

Susan was chairman this committee for 3 years

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April
maybe another
year*

REPORT
of

CHAIRMAN OF STATE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION:

There is no Department of our General Federation which has become a National power that is more important than that of public health. The health movement which is one of the burning questions of the day, began first as a measure taken for the production of commercial interests. Ever since there has been a gradual working backward seeking to remedy existing conditions by eliminating the causes of these conditions.

First. The education of the public in health knowledge. Then we have several powerful welfare movements to protect the children of our race and our health rights, such as child welfare organizations, the prevention of infant mortality, the establishment of a Children's Bureau at Washington. Until now we have the establishment of a new science; that of Eugenics which has for its object the scientific improvement of the human race through the proper application of the laws of heredity and environment. It seeks to decrease the defective classes of humanity, the feeble minded, paupers, inebriates, the epileptic, criminal, the insane, the constitutionally weak, pre-disposed to specific diseases, the deformed, and those with defective sense organs. Several remedies are proposed, such as sterilization, which has become a law in eight states, and came up in our own State Legislature at the last session; Life segregation or segregation during the reproductive period of life, restrictive marriage laws, which also came up in our last State Legislature; systems of mating to remove defective traits and education of the public in Eugenics. The science is in its infancy, not clearly defined yet, but it is bound to command public attention for it seeks to eliminate the cause of race weakness. The General Federation has assigned for your study the appropriate theme, The Health Rights of Children, which include child hygiene, food sanitation, social hygiene and tuberculosis. Your Health Committee has felt deeply the responsibility resting upon them and has sought to fulfil its obligations to you by taking certain measures to interest you in the study of health. Mrs. Humphrey of the First District

Mrs. Ed - Omaha, Tecumseh - So Omaha, Springfield, Valley,
Randolph, Tekamah

19 replies

has written her clubs 107 letters and sent 126 packages of literature. Mrs. Edholm of the Second District has written 5 rounds letters and sent 19 packages of literature. Mrs. Scoggin of the Fifth District has written 76 letters and sent 48 packages of literature. Doctor Cooper of the Fourth District has written _____ letters and sent _____ packages of literature. Mrs. Morgan has written each club of her District ^{once}. Your Chairman has written 468 letters to the clubs, 312 postals, and written several times a year to each member of her Committee. At every District Convention but one, the subject of Health was on the program. Your Committee worked for the abolishment of the drinking cup which became a law of the last session of the Legislature; and worked also for the Medical Inspection of Schools Law, writing to legislators and prominent men of our State and to all the clubs to aid in having the law passed. It was dropped, but will in all probability pass at the next Legislature. Your Committee will bequeath this special work to your next Health Committee. *50 clubs sold Red Cross Seals*

Your Chairman worked very hard for several weeks to get a health exhibit of models, posters and placards for the Convention today, writing to Dr. Dowling of the Health Exhibit Train of Louisiana, to New York and to Chicago, finding at last that the price for models ranged from \$8.00 to \$160.00. I was very much disappointed, but I feel that some good was done, for several welfare organizations became very much interested in my efforts and have each written several times, and made several efforts to aid me. I made the suggestion to the Russel Sage Foundation that some good philanthropist must start a manufactory of Health exhibits at reasonable prices as the general public ought to be educated in health. So I feel some good may have come of my having raised a tempest in these welfare organizations.

Your Committee will gladly bequesth the many different addresses where these exhibits cannot be obtained, and the one place where they can be obtained to your next Health Committee.

What can a club do for its community and school along health lines? Walthill observed National Tuberculosis Day by inviting its local doctors to lecture in the two churches. These

lectures were printed in the Walthill Times reaching hundreds of people, and making a deep impression. An article on the evils of the drinking cup printed in the Walthill paper reached many hundreds of people. Drinking cups are sold in our stores; sanitary fountains have been established in the schools by the School Board; and sanitary ice cream dishes and spoons that can be thrown away after using have been established by the drug store. An article on The Fly with a poster in the same paper was the means of a fly campaign and so good were the results that the paper commended the action at the close of the summer. The fly traps recommended are kept for sale by our hardwares. The Woman's Club sold Ten Dollars worth of red cross seals, without much effort, to aid in tuberculosis work. The Women's Club sent its members every little while to visit the schools and make reports on it. The Health Committee of the Women's Club will write a short article on health every few weeks for the Walthill paper. Medical Inspection of the School will start in Walthill this month. This has been brought about by Mrs. H. L. Keefe, President of the Women's Club, who is on the School Board, and your Chairman will examine the children. There are plans on foot to establish a play-ground for the children of Walthill. Medical Inspection is a great step forward. I feel that what is done for the children is more important than anything else, for what you want to see in the public life you must teach in the public school and the future fathers and mothers of our homes have a right to be educated in health knowledge.

I wish to thank our President for her unfailing interest in our work, our Vice Presidents for their aid on the District programs, and my Committee for their enthusiastic and loyal support which has made much of this work possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Resche
CHAIRMAN OF HEALTH COMMITTEE of
The State Federation of Women's
Clubs.