A WHIRLIGIG OF HORSES

"ALL HANDS AROUND" BY O'BRIEN'S FOUR-FOOTED ACTORS.

AN EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCE AT THE CIRCUS SHOWING MARVELLOUS TRAINING AND CONTROL OF THE ANIMALS—THE DIRECTOR EXPLAINS HIS METHODS.

Undoubtedly the equine whirligig is the star act of the circus this season. The equine whirligig is a living embodiment of the phrase, "a wheel within a wheel." In fact, there are several wheels within several other wheels, and each wheel is composed of horses. The earth's revolutions are upon its axis as geography teaches; our uneasy sister Republics of the South have their revolutions on bayonets, but the equine whirligig revolves upon John O'Brien. To be really appreciated, the whirligig must be seen, but an attempt will be made at description.

MUFTI, THE UNDERSTUDY.

As stated before, O'Brien is the king pin on which the performance centres. O'Brien is the "equestrian director" of the Barnum & Bailey show. He is assisted and supported, literally and technically, by his understudy, Mufti. Mufti is the kind of Arab steed one reads about. That is, he is an

JOHN O'BRIEN.

Arab from Arabia, and is proud as a peacock, clean-limbed and shapely, and flowing as to mane and tail. Nine years have passed lightly over Mufti's sleek, iron-gray coat, and the greater portion of that time he has been under O'Brien's saddle. So the star and his understudy are old companions of the ring, and know each other's "business" to a dot. At the slightest movement of his master's bridle-hand, all imperceptible as it is to the beholder, or at the slightest variation in his knee pressure, Mufti feels and knows his rider's thought.

When the trumpet sounds it is Mufti who prances into the arena with O'Brien sitting easily in his saddle. In the centre ring industrious "supers" have built a pyramid of circular platforms of gradually lessening diameter. Up to the apex of this Mufti goes with a hop, skip and a jump, and spins around, giving with his rider an imitation of "Washington on the Field of Trenton." Behind the high-stepping Arab trails a cavalcade of blooded stock. There are fifty in the troop.

THE STALLIONS LEAD THE CAVALCADE.

O'Brien cracks his long whip and calls to the four big black Trackene stallions who lead the herd, and they gallop into the ring. There are Sultan, and Cato, and Brunello and Ashland, tall, strong and black as night. They are old hands at the business, for they constitute the remnant of the band of performing stallions which travelled with the circus for several years. Their dispositions have been so soured by the trials of greatness that all but Ashland have to be muzzled to prevent them from experimenting on horseflesh as an article of diet. With much rattling of hoofs on the boards, the four stallions climb up the steps, and stand with their fore feet on the top platform beside Mufti, while their hind feet are on the next level. The next to make their entrance are a group of seven Kentucky hunters, with glossy sorrel coats and the lean quarters of the thoroughbred. The Kentucky horses each fall into position with their fore feet on the lowest step of the platform, and these are followed by a company of nine thoroughbreds, the majority of which are bays. These range themselves outside of the yellow line of Kentucky sorrels. After the bay thoroughbreds comes a herd of twelve Canadian runners, and then eighteen Shetland ponies are admitted and take up their position on the circular parapet which incloses the ring. The horses in each circle head in the opposite direction from those in the ranks on either side, and each row of animals has a distinctive set of trappings, made throughout of leather of the same color and with plumes of corresponding tint.

THE SHOW BEGINS.

At the word of command all the animals on the steps of the pyramid drop their fore feet to the level on which their hind feet are resting and everything is ready for the whirligig to whirl. At the crack of the whip and the long-drawn command, "Forward!" the mill begins to grind. The four big black fellows go from right to left; the seven slender Kentucky runners from left to right; the nine bay thoroughbreds go in opposite direction, and the clatter of the iron-shod hoofs upon the wooden flooring makes a sound like the rattle of an immense mass of machinery. The outer circle of Canadian horses in the ring again reverse the motion, and outside of all, the eighteen little ponies patter along on their narrow circular path with an amusing air of intense preoccupation. In the mean time, Mufti, the Arab charger, who constitutes the apex of this rumbling, spinning, wavering mass, revolves on the narrow platform which he occupies, in a direction opposite to that taken by the black stallions, and O'Brien, with eyes glancing in every direction, and whip and voice ready to be projected instantly in the direction of any budding trouble, dominates the entire affair.

O'BRIEN'S ABSOLUTE COMMAND.

