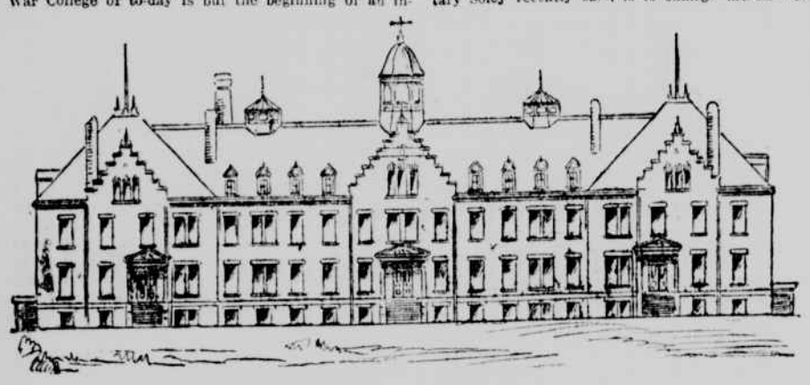
THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE.

A TALK WITH CAPTAIN MAHAN.

IDEAS OF THOSE WHO STARTED THE GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION—A FINE NEW BUILDING.

Newport, R. I., March 16. The orders of Secretary Tracy to Captain A. T. Mahan a few days ago to proceed to this place, or rather to Coaster's Harbor Island, as president of the Naval War College, has revived interest in an institution established and fostered by the Navy Department in 1884, and so long as Congress recognized its importance by appropriation for its maintenance, for the higher education of officers of the Navy in the art of war. When Senator Chandler was Secretary of the Navy he appointed a board of officers on May 3, 1884, to "report on the whole subject of a post-graduate course for officers of the Navy," etc. The result of this was a "general order" promulgated by Secretary Chandler on October 9, 1884, reading in part as follows: "A college is hereby established for an advanced course of professional study for naval officers, to be known as the Naval War College. It will be under the general supervision of the Bureau of Navigation. The principal building on Coaster's Harbor Island, Newport, R. I., will be assigned to its use, and is hereby transferred, with the surrounding structures and grounds immediately adjacent, to the custody and control of the Bureau of Navigation for that purpose."

Soon after the promulgation of this order Commodore S. B. Luce was detailed as the president, and several officers, including Captain Mahan and Professor J. Russell Soley, the present Assistant Secretary of the Navy, were detailed as the faculty. The peculiar function of the Naval War College was to promote the study of the game of naval war in all its phases, and the lectures given were of the highest order of excellence and contributed materially to the success of the college in the first year. In one of the last reports of Admiral Porter he said: The Naval War College of to-day is but the beginning of an institution that will in the future, I believe, confer great benefit on the service. There are some officers who retard its progress by their opposition, yet no one can give a single reason why such an institution should not be maintained. I have had as much to do with graduates from the Naval Academy as any one, and I do not hesitate to say that the academic course does not and cannot thoroughly prepare an officer for all the higher duties he will be called upon to perform. . . . No good reason can be advanced why our naval officers should not have an opportunity of perfecting themselves on professional matters, which will at least keep them on an equality with officers in foreign navies. I consider that the education received by cadets at the Naval Academy is merely the groundwork to fit them for what they will have to learn practically in the future." In fact, Admiral Porter realized what others have been forced to admit since, that the great changes in the management of war vessels due to steam and modern weapons make the navies susceptible of much superior and complicated use than of old, both in strategy and tactics.



THE NEW NAVAL WAR COLLEGE BUILDING.

Captain Mahan succeeded Admiral Luce, who because of his promotion had been ordered to the command of the North Atlantic Squadron, in October 1885, as president of the college, and remained there until September 30, 1889, when he was detached and ordered to special duty in the Bureau of Navigation. Congress refused to make any appropriation for the continuance of the work in 1888, but the college was continued upon the efforts of the officers to the end of the term year. At that time the Naval War College occupied the old asylum built originally in 1819 for the accomodation of the poor of Newport. The use of the term "post-graduate" by the original board, and frequently and not unnaturally applied by so many since, unfortunately suggested the continuance here of the studies pursued by the graduates of Annapolis while cadets at the academy. But this was only one of the errors that seemed to stay the approving voice of Congress. It seemed for a long time that a naval war was needed to compel Congress and the people to understand that it was necessary for a general adoption of some system of tactics and to test it to the conviction of all. Captain Mahan's lectures on Naval History at the college were published in pamphlet form in 1890, and they were first reviewed by 'The Tribune,' and in complimentary terms. What The Tribune then said about instruction at the Naval College has since been confirmed by numerous laudatory notices published both here and abroad. Captain Mahan has also received many private letters from naval officers and civilians equally strong. Among the most favorable comments are those taken from the "Blackwood," "Edinburgh," "Academy," and "Atheneum" magazines. "The Saturday Review," "The Spectator," "The London Times," and all the English and French service papers. It was the college which brought out the work.

