

1911

Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association 77th Annual Session

Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association

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MISSISSIPPI
WOMAN SUFFRAGE
ASSOCIATION

7TH ANNUAL SESSION
CLEVELAND, MISSISSIPPI
APRIL 11-12, 1911

ENTERPRISE PRINT CLEVELAND

Seventh Annual Meeting

Mississippi
Woman Suffrage
Association

Cleveland, Mississippi
April 11-12, 1911

Officers

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Nellie Nugent Somerville, Greenville
205 Davis Street

VICE-PREST AT LARGE

Mrs. S. Fannie Clark, Okolona

SECOND VICE-PREST

Mrs. Jennie Andrews Lipscomb, Flora

COR. SEC. AND REPORTER

Mrs. Dell Kelso Mohlenhoff, Shaw

RECORDING SECRETARY

Mrs. J. T. Worthington, Greenville
Hinds Street

TREASURER

Mrs. Frances M. Durant, Coffeerville

SUPT. PRESS WORK

Mrs. Lily Wilkinson Thompson, Jackson
503 Fortification Street

SUPT. ED. AND INST. WORK

Mrs. Madge Quin Fulger, McComb City

CHAIRMAN HEALTH WORK

Mrs. Oliver Fore, Flora

Officers

MEMBER NATIONAL EX. COM.

Mrs. J. C. Greenly, Greenville
307 Central Avenue

AUDITORS

Mrs. Walter Clark, Clarksdale
Miss Jeanie W. Fontaine, Lyon

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

Miss Madge L. Montgomery, Starkville
Mrs. Mary Boone Curlee, Corinth
Mrs. S. Fannie Clark, Okolona
Mrs. E. W. Featherstun, Gloster
Mrs. F. M. Durant, Coffeerville
Miss Jeanie W. Fontaine, Lyon
Mrs. Walter Clark, Clarksdale
Mrs. Chas. Thompson, Jackson
Mrs. Thomas Searles, Vicksburg
Mrs. Madge Quin Fulger, McComb City
Miss M. E. Connell, Columbus

CHM. ENROLLMENT COM.

Miss Lou Hamblen, Greenville

Condensed Minutes
of the
Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association

APRIL 11—2:00 P. M.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association was called to order in the Court House at Cleveland, with the president, Mrs. Nellie Nugent Somerville, in the chair, who opened the session with devotional exercises, followed by a short but cordial word of greeting. The report of officers and departmental heads was then taken up. Mrs. J. M. Lee read the

REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

When the time comes to make up the report of the year's work, our first feeling is always one of regret that more has not been done; still, we can look back over the year with the consciousness that we have tried to do all that we could, and we can report some progress, even though it is not what we would like to have made. The fine meeting held in Greenville a year ago and the presence of the National President, the Rev. Anna Shaw, gave an impetus to the work that has been felt throughout the year. The work in Greenville is on

an assured basis. All of our members who were in Greenville last year at the annual meeting have felt a greater courage and hope to carry on the work.

We can report that more actual suffrage meetings have been held during the past year than for a number of years. The Greenville Club has held its regular meetings every two weeks, with an occasional parlor meeting with invited guests. With the assistance of Mrs. Mohlenhoff, our State President held a meeting in Shaw, and also had an opportunity to talk to the women of Cleveland and Rosedale through the courtesy of friends. Mrs. T. K. Roby held a parlor meeting at her home in Sardis and has distributed a great deal of literature.

Our faithful friend, Mrs. Augusta Cox, of Columbus, finds various opportunities to help the cause. Mrs. S. Fannie Clark, vice-president at large, has secured signatures on enrollment cards; Miss Madge Montgomery of Starkville has also remembered us. Mrs. J. A. Lipscomb, our first vice-president, gives generous help. Mrs. Mary B. Curlee of Corinth has returned to the state and pledges herself to help during the coming year. Mrs. Ella O. Biggs of Crystal Springs and Mrs. J. W. Chambers of Ellisville do not forget the work. Miss Belle Kearney always lets us hear from her when in the state, and regrets that absence prevents her giving more active assistance. The Flora Suffrage Club gives good evidence of its interest in the work by sending an invitation for the next Annual meeting to be held at that place.

