

Directors Chosen And Annual Report Of YWCA Given

A total of 1198 represented the constituency of the YWCA for the past year. This number includes the membership and others who have lived at the building or been enrolled in clubs and classes conducted by the Y.

Startling her audience of almost one hundred women and girls by remarking humorously they looked "insipid," Miss Florence Pierce, recently returned from Y work in Shanghai, gave a challenging talk at the annual meeting of the Highland Park YWCA on Thursday evening. Garbed in a Chinese coat so that her listeners might have a bit of "atmosphere" in reliving with her some of her unusual experiences, Miss Pierce explained that after meeting with women of all races, the average American audience did look pale and insipid. For instance, as secretary of the Singapore Y for three years where members of the board included three Chinese, three Indians, three Americans, three British, and three Eurasians, Miss Pierce enjoyed the richness of a truly international daily work.

The open friendliness of the Chinese who surprise the newcomer with their first two questions, "How old are you?" and "How many children do you have?" was described by this Y foreign secretary who pointed out the similarity in democratic ideals of America and China. This similarity she based on leadership coming through education or ability, not through birth of class inheritance, and on tolerance as ex-

emplified in the appreciation of several religions. As a stirring example of this tolerance Miss Pierce brought the message from the Chinese Y Associations for Americans to pray that both China and Japan may find a way out of the present suffering which the imperialistic system and not the will of common people has caused.

Miss Pierce was introduced by Mrs. Eugene Pfister, who presided at the annual meeting reading the cablegram greeting from Mrs. Theodore Osborn, president, now in England. Group singing led by Mrs. Virgil Musser and delightful operatic numbers given by Miss Mary Santi and her accompanist, Miss Alma Galassini, were program features. Many friendly volunteers, under the efficient chairmanship of Mrs. Lyle Gourley, served a delicious "family supper." The theme of fellowship between women of varying social, racial and religious backgrounds was brought out in devotionals led by Mrs. Clifford Hawes and in a report on the issues of the coming National Convention given by Mrs. Theodore Fischer, first vice-president.

The main business of the evening was the election of new members of the board, Mrs. James S. Baker, Mrs. Dwight Davis, Mrs. Clinton Fritsch and Mrs. Merwin Hopkins to fill the vacancies caused by the retiring members, Mrs. James Cady Ewell, Mrs. Clifton Hawes, Mrs. Paul Downing, and Mrs. Everett Fontaine. The financial report given by Mrs. Leroy Harza and the secretary's report by Mrs. Garfield Canright gave members a glimpse of the scope of the Association work.

Mrs. Harza reported income of \$8728.69 for rental of rooms and Assembly hall class fees, interest on investments and community chest and club and individual gifts. Total expenses including administration activities and upkeep exceeded income by \$562.09. This deficit was

largely accounted for extensive repairs and decrease in assembly rentals and educational fees this year. This budget difference will doubtless be balanced within a few months.

"The footsteps of time had worn our rugs down to loom thread" said Miss Gertrude Ames in giving her interesting report for the House Committee. In explaining how new rugs arrived Miss Ames gave tribute to the generous friend of the Association, Mrs. Alfred Burdick. Outside painting, sidewalks, porch roofing, gutters, were among the utilitarian improvements of the year, a new electric icebox for the use of girls in the residence and club refreshment committees, the lovely gifts celebrating the Y's 25th anniversary, were mentioned in the house secretary's report. "Our rooms rent to permanent residents for \$12 to \$18 a month, and to transients for \$3 a week," concluded Miss Ames in explaining that girls living in the house have the privilege of preparing their meals, doing their laundry, entertaining their friends and enjoying real home life. The residence has also served 158 transient guests during the year.

A word picture of the friendly and stimulating good times at 374 Laurel avenue enjoyed by the 280 club members from ten years old to grandmothers was given by Miss Mary Robe in her general report. "Eight self-governing clubs stand ready in a truly cheering way to back up the Association enterprises and all make a voluntary contribution to its budget," said Miss Robe, listing the Mothers' Club; the three business girls' groups, Pi Delta, B.Y.'s, and Emanon League; the Friendship Club for household employees; the newly organized Student YWCA, a high school club; and two grade school clubs.

