

Activities of North Shore Clubs

by Ruth Risley

Of all the problems which we have come to group under the term "child welfare" the most important is the care of the dependent child, the child who is without home or proper parental care or protection. How much easier it is to train a little girl to be a self-respecting and self-supporting woman than it is to do anything for a girl who has become delinquent because she was neglected!

This vital problem is being solved in a measure by the maintenance of the Park Ridge School for Girls, thirteen miles from Chicago. Although the law calls this an industrial school it is evident to a visitor that it is also a home for the 120 girls who live there. There is a general mistaken impression that it is for the accommodation of delinquent girls. This, however, is not the case, as there is no equipment to deal with delinquents or subnormals and such cases are not taken. Most of the girls are dependents or wards of the courts, and there are some whose fee of \$15 a month is paid by relatives or interested friends.

The Illinois cottage, completed in 1915, was the gift of the State Federation of Women's Clubs. Sixteen girls were thereby added to the number for whom the directors must provide. Feeling the obligation, the federation established a maintenance fund for this purpose, to which the clubs in the state make yearly contributions.

Last spring a committee was appointed to raise a fund of \$5,000 to aid in the maintenance of the cottage. Having raised the stipulated amount, the committee members have agreed to continue the drive for several months longer, owing to the fact that the value of a dollar has decreased with the boost in the price of living. So the goal of \$10,000 has been set.

Members of Le Cercle Francais will be interested in the lecture to be given by Mademoiselle Marguerite Clement of the Lycee of Versailles on "What America Can Teach France and What France Can Teach America," at the home of Mrs. Hamilton McCormick, 631 Rush street, Chicago, on Saturday morning, March 6, at 11 o'clock. This program is given for the benefit of "Le Cercle Francais Bed," which has been founded at the American Memorial Hospital at Rheims, France. It takes \$6,000 to endow one bed, and up to date, \$3,380.70 has been raised.

"Work Among the Italians at the Eli Bates Settlement," illustrated with slides, will be one of the interesting subjects to be discussed at the meeting of the Winnetka Woman's club on Thursday afternoon of next week. Mrs. C. Franklin Leavitt will be the speaker. Mrs. Frances Dickinson will tell of the work being done at the Ridge Farm. Preceding the

program, a short business session will be held. The hostesses for the afternoon will be Mesdames Luther Barber, Arthur S. Klein, Francis P. Mason and Miss Martha Gemmill.

"Many schemes have been devised for the education of children through play, but none of these is better than the scout idea," says Miss Bertha B. Howell of Evanston, who is now district director of girl scouts in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

"Girls everywhere are clamoring to become scouts, and it has been found that there are not enough trained leaders to take charge of them, so the first training class for girl scout leaders was organized in Chicago Monday night. The class was so popular that it has been decided to start others and it is hoped that there may be enough leaders to take charge of every group of girls that asks for scouting, and to give them the training, the work and play, which they are so eagerly seeking.

"This training class was a busy

one. There was a lecture to begin with, but the kind of a lecture that keeps one's mind on the jump every minute. This was followed by games, semaphore, knot-tying, and drill, and the young women who attended the class left with their heads buzzing and spent the following day tying all their clotheslines into bowlines and reef-knots and waving their arms in a wild imitation of semaphore while they waited for the car.

"If this work has such a fascination for the child which still lingers in grown-ups, how much more must it thrill little girls. There are records of unheard-of feats of self-denial, when girl scouts have gone without candy and sundaes for months at a time, while working for health badges. One mother said that scouting had even made dishwashing attractive to her daughter—and if this can be done in these days of scarce domestic help, let us encourage scouting, by all means!"



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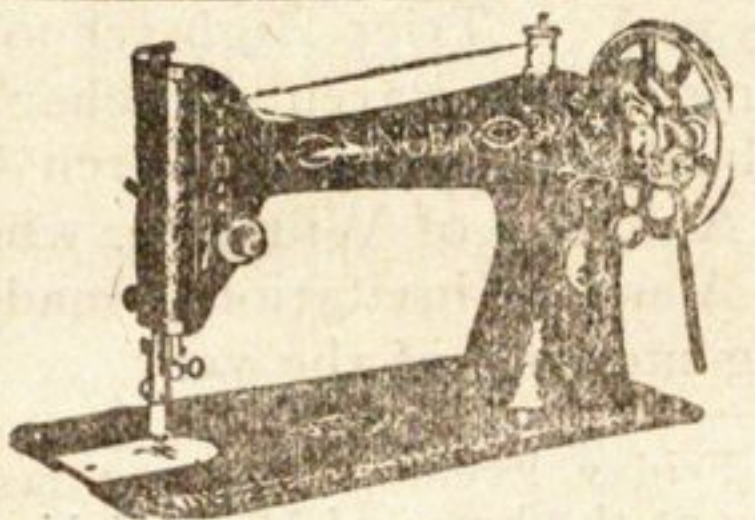
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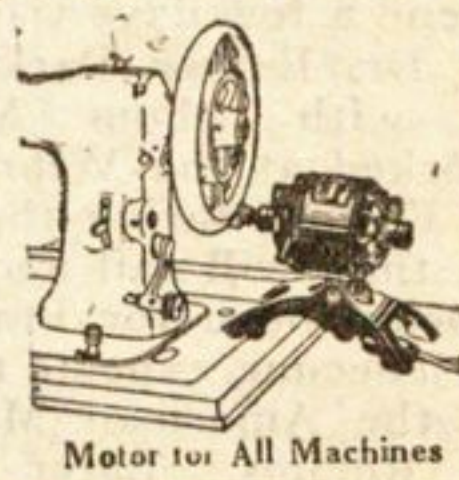


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