

and nationalities; a club was formed which by acclamation was christened Sorosis, and all arrangements were made for fairly beginning work.

#### WHAT THE CLUB DOES.

But our readers will wonder, as we did, what the club does. Well, first of all it represents to a large number of women the one point of outside interest in their lives. There is a well-appointed reading-room, which forms, as it were, the center of the Association. The best magazines and papers published for women, whether in England or America, are laid on the table, and the members who most of them, had never before known any place which they could with propriety frequent alone, devote here regularly with a strange sense of freedom and find something attractive awaiting them. But that is not all. The reading-room is also a real cosmopolitan club, where the women of one race meet with those of another, form friendships and discuss what is going on in the world. It is a new thing for India that the Hindu lady should go and fraternize with the Parsi, and both with the Christian—whether European, Eurasian or Native; and stranger of all that the long secluded Muslimani should steal in shrouded, and then instantly unveiling, take her share in the new comradeship.

The most characteristic thing in the Sorosis is the general meeting, held every fortnight on a Saturday, between four and six. The meeting is the outcome always of the most thoughtful pre-arrangement and it is sought to ensure every member's taking a proper part in it. Quite a number of committees have been formed, so that all may be conscious of responsibility the programme committee, the music committee, the essay committee, the reading-room committee, etc. These committees are frequently re-constituted, so that no one can long escape a period of service. New vice-presidents are chosen every quarter, and during their term of office must always conduct the business of the meetings. At first the neophyte in office take her place with dreadful self-consciousness, only half sits on her chair, covers her face with her cloth and mumbles out her calls half inaudibly. But all this is soon changed and before the end of her term of office, she usually commands the situation with calmness and sometimes with evident enjoyment. At every meeting a lecture of 20 minutes is given in which the life of some worthily distinguished woman is described. It is felt that no lesson can be more powerful than a great example, and it is hoped by this means to start impulses that will not die quickly or fruitlessly. In this way the members have been made acquainted with Elizabeth Fry, Miss Carpenter, Frances E. Willard, Mrs. Ormiston Chant and many others. At each meeting, too, three or four members read essays on various sides of a carefully chosen subject. One week, for instance, the subject was "The Ideal Home," and one read a paper on "The Hygiene of the Ideal Home," another on the "Music" and another on the "Manners" of such a home. This feature has been particularly interesting for the freest expression of opinion is encouraged. Music is another feature, and in this there is a great variety, Persian and English succeeding Arabic and Marathi songs; recitations, too, are much enjoyed. Opportunity is made for introducing the members to new and rational amusements and Kindergarten employments; indeed whatever can give variety and breadth and stimulus to the life of these women is gladly brought into the programme.

"TELL THEM THE WORLD WAS MADE FOR WOMAN, TOO."

The Sorosis now has about 200 members. It has created a good deal of interest among members of the older clubs in the western world, and drawn forth some practical encouragements. One of these was a long and exquisite letter from the New York Sorosis President. After sundry advices she concluded by saying, "Tell them the world was made for woman, too." That sentence at once laid hold and was adopted, very properly and beautifully, as the motto of the Bombay club. It contains a doctrine which India is only just beginning to understand, and the progress of the land in the near future depends largely on the heartiness with which it is accepted. Let it be repeated everywhere—"The world was made for woman, too." The club is in no sense a missionary institution. It is literary and social. Religion is not suppressed; each one may, if occasion calls for it, speak out her conviction or experience without hindrance; but the discussion of religion is not included in the plans of the Club.

#### TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

When Dr. Ryder was resting for a while at a missionary institution in Poona sometime ago, a young mother belonging to the church and recently widowed came to ask alms. She was absolutely penniless and helpless, and the visitor inquired if nothing had been done before her marriage to teach her an industry. The answer was "nothing." Dr. Ryder here saw a necessity and began to ask how she could meet it. On her return to Bombay she got together ten young women, some Eurasians, but some also Hindus, and had them taught book-keeping in her veranda. The Pandita Ramabai herself joined this class. After six months' training the girls were ready for employment. Two are earning Rs. 50 per month in this way, and others receive very comfortable salaries. Her next effort was to have some girls taught cutting and dressmaking. This also is proving successful, though not equally with the other. Now at last Dr. Ryder has formulated the articles of an Association which, she hopes, may become national. We quote them here in full, as our readers have probably not seen them before.

ARTICLE I.—The object of this Association shall be the advancement of technical and industrial education for women by forming classes, when possible, for those wishing immediate instruction, and by obtaining thoroughly competent instructors and a Board of Examiners.

ARTICLE II.—1st.—The Association shall endeavor to interest the people in this cause by lectures, showing what has already been accomplished for women in Europe and America by this kind of education.

2d.—By publishing articles favorable to technical education in circulars, magazines and papers, with appeals to philanthropic men and women to aid in establishing and endorsing this work.

ARTICLE III.—The Association shall urge that technical education be introduced into ALL GIRLS' SCHOOLS.

ARTICLE IV.—This Association will not recognize, as technically educated, any girl who has not been sufficiently trained to be able to be SELF-SUPPORTING.

ARTICLE V.—1st.—The class of this Association shall be open to ALL WOMEN.

2d.—All instruction shall be given on the principle of NON-INTERFERENCE WITH RELIGION OR CASTE.

The President of the Association is the Hon. Justice K. T. Telang, C. I. E. The Vice-Presidents are Khan