

This time I left Webster City at 4.55, as the Northwestern has thoughtfully removed most of the trains. This brought me to Ames at 6.30 but as many other delegates were arriving at about the same time there were plenty of cars at the station and we were conveyed with great rapidity to the new Home Economics Building where the various committees were all busily functioning. It did not take long to register, yield up the envelope containing credentials, secretary and treasurer's reports and program, and reluctantly give myself from six precious dollars. Our chauffeur had waited for us and took us to the various dormitories to which we had been assigned. It was really good fun to stay in the dormitories and far more agreeable for the delegates to be together than to be scattered about town by twos and threes. Mrs. Gale Tilden was chairman of the Hospitality Committee and as she knew that I had lived in Cherokee, she put me in the room with the Cherokee delegate. I did not know Mrs. Dorahoe, who is the wife of the doctor in charge of the insane asylum, but we naturally had many mutual friends which made it very agreeable for us to be together.

It was, of course, after seven when we had our dinner, a very excellent meal as were all those served to us under the supervision of Miss Wallis, who is in charge of the girls dining hall. After dinner we found cars waiting to take us back to the Home Economics Building, the sessions were held there in the Catherine McKay Auditorium. This was a splendid place for the purpose, with good floor space, ample stage room and a balcony for visitors. E. L. was at one side and well to the back but the acoustics were excellent and there was never

at any time the slightest difficulty in hearing. I was pleased to find that my neighbor at the right was the very pleasant lady from Waukegan, whom I met last year, next to her was Mrs. E. Luet, of Eagle Grove, who said that she had played golf with a number of you. and at my left was a very quiet lady from Harvard.

The decorations were very simple and indeed the well proportioned auditorium with the rich velvet curtains required but little. The gold star was above the stage at the center and there were numerous baskets of flowers, gifts from the Ames B. J. L's and from various Ames organizations. Mrs. Stange, the state president, was gowned in a confection which shaded from rose in the bodice to American beauty in the skirt. She was not effective as a presiding officer, her voice is light and inadequate and she was lacking in force and decision at critical moments. Mrs. Hammond told me that she was not at all well and suffered a complete collapse after the Tuesday afternoon session, which may in part account for her lack of magnetism.

Following the invocation and the singing of "America the Beautiful" Acting President Knapp gave the address of welcome on the part of the college. He alluded to the fact that the convention had been entertained in Ames twenty-one years ago and hoped it would not be as long before they came again. He also greeted us on behalf of his wife, a former state president, who is now an invalid. Mrs. Alice Marston of G. C. welcomed us on behalf of the Ames chapter. Her forged little speech was graciously given, but alas! she forgot it completely and had to stop and find her place in her notes. In the absence of Mrs. Gertrude L. Stone, second vice president, the organizer Mrs. White, read the devotionals.

The report of the credential committee, formal opening of -3
the convention, and committee appointments followed. Next
in order was the introduction of the guests of honor. Everyone
was pleased to have Mrs. Stafford there, she is really a
charming woman, and made a graceful little speech of
appreciation for the applause which greeted her and for the
flowers which were presented to her. Mrs. Scott, supreme
president was next introduced, then Mrs. Ola P. Miller, first
vice president of supreme chapter, Mrs. Hammil, the governor's
wife, the president of Chapter AA, the officers of the state
chapter and past presidents beyond counting. Each of these
honored guests was presented with a wrist corsage by the
Ames chapter.

After a musical interlude a model meeting was put
on by the officers of Chapter AA, it was beautifully done,
altho it had not to my mind quite the finish of the
presentation by the Fort Dodge Chapter last year. Some
points of interest were emphasized, among them that the
president must report the receipt of the fine of an inactive
member, as that puts the record into the minutes. The
necessity of accompanying any letter vouching for one to
become a member of a new chapter, by a consent blank was
stressed, and there were other fine points which I shall
try to remember and apply.

The address of the evening was by Mrs. Ola P. Miller,
on "What is Worth While". She explained that the
reason for her appearance at a convention so soon after
her husband's death, was because of his great interest in
P. E. O. and of his desire that she continue the work. She
paid a very beautiful tribute to him, and said that her
work for P. E. O. in future was to be a memorial to him.
In her address she brought out the fact that wealth, social

position, fame and other rewards for which most people strive so earnestly are not the most desirably goals. -4-
Friendship and happiness in our relations with others are of far greater importance. This was a long session and it was much after twelve before we were settled for the night.