In 1889 the new Congress made further investigation of the importance of the college and its needs and appropriated $100,000 for a new building, the plans of which were designed by Mason & Sons, architects of Newport, and which will be sufficient for all the studies, including those on torpedo warfare, and the developement of smokeless powders and other new inventions. By the terms of the contract the building must be completed by September 1 of this year. The site of the new building, as shown in the cut, taken from "The Illustrated American," is on a line with and west of the old building. The style of architecture is Flemish, having the stepped gables peculiar to that order, and suggesting in its general effect many of the handsome buildings met with in Holland and Belgium. Its material of construction is Fall River granite roughly finished, and it is rectangular in shape, with a frontage of 210 feet and a depth of 48 feet. The main or central structure is 106 feet in length, and its right and left wings 52 feet in length. Each wing, as well as the central structure, has a handsome entrance, the approach to which is up a few steps, and under a porch; the characteristic beauty of the three parts being maintained by a handsome gable, on top of each of which is a simple finial. A circular observatory with a dome-like roof, from the windows of which a view of the entire horizon may be obtained, surmounts the central structure. Circular skylights and dormer windows add to the attraction of the building, as well as afford ample light and ventilation.

The college proper will be in the main body of the building, and immediately across the corridor (at the end of the front hall), running almost the entire length of the central structure, is the staircase leading to the upper floors. An aparement at the west end of the building, and occupying the entire depth of the lower floor, will be used as a library. At each end of the second floor is a large lecture-room running up through the third story to the roof. The four rooms in the front of the basement will be used as an engineer's repairing shop, storage-room, lavatory, and quarters for the employes. The rear part of the basement will be arranged for a kitchen, laundry, dining-room, storeroom, engine-room and boiler-room. In addition to above apartments there will also be offices, reception-room, guest chamber for lecturers temporarily at the college, janitor's room, coat-room, bath-rooms and toilet rooms.

The wings at each end of the main building will be arranged for the accommodation of the president and faculty of the college; the second floor to be divided into bedchambers, with fire-places, closets, and bathrooms. The dining-room and library, and reception and council rooms will be on the first floor. The sleeping-rooms for the servants will be on the third floor; and in the basement will be the kitchen, bathroom, closets, storerooms, laundry and fuel-room.

When asked regarding the plans for the future administration of the college, Captain Mahan said: "I am somewhat at a loss to reply to your question. So far as I know the same general idea will be followed in this resurrection of the institution as was laid out when I was at the head of the college before, but with greatly enlarged and advanced facilities, through the erection of a convenient, commodious and handsome building which is now nearly completed. The subject divides itself into four principal heads, viz: (1) The art of war in deep-sea fighting, including naval strategy and naval tactics, both of the single ship and of fleets—the use of the two principal weapons, the gun and the ram (the torpedo forming a special department). (2) Coast warfare, involving the defence and attack of single fortified harbors, and the general principles involved in arranging the plans of defence for a long coast-line, in which there may be several fortified posts or posts which ought to be fortified. Included in this is the means of controlling the strip of ocean, more or less broad, that borders the coast; and also that portion of the land which may be reached from the sea. (3) Questions of naval organization and supply, and of commercial routes, coaling stations, colonies, and what in a general way may be called the statistical information connected with the sea. A prominent idea in the college is to keep before students the commercial relations of the country, and the effect these relations have upon the mutual dependence of States and questions of policy, of peace and war. (4) A torpedo course, which owing to the transitional and undetermined character of the weapon is as yet hard to define. It will involve, however, a history of the development and a study of the present existing types, an examination of their powers and limitations, and an appreciation of the best way to use the torpedo, both in the deep-sea and in coast warfare; in short the tactics of the torpedo. The means of neutralizing or breaking through lines of torpedo defence of course comes under this head.

"In a general way I would say that naval warfare answers two chief things: First, Naval material, the creation of guns, ships, torpedos, engines, etc., of the best type and in sufficient quantities. Second, you may have the best of these and fail for want of knowledge as to how best to combine and use them against an enemy; by which is meant not merely the aiming of a gun, the steering of a ship nor the supervision and effective running of the machinery, but the so combining and distributing of your force, so choosing your position, so studying your theatre of operations, that you shall, by your skill in these matters, have an advantage over an enemy otherwise your equal. This is the art of naval war, and is the object of the college."

Another purpose of the college, as Assistant Secretary Soley recently said, is to enlarge the knowledge of sea officers in the matter of conducting such expeditions as may be feasible with the forces landed from a fleet alone, familiarizing them with the best approved methods and expedients of modern armies. It was the intention of Admiral Luce to supplement with practical exercises ashore and afloat in Narragansett Bay the theoretical instruction which would be given through the lectures. It is very likely that this idea will be carried out by the vessels of the North Atlantic Squadron during the coming summer, after their return from the West Indies. It was long ago discovered that numbers of the younger officers after a little experience at sea take up of their own accord those studies for which they have developed a taste; it may be ordnance, astronomy, electricity, steam, history, international law, or the languages. There are others who, possessed of undoubted ability, do not exert themselves in the direction of self-improvement for want of proper facilities, or, perhaps, of an incentive—men who could take a high stand in almost any branch were the opportunity offered or the motive power supplied. One result looked for in the establishment of the college is the consolidation of all professional branches of the Navy, and this includes the engineer officers, under a well-organized and homogeneous system of instruction.