"The Mothers' Club, welcoming all mothers, has had successful events open to the public, cooking school, carnival, dances, play, card parties, besides its regular monthly meetings. Each year members of the families are brought into the friendly circle through the dinners when husbands are guests, children's Christmas party, and family picnics. This club is planning on sending two delegates to the April National Y Convention."

"Any Thursday afternoon you will find groups busy with handwork, playing games or practicing badminton under the tutelage of Mr. 'X', said Miss Robe in describing the popularity of the Friendly center afternoons for household employees, inaugurated by Mrs. Harza and the officers of the Friendship Club, the organized club. "Sixty-five different girls have been contacted since the first of the year through this open house and many have become interested in the programs of sight-seeing and parties offered at regular club meetings."

"These clubs and the business girls' clubs have members who are found actively working on general committees of the Association and they are represented on the Leadership Council, clearing house for club and program problems. A new venture this year and one in which we have all been interested is the organization of the High School girls into a student YWCA. This group has a board just as the senior Y has. The membership is at present 25 but gives every indication of being ready for greater growth. Mrs. Andrew Brandt, a former high school teacher and club adviser, has been the ideal leader."

"Two grade school clubs with eighty members enjoyed a delightful Mothers and Daughters Banquet and other programs during the first part of the year under Mrs. Gartley's direction. Due to intermittent leadership since her resignation these clubs are being reorganized. Mrs. Lee Gatewood, as chairman, has been a popular hostess to all club girls."

Aside from this discussion of club or group work, Miss Robe spoke of the service program including room information, and emergency service and the social work of the Service League. The educational program, cooperating with the Adult Education Council, has featured the Community Chorus, under the cordial chairmanship of Mrs. Garfield Canright and the capable direction of Mr. George Faulds, and the Child Guidance course given by Dr. Irene Josselyn.

"Ballet classes for girls and Social Dancing for Seventh and Eighth Grade and High School boys and girls have been conducted by Marian Keeney. A total of 348 were enrolled in these classes. Sixty-eight boys and girls, including a group of high school girls, as well as pre-school children, have enjoyed Gertrude Williams Butlers Dramatic Classes. An audience of over two hundred enjoyed the Christmas play."

"Under the direction of Mrs. Hawes and her committee Community Vesper Services have been held every month from November to May. Ministers of Highland Park and Deerfield have cooperated in bringing the religious message of the afternoon and all the Y clubs have taken a turn at being hostesses for the pleasant tea hour following. Also under the Religious Education and Social Committees, the ministers, their wives, and an active

worker from each church were entertained at a luncheon that we might talk together regarding ways we might work together. Among outstanding events for the community was the September Open House when new families were especially invited. All events have been promoted by an active publicity committee."

Miss Robe had opened her remarks with a discussion of the vibrancy and beauty an oil painting gains from the mingling of many hues, pointing out that all these basic colors represented the individual volunteers work which made the finished canvas of the year full of beauty and meaning. She closed with a plea for inspired imagination for the coming year, explaining "I used to think imagination meant seeing things that aren't there, but I know now it means seeing all the things that are really here."

There had been a great chance for imagination to enjoy this annual meeting, thought the guests, remembering the glimpse of China with Miss Pearce, the gay Italian music of Miss Santi, the cablegram from their ever-thoughtful president across the ocean, the every day work and friendliness back of the figures given by the two Y secretaries in their reports for the sixty-two active volunteer workers contributing to the success of Highland Park YWCA.

Mrs. Minna Brentano Passes Away March 18

Mrs. Minna C. Brentano, 73, wife of former Judge Theodore Brentano of the Superior Court of Chicago, died Friday at her home at 252 Laurel avenue, following an illness of long duration.

Mrs. Brentano, who was the daughter of Henry Clausenius, who was for many years Austro-Hungarian consul in Chicago, celebrated her golden wedding anniversary with her husband last May.

Funeral services were held Monday at 2 p.m. at Graceland cemetery chapel where interment was made.


She is survived by her husband, three daughters, Mrs. Frank J. Bersbach, Mrs. Randall Anderson and Mrs. Robert Ticken, 12 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank our many friends for the kindness shown us in our bereavement.—Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fuller, Deerfield, Illinois.

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