We feel honored in having the Rev. George Whitfield of Clinton as one of our members. We are also pleased to count among our members Mr. L. E. Davis of Natchez, secretary of the Mississippi Land Development Association, and Col. Clay Sharkey of Jackson. Major R. W. Millsaps of Jackson is also a friend, as is Senator John L. Hebron. Judge E. N. Thomas of Greenville and the Rev. H. Walter Featherstun of Gloucester have shown their good will by leaving important business to attend this meeting.

We have now three departments in active operation: Press, Health and Education. Each of these has

done, and will continue to do, good work.

Our state work has been represented at three fairs, only one of which was in our state. Mrs. Lucky of Knoxville asked for literature for the Appalachian Exposition. She wrote that the reports and enrollment cards which we sent attracted much attention and were quite a help. Mrs. Allen, president of the Tennessee Association, invited us to join with her in an exhibit at the Tri-State Fair. Our State Press Exhibit was sent, also cards and state reports. Mrs. Mohlenhoff was appointed to represent the Association, which she did with great credit and, it should be added, at her own expense. So many Mississippi people go to Memphis that it was as good an advertisement for us as a fair in our own state. The Greenville Club had an exhibit at the Delta Fair which attracted much attention and favorable comment.

Throughout the year our state officers have made persistent efforts to increase our subscriptions to the Woman's Journal. While we have by no means as many subscriptions as we should have, the list is growing steadily. All our friends should help to circulate the Journal, especially as it is now the official organ of the National Association.

Five hundred copies of the State Report have been printed and distributed. Quarterly reports are sent out the first of July, October and January. These we sent to all our paying members and to a number of our friends. The fiscal year ends April first, and the 4th quarterly report would be due at this time; but we do not think it necessary to send out a report for this quarter as we are sending out notices of the annual meeting and the program. The work of the last quarter consists chiefly in arranging for the annual meeting. Until we have a paper as a means of communication these quarterly reports must be our chief reliance in keeping our friends in touch with one another.

Our list of enrolled members includes the following places: Greenville, Jackson, Vicksburg, Natchez, Columbus, Clarksdale, Clinton, Flora, Balfour, Yazoo City, Vaiden, West Point, Crystal Springs, Broohaven, McComb City, Gloster, Grenada, Corinth, Sharpsburg,

Canton, Starkville, Coffeerville, Booneville, Sardis, Ellisville, Cleveland, Shaw, Tutwiler, Belen, Okolona, Hernando, Rienza, Arkabutla, Anguilla, Askew and Tchula.

Two places which ought to do good work in this cause are not doing what we hoped. These are Clarksdale and Yazoo City. In both places we have strong friends. Mrs. Walter Clark of Clarksdale has been from the first one of our strongest friends, but others have not been heard from. Mrs. F. R. Birdsall of Yazoo City has promised active help during the coming year. Public sentiment is doing much for us; let us do more for ourselves.

Mrs. Dell Kelso Mohlenhoff read the

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

Balance brought forward.....	\$27 00
Greenville Civic Imp. Club, dues	21 00
Greenville Civic Imp. Club, donation.....	50 00
Miss Madge L. Montgomery, Starkville	4 00
Mrs. Dell Kelso Mohlenhoff, Shaw	1 90
Mrs. Walter Clark, Clarksdale	5 00
Mrs. O. S. Robbins, Anguilla.....	1 00
Dr. Delia Randel, Canton.....	1 00
Mrs. G. M. Wrinkler, Tchula.....	1 00
Mrs. Harriet B. Kells, Jackson.....	2 00
Mr. and Mas. H. L. Thompson, Jackson	4 00
Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Thompson, Jackson	4 00
Mrs. L. D. Chambers, Ellisville.....	1 00
The Rev. J. W. Chambers' memorial.....	1 00
Miss Lou Hamblen, Greenville	1 00
Mrs. Jimmie A. Lipscomb, Flora	2 00
Mr. L. E. Davis, Natchez.....	1 00
Miss Jeanie W. Fontaine, Lyon.....	1 00
Hon. Clay Sharkey, Jackson.....	1 00
Mrs. Geo. Cox, sr., Corinth.....	2 00
Mrs. J. E. Thomas, Columbus	1 00
Mrs. Somerville, Greenville.....	2 50
Sale Red Cross Stamps.....	6 00
Mrs. Augusta Cox, Columbus	2 50
Mrs. N. P. McPherson, Jackson.....	1 00