"It is believed that the North Atlantic Squadron affords the nearest approach to be found to a proper course in naval tactics; that it should be assembled once a year, and during a stated period go through a series of fleet evolutions, gunnery practice with the latest types of ordnance, the landing of seamen for military operations, boat expeditions, torpedo attack and defence, etc., having the class of the college on board of the vessels for instruction. It remains to be demonstrated, and it is believed that it will be demonstrated, that the War College has sprung from and represents a real want of the service and the country, and that the general lines upon which it has so far been conducted are such as to fulfil the actual want, without duplicating work adequately provided for elsewhere in the Navy. The officers who have attended the courses of lectures have gone back to their duties and to their brother officers with a report that has carried with it approval and conviction.

Captain Mahan recently said on this subject: "How fast a ship will go, and for how long; within what space she will turn, and how quickly; what resistance she presents to injuries, and what effect certain injuries will have on her safety, speed or handiness; in regard to guns and torpedoes, their range, accuracy, the rapidity with which they can be fired and the injury they can produce; with engines, the important considerations of speed and coal endurance—such are the factors that are needed for the investigation of the college. And you will notice that they denote the accomplished results, they characterize the finished weapons which are put into the hands of the military seaman to go forth to battle, to wage war. The object of the college is the study and development, in a systematic, orderly manner, of the art of war as applied to the sea, or such parts of the land as can be reached from ships.

"The heads under which this study of the art of war may be sub-divided and grouped are numerous, and there are also certain collateral subjects whose immediate bearing upon the effective conduct of war will not be at once apparent. The two principal heads of division are, of course, 'strategy' and 'grand tactics.' The meanings of these two terms may be assumed to be apprehended with some accuracy and clearness by very many; there is, however, a certain radical distinction in the conditions by which each of these divisions of the great subject are modified. Jomini, speaking of the art of war on land, says: 'Strategy is the art of making war upon the map, and comprehends the whole theatre of warlike operations. Grand tactics is the art of posting troops upon the battlefield, according to the accidents of the ground; of bringing them into action; and the art of fighting upon the ground, in contradistinction to planning upon the map. Its operations may extend over a field ten or twelve miles in extent. Strategy decides where to act; grand tactics decides the manner of execution and the employment of troops.'

"Strategy is called to decide upon the selection of the theatre of war; the discussion of its decisive points, of its principal lines of communication; of the fortresses, or, in case of the sea, the military ports, regarded as a refuge for ships, or as obstacles to progress; the combinations that can be made, considering these features of the strategic field; the all-important point of the choice of the objective, and the maintenance of that line practically undisturbed by an enemy. Such and many other kindred matters fall within the province of strategy, and receive illustration from history. This illustration will be fullest and most satisfactory when there is an approach to equality between belligerents; but most valuable lessons may be derived also from the study of those wars, more numerous by far, in which the naval preponderance of one nation has exercised an immense and decisive effect upon the issues of great contests both by land and sea; in which, if I may so say, the Navy has been a most, perhaps the most, important single strategic factor in the whole wide field of a war.

"We have at least two great needs now, over and above those of sailing ships—coal and more frequent renewal of ammunition. These introduce the question of lines of supply and their protection. If, for instance, it were necessary for us to maintain military possession of a point on the Isthmus, or to conduct any great operation there, there must be a line of communication thereto. How shall it be protected? What is the best means of guarding and distributing supply vessels? Would a line of communication be best safeguarded by sending out a large body of colliers and supply ships, convoyed by a heavy detachment of men-of-war; or by patrolling the routes by scattered cruisers always on the wing? We shall have for this at least one historical instance in our course. Again, the coal supply of commerce destroyers is a very important question which nobody seems to care to face. It would be amusing, were it not painful, to see our eagerness to have fast ships, and our indifference to supply them with coal. What neutral power will sell us coal when engaged in war with a more powerful maritime state, and what is a commerce destroyer without coal?

"The importance of the efficiency of the units of a fleet to the efficiency of a whole indicates the point where naval construction touches the art of war. A crippled ship affects all the tactical combinations of a fleet; a collision between two ships has ere now led to a great battle, and the results of the battle have modified the issues of a war. With the delicately calculated constructions of the present day, a single great injury to a ship's hull may affect her tactical qualities, her speed, handling and stability to a disastrous degree. In what way and to what extent particular local injuries may thus affect her, and how they may be partially remedied in battle, are so obviously tactical questions as to need no further comment.

"In the matter of 'coast defence' and 'attack,' I will only say that it is intended always to have the subject treated by both an army and a naval officer, in order to bring out both sides of a large and intricate question. Where differences are fundamental we shall learn at least to understand one another's meaning and reasons, to argue at least to the other man's point; not beating the air, nor laboriously overthrowing men of straw. The art of naval warfare may have a big future, but it is yet in its babyhood."

A FINE SNAKE STORY.

From The Dubuque Ledger.

