

The Ladies' Auxiliary

EDITOR SILENT WORKER.—Will you kindly allow me to correct a slight misstatement in your valued correspondent "Pansy's" article in your June issue: I did not appoint Mrs. Divine and Mrs. Barrett a committee to take up the matter of organizing a ladies' auxiliary of the N. A. D. What I said in the *American* editorial quoted by "Pansy" was by way of suggestion merely, and supplemental to an invitation extended in my capacity as chairman of the Colorado Springs Local Committee through Mrs. Barrett for the O. W. L. S. and woman members of the N. A. D. to make use of the 1910 convention by formally organizing an auxiliary of some kind or other of the N. A. D. Facilities for a meeting were respectfully offered.

There need be no difficulty as to the organizing. A constitution and by-laws might be drafted, published in advance or submitted at Colorado Springs and discussed and passed on there favorably or adversely as the case might be. A separate treasury might be maintained and the organization even might decide to be altogether independent of the N. A. D. or any other body, save in that the conventions should meet at the same time and place.

There are a great many things in which such a body of wide-awake, progressive, active women would benefit the entire class of our deaf supplementing and furnishing the aims of the main association of which the ladies should of course remain members. In effect it will be a powerful special and permanent committee of the N. A. D. surpassing in influence and numbers all the rest.

As a matter of fact, I do not see why our three national organizations should not each have a ladies' auxiliary.

There is the N. F. S. D., for instance. Women are excluded from direct participation in its deliberations, management and business affairs, but unless I am much mistaken a large majority of the beneficiaries who will receive the insurance on the death of any of the members, are their wives. These wives and I might add sweethearts, also play an all-important part in the picnics and other social gatherings of the various divisions. A picnic without a well-stocked lampier is like the play of *Hamlet* *et cetera*, and in short the ladies' are by far the better half of all these social meetings.

The time will certainly come when the N. F. S. D. will have grown such size, and its conventions will have assumed such importance that many will attend who while not delegates will take part in the meetings as interested and applauding spectators, and among these latter must be counted the wives and let me again add the sweethearts of many of the delegates.

It would seem to me, therefore, that a "National Sorority of the deaf, while keeping rigidly aloof from the business affairs of the *Profraternity*, would be found to exercise an influence that could not, but very largely increase the prestige and numbers, and, therefore, the power and wealth of the N. F. S. D.

I am not a member of the N. F. S. D. and do not intend to become one, and the suggestion above must sayor to many as an undue presumption, but I believe the N. F. S. D. together with the N. A. D. will be the two great instruments that will in time bring about a union of all the better elements among the American deaf, the former along social lines and as an incentive to thrift, and the latter as the guardian of the rights and liberties at large of the class. The biennial meetings of the one and the triennial conventions of the other bid fair to become the two great red-letter events in the calendar of the American deaf, and I trust that arrangements can yet be made by which the conventions of the two organizations can be held jointly at the same time and place, and each can aid the other by mutual good-will and encouragement.

The Gallaudet Alumni might, in like manner, have an auxiliary composed of present and former members of the O. W. L. S. or of co-eds. Nor should there be any obstacle to any one person being a

member of all three of these suggested auxiliary organizations.

But when all has been said it rests entirely with the ladies whether they are to have such auxiliaries or not. It is only another of the very many cases whether the odd rhyme applies: If woman will, she will, you may depend on't. And if she won't, she won't; so there's the end on't.

But in behalf of the Colorado Springs "1910" Local Committee, I would again cheerfully and respectfully offer any facilities that may be desired as to a meeting place and other similar conveniences, should it be decided to form next year an organization of deaf women auxiliary to or independent of the N. A. D.

GEORGE WM. VEDITZ.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.
May 29, 1909

The Fitness for President of The N. A. D.

EDITOR SILENT WORKER.—It took him a long time to catch on, but at last, Mr. Allabough, of Pennsylvania, comes out in the opening and acknowledges it would be best for neither teachers nor ministers to be president of the National Association, and by the same token, should not be president of State or local associations.

His reason for the stand he has taken, in a nut shell, are that "the president of a National Association of the Deaf should be absolutely untrammelled by ties that bind to a school or a religious ministrations." Exactly! The teacher could not enter actively in politics without being sternly called down by his superiors at the school with which he happened to be connected; the minister has no business to aspire for or to accept the presidency of an organization, composed of deaf of various religious beliefs, and if the one in St. Louis is wise he will not let his personal ambition run away with his common sense; as a man of God, he should be satisfied to serve in the ranks and like the lowly Jesus seek to do good to his fellow men; for him to do otherwise will simply induce strife, discontent and final dissolution of any non-sectarian organization with which he may happen to be a member.

As to who should be president of the N. A. D., the learned professor of Pennsylvania says that in order "to avoid failure," he "should be one, who has no enemies to stand in his way." Ye gods, has the National Association fallen so low as to be willing to accept a minority as its president? Does the "famous architect" of the West feel complimented by Mr. A's direct allusion to himself? It is a very generally accepted opinion now-a-days that a man "who has no enemies," is made of very poor timber and this is exactly what I believe Mr. Hanson is now composed of. As for the president of an organization having "absolute freedom from outside demand upon his time" that is an impossibility in this country, where every man that is worthy of the name, has an occupation or business by which he earns his keep; the only exception being the idle rich and PERHAPS the deaf teachers and deaf ministers. Of these last, the St. Louis minister is a brilliant example. This I judge from his unbounded ambition and what has leaked out concerning the row at the Norfolk gathering a year or so ago.

Prof. Allabough says that "in a National Association" (and in all organizations of the Deaf) "personal interest should not be the dominating factor." He is wise there, but just the same IT IS. From the first National Convention at Cincinnati, Ohio, till that at Norfolk, Va.; personal ambition has been the leading factor. The "Gallaudettes" stick together and will have no one for president of the National Association except he be of the clan. Not even such a man as Douglas Tilden, the famous sculptor of San Francisco, could land the prize.

The result of this sort of policy is plainly seen in this city and state. Although the one, who first brought up the question as to the Federation of

the Deaf lives in New York and has made numerous addresses and given so-called lectures, not once has he made mention of the "Federation of the Deaf," or in any way served to instruct the masses regarding the subject. From my observation, I can say that the deaf of Greater New York, taken as a whole, care not the least for the National Convention or what it may or may not do at Colorado in 1910; as for the "Federation of the Deaf" that apparently is a dead issue, certainly hereabouts, and was never meant to be taken seriously, but only to keep certain alleged great people in the limelight; as such it has served its purpose.

GEORGE LUCAS REYNOLDS.

6) South 10th street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
May 31, 1909.

Taft Relative to Marry Deaf-Mute

Asa A. Stubbout and Miss Amelia Grace Taft, both of Jacksonville, Ill., June 2, 1904 out a license to marry. The latter is a deaf-mute, and the bride, a graduate of a Boston school of expression, is originally from New Hampshire, and asserts to be distantly related to President Taft. The couple will reside in Michigan.

Scientific Marvel

"I have been taking some moving pictures of life on your farm."
"Did you catch the hired man in motion?"
"I think so."
"Ah, science kin do anything these days."—*Louisville Courier-Journal*.

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