At the sharp cry of "Halt!" the mill stops as suddenly as it started, and the docile actors in this four-footed "all hands around" stands each one in his place. At the word of command they spring forward again and go their several ways, keeping their distance accurately one from another. If any one, whether among the "principals" or in the "chorus" of his four-footed company, gets sleepy and falls behind his proper position, O'Brien shouts his name and reawakens him to his duties. If any aspiring youngster overdoes the thing and crowds his leader his name is called in an expostulatory tone with the soothing addition of "Steady there," and the offending animal promptly slows down and regains his proper position. Every one of the fifty-one horses has his name and knows it, so does O'Brien, and no Congressman ever had a better memory for the identity of his constituents than has this prince of trainers for the names of his numerous troop. There is only one case of duplication of names in the company, and that occurs among the twelve Canadian runners who are next to the ponies. Two of these horses are named "Frank," but O'Brien distinguishes them by calling one "Red Frank" and the other "Black Frank," and to still further prevent complications he has placed them at opposite points of the circle. After the performance is over the ranks of horses are dismissed one by one, and they canter away to the stable, happy as a lot of children let out of school after a particularly well-behaved and industrious session.

THE TRAINER'S METHODS.

After the beholder's senses have recovered from the overpowering effect of the spectacle, his mind begins to wrestle with the problem of how such apparently human intelligence can be instilled into such a large number of horses and their movements controlled without bit or rein. On the question of his method in training horses for this and other performances, yesterday, O'Brien said:

"I conceived the idea of this act about a year ago, and tried to get Mr. Bailey to let me put it on last summer; he would not consent, however, because he did not believe it could be done. Last winter I persuaded him to let me begin practice, and after two or three months of conscientious work you see what I have done. Of course the horses are distracted by the lights, the music and the applause of the Garden, and have not yet got down to work as smoothly as they did at Bridgeport, but they will soon get over that.

"In breaking the horses I began with the outside ring, first taking them, one, two and three at a time, with a 'lounge' cord, as we call it. The 'lounge' cord is simply a light cord extending from the ringmaster's hand to the bit of the horse, so that he is compelled to travel in a circle. After I had broken in all of the outside ring and taught them to start and stop and answer to their names, I placed them in position and took the next circle, working in thus to the centre. It was a difficult matter to get the horses to climb up and down the steps and run around the narrow circles to which they are confined, but this yielded to patience and perseverance, which are at the bottom of horse training.

THE WHIP IS NEVER USED.

"My method of handling horses is to first study each horse carefully, and find out his weak points, his strong points and all the characteristics of his disposition, and then work along the line which is best suited to him. The thousands who look on at this performance, especially the ladies and children, may be glad to know that the whole thing is done, and practically all the preliminary training was done, without a blow of the whip. Of course I snap and crack the whip to keep the attention of the horses, but the lash never touches them. Anybody can examine every inch of the coat of any horse that I handle, and if he can find a mark of the whip or a blow of any kind, I will make him a present of the animal. I usually go about with a pocket full of carrots, which I distribute to deserving horses at the proper time, and this, with firmness and intelligent methods, gives me my control. All of the horses except the one which I ride and the four Trackene stallions make their maiden appearances in this act as trick horses; they have been with the circus as runners, but have never been broken before to ring performances. Several of them I am breaking to other tricks. You may have noticed a horse in the third circle from the outside, four white feet and a white nose, which we call 'Electric Light'; this is a high-priced ex-racehorse which I am breaking to high school work.

THE TWO THINGS NECESSARY.

"The two great things in handling a horse are to 'bit him up' properly and to train him to respond to the leg pressure of his rider. I use a simple snaffle bit with plain curb attachment, and never let the bit worry the horse. It should be adjusted so that his mouth will be free, but will feel the lightest pressure. The horse's head should be held so that his nose is just on a level with his shoulder, and then he is properly balanced, with the main weight on his hind feet; then he can turn and twist with ease, and has to respond instantly to the slightest pressure of the knee or the rein. I never allow a motion of the bridle hand to be noticeable. Everything can be done by a pressure of the hand or finger which cannot be distinguished at a distance of ten feet or so. As to the act itself, it is nothing to another scheme which I have up my sleeve, and which I hope to work out by next season."

O'Brien is a living example of the force of heredity; his father and grandfather before him were circus-riders, and his relations of this and preceding generations are known to the English circus-going public. He was born under canvas, and has never been away from the circus a day of his active life. Though born in Wales, he was brought up in France, and speaks French by preference, and German when necessary. He usually breaks his horses in the French language. After being for a number of years equestrian director of the leading circus in Paris, he was brought over to this country by Mr. Bailey eight years ago, and has been with the Barnum show ever since.

CAMPHOR IS MUCH CHEAPER.