A farmer of Marion County says he has a snake which swallowed an eight-day clock in August, 1887. Until the clock run down it struck regular and its ticking could be heard. A short time ago the farmer found some eggs which had been deposited in a hole by the reptile, and on breaking them open found that each contained an open-face watch in first-class running order. He sold the watches at a big profit, and has now given the snake a post nuzzer in the hope that it will produce sufficient corkscrews to enable him to start a wholesale drug-store.

MAKING WOMEN STRONG.

THE BERKELEY LADIES' ATHLETIC CLUB.

WHAT IS DONE IN THE GYMNASIUM THERE—VALUABLE EXERCISE.

It requires little enthusiasm for athletics to appreciate the benefits and advantages of such an institution as the Berkeley Ladies' Athletic Club, and she who is zealous about physical culture has probably lost no time in getting herself made a member. The clubhouse is attractive in appearance, from the entrance to the tip-top of the building, where the gymnasium with its horizontal bars, swinging rings and padded mattresses for jumping, has the appearance almost of a miniature circus.

"Buttons" answers the bell in the most approved club style, ushering the visitor into a large drawing-room on the left, furnished in a simple, but pleasing fashion. Just across the hall on the right of the entrance is a room almost as large which is called the reading room. Magazines and books are to be found there, and there is a desk for scribblers, but the most conspicuous object is the billiard table, for the women of this club are not debarred from any of the recreative games, even of the sort which in more conservative times were reserved for man only.

Every part of the house is used for the purposes of athletic exercise. Below the entrance floor there is a bowling alley and a swimming bath, and now that the Berkeley (men's) Athletic Club has broken up, the fine large gymnasium in their part of the club building will be appropriated at such times as desirable to the use of the women.

There are sixty separate dressing rooms—in fact, two floors, 100 feet in length, are set apart for these and the lockers and bathrooms. The latter are especially fine, as they are lined with marble and have that spick and span cleanliness about them which gives an air of real luxury to the bath. There are facilities for sponge, needle and tub baths, any one of which may be recommended by Dr. Bissell, the director, as a proper finish to the physical exercise of the hour before.

The members are privileged to come to the club whenever they wish, and can use any part of the building at will; but for the benefit of real training classes are formed, which meet twice a week. There are two instructors for the exercise performed in the gymnasium, Miss D. M. Elliott and Miss M. G. Potter. Miss Elliott has been in charge since the club was opened. She is a graduate of Dr. Anderson's School of Physical Training in Brooklyn, and both because of her unbounded enthusiasm as well as for her knowledge and experience, she is considered one of the best teachers in the city. She is one of the few young women of this generation who were taught gymnastics as children, but her father's predilection in favor of athletics for girls gave her an early taste which resulted in the actual training which she took afterward from Dr. Anderson. Now Miss Elliott not only has enthusiasm herself, but she has the power of infusing it into her pupils; and this is a great aid to good work, whether it is in physical training or the most abstruse scientific instruction.

Miss Potter is a graduate of Dr. Sargent's Normal School at Cambridge, Mass., and is spoken of as an accomplished teacher.

The instruction in the gymnasium occupies about one hour, intervals of a few minutes at a time being taken occasionally for rest. If the day is cold, and the members come in with somewhat lowered temperature, they are sent to the chest weights for exercise which will be thoroughly warming. These are ropes hung on pulleys with weights, and by means of rings for the hands in the ends of the ropes a regular system of exercise is gone through for a given period—perhaps five minutes. Light clubs have considerable prominence among the gymnastics, and afford means for the display of skill. A beginning is made with one-hand movements, then different ones are combined until they become intricate. While activity with the clubs is by no means a fad, the hands become a little strained from holding them, and are released at times for a moment or two while the fingers are well shaken.

The foot and leg exercises are graceful enough to suggest the art of dancing. A variety of steps not only gives added strength to the one who practises, but perceptible grace. The girl who has been in training for a certain length of time steps across the floor with a charm of carriage which might not perhaps be expected, as she is in heelless shoes and a short dress. The teacher says that these exercises not only incline the step to elasticity, but are good for the breath and lungs. Not all the pupils go in for running, jumping and vaulting even in the advanced classes, but those who have been accustomed to these heavier exercises from childhood find the greatest exhilaration and pleasure in them. Such exercises include the traveling rings, where the individual swings from one ring to another, and the horizontal bar and ladder. The running is done in the larger gymnasium, a gallery of excellent size being arranged with a padded floor to increase facilities for this rather violent work.

An applicant for admission to the club must be at least sixteen years old. The arrangement of the classes is not made with regard to age, but rather with reference to the degree of advancement made in physical training. Probably few girls enter with the desire to become really athletic; oftener it is with the idea of developing strength. The club is not by any means a sanitarium and yet some women undertake the exercise there by the advice of physicians for their health.

There are no obligatory rules, but advice is offered and suggestions are made as to the course to be taken. It is an understood thing that nobody wears a corset at the time of exercising and everybody has a suit in the club colors, blue and gold. The costume consists of a divided skirt held in at each knee with elastic cord in the manner of Turkish trousers. The leg to the knee is free of any covering except the stocking, and the low shoe is very elastic so that it will not interfere with suppleness of movement. The divided skirt and blouse are made of dark blue serge and gold is introduced in the form of braid on the blouse front, collar and sleeves, put on in military fashion. It is noticeable that both the girls and women who exercise do their hair up in a neat trim fashion, and the usual vanities of rings and bangles are omitted for the time being at least.

