

EQUAL SUFFRAGISTS.

They Discuss the Important Subject of Dress Reform.

The attendance at the meeting of the Equal Suffrage Club yesterday afternoon at the Pythian hall was rather small on account of the very threatening weather, but there were enough present to make the gathering very interesting.

The object of the meeting was to discuss the question of dress reform. The meeting was opened by the reading of a paper on that subject by Mrs. Stella Baker, in which there was an emphatic indorsement of the subject.

The ladies discussed the subject quite completely, and stated that the idea of dress reform was the shortening of dresses. After the subject was opened for discussion Mrs. Merine, of the Kansas City, Mo., Equal Suffrage Club, addressed the ladies. She prefaced her remarks by inquiring if there were any reporters present. If there were she didn't want to speak, as she had a wholesome dread of them. She explained her statement by saying that it was some of her remarks that caused so much talk in Kansas City, Mo., recently. On being assured that no reporters were present she spoke at length on the subject.

She said she had long been weary of long dresses and had waited patiently for Dame Fashion to correct the abuses, but as it had not been done she thought it was time for the really sensible women to begin a crusade against the trailing sweep so frequently worn on the streets. The dresses should clear the ground, and would thus insure neatness and cleanliness, and would not detract from the appearance or comfort of the wearer. She had heard it claimed that the ladies could not ~~bring about a change in the matter~~ but she had seen the best of results from the work of the ladies in Kansas City, Mo., within the past year.

Mrs. Campbell followed Mrs. Merine and differed with her radically on the importance of the subject. She thought there were many things of more vital interest to the ladies than the length of their dresses. She thought if ~~more~~ more practical duties of life were more closely studied, if some matters concerning the happiness and welfare of women were more carefully and closely studied there would be better results and the subject of dress would be left to correct itself. In fact, Mrs. Campbell thought the subject of dress of but little importance.

This remark called forth a most earnest protest from a score of ladies, who stated emphatically that the subject of dress was a very vital one, and one that of rights should be very close to a woman's heart. A woman ought to regard her dress as something worthy of her careful attention.

This latter sentiment was echoed all over the hall and appeared to be the emphatic opinion of the meeting.

The fact that the attendance at the meeting was small led the ladies to conclude that so important a subject should be fully discussed, and it was agreed that the discussion should be continued at the meeting next Monday afternoon.