Mrs. S. Fannie Clark, Okolona.....	5 00
Mrs. Alice B. Carrier, Sardis.....	1 00
Mrs. Mary Boone Curlee, Corinth	1 00
Mrs. Rosa Mayers, Shelby.....	1 00
Mrs. Ella O. Biggs, Crystal Springs	5 00
Mr. Robt. N. Somerville, Cleveland.....	1 00
Mrs. Lucy E. Gastrell, Natchez.....	2 00
Maj. R. W. Millsaps, Jackson, dues.....	1 00
Maj. R. W. Millsaps, Jackson, donation	9 00
Mrs. Fred Jones, Beulah.....	1 00
Mr. Wm. H. Meadow, Shaw.....	1 00
Miss May Russell, Willows.....	1 00
Miss Mary Emily Connell, Columbus	1 00
Mr. T. P. Barr, Jackson	1 00
Mrs. Sarah S. Wilkinson, Jackson.....	1 00
Mr. C. C. Warren, Jackson	1 00
Mrs. Ruth Noble Warren, Jackson	1 00
Mrs. H. P. Price, Jackson.....	1 00
Miss Anne Shingleur, Jackson	1 00
Total receipts.....	\$187 85

DISBURSEMENTS

Speaker annual meeting, Greenville.....	\$50 00
Corresponding Secretary, expense.....	34 00
Retiring Treasurer, expense.....	2 00
Recording Secretary, traveling expenses	5 00
Expense annual meeting, telephone, etc	5 00
National Headquarters, literature.....	76
Greenville Times, stationery.....	6 00
Greenville Democrat, printing	12 50
Treasurer's expenses	1 50
National dues	6 40
Per cent on Red Cross seals	2 05
Total disbursements.....	\$124 71

Balance on hand April 1, 1911.....\$ 63 14

Mrs. Lily Wilkinson Thompson being absent, Mrs. F. M. Durant read the

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PRESS WORK

Owing to illness I was unable to give my attention

to press work from April to October. Being then far from strong, I would have resigned my position had it not have been that the Executive Committee thought proper for me to hold the place and do the best I could.

From national headquarters I had begun to receive weekly copies of the Woman's Journal, now the official organ of the National Association, and it seemed thus to be providentially suggested that I specialize on distributing these papers throughout the state. Accordingly these have been mailed principally to editors, but also to other men and women in public life.

In December, taking advantage of the cheap rates offered by the editors, I had 24 subscriptions sent for one month to as many persons. Mrs. Dell Kelso Mohlenhoff, one of our ablest assistants, joined us in this feature and at the same time subscribed for the Journal to be sent to 12 persons for one month. By this means 36 persons received 144 copies of the paper, making in all a total of 544 copies which have been sent out over the state by this department.

With the exception of those I subscribed for and had sent from the Journal office, these papers were taken page by page and pointed paragraphs marked for the especial benefit of those to whom they were sent. Thus it developed that the task was not the simple one my fancy had at first pictured it.

On Christmas Eve I mailed 36 Woman Suffrage post cards to editors, each card bearing Christmas greetings from the Association and an attractive suffrage sentiment.

I have sent out about 36 pages of notes, also furnished by the National Association, 40 copies of Mrs. Somerville's article on Politics and Patriotism, have distributed innumerable leaflets, have secured two new subscribers to the Woman's Journal and have written 100 letters.

Every once in a while we receive requests for help from high school and college students in preparing debates on woman suffrage. During the past year we have received only one such request. From this we are led to believe the popularity of the subject is waning, and for the good reason that it is difficult to get

debaters to present the negative side of the question.

To the National Association for several hundred copies of the Woman's Journal, which have been furnished without a cent of cost, we owe a debt of gratitude. Doubtless some have been unread and lost, but much of the hard facts and cold logic which saturate its pages were bound to be absorbed, and we have every faith to believe that as silent messengers of Truth and Justice their influence has reached and gone deep.

Happily this report is supplemented by a fuller one from those who during the months of your Chairman's weakness were faithfully carrying on the work.

The Civic Club of Greenville, through its Press Chairman, Mrs. Greenley, has kept up throughout the year its splendid department in the Daily Democrat of that city. If in every large town of the State there was a club as energetic as the Civic Club, which would edit in its local paper just such a column as Mrs. Greenley is so admirably editing, it would mean an immeasurably rapid increase of sentiment in favor of Woman Suffrage. All hail to the Civic Club. May others follow its shining example.