The girl in society sometimes makes this club her fad, and admits her delight in freedom from the corset during the hour for exercise. She sometimes even goes further and confesses to such backsliding from fashionable edicts as the omission of the corset for all time excepting with the tailor made gown, it being necessary to draw the line somewhere, she thinks.

Of course no enthusiast on the subject of physical culture sanctions the wearing of the corset. Dr. Mary T. Bissell, the director of the club, is avowedly an enemy to it, and in her latest book has a chapter on the subject and so ably as well as gracefully does she state the reasons why it should not be worn, not alone for health's but for beauty's sake, that any sensible-minded reader will find it hard to withstand them.

Dr. Bissell is a sister of the president of Vassar and is herself a graduate of that college. She has been a member of the medical profession about ten years, and is professor of hygiene at one of the medical colleges. It is usual for Dr. Bissell to make a physical examination and a series of measurements of those members of the club who take up physical training, and by frequent consultation she is able to know something about their constitutions, and to regulate the amount of exercise which they take. Those who are interested in their own development, and in the strength gained, can follow it by remeasurement and reference to the charts. Three years comprise a "course" in physical training at the club. Dr. Bissell usually sees the members in the office before they go upstairs, and urgently advises a bath and a change of underclothing before leaving the building, she does not look upon physical training as a fad or an accomplishment, but claims for it a dignified place in educational work. Her theory is that anything that helps the body is beneficial to the mind, and that an improved physical condition means a better intellectual power.

The membership is over 400 at the present time and is constantly increasing. More than half of the members use the gymnasium. Fencing is not in the physical training curriculum, but facilities are given at the club for pursuing the art, and Mme. Besserer is the teacher. She is the young woman who astonished all beholders on the occasion of a recent "Ladies' Day" at the Manhattan Athletic Club, doing herself credit in both skill and grace in competition with men fenders.

Bicycling is soon to be added to the other athletic sports of the club. The ground floor of the large gymnasium is admirably adapted to the purpose of training, and as the director has herself demonstrated not only the harmlessness but the desirability of bicycling for women, it will no doubt meet great favor among the members.

The fact should perhaps be emphasized on the authority of Dr. Bissell that physical training for women is not of such vast importance as bringing strength to the muscle, but as giving constitutional benefit, but when a woman argues that she cannot go without her corset because she is so "flabby," and tumbles into a heap, then Dr. Bissell says she does require to increase her muscular force and acquire ease in sitting up straight.

The course is all graded, and begins with simple exercises at first. Those who may be delicate are advised to exercise offener and for shorter periods. Any one much over thirty will gain little development of figure or breadth of chest, but half a winter's training is said to produce remarkable results in a bettered physical condition.

With proper introductions any mother can send her little girls to the club for exercises twice a week. Such a class of little children ranging in ages from six to eleven is now organized at the club. It is really neither more nor less than fun for them, as, while some direction is given to their exercise, there are long respites when they can swing, climb ladders and run just as they might climb trees and play in the country. As their usual recreation consists in walking along the street with a hand in that of their nurse "club-day" is probably regarded by them in the line of a treat.

April 1 is "opening day," and one of the attractions offered the club guests will be a dumbbell drill performed by the children. Mme. Besserer's little girl, who is said to be an expert little fencer, will enter into competition with her mamma on that occasion, and something in the line of an exhibition will be made of the various classes. The Ladies' Berkeley Athletic Club has only been in existence a little over two years, and yet it has the air and dignity of one of the oldest institutions of the city.

GOSSIP IN THE CLUB WORLD.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY—NOTES ABOUT VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

The energetic part which the Republican Club took in the campaign last year is to be surpassed this summer and fall. The first step in this direction was the motion carried at the February meeting that a campaign committee of fifty be appointed. President James A. Blanchard announced the members of this last week and the committee will hold a meeting tomorrow night. The work of promoting the cause of the party will be begun at once and will be kept up with increasing force and spirit until after election day. That the influence of the club shall be as far-reaching and powerful as possible, every effort is being made to strengthen the membership. As an aid in this plan, it is proposed to reduce the initiation fee temporarily. The present sum is $75, and the figure will be lowered to at least $50, and perhaps $25, for this year. In 1893 the fee will be fixed at the present amount again. The question of how great the reduction shall be is to be settled at the meeting of the club on the third Monday in April. The club certainly offers the most advantageous inducements, even at the present initiation fee. The annual dues are only $25, and for this members have the use of a commodious and well-equipped clubhouse in a desirable part of Fifth-ave., with an excellent restaurant, cafe, library and reading-room. All Republicans who are properly proposed and seconded are welcome to membership, and it is hoped that several hundred new men will join the club before November. They can not only gain pleasant club privileges for themselves, but add strength to the party. The Republican Club is not merely a campaign organization, but is active all the year around. It has a committee on National affairs, which watches legislation pending in Congress, and one on city and State affairs, which is on the alert to protect the rights of citizens. This latter committee prepares bills for submission to the Legislature, examines measures introduced at Albany, and suggestions of amendments to them made by it are often adopted. To carry on its educational work, the club a month or two ago appointed a committee to arrange for a series of lectures on economic subjects by Professor George Gunton. This committee has invited the co-operation of the regular Republican associations throughout the city by asking them to send to his lectures such men as are to be teachers or speakers for the party this year. In consequence of this effort about 100 men listened to Professor Gunton's recent address at the clubhouse. James A. Blanchard is striving to make his administration as president one fruitful of good to the party, and he deserves the encouragement and co-operation of Republicans generally.