HEAVY SALES OF THE CRUDE ARTICLE BY A LONDON SYNDICATE THE CAUSE—SOMETHING ABOUT THE WORLD'S SUPPLY.

The wholesale price of refined camphor in this market was reduced four cents a pound last Thursday, making the present price 55 cents a pound in barrels and 56 cents a pound in cases. Leading members of the local wholesale drug trade attribute the decline to reported heavy sales of crude camphor by the London syndicate which has been for a long time seeking to "corner" the camphor market. On account of these sales crude camphor declined in price abroad, thereby making necessary a reduction of the prices of refined camphor here.

A clique of English speculators, headed by Colonel North, the "Nitrate King," formed a syndicate many months ago, and since they have bought and held immense quantities of the crude material. The stock of camphor now held by the syndicate, which is composed of men of great wealth, is said to be valued at from $2,500,000 to $3,000,000. A few weeks ago the syndicate had succeeded in causing prices to advance to a point fully 100 per cent higher than they were before the clique began its operations. The highest price obtained for crude camphor in London was 210 shillings a hundredweight. Since then there has been a heavy decline, but the market is reported as "fluctuating." Expert and extensive handlers of camphor are uncertain as to the next change of prices.

Since the beginning of the war between Japan and China the production of camphor in Formosa has ceased, on account of the disturbances on that island, from which immense supplies were formerly received. There is still some of last year's stock of Formosa camphor in store, but all new supplies come entirely from Japan. When the old stock of Formosa camphor has been sold, it is expected that new camphor will be extremely scarce and still higher prices prevail. This outcome of the war is regarded as the incentive of the syndicate to accumulate all the camphor possible and hold it until the old stock is exhausted.

For several years prior to the war Japan's annual product of camphor rapidly decreased, while that of Formosa steadily increased in about the same ratio. In 1890 the relative products, in piculs of 133 1-3 pounds each, were as follows: Japan, 35,120; Formosa, 7,242; total, 42, 362. In 1891 Japan produced 43,905 piculs, and Formosa 18,881; total, 62,786. Since then the change has been very great, as is shown by the fact that in 1894 Japan produced only 20,627 piculs, while Formosa's product was 29,552 piculs, making a total of 60,179 piculs, which represents the world's supply of camphor in that year, as it is not produced elsewhere. The cutting off of the immense supply formerly received from Formosa is regarded with apprehension. A wholesaler said yesterday: "Either the product of Japan must be enormously increased, or the industry in Formosa revived, or there will soon be a serious camphor famine."

Camphor trees require one hundred years in which to mature. They attain immense size, rivalling the mammoth proportions of the giant trees of the Pacific slope. In producing camphor the trees are destroyed as they are felled, and cut into chips, from which the gum is distilled. A law in Japan provides that no one shall cut down an old tree until he has first planted a new one. This law, which was formerly strictly enforced, has not been carried out for several years, a fact to which the decline of the Japanese camphor industry is largely attributed.

FLOWER SALE AND GARDEN PARTY.

TO BE HELD FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NEW BARNARD COLLEGE BUILDING.

One of the social affairs that will take place next month is a garden party and flower sale to be held in private gardens at Nos. 5, 7 and 9 East Thirty-seventh-st., under the auspices of the Associate Alumni of Barnard College. The proceeds of the ticket sale will be spent on the new building at Morningside Heights. The price of the tickets will be $2 each. A musical programme is being planned for both afternoon and evening, and the grounds will be tastefully decorated for the occasion. There will be 100 patronesses selected from prominent society women of this city. Among them are Mrs. Astor, Mrs. Henry Clews, Mrs. Joseph H. Choate, Mrs. Frederic R. Coudert, Mrs. Abram S. Hewitt, Mrs. William Dean Howells, Mrs. Henry E. Howland, Mrs. Brayton Ives, Mrs. William Jay, Mrs. Morris K. Jesup, Mrs. Francis P. Kinnicutt, Mrs. Seth Low, Mrs. Robert B. Minturn, Mrs. Levi P. Morton, Mrs. John E. Parsons, Mrs. James Pinchot, Mrs. William Strong, Mrs. Louis Tiffany, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Charles Dudley Warner and Mrs. Buchanan Winthrop.

JOB E. HEDGES ROBBED.

A FORMER CLERK OF MILLER'S HOTEL UNDER ARREST.

Central Office Detectives Mannion and Barrett arraigned in Jefferson Market Court yesterday Harry Worth, twenty-three years old, who said that his home was in Chicago, on a charge of larceny preferred by Job E. Hedges, Mayor Strong's secretary, and Charles H. Haines, proprietor of Miller's Hotel, at No. 39 East Twenty-sixth-st., where Mr. Hedges lives.