Tuesday morning after a very good breakfast at Birch Hall, my room-mate and I hurried over to the convention hall in order to give the secret work to the Organizer and her assistants. Her final report showed that every chapter but one gave the work and that chapter had a representative who was not an officer and did not know the requirements. The convention opened with music, following which the quads took the pass, the opening ode was sung and devotionals were read by Mrs. Bennett. Two new chapters were presented by Mrs. White and the chapters given by Mrs. Reuling. The new chapters were G S, Kingsley, and G T, Winfield, the only two to be organized out of nine applications.

The officers reports were then given. The president in her report explained the reason for the change in time of the convention and made certain recommendations which were referred to the committee. The report of the vice-president covered the altruistic work of the chapters. \$11, 945⁴⁵ had been expended in actual money beside various services. This of course refers to activities outside the Educational Fund and Memorial Library. The Organizer's report showed 9,154 active members in Iowa as March first, 1927. She urged the Treasurers always to send dues and reports together, and when other checks are sent to specify the purpose in the letter or mark it on the check. The list of contributions to the Educational Fund was then read. An unusual number of chapters reported no contributions or small ones, so that

it was a particular satisfaction to have E. L. slightly over the quota

At the commencement of the Memorial Library League Mrs. Scott introduced Mrs. Stafford who spoke briefly of what the memorial meant to her and of her joy in its rapid progress. Mrs. Nell P. Glazier, chairman of Promotion Committee of Supreme Chapter read for her topic "Faith". Mrs. Ida Merrill, president of Original A Mt. Pleasant spoke on "Love". Mrs. Lucy Engelbert, member of Building Committee of Supreme Chapter spoke on "Purity". Mrs. Alice S. Miller, member of finance committee of Supreme Chapter spoke on "Justice" and Mrs. Cornelia Sawyer on "Truth". Mrs. Sawyer read the list of contributions. Only five chapters in the state have failed to make the first payment and \$15,646⁴³ has been collected.

Mrs. Scott is presenting "Facts" told, much as she did in the letter which was read in chapters of their struggles to make the building and the money appropriated fit one another. They now expect the building to be completed by September fifteenth and are urging the chapters, if it is at all possible, to pay the second half of their pledge by June first. Practically all the chapters voted favorably on the suggestion to use \$25,000⁰⁰ from the General Fund to complete the building and furnish it suitably. As the college is to provide an endowment fund, the interest of which is to be used for the upkeep of the building, the entire amount now paid as rent for P. E. O. headquarters can be turned toward the repayment of this debt. At this time interesting motion pictures of the ground breaking exercises were shown. With commendable promptness the convention was dismissed at twelve o'clock and at 12.15 most of the delegates were eating a very good lunch at Birch Hall.

The afternoon session proceeded promptly to business, following the report of the quards and the reading of the minutes Mrs. White gave the secret words to the convention, a proceeding which always seems to me funny instead of impressive. Mrs. Adha E. Van Housen then spoke on the "Spirit of P. E. O.", and, as was the case last year, her address impressed almost everyone as being the best thing of the convention. She began by comparing the influences which emanated from the seven founders to the colors of the spectrum which combined into the white light of sisterhood. The whole emphasis in our society should in her opinion be laid upon the idea of sisterhood. She defined the P. E. O. spirit as a growth which comes to us with service. The goal toward each member should work, she expressed in the classic "Know thyself, control thyself and deny thyself".

Mrs. Henry of Grinnell had charge of the educational hour. She spoke of the comparatively recent development of the educational fund. P. E. O. is fifty eight years old, while the fund is only twenty years old. The original loan fund was less than five hundred dollars and the first loan was made to a girl from Boone. The fund now is more than \$369,000⁰⁰ and 1722 girls have been or are now being aided. In the last three years as much has been loaned as in seventeen years before. 469 Iowa girls have received money from this fund. The interest received more than covers the fixed charges, including a share of the general office expense and there is usually a surplus to be added to the principal. Mrs. Henry presented four girls who are at present making use of P. E. O. loans and each are ~~spoke~~ a brief word of appreciation of the work the sisterhood is doing.