Miss Lou Hamblen, Mrs. Wallace Arnold and Miss Mary Thomas of Greenville have also helped most efficiently in sending suffrage news to papers; some press work has also been done by the State President and the Corresponding Secretary.

Mrs. Dell Kelso Mohlenhoff of Shaw has continued to contribute to the Cleveland Enterprise articles from her brilliant pen, as well as clippings of suffrage news. She has also sent material to other papers which, because of my illness, I could not handle. I think this body here today is in a measure a testimonial of her efficient work, as well as the kindness of the editor of the Enterprise who, I am delighted to say, was among the first editors in the State to open his columns to the press department of the Mississippi Suffrage Association. All honor and thanks to Mr. Glassco. May his tribe increase.

Mrs. Madge Quin Fulger of McComb City, since her return in the fall from a long absence in the West, has been supplying five papers in the southern part of

the State with suffrage notes. She has handled more papers than any of my assistants and her service has been a valuable one.

One important feature is that in the articles written by our members we are building up a literature of our own. During the year we have published 2,000 copies of these in leaflet form, of which 500 each were by Dr. H. Walter Featherstun and Col. Clay Sharkey.

In addition to the regular work many notices and circulars have been published through our members. Mrs. Curlee of Corinth, Mrs. Fannie Clark of Okolona and Mrs. Cox of Columbus have assisted several times in this way, and Mrs. Cox has most generously subscribed for several copies of the Woman's Journal to be sent to different persons.

Among the papers to which we are most indebted for kindness are: The Jackson Daily News, the Greenville Democrat, the Cleveland Enterprise, the Yazoo Sentinel, the McComb City Enterprise, the Summit Sentinel, the Magnolia News, the Greene County Herald, the New Albany Gazette and the Magnolia Gazette.

An interesting occurrence during the year was the part our press exhibit played at the Tri-State Fair in Memphis. Mrs. Mohlenhoff, who was our representative at the fair, reports that the exhibit attracted much favorable comment and served as an inspiration to the press workers of Tennessee. In this connection I will state that it has been the purpose of this department to secure clippings of all adverse newspaper comment and hang them on a canvas by the side of our own exhibit. But so far as I have been able to ascertain there has been no adverse criticism to secure and it is, therefore, conspicuous by its absence. This is a demonstration of the fact that those who have anything to say in the papers regarding woman suffrage are for it.

Giving a forward glance at the needs of the department for the coming year as we can see them now, it seems that the first requirement will be the services of a competent typewriter for the Superintendent that she may send out from her office a personal letter to more than 200 editors of the State—a letter which shall be a reminder of the fact that Woman suffrage is a

question that is coming closer and closer home for our people to solve, and containing an appeal to enlist on the side that as sure as the stars shine will one day win.

We still need enlarged facilities for handling papers and supplying them with our material, through local clubs and individuals where it is possible, otherwise from headquarters. We ought to supply these editors, or at least a goodly number of them, with a year's subscription to the Woman's Journal. This could be done if twenty suffragists would subscribe for ten subscriptions each, or if forty friends would pay for five subscriptions. It should be the policy of this department to make friends with every editor in the State and see to it that he keeps in touch with the movement for equal rights.

These needs I ask you to make the subject of your thoughts and prayer, asking for divine blessing on this important phase of our work that ways and means may be opened for a larger measure of its usefulness.

Mrs. J. C. Greenley gave an interesting account of the work of the Greenville Civic Improvement Club, a suffrage organization of over seventy members.

The Rev. Mr. Shipman and Mrs. S. C. Taylor of Cleveland were introduced and extended greetings to the visiting delegates.

Mrs. M. C. Campbell of Greenville gave an interesting and illuminating talk on Some Lessons from Experience.

Judge E. N. Thomas was then introduced and spoke encouragingly on equal suffrage for a few minutes.

Letters and telegrams of greeting were read from Dr. W. S. Leathers, Mrs. Avery Harrell Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Thompson of Jackson, Mr. Wm. H. Meadow of Shaw, Dr. Madge Patton Stephens, Corresponding Secretary of the Tennessee Equal

Suffrage Association, Dr. Elizabeth C. Kane of Memphis, and others who could not attend the meeting. A letter from Col. Clay Sharksey of Jackson was also read and will be printed in leaflet form.

