

tuted the first Temple of Pythian Sisters, Warsaw Temple, No. 1, with a membership of 28 ladies and 35 Brother Knights.

From this little handful of devoted women and brave men, our Order has increased in members and in interest, overcoming obstacle after obstacle until we have attained a higher degree of excellence than even the most sanguine had predicted.

The first session of the Supreme Temple of Pythian Sisters was held at Indianapolis, October 10th, 1889, a little less than a year from the date of the institution of the first Subordinate Temple, and was composed of Representatives from the following States: Kansas, California, Iowa, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois.

Mrs. Ida M. Weaver, the first M. E. C. of Warsaw Temple, No. 1, was chosen Supreme Chief, and a Code of General Laws adopted for the government of Supreme Grand and Subordinate Temples. This session adjourned to meet again in Milwaukee, July, 1890.

The second session of Supreme Temple convened in Kansas City, August 24th, 1892, and the reports at this session showed a membership of nearly 10,000. Articles of incorporation were prepared at this time, and the Order of Pythian Sisters entered upon a legal existence.

The Supreme Lodge, Knights of Pythias, in session at same time and place, were seriously considering the recognition of our Order, but the petition was finally defeated.

At the Washington session of Supreme Temple, August 28th, 1894, an unlooked for obstacle presented itself for the consideration of our brave little band of Supreme officers and Representatives. By a special act of Congress, the Supreme Lodge, Knights of Pythias, had been incorporated, and it was considered doubtful if we had a legal right to bear the name of "Pythian" Sisters. And still more, in the face of their obligations, it was decided that Knights could not become members of the Pythian Sisters.

After much deliberation this Supreme body, with the energy and perseverance which has characterized their every effort, bravely surmounted this difficulty and proved the truth of the old adage, that "When a woman will, she will, you may depend on it," and changed our name to "Rathbone" Sisters, in honor of the founder of the Order of Knights of Pythias.

In August, 1896, our Supreme Temple met at Indianapolis, and the last session at Indianapolis met in August, 1898. Quoting from the Supreme Chief's Report at this session: "Ten years' experience with the Rathbone Sisters teaches me that we are firmly bound together in love, upon the planes of equality, and are ready to fly to the relief of others in danger or distress. As long as there are tears to wipe away, sufferings to alleviate, orphans to educate, widows to care for, and the weak to protect, our noble Order will exist, moving onward and upward in its high and holy mission with a noiseless step, like the rush of an angel's wing."

The report of Supreme M. of R. and C. shows eighteen Grand Temples, with a total membership of 16,043 Knights and 22,161 Sisters, July 1st, 1898. Since that time about fifty Temples have been instituted and revived, and the present mem-

bership in the United States, in round numbers, is about 18,000 Knights and 24,000 Sisters.

This session of the Supreme Temple has, perhaps, proved its most interesting one, as the insurance feature, so long talked of, was adopted, and plans formulated for immediate work.

The officers of the newly adopted Endowment Rank shall be an Executive Board, composed of a Past Supreme Chief, who, with the Supreme Chief, will be ex officio, and three members of the Supreme Temple, who shall be elected by the Supreme Temple, one to serve for two years, one for four years, and one for six years; and at each succeeding biennial session of the Supreme Temple one member shall be elected for the full term of six years.

The Executive Board is to have full charge of the Insurance Branch, subject to such restrictions as the Supreme Temple may from time to time provide.

The plan of insurance as adopted gives a rate of insurance one-third higher than the Endowment Rank of the Knights of Pythias. There will be an entrance fee of two dollars, but no medical examination fee.

Mrs. Lydia E. Palmer, of New York, was chosen President of the Board; Mrs. Belle Quinlan, of Galesburg, Ill., Secretary, and Dr. Helen S. Dunn, of Centralia, Ill., Supreme Medical Director-in-Chief.

No one can take out insurance in this Branch but a sister member of the Order of Rathbone Sisters.

The Supreme Temple officers for 1898-1900, are:—

Mrs. Josephine Neubert, Kansas City, Kansas, S. C.; Mrs. L. R. Sherman, Cleveland, Ohio, S. S.; Mrs. Dell P. Glazier, Ft. Madison, Iowa, S. J.;

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