The new board of managers of the Manhattan Club will organize on the second Thursday in April and elect the officers for the year. No opposition to the re-election of Frederic R. Coudert to the presidency has manifested itself since his victory at the meeting this month. The general opinion seems to be that he will certainly succeed himself, for the board is the same, with the exception of one man, that it was when he was chosen last year. Friends of Henry D. Macdona, the only opposition candidate who was successful, still say that politics had nothing to do with his defeating Edward Schell. They say that Mr. Schell was a sachem in Tammany before the young Assistant District-Attorney was born, and that neither one was more the Wigwam candidate than the other. Mr. Macdona has lots of friends in the Larchmont Yacht and other clubs to which he belongs who are also members of the Manhattan, and they worked and voted for him.

The Lotos Club makes two bites of a cherry by having its election and annual meeting on different nights. Officers were chosen on March 19, and the annual meeting is to be held on April 4. At this the reports of the secretary and the treasurer will be read.

The annual meeting of the Insurance Club was held on Wednesday, and the following governors, to serve two years, were elected without opposition: William J. Swan, E. R. Kennedy, West Pollock, Randolph Hurry, B. G. Ackerman, Charles C. Little, Charles M. Jessup and David V. Swainson. All except the two last named were re-elected. Those governors whose terms expire next year are James A. Silvey, Herbert L. Keyes, E. Dwight, Jr., Warren Sage, Wallace Peck, A. M. Thorburn, W. H. Grolius and J. J. Courtney. These sixteen will meet this week and elect officers. It is probable that the old set will succeed itself. It consists of James A. Silvey, president; William J. Swan, vice-president; William H. Grolius, secretary, and West Pollock, treasurer. At the annual meeting Mr. Silvey announced that negotiations were being made for a fine new house for the club. It is expected that a special meeting will be called in a few weeks to ratify the choice of the officers. The present home of the club, No. 52 Cedar-st., has already become too small, so rapidly has the membership grown. The house which will probably be secured is in the same neighborhood, and is a great deal larger than the present one. The lease on No. 52 Cedar-st. does not expire for another year, but the club will spend that time in decorating and fitting up the new place. The members propose to have a clubhouse that will compare favorably with the quarters of the Lawyers' and Downtown clubs. The membership is now over 600, and the plan is to have accommodations for twice that number. The present limit is 750.

The Delta Kappa Epsilon Club has leased its house, No. 435 Fifth-ave., for another year, although the members had almost made up their minds to move. The present clubhouse is really too small for the increased membership, and when the owner wanted a much higher rent than he had been receiving the feeling in favor of moving became nearly unanimous. It had almost been decided to take the house in West Forty-second-st., just east of the West Presbyterian Church, when the owner of No. 435 Fifth-ave. made a concession, and thus induced the club to remain in its place for another year at least. What the club especially needs is additional sleeping apartments. At present there are only two large and five small ones, and these are all occupied by permanent lodgers. The non-resident membership is about as large as the resident, so there is a great demand for lodgings by men who are only visiting the city. Now these members can never find an unoccupied bedroom. This evil is to be lessened a little by turning into sleeping apartments the two meeting-rooms used by the chapters of Columbia College and the College of the City of New York. The undergraduates are not members of the club, but the older men would not think of making them find rooms elsewhere were it not unavoidable. Hitherto the election of officers has been held in May, but the trustees, upon the recommendation made at the last annual meeting, have about decided to have it in October hereafter. The present board will therefore hold over until that time. The officers are: President, Senator Calvin S. Brice; vice-presidents, David Bennett King, John F. Munn, William L. Trenholm, John DeWitt Warner and Isaac O. Woodruff; recording secretary, Henry S. Tiffe; corresponding secretary, James A. Wotton; treasurer, Frank S. Williams. The trustees are Clarence D. Ashley, George C. Austin, Walter Swayne, William L. Trenholm, Hugh R. Garden, William H. Hamilton, William B. Leapp, James A. Wotton, Almon Goodwin, Alonzo B. Hepburn, Ernest H. Ilges, John F. Munn and John DeWitt Warner. At the last meeting of the committee the following new members were elected: Charles W. Douglas, J. S. Kennard, Jr., Oscar D. Weed, Sherman S. Jewett, Jr., and Robert P. Huntington, Jr. The last named is the famous Yale tennis player.

