

## SOROSIS.

From the New York World of Jan. 5th.

## THE REGULAR MEETING AT DELMONICO'S—LARGE ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS—RESOLUTIONS.

The regular meeting of Sorosis took place at Delmonico's, and was the largest in numbers of any that has yet occurred. Weather seems to have no influence in dampening the enthusiasm of the members of the Woman's Club; on the contrary, the more unpropitious the day, the greater is generally the turnout. At the present time, moreover, there are many topics of interest under discussion, and members feel that they cannot miss a meeting without losing something of real interest and importance. Thus, they are fast learning to disregard wind, and rain, and hail, or snowstorms, and only consult signs and tokens to the extent of securing protection and comfort in a waterproof.

Up to the present time, Delmonico's large parlors have afforded ample accommodation for the meetings of Sorosis, but the crowded apartments yesterday gave evidence that, if the club continues to increase as rapidly in numbers and attendance as it has done recently, a larger space and more extensive accommodations will have to be provided. There must be a more than ordinary attraction about a club meeting that brings women from Brooklyn, Orange, Hackensack, Harlem, and other suburban localities on such a day as yesterday. After the discussion of such a lunch as Delmonico alone knows how to provide, the meeting was called to order by Mrs. Croly, and Mrs. Davis was elected to the chair. The recording secretary, Mrs. Wilbour, read a lengthy report of the proceedings of the last meeting, which was unusually interesting, and letters were read by the corresponding secretary, Mrs. Burleigh, from Mrs. Robert Dale Owen, Miss Virginia Penny, and others, all of which had reference to topics of real and practical importance. The chairman of the Business Committee, Mrs. Agnes Noble, reported on several measures, one of which was an act of incorporation, by which "Sorosis" becomes a legal institution, capable of holding property, devising, or receiving bequests, and protecting its name and claims against trespass or encroachment.

At a previous meeting of Sorosis, held December 7, the following resolutions were offered by Mrs. Mary F. Davis, adopted, and a committee appointed to carry out its purpose indicated. Among the members of that committee were the names of Dr. Anna Dinsmore, Mrs. Robert Dale Owen, and Mrs. Swissheim.

*Whereas*, Recent developments in this city and in other places, have called the attention of Sorosis to the homeless and unprotected condition of those upon whom, by misfortune or crime, is laid the burden of un-legalized maternity; and,

*Whereas*, Owing to the ostracism of public opinion, and the regulations of society and government, these unfortunate receive fierce condemnation and cruel neglect, which neglect and contumely are shared by their innocent offspring, who are left to perish or live to swell the downward drifting tide of vice; and,

*Whereas*, The partners in their crime, or, as is too often the case, the authors of their misery, are unrebuked by society, and are not prevented by public opinion from pursuing the same free and dishonorable career as if virtuous, while their companions, or victims, are bereft of social position and debared from all opportunity to retrieve their error and to rise to honor and preferment in respectable communities; and as by this most unjust relative position woman is driven to despondency, loss of self-respect, and that deep despair which ultimates in recklessness and ruin; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we give this subject serious and humane consideration, and that, to facilitate this purpose, a standing committee be appointed whose duty it shall be to investigate the causes of descent into this great evil of our civilization, and, if possible, to discover the means of protection and redemption from this bottomless pit of agony and shame.

*Resolved*, That the first work of the committee shall be to ascertain what public provision has been made by way of hospitals and asylums, in this city and elsewhere, for the protection and care of the unfortunate woman approaching maternity in consequence, it may be, of the first downward step; and if such wise and humane guardianship shall not be found, to consider the question of the erection of such asylums and hospitals with the hope that the divine "quality of mercy" may be extended to the erring woman no less freely than to the erring man, and that the desolate and despairing, through whom society has dishonored the holy office of maternity by degrading its entire significance, and neglecting its most imperative and sacred claims, may be

rescued from misery and vice, and her offspring saved to fill an honorable place in our great, intelligent, and virtuous commonwealth.

At the meeting of December 7, a committee was also appointed to investigate and report on the cause of the present inefficiency of household labor, and devise, if possible, some remedy for the evils of which housekeepers universally complain.

Mrs. Bronson read an able paper on this subject, of which the following were the principle points:

1st. That the primal cause of the inefficiency lies in the entire want of knowledge of the work to be performed.

2d. In the fact that domestic service is considered degrading.

3d. That our household work is done by foreigners unacquainted with our habits and customs, and professed over by mistresses who have only been trained to society accomplishments.

The remedy proposed is the formation of a school or institute for the training and education of domestic servants; and the elevation by this means of the standard of domestic labor.

Mrs. Croly suggested the organization of the Housekeepers Prevention Bureau, for the purpose of testing weights and qualities of articles of food used in families. The bureau is to consist of a president, a secretary, and board of trustees, who at a small annual cost should provide an office where packages could be tested as to weight and a portion of their contents submitted to the analysis of a chemist employed for the purpose.

Such an institution, requiring little means and a very small amount of machinery, would, it was thought, be productive of immense practical benefit, rendering retailers and manufacturers afraid of the consequences of exposure, and exciting among them a spirit of praise, worthy emulation as to who should supply the best, rather than the poorest articles to their customers and community generally.

A proposition from Mrs. Wilbour to form a dramatic club met with great favor, especially from the younger members of Sorosis.