Worth was formerly a clerk in the hotel. Last December he told Mr. Haines that he had fallen heir to a house in Chicago that was worth $17,000, but that the house was mortgaged for $500, and if it was not paid off at once the mortgage would be foreclosed. He said that he did not want to lose so valuable a piece of property for so small a sum, and asked Haines to loan him $250. Mr. Haines did so, and Worth secured the other $250 from Mr. Hedges, on the same story. He then fled the city and went to Chicago

The detectives arrested him in Chicago on Saturday night on a warrant that had been issued in this city. Worth told the detectives that he had been living by his wits since he left New-York, and that he was waiting for the racetracks in the West to open, as he intended to make a book. Magistrate Crane held Worth in $1,500 bail for trial.

"Waiter, this Gorgonzola has eaten all my bread!" —The Idler.

THE MARKET ACTIVE.

UNUSUALLY LARGE TOTAL OF REAL ESTATE SALES.

TRANSACTIONS BY PRIVATE CONTRACT AMOUNT TO $5,100,000 AND THOSE AT AUCTION TO $1,800,000 FOR THE WEEK.

A great record was made by the real estate market the last week, and it was all the more remarkable because it was not looked for. Sales by private contract footed up the large total of $5,100,000, and to this sum was added $1,800,000 through sales by auction. The feature of the dealings was downtown property, three parcels of which represented an investment of $2,625,000. There was a better demand for dwellings, and there was also an active inquiry for vacant lots. The transfers of the week included the following:

SALES IN THE WEEK.

The trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist Church sold through William Rosenzweig and Gustav Newman, brokers, the four-story brick building, lot 25x90.10, No. 80 East Seventh-st., to Joseph L. Buttenwieser, on private terms. The prestn building will be demolished and a six-story apartment-house erected on the site. In 1848 the congregation held their first services in this city on that site, which was afterward given to them by a wealthy member.

Walter E. Thompson sold to A. G. McIlvaine, jr., No. 304 West Seventy-eighth-st., a five-story American basement house, lot 16x60x102.2, with extension 10x14, for about $30,000. It is one of a row recently erected on a plot purchased a year ago by Mr. Thompson.

Clarence H Eagle sold a plot 200.11x100, on the southeast corner of Fifth-ave and One-hundred-and-fifth-st., for $75,000, to a private party.

John R. Foley sold for William Noble to the National Life Insurance Company, of Hartford, "The Mercury" Building, No. 3 Park Row, running through to No. 3 Ann-st., for a consideration which is understood to be $200,000.

The same broker sold for Alexander Jordan, No. 52 East Eighty-ninth-st., a five-story flathouse, lot 31x100, for $49,500; also No. 411 Tenth-ave., a five-story tenement-house, lot 25x100, for Catherine Mone, for $16,500.

T. S. Atwater sold for John R. Cole the house and lot, No. 134 West One-hundred-and-thirty-second-st., 15x50x100, for about $14,000; also, for M. E. Quinn, the house and lot, No. 36 Lorillard Place, for $7,000.

The Frank L. Fisher Company sold for David S. Brown a plot of lots, 60x100 feet, on the south side of One-hundred-and-second-st., near Riverside Drive, to A. B. Knight, builder.

Joseph W. Cushman bought the English basement house, No. 432 West Twenty-third-st., and will occupy the same with his wife and family after extensive improvements, now in progress, are completed. Mr. Cushman is the manager of the Cushman estate.

Charles J. Hartmann, of No. 52 Broadway, New-York, sold for Mrs. Mary R. Hartmann, of Brooklyn, the Columbia and West End apartment-houses, at Hicks and Pineapple sts., Brooklyn, for $250,000, to Mr. Wise, a manufacturer, of Baltimore. Mrs. Hartmann paid $216,000 for this property in 1894.

Simon M. and Samuel Rosenblatt sold, through C. H. Diamond, No. 174 Wooster-st., a three-story frame brick front tenement, with two-story frame tenement in rear, lot 22x100, on private terms. It was purchased by the sellers in May, 1892, for $25,000.

Maclay & Davies sold for A. A. Pattou, the three-story frame private dwelling No. 332 Palisade-ave., Yonkers, with lot 100x420, running through to Park-ave., to Dr. E. M. Morrell, on private terms.

Hoffman Brothers sold No. 231 Mercer-st., a business building, for Joseph L. Buttenwieser, to a private investor, for about $90,000.