The convention of the Psi Upsilon Fraternity will be held in this city this year, and the clubhouse will not lack visitors while the gathering is in session. On Wednesday evening, April 6, there will be a reception to the visiting brethren at the clubhouse. On the following two mornings business meetings will be held in the hall of the Academy of Medicine, in West Forty-third-st., and on Thursday evening the literary exercises will take place at the Carnegie Music Hall. The convention will come to a brilliant close with a dinner in the assembly-rooms of the Madison Square Garden on the following evening. The committee in charge consists of Dr. Willard Parker, George F. Butterworth, John T. Walker, Waldron Williams, Henry G. Atha, Cortlandt P. Bishop, J. Augustus Barnard, Harvey R. Kingsley, Robert Lenox Belknap, Francis S. Bangs, William H. Wetmore, W. De Wolf Dimock, Frederic R. Coudert, jr., Henry R. Taylor, Frederic R. Lord, Louis V. Southack and Benjamin Wistar Morris, jr.

Harvard men have every reason to feel proud of the substantial interest that is being taken in the project to build a Harvard headquarters in this city. The building committee of the Harvard Club has issued a circular, showing what has been done already, and urging graduates of the university to aid in the undertaking. The structure is to be known as the Harvard House, and will not be a clubhouse pure and simple, but a gathering place for Harvard men generally and a centre of Harvard interests in this city. The circular says: "It is not intended to increase the present dues of the club. It is intended that in the building there shall be a large assembly room, a library, a dining-room, a billiard-room and a kitchen, and should the club so determine, there can be bedrooms for non-resident members, and the building will be so arranged that a grillroom can be established, if the annual receipts of the club would warrant its maintenance. It is also the intention of those interested in the matter to have an evening set aside at intervals as 'Harvard night' at which a simple dinner may be served and at which Harvard's graduates, distinguished in the professions and in the business community, will attend, and by thus meeting the younger graduates, do something more for them than at present. It is contemplated to erect the building on a lot 25 by 100 feet, at a total expense, including the land, of $60,000 to $70,000, but it is thought possible, if all the graduates subscribe according to their means as liberally as those who have already subscribed, to erect a building on a larger scale and thus meet any possible wants of the graduates of the future. There are nearly 1,000 graduates of Harvard in New-York and its vicinity, and we expect in the future that a very large proportion of them will join the Harvard Club, and should a subscription come from each graduate the extreme hopes of those interested in the matter could be fully realized." The clubhouse committee consists of C. C. Beaman, George Blagden, Louis C. Clark, Frederic Cromwell, John S. Eldridge, A. T. French, Edward King, J. Loeb, Samuel H. Ordway, Edward L. Parris, Charles H. Russell, Lawrence E. Sexton, A. M. Sherwood, Charles H. Tweed and H. S. Van Duzer. Mr. Sherwood is chairman of the committee and Mr. Sexton, of No. 45 William-st., the secretary. Messrs. Loeb, Cromwell and Tweed have recently been added to the committee. The circular was drawn up a little over a week ago and at that time subscriptions to the amount of $22,250 had been received. As soon as the circulars were sent out responses to them began to come in, so that the $25,000 mark has now about been reached. The subscribers include E. D. Morgan, H. McK. Twombly, Edward King, Francis Ormond French, Joseph H. Choate, Frederick F. Ayer, James C. Carter, George Blagden, Louis C. Clark, Charles C. Beaman, J. Greenough, James J. Higginson, George C. Clark, Henry L. Higginson, Austen G. Fox, Frederic Cromwell, Henry W. Poor, Ogden Mills, Edmund Wetmore, Lucius N. Littauer, Charles Fairchild, Lawrence E. Sexton, J. Hampden Robb, G. R. Sheldon, Charles H. Russell, S. L. Parrish, G. Winthrop, D. Winthrop, C. S. Fairchild, William T. Boll, Frank R. Kimball, William F. Weld, A. M. Sherwood, John E. Cowdin, Wendell Goodwin, F. Swift, D. Crawford Clark, Amory G. Hodges, Amos T. French, F. O. Barton, S. H. Ordway, P. T. Barlow, A. C. Tower, J. P. Morgan, jr., H. S. Van Duzer, J. Loeb, W. Chandler, H. D. Robbins, H. L. Cannon, A. H. Cutler, A. C. Gurney, Cornelius G. Kilder, Samuel B. Clarke, M. H. Clyde, Thomas Clyde, Elihu Chauncey, R. W. G. Welling, J. S. McCulloch, C. A. Brown, H. E. Talmadge, J. L. Cilley, George W. Dillaway, John Du Fais, F. S. Wellman, N. S. Smith, Eugene D. Hawkins, W. S. Seamans, Clement Cleveland, George Walton Green, Albert Stickney, Horace J. Hayden, F. S. Billings, Lawrence Godkin, Walter Trimble, Evert J. Wendell, Charles MacVeagh, John S. Melcher, F. B. Allen, M. P. Slade, J. E. Weld, George K. Swinburne, George H. Adams, Edward D. Bettens and Thomas S. Bettens.

"OLD PLUG HAT."