A discussion of the Public Playgrounds movement was led by Mrs. Hider of Greenville, followed by an interesting account of this and other phases of the work of bettering conditions among children in her home city by Miss Kate Gordon of New Orleans, Vice-president of the National A. W. S. A.

APRIL 11—8:00 P. M.

A beautifully worded address of welcome was delivered by Mrs. D. E. Rosser of Cleveland and responded to on behalf of the Association by Mrs. Mohlenhoff of Shaw.

Judge E. N. Thomas of Greenville, Chancellor of the Ninth District, occupied the first half of the evening and made an earnest and eloquent plea for the Elevation of the Ballot. Judge Thomas deplored political conditions as they exist in our country today and advocated the enfranchisement of women as a just means of injecting a larger per cent of intelligence and honesty into the electorate.

Miss Kate Gordon, who is rapidly coming to be acknowledged as one of the most effective speakers on Woman Suffrage in America, followed in a clear-cut and forcible presentation of the woman's movement. Both Judge Thomas and Miss Gordon enjoyed the closest attention from a large and intelligent audience.

APRIL 12—9:30 A. M.

The session was opened with devotional exercises led by Dr. Featherstun of Gloster.

Mrs. Fulger not being present, Mrs. F. M. Durant read the

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL WORK.

I felt honored a year ago when you elected me Superintendent of Educational and Institutional Work, but I also felt my inability to do the work expected of me. I have written fifty-seven letters and received about twenty during the year.

I believe that superintendents and principals of public schools should be asked to have debates and essays on Woman Suffrage during the year, and I recommend that the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association give several prizes for these papers. I believe that this will promote an interest and a study of the question that would otherwise be missed.

So far as I can ascertain no other woman physician has been employed at the Insane Asylum since the first one was asked to resign. Because one did not give satisfaction is no argument that the principle is at fault. A woman physician should be employed in each of the Insane Asylums of the State.

I hope the Association will petition the Legislature for an amendment to the Constitution allowing women to serve on all Educational and Charitable Boards. I am also in favor of an amendment allowing women to have school suffrage. It is right and just that they should have it.

I regret my inability to attend the meeting, and send my heartiest good wishes to the Association with the hope that next year will be the greatest in our history.

The following resolution was offered by Mrs. Mohlenhoff:

RESOLVED, That we petition the next Legislature

to submit an amendment making women eligible to serve on School Boards and as Superintendents of Education.

On motion of Mrs. Durant this was referred to committee on resolutions.

At the request of the President, Miss Allee Dunn of Greenville submitted a paper on the Legal Status of Women in Mississippi, which is to be published in pamphlet form. The thanks of the Association are due Miss Dunn for this valuable work.

Mr. C. S. Glassco, editor of the Cleveland Enterprise, was introduced and made an entertaining talk.

The session closed with an address by Miss Gordon on the Greatest Club in the United States—the Era Club of New Orleans.

APRIL 12—2:00 P. M.

Session opened by President.

The Corresponding Secretary was instructed to send a message of love and loyalty to the Rev. Anna Shaw, and our heartfelt sympathy to Dr. and Mrs. H. L. Sutherland of Rosedale in their great affliction.

Mrs. Dell Kelso Mohlenhoff read the

REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

The chief activity of the Health Department of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association, for the year ending April 1, 1911, has been along the lines of a vigorous campaign looking toward the checking of the ravages of tuberculosis in the State. This campaign was formally launched at the 1910 annual meeting by an address on Health Conditions in the Delta by the able and efficient Chief Health officer of Bolivar county,

Dr. H. L. Sutherland of Rosedale, and by a paper by your present Chairman of Health Department, dealing with the anti-tuberculosis campaign in the United States. After a discussion of these two features, the Convention voted to make tuberculosis the particular enemy of public warfare against which the best efforts of this department should be directed during the ensuing year.

Soon after, Mrs. Somerville asked me to take direction of the health work of the Association, naming to act with me Mrs. Walter Clark of Clarksdale and Miss Mattie G. Kirkpatrick of Jackson. Mrs. Clark's health failing soon after, and Miss Kirkpatrick sailing for Europe, I was left to carry on the work alone—with the very able assistance and co-operation, however, of the President of the Association and any chance member who could be pressed into service. Among the latter I am especially indebted to Mrs. Geo. Cox, sr., of Corinth, Mrs. Thomas Searles of Vicksburg, Mrs. Madge Quin Fulger of McComb City and others.

