

Northeastern Clubs Hold One-Day Meet

The sixth annual district meeting of the N. C. Federated Clubs of the northeastern section of the state was held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church here on Saturday.

"New Frontiers for Federated Women" was the conference theme. Mrs. M. N. Leito, newly elected president, presided over the business session of the one-day meeting.

Guest Speaker, Miss Wilhemina M. Crossen, president of Palmer Memorial Institute, spoke on "Taking A New Look at Our Clubs." She gave the women a blue print for the formation, functioning, and success of a good club.

They were told to be examples and a pattern for our youth. "Togetherness was suggested as the master key."

Miss Mae D. Holmes, superintendent of the Girl's Home in Kinston gave remarks.

The Youth Group sponsored an oratorical contest using for its subject, "Our Next Generation, America's New Image."

First place went to Doris Atkinson of Smithfield, N. C.; second place, to Louise Curtis of Selma, N. C. and third place to Gloriane Jackson of Elizabeth City, N. C.

The Scrap Book contest was won by the Flower and Art Club of Rich Square, N. C., with second place going to the Social Club of Kinston, N. C. and third place to the Matrons Club of Elizabeth City.

Other highlights of the meeting were: a fashion show given by seven girls from the Marian Anderson of Wilson and the presentation of two "Fifty-Year Clubs," the Bannaker Club of Kinston and the Matrons Club of Elizabeth City.

The Host Club served a turkey dinner.

Thirty clubs compose the membership of the Northeastern district which has for its motto: "Let us be Seen by our Deeds."

Viola T. Bishop, Reporter

Happiness in this world, when it comes, comes incidentally. Make it the object of pursuit, and it leads us a wild-goose chase, and is never attained. Follow some other object, and very possibly we may find that we have caught happiness without dreaming of it; but likely enough it is gone the moment we say to ourselves, "Here it is!" like the chest of gold that treasure seekers find.—Nathaniel Hawthorne

WHITMAN TRIBUTE

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interdenominational. It is true that the student body at present, as well as the faculty, is entirely Negro. But Dr. Brown will tell you that her own life and the progress of the school have evinced a steadfast determination to break all barriers to Negro education while maintaining friendly and dignified relations with enlightened white people.

Dr. Brown's drawing room at Sedalia could be that of a "proper Bostonian." There are the prints of Sargent's Frieze of the Prophets, beloved by patrons of the Boston Public Library; there are the Pilgrims going to church through the snow; and on the bookshelves are the Harvard Classics.

Dr. Brown was graduated from high school in Cambridge, Mass., and won a scholarship at Welles-



DORIS ATKINSON, first prize winner in the youth oratorical contest receives congratulations from Palmer Memorial Institute's president, Miss W. M. Crossen, while Louise Curtis and Gloraine Jackson, second and third place recipients look on. They spoke during the afternoon session of the Northeastern District meeting in Rocky Mount.



Members of the Marian Anderson Youth Club of Wilson, N. C., wearing the costumes which they designed and exhibited in the Fashion Show given at the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Northeastern District Federated Clubs held in Rocky Mount, N. C.

ley. Her teacher's training was in the Massachusetts State Teachers College. In addition she holds a number of honorary degrees.

But she will tell you, with characteristic frankness and pride in obstacles surmounted, that her grandmother was a slave.

When she was seven her family moved to Massachusetts, where her father and her uncles, skilled brick masons, could make the good wages paid white workmen.

It was 11 years before she came back to teach in the South. But those years prepared her to meet white people as friends and equals, for they had been her companions in the North.

"White friends in the North gave generously to found the school, but Southern white people helped us too," she recalls.

Across the road stands a little white wooden church, its walls hung with blackboards, where the first classes were held. Today the school property, free of debt, is valued at almost a million dollars.

The indomitable little woman, sitting on a piano bench and running smooth hands over the keyboard as she talks, did it all without compromising.

"Of course they started calling me Lottie when I came back to North Carolina," she remembers, "because they'd known my grandmother as Aunt Becky and my mother as Caroline."

But like Mary McLeod Bethune, who won her right to respectful address by a well-timed protest in Alabama, Charlotte Hawkins Brown in due time became Doctor Brown in North Carolina. Not too many people have five doctor's degrees.

And although Palmer Institute, as a privately-endowed school for Negroes, could stand aside from the present struggle, it is far too lively a place for that.

Tacked on a bulletin board in the library is a newspaper clipping that describes the recent arrest of one of the girl students: pretty Mary Sue Welcome spent three

hours in Baltimore's Pine Street jail for participation in a restaurant sit-down.

Some years ago Dr. Brown wrote a little book about good manners which has had four printings, and Palmer students practice the etiquette she preached. But manners are reciprocal and white people are supposed to have them too.

Miss Wilhelmina Crossen, once a pupil in Dr. Brown's Sunday School class and now her successor as active head of the school, sees the need for change and also for preserving the values that under Dr. Brown, made Palmer Institute unique.

Palmer Institute concerts have been given in Boston's Tremont Temple and Symphony Hall as well as in North Carolina. The concerts and Dr. Brown's lectures not only raised money but interested people. Nor was there any thought, certainly on the part of Northern friends, that schools such as Palmer would perpetuate segregation in the South.

Rather, with its own traditions as liberal as those of Harvard and Radcliffe and Wellesley, Palmer can claim a part in the education of Southern whites toward acceptance of their Negro neighbors as people of "background" and academic distinction, with whom it is pleasant and rewarding to work.

GROSSON TRIBUTE

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McLeansville and walked four miles along a dusty road to a little white church where she became a teacher under the leadership of Mr. Baldwin.

The woman who founded Palmer Memorial Institute who has lived in her native state for fifty-eight continuous years, is a living tribute to her work, her character, and her unbounded faith in God and humanity.

This school was closed the next year, but Dr. Brown seeing the need for a school in the community converted an old blacksmith shop into a project that interested both white and black and in the fall of October 1902, Palmer Memorial Institute was born.

If ever an institution was a tribute to one person, a lengthening shadow of one person's aspiration, effort, and faith, Palmer Memorial Institute has proved it. In her thinking, in her personality, in her philosophy of life, especially as it concerned her race, its cultural achievements and its cooperative relationship, has been the epitome of all that is noble.

Dr. Brown is a talented musician; she holds six honorary degrees including three doctorates.

Dr. Seabrook, president emeritus of Fayetteville Teacher's College, once said Palmer Memorial Institute

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