

**THE CLUB WOMAN'S
HANDYBOOK OF
PROGRAMS AND
CLUB MANAGEMENT**

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The Club Woman's Handybook of Programs and Club Management by Kate Louise Roberts

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The Club Woman's Handybook of Programs and Club Management

COMPILED BY

KATE LOUISE ROBERTS

For many years in charge of Club Work in the Free Public Library,
Newark, New Jersey.



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THE
ALPHABET

DEDICATION

To John Cotton Dana:

Whose liberal library policy has smoothed the path of the clubwomen.

To the Clubwomen of New Jersey:

To whom these programs owe their existence.

To the Clubwomen of America:

Whose good work promotes happiness, wholesome living and broad thinking throughout the land.

PREFACE

(To be read at least once in each club)

The reason that club women take themselves so seriously is due possibly to the fact that on the threshold of our consciousness there lies a sense of the tremendous power that may come through club organizations, both to the women themselves and to the public. Men organize clubs in a matter-of-fact way, simply because they want clubs for some definite purpose, usually social or political, or for study of some special subject. But women take the matter differently. They form and join clubs because they seek and there get social contact with bright and energetic women who know and do things. This is a good and sufficient reason, even for habitual drones. It results in relief from housekeeping, from disciplining servants and children and from the narrow mental life which is the routine, everyday experience of the average woman. The social side of club life is to be highly commended and distinctly urged as desirable.

Why do clubs of women laboriously compile programs covering many fields of knowledge? There seem to be three good answers. First, to make up for arrears in culture and education; second, to keep abreast of the times; third, to accomplish practical reforms or help forward the world's work. The third purpose comes nearest fulfilment, because, even in the most superficial attempts at work, there is at least an interest stimulated or a sentiment aroused on public questions. This leads women to read the papers and magazines more freely and intelligently than before. Thus they become more ready for action when the time is ripe.

The second purpose also is easy of accomplishment. Even light skimming over the top of the times awakens interest if nothing more and may lead to deeper study on occasion because the germ of the idea is planted.

The first purpose is rarely ever accomplished in the average club. Culture is something deeper and more pervading than a mere knowledge of facts gleaned from the encyclopedic papers of other women, or from the occasional addresses of experts on the subjects. Again, there is little addition made to one's stock of knowledge or infor-

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