During the preparation of the papers above referred to I had gotten into communication with the chief boards of health, societies, associations and individuals in the United States who had accomplished anything worth while in tuberculosis work, or who had accomplished anything worth while on the subject. I had in consequence a large supply of tuberculosis literature on hand, and this, supplemented by liberal donations from the Louisiana Anti-Tuberculosis League and from the Sanitary Department of Memphis, formed a base of supplies. In addition to these, my paper on the Anti-tuberculosis Campaign in the United States was published in some of the papers of the State, and I have contributed many shorter articles and paragraphs on the subject.

In my investigation of the conditions responsible for the rapid spread of tuberculosis in the State I have been particularly impressed with the very considerable part the Negro plays in the dissemination of the disease among the whites. Owing to his well-known and probably unavoidable habits of life, the black man falls

an easy prey to the white plague. There are few communities in the State that have not a fair quota of tuberculosis negroes. Those in the advanced stages of the disease find lodgment in the already overcrowded cabins of their people. Discharges of sputum and saliva, teeming with the deadly germs, are deposited carelessly about, soon dry and are blown about the room. They fall on the clothing, the hair, the hands, of every person who enters the house; thence they are carried into the homes of the whites, dropped into the cooking victuals or on the plates and dishes by the cook, or are breathed up from the nurse's arms by the poor little white babies. I conceived of a plan by which, with a very small outlay of money, the use of a little grey matter and some work, these dangerous cases could be segregated and properly cared for. I submitted my plans to the State Board of Health and to the Chief Health Officer of this (Bolivar) county, but was told they were impracticable from the simple reason that it is impossible to interest people, either white or black, in the matter. It seems that so many good people of the State are so busy scraping up money to send to far-away corners of the globe, to which some emotional and imaginative individual has directed their attention, that they have neither eyes, ears nor heart for conditions in their own door yards which would bring the blush of shame to the cheeks of many of the so-called "heathen" objects of their solicitations.

My plan was not advanced as the ideal one for checking the spread of the disease, but it possessed the merit of simplicity and inexpensiveness, and I have heard of no other that has been suggested to take its place. And until there is some action taken toward the segregation of advanced cases there will be no material decrease in the death rate from the disease. I am also convinced that any educational campaign that does not include the colored children of the State will fail of the best results.

Though we have not as yet been as successful in the larger, more practical ways of reducing the death rate from tuberculosis, we have been encouraged in the more rudimentary lines of the work. At the close of

the summer vacation we took up the matter of more sanitary service on railway trains and in railway stations, I, with the State Board of Health, asking them to take up the question with the State Railroad Commission, and Mrs. Somerville directly with the Commission itself. We were much gratified by the manner in which our suggestions were received. It showed conclusively that the men at the head of these departments of State service are deeply in earnest in their efforts to better conditions and that they gladly welcome any suggestions or assistance from women looking toward this culmination. Capt. Webb, President of the Railroad Commission, was especially energetic in his efforts to correct evils to which his attention was called. Through his instrumentality anti-spitting signs have been posted in all passenger coaches passing through the State, a closer observance of the laws of cleanliness has been insured, the waiting-room of the station at Vicksburg has been forced to open in time to accommodate passengers from the Valley road wishing to take the A. & V. out, and separate toilets for the sexes provided, or soon will be provided, on the local passenger trains of the Valley road.

Early in the fall we received an invitation to join the Tennessee Equal Suffrage Association in holding a suffrage booth at the Tri-State Fair in Memphis. I was appointed to represent the Mississippi Association. One of my first concerns on reaching the fair grounds and establishing myself in the booth already prepared by Mrs. J. D. Allen, President of the Tennessee Association, was to look about for a tuberculosis exhibit for the suffrage booth which was to be held at the Delta Fair at Greenville. I found a small exhibit on the second floor of the Woman's Building, in charge of Mrs. Mooney, Sanitary Inspector of Memphis. This exhibit belonged to the Tennessee Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Mooney was more than willing to assist me, and with this purpose in view she telephoned Dr. Elizabeth C. Kane, a practicing physician of Memphis, and Chairman of the Health Department of the Tennessee Federation of Clubs. Dr. Kane, who is an enthusiastic health worker, no sooner heard that there