The Club adjourned to meet on the last Monday in January, at the same place, and in the meantime accepted an invitation for a social entertainment at the house of Mrs. Laura C. Bullard, Brooklyn.

The New York Woman's Club can hardly in future be charged with doing nothing but having a "good time." If it accomplishes half the work cut out at this one meeting it has employment for a couple of centuries at least.

Just as we go to press we receive the *Woman's Advocate*, Dayton, Ohio, *Chicago Legal News*, and the *Sorosis*, all of them teeming with good things. We copy the following letter from the last mentioned, and heartily echo the good wishes for our cotemporary therein expressed.

DEAR SOROSIS: I saw a notice of your paper, the *Sorosis*, in our last *REVOLUTION*, and, as it is an advocate of a revolution in favor of our sex, I think it should be supported by every woman who has the advancement of our cause at heart.

Our only hope of emancipation and elevation is with ourselves and the press conducted by our sex, with what little help and encouragement the "lords of creation" may occasionally give us. The advancement of our cause has commenced earnestly, and there should be no retrograde movement for want of support.

Let "Onward" be our motto, until we obtain what is justly our right. THE REVOLUTION has commenced nobly, and is creating quite an excitement here. I hope your *Sorosis* will not be long behind in point of circulation.

You have, I hope, the good will and sympathy of all; and may both these advocates of Woman's cause have all the success they deserve.  
O. A. R.  
Auburn, Oregon.

A Madame Euphenic Frank has been sentenced to imprisonment for forty days for smuggling twenty-four of Victor Hugo's *Châtiments* into France.

We hope Victor will defend this woman as nobly as he did his son not long since.

THE LADIES' LONGEVITY.—Only one Revolutionary soldier left to enjoy a government pension, and yet 88 widows of such soldiers still survive! Women outlive men because they do not systematically abbreviate life by excessive indulgence.

## BRAIN ASSISTANCE

Oh for a little "brain assistance!" some one to work in harmony with me! For perseverance, for the will, for the earnest determination which insures success. Then with that little help I could carry out my project, rise to nobler work, benefit my present fellow-creatures." It was a young lady who uttered these words; and as she stood watching the snow descending in tiny flakes, and covering the earth with its mantle, felt discouraged; then the music, floating up from the room below, served to make the day more dreary, for it reminded of other hours. The cause of her despondency was this: nearly two weeks from this day she had suggested the idea of organizing a society, it was received with exclamations of pleasure by those to whom it was told, and with a beating, happy heart, she had that night sought her couch in hope. They met, organized, but for two weeks had not gathered, because many of the members were absent. Now, it was the day preceding the night they were to meet, and it found her not dispirited but despising woman's weakness. Those who were so active and loud in commendation were now trying to discourage, and pain would give up without effort. It was well to picture the benefits to be derived from such an organization, but it was another thing to obtain them. It was no effort to talk about it, but when the time came for active service they shrank from the encounter, and assigned as a reason, "that it was no use for one to try unless all were united." So one stood back, and then another, no one came forward to place shoulder to the wheel and say, "I'll do what I can," but instead looked upon the project as a woman's undertaking, and like poor weak women, gave up.

Is it any wonder woman occupies an interior position? Is it any wonder she receives half her just dues? Is it any wonder to-day men point the finger and hiss at "Woman's Rights?" No, for in past years flattery has given the desire to please, and ridicule the wish to be above gentlemen's censure. But the day is coming, and that not far distant, when woman shall be on an equality with man, when she shall beard the lion in his den. Thanks to the noble supporters; thanks to the noble advocates for "Woman's Rights." Poor deluded creatures that we are! to give up with little or no effort; to let the few who are struggling for their own good and the good of their sex, labor without assistance, to stretch forth no helping hand, but rather stand and ridicule. From the falling flakes of snow we learn a lesson; it is this, even as the succession of flakes cover the earth, so may we, by continued perseverance, accomplish any desired end. And we know that they who to-day are laboring for the advancement and education of woman, will succeed. We can almost behold the day when woman shall, without "unsexing herself," without leaving her "sphere," become useful as well as ornamental. Not that she is not useful now, but that she may become useful in other fields. The idea of woman being obliged to engage in all the low pursuits of life, the idea of saying she leaves her sphere when she wishes to vote, is simply absurd. Woman will be woman, whatever position she occupies, and none of the delicacy and tact which is hers will be lost. Oh, for a few more brains, a few ideas, that I might stand with the noble few and assist in the great struggle! Would there were a few more *Annas* to speak to the masses!  
VIOLA.

A DISCOVERY.—Andrew Wilson has published a pamphlet entitled "The Workman's Hammer." His aim is to arouse workingmen and to induce them to deliver themselves from bondage to capitalists. So far well. But who told him that "the Woman's Rights movement is one of the ticks of combined wealth, designed to divert the attention of the men of labor, lest they should examine into the cause of their oppression?" The *Chicago Liberal* corrects his blunder (for really it is nothing less) in this way:

Now, we think the Woman's Rights movement is leading women to inquire and to reason. Before woman suffrage can be established, women will have to become general reasoners, and as they become interested in the newspapers and in discussions, it appears to our thinking that they are travelling over the very same road that has conducted the masculine sex so largely to intellectual independence. Probably one of the greatest reasons why women have continued so much under the spell of preacher-craft is that they have had but little of the stimulus of self-interest so directed as to induce mental activity.