A TEXAN TELLS A STORY WHICH HAS A DOUBLE SURPRISE.

At one of the social meetings held at a clergyman's house recently an old Texan was a guest. Although advanced in years, his figure was tall, straight and athletic, and evidently he had been a man of action and adventure. His hearty, natural manner and ready conversation soon made him a favorite with all present. Some one in the company suggested that he might describe or tell a story of frontier life. At the request, his black eyes sparkled, and with a broad smile, which deepened a scar in one of his bronzed cheeks, he at once showed his readiness to comply.

Said he: "There are a good many stories to tell about that kind of life, and I hardly know what to pick out suitable for church folks; but perhaps you might like to hear about 'Old Plug-Hat,' a young Methodist minister who came out our way nigh on to thirty-five years ago?

"Well, about that time a young, slender chap came to our cattle ranch, which was something like forty miles west of San Antonio. He said he had studied for the ministry in some Connecticut college, I forget which, had broken his health, wanted to rough it with us to see if he could get strong again; was willing to do anything for his keep, or would pay his way. His pleasant, frank way won the boys at once; besides, he was a novelty for us; we'd never seen much of full-grown parsons; so we made the yerlin' welcome, gave him his quarters and let him run himself pretty much as he liked.

"He stayed with us over a year, and soon got some color in his cheeks and a straighter backbone and heavier shoulders than he had when he came. All of the boys liked him on account of his plucky way. He and I became close friends. We taught him to ride fearlessly, manage a lariat, and by his own practice he could handle a revolver surprisingly well, particularly a small, fancy one he owned. One of his peculiarities, which I suppose came from his prim Yankee training, used to amuse us. Every Sunday he'd carefully fix himself up city fashion, and his shiny silk hat appeared odd among a score and more of sombreros. Some one playfully nicknamed him 'Old Plug-Hat,' and he was oftener called that than anything else. He never bored us with church things. I've known him to pay his share for whiskey and tobacco promptly, though he could not be induced to use any. If any of us were sick or hurt he was the kindest nurse you ever saw—some of the gang said it paid to be laid up a week or so so as to listen to the interesting things he'd tell 'em.

"About three months before he left for his home, two noted desperadoes, part Mexican, part Indian, but really more devil, made their appearance in our region. They were known as 'Black Mex' and Big Cactus; they had been long feared and hated border terrors on account of their cruel, cunning, bloodthirsty character. They knew every road, pass and secret hiding place in that part of Texas, and had robbed and murdered, unscathed—seemed to possess charmed lives.

"We and the ranchmen near us felt rather gloomy when we found out the wretches had appeared in our neighborhood, for we realized that sooner or later some of our bands would muster a man or more less. You see, those wern't railroad days down there then as now; and there were times when one or two of us had to ride on errands to town. Some of the boys would perhaps want to take or send their money in for safe-keeping, or have it mailed or expressed to their relatives; besides, medicines and other special supplies had to be ordered or obtained. Several good fellows were robbed and killed in the first six weeks after they began their prowl; one was from our camp.

"How could we be sure he was killed? Well, when his horse escaped and found his way back to us, blood-spattered and riderless, it was a pretty strong sort of a telegram! Another one of our men had his horse and pouch stolen, and was left bound fast to a tree on a dismal part of the trail. He would have died there or made a supper for wild beasts if an army mail-carrier had not accidentally seen him. It got so serious that we called a crowd together and held a sort of a council of war. Mind you, there was plenty there who would have openly faced one or both of the rascals; but nobody wanted to run recklessly into an ambush. Lots of plans were suggested as to how we might squelch or capture the miscreants, but nothing seemed to fit the case without foolish risks.

"'Old Plug Hat, how would you like to tackle 'em?' half playfully asked one of the company of the young parson, who modestly sat in the meeting.

To the surprise of the boys the youngster eagerly rose and said:

"'I'll willingly take the chances, and was only waiting to ask the privilege. I'll make the next trip to town alone, and if I meet with the scoundrels and they don't get the pull on me, I'll guarantee to wipe them out; so please make a motion that I'm to go.'

"Somebody, who didn't want to see the young feller's feelings hurt by leaving him out of the talk, made the motion. I at once seconded it and urged that the boy be allowed to try himself as a scout. I'll tell you as I told them, I don't believe in spirit manifestations and inspirations and stuff of that sort, but I've great faith in practical things that I've had to learn by hard knocks. I had seen plenty of tough Indian fighting and border war before I became a rancherо, and I knew how to size up a good scout or safe officer. While the youngster was making his offer it was plain to me that he had hit upon some ingenious scheme that only needed good luck and courage for a trial. My war record, such as it was, gave me a good deal of influence with the boys, and as I seemed satisfied to risk my chum, it was finally agreed that Plug Hat should go. When the meeting broke up I asked him what his plan was, but he only laughed and said: 'If I come back you'll find out.'

"The second morning afterward he started. He picked out a good horse, put on his Sunday clothes, silk hat included, filled his belt with revolvers, fastened his saddle-pouch and bade us good-bye, making most of us feel pretty glum. Well, to shorten the story, that night while we were at supper, into cam