was a representative of the Mississippi Suffrage Association, who was interested in anti-tuberculosis work at the fair, than she hastened out to call on me at our booth. This was the beginning of a friendship that has been of inestimable advantage to this department. When this exhibit was finally secured, through correspondence by Mrs. Somerville with Mrs. S. R. Crockett of Nashville, Chairman of Health Committee of the General Federation of Clubs, Dr. Kane added to it her own fine collection of hand-painted charts, and these, together with an abundance of literature, souvenir drinking-cups for distribution, and other devices used in the treatment of tuberculosis, from the Memphis Sanitary Department, formed a very good exhibit, indeed. After the close of the fair at Greenville, where the exhibit attracted a great deal of attention and, without doubt, did a great deal of good, Mrs. Somerville and I accompanied it to Cleveland, where it was shown in the public schools, Mrs. Somerville giving a talk explanatory of the charts. The next day I showed the exhibit at the Shaw schools and talked for over an hour on the subjects of Sanitation and Disease Prevention. The Rev. L. A. McKeown, pastor of the M. E. church of that place, also made a short but pointed talk. We were much gratified by the interest shown by the teachers and pupils at both places. A number of the parents of the towns attended these meetings. From Shaw I sent the exhibit to Prof. Heidelberg, Superintendent of the Clarksdale schools; thence it was sent back to Tennessee. This, I understand, was the first tuberculosis exhibit ever brought to the State. Later we became one of the affiliated organizations concerned with the State Board of Health in the larger fine exhibit now being shown over the State under the direction of Prof. Routzahn. I would especially urge members of this Association to interest themselves in bringing this exhibit to their home towns.

I had already taken up the matter of a special Health Day in the public schools with the State Board of Health. Early in November Dr. Leathers notified me that a day had been set apart by the State Superintendent of Education, largely, I believe, through the

instrumentality of Miss Susie V. Powell. I immediately communicated with members of this Association asking them to co-operate with the teachers and officers of the schools in their respective communities and advocating the offering of a set of prizes for papers on health subjects by school children. I expected to do this in my own county, but communicating my intentions to Dr. Sutherland found he contemplated doing the same thing. Of course I withdrew. I would suggest in this connection that the Association set aside a sum of money for such a set of prizes in those counties where for any reason the Health Officer does not see fit to do so.

Among the many other things that this department has done within the past year may be mentioned the publication of instructions looking toward the prevention of blindness in infants, the distribution of literature bearing on the treatment of babies during the teething period, the sale of Red Cross Christmas Seals, by which means a modest little sum was added to the exchequer, and the printing of a large number of anti-spitting cards of size suitable for carrying in a purse or lady's hand-bag. These were distributed among our members to be used as occasion offered.

I believe there is no more important work before the people of Mississippi than that of the health of her people. I believe it, together with the question of public playgrounds, which, properly speaking, is a health measure, and the improvement of the public school system, are the features that should be stressed by this Association during the coming year. Health and intelligence are assets that cannot be neglected by a people if they hope to hold their own in the world struggle. I urge that these things be given their just consideration.

With a view to forwarding the movement for better health conditions in the State, I offer the following recommendations:

1st. That our forces be organized throughout the the State so that our campaign against the ravages of tuberculosis may be felt in every community. I know of no work better worth the time and attention of our

members than this, and there must be co-operation if any really practical results are obtained.

2nd. That we petition the State Legislature that the necessary steps be taken looking toward the establishment of a State Tuberculosis Hospital for curables in the pine woods of Mississippi. There is no just reason why our people should be forced to go out of the State for treatment. I see by a recent statement in a paper that there is plenty of money in the treasury. I see no reason why more of it should not be used in the conservation of the most valuable of all our resources—the people.

3rd. That this organization take up in its health department measures looking toward the lowering of the death rate among the infants in the State. Race murder, not race suicide, is the crime of this Nation. In order that proper data on this as well as on other health conditions may be attainable, I would recommend that we ask the State Legislature to amend the law requiring physicians to report every month to the Health Officers, and to compel said Health Officers to publish reports of deaths, together with their causes. In some counties it has been impossible to get these reports for publication.

4th. That we petition the State Legislature that it pass a law making it compulsory for physicians to take the proper precautionary steps to insure against blindness in new born infants. A twenty per cent solution of argyrol dropped into the eye at birth destroys all germs that cause blindness and does no injury to the eye. Five states in the Union already have such a law.

