Dwight, was the first organization of women in the Keeley work. In the formation of the Woman's Auxiliary Keeley League, the club was merged into it, but retained the original No. 1, three of its workers becoming charter members in the Auxiliary. Of the three one is dead, one withdrawn to join elsewhere, and one is still an honored member. The first elected officers were: President, Mrs. Kate Shaffer; vice-president, Mrs. Barber; secretary, Mrs. Carrie Lounsberry.

In November, 1892, the present Auxiliary was organized by Mrs. Ida Cole. Mrs. Dr. Blaine was elected president and Mrs. Dr. Barr, secretary.

The object of the W. A. K. L. is to further the cause of temperance, and especially to aid in curing the inebriate of the disease of alcoholism and others in the use of opium and other drugs. To teach the youthful of the land to avoid the drink and drug addictions, and by all means possible, with the blessing of God, promote the purity and good order of society.

The motto is "Not willing that any should perish."

Since the organization in November, 1892, there has been collected from different sources \$633.90. There is at present \$18.19 remaining in the treasury. The balance has been expended for curing patients and defraying the necessary expenses of running the Auxiliary. Meetings have been held every week until the present time. Regular meetings the 2d and 4th Tuesdays in every month in Odd Fellows' hall.

Every one is welcome.

Mrs. Dr. Barr, who has been an untiring worker since the Auxiliary was first organized, is the president.

Woman's Relief Corps.

One of our efficient philanthropic organizations is the Woman's Relief Corps, auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. Its especial object is to aid and assist the members of this organization, to cherish and emulate the deeds of the brave defenders of our nation, and perpetuate the memory of their heroic dead. To maintain true allegiance to the United States, inculcate lessons of patriotism and love of country among our children, and in the communities in which we live, and encourage the spread of universal liberty and equal rights to all. This is a platform broad enough, not only for the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of the Veterans, but for all loyal women who would perpetuate the principles for which the association stands pledged.

Dwight Woman's Relief Corps was organized in 1889 with Mrs. Hattie A. Fox as president. Their numbers were few but their zeal was always alive and much good has been done in a quiet way, not only in our own community, but aid has been given to the various Soldiers' Homes throughout the state. The contingent expenses are met out of the general fund, the "relief fund" being established for the benefit of the Veterans. The "line of blue," each year growing shorter, has tenderest sympathy as well as aid in the Woman's Relief Corps.

The officers for the ensuing year are: President, Mrs. Kate A. Dustin; vice-presidents, Mrs. Ella Wheatley and Mrs. E. L. Huey; treasurer, Mrs. Lucie Lewis; chaplain, Mrs. Lizzie Ayling; conductor, Miss Emma Buffham; guard, Miss Myrtle Wheatley.

Young Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

This branch of the Y's, as they are commonly called, was organized May 7, 1887, composed of the young ladies of Dwight, and has ever been a flourishing, prosperous society. The mission of this organization is to help the needy, visit the sick and aged, cheering them with fruit and flowers, sending money to hospitals, etc. The present officers are: President, Miss Kittie Martin; first vice-president, Miss Lenore Fifield; second vice-president, Miss Aline Chenowith; recording secretary, Miss Nellie Hade; corresponding secretary, Miss Mae Morgan; treasurer, Miss Mary Fifield; superintendent flower mission, Miss Lena Fifield; superintendent of literature, Miss Ella Fenn.

Epworth League.

The Epworth League is an organization of the young people of the Methodist Episcopal church. Its object is to promote intelligent and vital piety in the young members and friends of the church; to aid them in the attainment of purity of heart and constant growth in grace and to train them in works of mercy and help.

Its motto is, "Look up, Lift up." The Dwight Chapter of the Epworth League was organized about five years ago, and now has a membership of seventy-six active, twenty-three associate and eight honorary members. The present president is Mr. D. B. Stevens.

The work of the League is carried out through six departments: 1. Department of Spiritual Work, Superintendent Mrs. D. B. Stevens. 2. Mercy Work, Superintendent, Miss Nellie McWilliams. 3. Literary Work, Superintendent, Miss Louise McWilliams. 4. Social Work, Superintendent Mrs. Manning Smith. 5. Correspondence, Miss Lily Conrad. 6. Financial Work, Mr. Orville Brown. Devotional meetings are held each Sabbath evening before the regular preaching services. The regular business meetings are held the first Tuesday evening of each month and at the close of each a literary program or social is given. All are most cordially invited to attend the different meetings

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