Automobile buses about the campus had been arranged

to follow the afternoon session, but as it was damp and chilly and I'd seen the campus several times anyhow, I simply went through the Home Economics building, to tea in the basement of that building and then back to Birch Hall for a rest before dinner.

On arriving at the auditorium in the evening, I met Hazel Root almost immediately and soon found Mrs. Groves and Mrs. Zitterell. The Currier High School Glee Club opened the evening session with three selections. Mrs. Stafford then delivered a charming little speech of greeting, expressive of the pleasure she felt in being able to attend the convention. Mrs. Knapp, president of A A conveyed her greetings to the convention in a bright, witty speech, which had a double appeal, both for its cleverness and for its conciseness. The Supreme President, Mrs. Scott spoke on "Woman's Place in the World". This address which was delivered with less than her usual vivacity was a not particularly novel discussion of the new opportunities which have been opened to women in recent years and the possibilities of service. After another interlude of music Winona Evans Reeves spoke (according to the program) on "The Process of the Years" altho' she later asked to have the title changed to "The Purchasing Power of a Dollar". Mrs. Evans is an imposing looking woman with a coronet of white hair and she was quite easy to look at arrayed in a rose-colored gown. Her speech, too, was a bit platitudinous, altho' after a day of speeches one becomes rather exacting. She stressed the slight value, which, in the long run, is to be attached to money and the infinitely greater importance of spiritual values. It was interesting to note how similar were her ideas to those of Mrs. Miller, whose

"The Pillars of Society" was the first drama of Ibsen's second period, when he abandoned the poetic and allegorical form for the prose social dramas. Here he has dealt with the problem of hypocrisy in a small commercial centre of industry and in the Bernick family has drawn a marvellous picture of social relations in a prosperous seaport town.

"There is something of Swift in its bitter strokes of sarcasm at the expense of the ruling commercial classes. The Northern Christopher, who never smiles as he lays on the lash, exposed in Pillars of Society, a varied range of white repulchres. His attitude is never that of Thackeray; he never seems to sympathize with his snobs and hypochrites as does the kindly English writer. There is no mercy in Ibsen, and his breast has never harbored the milk of human kindness," so says James Huneker.

"Pillars of Society" was written in 1877, produced in America at the Irving Place Theater in 1889 in the original. In English it was first heard at the Lyceum Theater in 1891. There was a third performance at Hammerstein's Opera House five days later. William Sachs and his company revived the piece at the Lyric Theater, New York in 1904.

1. Read Huneker's outline and criticisms.
2. Read the setting, cast of characters - briefly outline first act - the ladies serving for the "Lapsed and Lost" - Bernick, Vigeland and Sandstad discuss the railway - Johane and Lona arrive. "The Indian Girl" on American ship and "The Palm Tree" are in Bernick's ship yard being fitted for sea - The ladies discuss Nino Wox's history.
3. Read Act II.
4. Act III. Krap tells Consul Bernick that Curie has merely

recent bereavement had newly impressed her with the fact that it is only moral and spiritual attainments which endure.

This session was over by ten o'clock, so that we were able to be in bed in time for a good night's rest. My room-mate was not able to sleep very much but she said that the shimmers were so soothing that she really did not mind lying awake. I did not see Mrs. Groves and Mrs. Fittwell again that evening and they went home with Hazel Wood.

Wednesday morning was dull and chilly like the other days, altho' it cleared somewhat later in the day. I walked over to the auditorium and found all the committees as busy as on the first day since the college girls were returning and those delegates who were remaining until Thursday morning had to be assigned to private homes. The convention was called to order promptly at nine. Sennadore Burg was to have sung but since she was, for some reason, unable to appear, a Mrs. Foster sang instead, and very beautifully indeed. Mrs. Roney led the devotional exercises, which she dedicated to Mrs. Stafford and which included the description of the virtuous women from Proverbs. The quards then took the pass word and the Credential Committee gave their final report. Of the 194 chapters 191 sent delegates, 127 were presidents and 64 alternates. In all there were 208 present and entitled to vote. The roll was then called and the convention numbered, after which the ballots were cast for president. The voting continued into the afternoon session but I shall give the results here.