Looking toward heightening the efficiency of this department, I beg to make the following suggestions:

1st. That you put at the head of this department a woman who is thoroughly conversant with conditions in the State. I love the work, but I feel the fact that I am a comparative stranger in the State has been a handicap to my efficiency.

2nd. That a sum of money be set aside for the work of this department, say a certain per cent of all dues.

While we believe that we have made a very good

beginning in the health work, we must realize that it is only a beginning, and that every member must cooperate to make the work really of great value. I trust that each and every suffragist will recognize her opportunity to do something for her State in this health work.

The president suggested that Mrs. Helen N. Grenfell of Denver, Colo., be invited to make the principal address at the next Annual meeting.

On advice of Miss Gordon it was agreed to invite Miss Laura Clay of Kentucky to speak at this meeting also.

A rising vote of thanks was tendered Miss Gordon, and an invitation to attend all meetings of this Association.

The Committee on Resolutions reported the following resolutions which were adopted:

The Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association in convention assembled declares that the principle of equal rights alone expresses the American ideal of self-government; and as women are governed and taxed, logic and honesty both demand woman's enfranchisement by the States in order to vindicate the principles of our government:

RESOLVED, That the Association rejoices in the enfranchisement of the women of the State of Washington. This enfranchisement places a new star on the Woman Suffrage Flag—the only flag which symbolizes our national ideals;

RESOLVED, That we rejoice that the women of Washington are now equipped with the power to make them factors in controlling and directing the influences affecting woman's sphere—the home;

RESOLVED, That we rejoice in the tremendous growth of the suffrage sentiment all over the civilized globe—a sentiment which will enfranchise the women of other nationalities before those of the United States—placing us in the ridiculous position of not applying

the principles for which our fathers fought, bled and died;

RESOLVED, That the women of Mississippi will redouble their efforts to secure better legislation for women and children in the industrial world, to secure the extermination of the White Slave horror which blots our boasted 20th century civilization, and to this end we ask the co-operation of all women's organizations in the State;

RESOLVED, That we petition the Legislature to raise the age of consent, a State disgrace, from twelve to eighteen years of age;

RESOLVED, That we recommend the passage of a Child Labor law conforming with the recommendations of the association known as the Southern Conference on Woman and Child Labor;

RESOLVED, That the next Legislature be petitioned to submit an amendment making women eligible to serve as County Superintendents of Education;

RESOLVED, That we petition the next Legislature to appoint women to serve on State Boards of Education and as Trustees of benevolent institutions;

RESOLVED, That we heartily favor and will do all in our power to assist the movement for a State Reformatory for criminals under 21 years of age.

DELL KELSO MOHLENHOFF,
KATE GORDON,
JULIA GREENLEY.

The report of the Auditor was read and adopted, after which the election of officers for the ensuing year took place.

Miss Gordon gave an instructive and interesting talk on the work of the National Association.

It was voted to accept the invitation of the Flora Suffrage Club to hold the next Annual Meeting at that place.

The following resolutions of thanks were read and adopted:

RESOLVED, That we extend the most cordial thanks to Mrs. P. B. Woollard, Mrs. E. T. Clark and the other ladies of Cleveland who so generously opened their homes for our entertainment; to Mrs. D. E. Rosser for her assistance; to Mr. Robert N. Somerville for his many courtesies and kindnesses, and to the Rev. W. S. Shipman;

RESOLVED, That we feel a deep sense of gratitude to Judge E. N. Thomas, and to the Rev. Dr. Featherstun for their presence and their sympathy and encouragement.

RESOLVED, That we extend our thanks and appreciation to Mr. C. S. Glassco for his staunch support in the Cleveland Enterprise; to all those editors in the State who have opened their columns to our use, and to the New Orleans Item for special courtesy.

The session closed with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Featherstun.

APRIL 12—8:30 P. M.

The time at this session was divided by the Rev. H. Walter Featherstun of Gloster, a prominent clergyman of the South Mississippi conference, and Miss Gordon. The former treated of the woman's movement from a biblical standpoint, showing so conclusively that there is nothing in the Book that can properly be construed as an argument against women taking part in any of the affairs of life, private or public. Miss Gordon excelled all her former efforts in her last address and her logic and clear reasoning made many converts.

The convention closed with the conviction strong in the minds of the participants in its deliberations that, whereas, the past twelve months had witnessed wonderful progress in the cause of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none," the coming year gives promise of even greater fulfillment.