

MRS. DUNIWAY MAKES ANSWER TO DR. CLAMPETT

Well-Known Portland Club
Woman Uses Clever Repartee
and Vote of Thanks is Sent to
Clergyman for His Remarks.

The Reverend F. W. Clampett's remarks from the pulpit last Sunday denouncing women's clubs as disruptive to domesticity and the social structure generally, were replied to by Mrs. Abigail Scott Duniway last evening at a meeting of the Business Women's League in the Parrott building.

Mrs. Duniway is an Oregon woman with a national reputation as a public speaker and pioneer worker in the suffragist movement. Her brother, Harvey W. Scott, is editor of the Portland "Oregonian," and two other sons belong to the faculty of Cornell University and Stanford University. Mrs. Duniway is venerable and of benevolent countenance, and under the lace cap that she wears is a brain of remarkable power.—She speaks with moderation and fluency, has a fund of anecdotes with which to emphasize her arguments, is gentle in manner and good-naturedly sarcastic. She gave Dr. Clampett a motherly castigation that kept her audience in what is tritely termed "gales of laughter." Mrs. Duniway was introduced by Mrs. Clara Shorridge-Foltz, president of the league, who paid a tribute to the long and honorable career in public and private life of the distinguished guest. After a resume of the advantages which the larger liberty of club life brings to women, Mrs. Duniway dwelt upon the fact that the ranks of clubdom are not recruited mainly from young mothers with multifarious domestic duties requiring their daily presence at home, but from mature women who, having raised their families, needed diversion and have the time for it—time that is their own and belongs to no man.

"There is no occupation for the superannuated," said the speaker, smiling quizzically, "that large class of women called 'surplus' who have no husbands to cook for, no children to care for. Dr. Osler doesn't come around to chloroform them. What are they going to do? Wash dishes? Embroider altar cloths? Mend the vestments of the clergy? As for those who have husbands, in these days of convenient convention, they can go home after a club meeting, turn up the gas, press a button and have a meal delivered when it is wanted. Dr. Clampett would have us all cooking, sewing on buttons, embroidering altar cloths, dressing chorus boys, sweeping, dusting, darning, and meeting a husband at the proverbial door with the proverbial smile. But we can't all get husbands. There aren't enough of the right sort of men to go around.

Every good woman likes men a great deal better than she likes women. That is the truth, my sisters, so why deny it?"

Many years ago, when I had a husband and sons growing up around my table, I realized this, and in those conservative days even dared to express my opinion in public. A woman who doesn't like men—Mrs. Duniway laid emphasis upon the words—is always a vinegary, cross-grained creature, who owes an apology to the men for living. She ought to steal away and die.

"Dr. Clampett's arguments are as old as the hills. I have heard them from dead decades to the present hour. Perhaps he merely used them to wake up the women. If so, he has succeeded. Throughout San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland and Alameda, hundreds of women are pointing to their well kept homes, happy children and contented husbands to disprove the reverend gentleman's statements.

"Men are living at clubs, it is said, because women do not make homes sufficiently attractive. Well, I assure you that they get far better service and far more comforts—which they pay for—than they did when they were ministered to by one weary pair of hands that had meanwhile to rock the cradle (in some imaginary way likewise 'ruling' the world), perform the drudgery of the household, sew for the family, and make altar cloths for the church. Women will not go back to the old regime of being servants without wages, so what is our reverend brother going to do about it? It is, by the way, a curious fact that the homes in which murders are committed are invariably those where the women murdered do not belong to clubs, but are 'protected' by their husbands.

"I beg the clergymen to possess his soul in patience. The great laws of nature will never be diverted from their primal uses. Women are neither better nor worse than men. The government of a country is nothing more nor less than home written large. And, old and ugly as I am," added Mrs. Duniway, smiling, "I have a dozen chances to marry right now. As for political equality, the cause has gained a strong foothold in Oregon. Men will eventually give us the franchise, but meanwhile they like to be coaxed a little. We don't say yes right away when they ask us to marry them. We like to be coaxed a little, too."

Regrets were expressed by the audience that Dr. Clampett was not present. Resolutions were unanimously passed thanking him for "waking the women up," and the secretary was instructed to send Dr. Clampett a copy. Mrs. Duniway is the guest of Mrs. Mary A. Wells, at her residence, 313 Scott street. On Monday afternoon she will address the Susan H. Anthony Club, at the Berkshire Hotel. On Friday night a reception of the Business Women's League will be held at the home of Mrs. Foltz, 723 Second avenue.