

Woman's City Club Active Here

Established In 1912, It Lapsed During War, And Remained Inactive Until Two Years Ago

Headed By Mrs. S. Johnson Poe As President, It Is Taking a Prominent Part In Civic Life

By EMILY EMERSON LANTZ

HAS it ever occurred to the modern woman what an exceedingly lonesome time Mother Eve must have had without anyone of her own sex to play around with, or any woman's club where she could have a social cup of afternoon tea with a feminine neighbor when she wearied of Adam's exclusive society, or could read a novel in peace unconscious that Abel was falling off the limb of a cherry tree or Cain had gone swimming despite orders to remain on dry land? Eve's fall from grace may have been primarily due to the fact that she was on no club committee and recognized no obligation to live up to group rules of conduct.

Masculine solidarity has long been recognized, but women are quite as solid, one for the other, in many respects as men and have very definite understanding of their own need of sisterhood. In remote ages they retreated to convents, but in the past century women's colleges have specialized upon the training of women for intellectual and community life. From these women have developed, within the past thirty years, women's clubs to instruct women to work individually in the home and collectively in the neighborhood.

The educational, political and industrial activity of city women has created need of club homes, centrally located, where women may meet simply as women, so that at least fifty cities of the United States now boast women's city clubs as important features of municipal life. The Woman's City Club of Baltimore is now fully organized, its clubhouse at 15 West Mount Vernon Place purchased and being prepared for occupancy in the fall.

The club membership now totals 600.

WOMEN ORGANIZE CLUB

In the year 1912 a woman's city club was first organized here with Mrs. S. Johnson Poe, president; she was followed in office by Miss Elizabeth Gilman, but during the great war the club went out of existence.

About two years ago the Woman's City Club of Baltimore was reestablished again with Mrs. Poe as chief executive and determined to purchase a club home. The first intention was to buy, if possible, the Mary Garrett property, southwest corner of Cathedral and Monument streets, then in use as the Baltimore Museum of Art) with a view of making that building the headquarters for several women's clubs. This project was abandoned and in the spring Mrs. Poe, with a following of sixty-five women, made a first payment upon the Joseph I. France residence, 15 West Mount Vernon Place (the southeast corner of the same intersection).

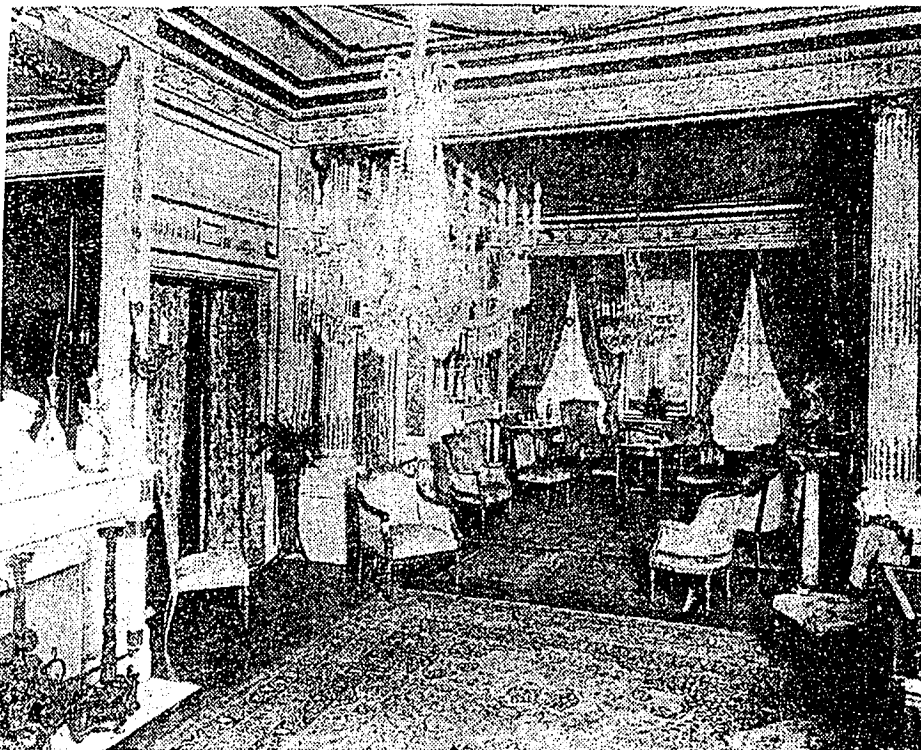
The comfortable and elegantly furnished brick residence was erected some fifty years ago, and could scarcely be better adapted for club purposes.

QUAINTNESS PRESERVED

Four stories high, open on all sides to air and sunlight, the house has a frontage of 35 feet on Mount Vernon Place and a depth of 100 feet. It has never been divested of the crystal chandeliers, the magnificent hall piece, the plate-glass mirrors, the bronze figure at the newel post upholding the crystal light that illumines the broad, easy staircase and with hand-worked mahogany rails invites ascent to the upper stories. All are there as well as the built-in mahogany bookcases, the mirrored and hand-carved mantel that render the library artistic, scholarly and luxurious.

An imposing door with wrought-iron grill admits the visitor to what was known as the "golden hall" because of its frescoes of golden hue. Marble pil-

In The Woman's City Club



The drawing room of the former home of Joseph I. France at Mount Vernon Place and Cathedral street, now occupied by the Woman's City Club

lars at the foot of the staircase divide the entrance corridor from the main hall. To the left are the drawing rooms of spacious size, the walls of which are hung with golden tapestries after the period of Louis XVI, when the beauty, grace and luxuriousness of Marie Antoinette made the court of France brilliant and artistic. The frescoed ceilings are equally lovely and, through the courtesy of Senator France, the furniture of Louis XVI design, so discriminatingly selected by the former Mrs. France, will be restored to the house for the club's use. These drawing rooms are regarded as excellent examples of the interior decorative art of the Louis XVI period.

MAHOGANY-PANELED ROOM

Opening from the drawing rooms is a mahogany-paneled dining room extending the width of the house and, beyond, a restroom and conservatory that makes a charming sun parlor. Double bay windows opening upon Cathedral street give width to the halls upstairs and down and staircases are so broad, easy and well lighted that ascent is no hardship.

The management plans to keep the first floor for the use of club members at all times. On the second floor the removal of partitions provides an assembly room with seating capacity of 200 persons, while the library will be used as a conference room and, on occasions when groups may require it, as a tea room. Adjoining it, in the rear, is the Turkish room and lounge, and this floor will be available for social affairs, dances and meetings. For this assembly room and staircases the Oriental rugs that adorned Senator France's home will be available, continuing the residential aspect.

NINE BEDROOMS

Bedrooms on the third and fourth floors, to the number of nine, will provide permanent quarters for a few residents and for out-of-town guests. A limited number of rooms will be available for headquarters and offices for women's clubs and organizations.

In the basement the club will establish a dining service with a cafeteria and tea room. Meals may be served in warm weather in the adjoining courtyard.

The officers of the club are: Mrs. S. Johnson Poe, president; Mrs. J. William Funkh, vice-president; Miss Catherine C. Gaulle, corresponding secretary; Miss Anne R. Brattan, recording secretary, and Mrs. Jacob G. Moses, treasurer.