Mrs. Florence Bennett of Cherokee, Pres. Mrs. Ellen S. White of Ishabosha Vice Pres. Mrs. Mary Bageman of Cedar Hall.

patched the "Indian Girl" and that she is not seaworthy.²⁻
He also hears rumors circulated that some unknown person
has bought up timber and water rights on the route of the
proposed rail way, to the great indignation of the town people.
Sara talks with Berrich and points out to him how all
his prosperity rests on a lie. Johan comes wishing him to
reveal the truth of that fifteen year old episode, that he
may marry Nina. He finally decides to sail on the "Indian
Girl", but threatens to return in two months and reveal
every thing, he has confirmation of Berrich's guilt in two
letters written at the time. Richard, the clergyman,
condescendingly proposes marriage to Nina to save her from
Johan. Johan leaves in anger to sail for America, and the
Consul Berrich, altho. the barometer is falling and he
knows the ship to be unseaworthy, gives word for the
"Indian Girl" to sail next day.

Read Act. IV

Organizer, Mrs. Nell Roney, of Mason City, Recording -9-
Secretary, Miss Grace Sargent of Cedar Rapids, Corresponding
Secretary and Mrs. Gertrude Ebern of Fort Dodge, Treasurer.

When we took our seats in the morning we found the
treasurer's report and the corresponding secretary's
report from our own chapter at our chapter letter. The
by-laws were not returned unless they were incorrect
and I am happy to report that all of E. L.'s papers,
including the year book were in perfect order. Committee
reports continued while the tellers were counting the
votes for the various offices. The By-laws committee
reported 155 correct, 39 incorrect, and gave a by law
outline to follow in revising incorrect copies. The report
of the year book committee provoked much discussion as
they had marked year books incorrect which did not
say "Election and installation of officers" for the first
meeting in March. Thus only 49 year books were reported
as correct, but the report was amended so that those
which did not say installation were regarded as correct.
This left 128 correct of the 188 examined. For next year
the year books must include "study of Constitution, supreme
and state by-laws; Homeless Day; Educational Fund
program; election and installation of officers; delegates
report, and two exemplifications of the ritual." The
committee on chapter reports found more incorrect than
usual, probably owing to the early date of the convention
which had prevented the usual corrections.

The Finance Committee gave their report which included
the report of a certified accountant who had audited the
Treasurer's books and who gave very flattering
testimony as to Mrs. Roney's capability and accuracy.
As the work of the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer

had been so very heavy this year owing to the Memorial-16-
Library Fund it was voted to pay each of them an
additional hundred dollars for the past year, and to
raise their pay to that amount for the future. The
committee on the president's recommendations, favored the
adoption of all her suggestions, which included the
rearranging of the standing rules, regarding the year
books and the addition to the requirements of two
exemplifications of the ritual. This was a point for
serious discussion at Fort Dodge, but at this convention
attention became centered on the phrasing of one of
the other recommendations and this one slid through
on greased wheels, dragging in its train a new
type writer for the state president. The question of
discontinuing the entertainment of the past presidents
was not broached, nor was the question of the change
from Supreme to International. It was a very
amiable and exceedingly quiescent convention, every
motion went through without an opposing voice. It
was also voted to pay the expenses of the State Organizer
to Supreme Chapter instead of merely her fare, as heretofore.

Mrs. Scott, supreme president, conducted the
question box hour in the intervals of balloting. She
did this very cleverly, giving due consideration
even to those rather foolish sounding questions which
always appear. There seems always to be one question
which predominates, last year it was, "When a regular
meeting is postponed, is it a regular meeting?" this year
the burning question seemed to be whether local
members could be excused from local dues, and the

answer was emphatic that they might not. Other points mentioned were that the officers must wear white, the treasurer's books must be audited, members of other chapters coming to the town should be asked to join the chapter, and other interesting questions too many to enumerate.

After luncheon the balloting was finished. Two invitations were received for the next convention, one from Davenport and one from Newton. The one from Davenport had priority and was accepted. The names of the delegates to Supreme were called and they were ratified. Mrs. Stange and Mrs. Pauline, according to custom, were chosen to attend Supreme. It was also voted to take \$25,000.00 from the General Fund to complete the Memorial Library.

As I was particularly desirous of going to the greenhouse and then to Hazel Woods to attend the tea she was giving for our Webster Cityians who attended the convention, I left just before the Memorial Hour and Mrs. Groves promised to supplement my report and tell you about it - - - - -.