Elbridge T. Gerry bought from Mrs. Greer, Mrs. Egbert and Mrs. Lowther, daughters of the late Christopher Meyer, Nos. 35, 37 and 39 East Sixty-second-st., three four-story private dwellings, on private terms.

The Frank L. Fisher Company sold for Hirsh Brothers two lots on the south side of Seventy-sixth-st., near Riverside Drive, to A. B. Knight, builder, for improvement.

J. Clarence Davies & Co. sold for J. B. Lorge a plot, 62x100, on the east side of Webster-ave., 50 feet south of Samuel-st., for $6,500; also, for Alice M. Holland, 54x100, on the north side of Westchester-ave., 100 feet east of St. Ann's-ave., for $12,500; also, for Thornton Brothers a two-story frame house, 16.8x50x100, on the east side of Bathgate-ave., 50 feet south of One-hundred-and-eightieth-st., for $4,500; also, a plot for Mrs. Reboul, 25x140, on the south side of Westchester-ave., 100 feet west of Brook-ave., for $6,500.

CONVEYANCES AND MORTGAGES.

Following is the record of conveyances, mortgages and buildings projected the last week compared with the corresponding week in 1895:

CONVEYANCES.

	1895. Mar. 29 to April 4, inc.	1896. Mar. 27 to April 2, inc.
Total number for entire city	409	434
Amount involved	$4,411,978	$4,878,456
Number nominal	184	217
Number 23d and 24th Wards, including new annexed district (Act 1895)	57	75
Amount involved	$186,850	$383,605
Number nominal	27	46
Number 23d and 24th Wards, including new annexed district	—	100
Amount involved	—	$427,441
Number nominal	—	53

MORTGAGES.

Total number	365	359
Amount involved	$4,722,223	$5,533,839
Number over 5 per cent	136	145
Amount involved	$1,175,882	$1,272,136
Number at 5 per cent	161	150
Amount involved	$2,079,241	$2,294,871
Number at less than 5 per cent	68	64
Amount involved	$1,467,100	$1,966,832
Number of above to banks, trust and insurance companies	62	123
Amount involved	$1,086,700	$2,709,826

PROJECTED BUILDINGS.

	1895. Mar. 30 to April 5, inc.	1896. Mar. 27 to April 3, inc.
Number of buildings	103	77
Estimated cost	$1,907,100	$807,400

MORE MONEY FOR ARMENIA.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS BY BROWN BROS. & CO.

Brown Bros. & Co., as treasurers of the National Armenian Relief Fund, acknowledge receipt of the following items:

Previously acknowledged, $85,860 87; F. B. O'Bryan, treasurer Methodist Episcopal Church, Nashville, $500; B. B., $500; W. P. Palmore, treasurer Armenian Relief Committee, St. Louis, $412 63; A. B. Kellogg, treasurer Buffalo League for Public Good, $207 10; S. P. S., Philadelphia, $200; James McCormick, treasurer Armenian Relief Committee, Harrisburg, $200; Mrs. M. B. Randall, treasurer Armenian Relief Committee, Summit, $191 25; W. P. Palmore, treasurer Armenian Relief Committee, St. Louis, $180 06; James McCormick, treasurer Armenian Relief Committee, Harrisburg, $150; E. A. Miller, Presbyterian Church, Warsaw, $122 35; A. H. Ludeke, treasurer Armenian Relief Fund, St. Paul, $115; J. E. Elder, treasurer Armenian Relief Committee, through W. H. Seward & Co., Auburn, N. Y., $111 53; C. J. Dockstader, treasurer Armenian Relief Committee, Cleveland, $105; Mrs. F. R. Brunot, Christian Alliance, George H. Cornelson, Miss Rebecca Krikorian, Church of the Ascension, from a friend, Mrs. Elliott F. Shepard and Mrs. F. B. Carter, each $100; Miss A. C. S. Fenner, "Union Service," $75; Gertrude E. Treadwell, $75; Bishop H. B. Whipple, Church of the Good Shepherd, $60; St. Paul's Church, Englewood, $52 96; Loan and Savings Bank, account Yorkville Union Meeting, $51 03; American Tract Society, $50 50; John Irwin, jr., $50; Henry Cory, treasurer Armenian Relief Committee, Morristown, $50; Daniel R. Noyes, $50; Miss E. Thurston, $50; L. S., $50; S. J. Shaw, United Presbyterian Church, Braddock, $47 03; Mrs. S. R. Van Duzen, First Presbyterian Church, Macon, Ga., $46 50; the Rev. E. L. Marsh, account people of Yarmouth, $37 40; the Rev. Henry Wilson, $37; R. M. Laborn, account Wellingford Presbyterian Church, $33; Desenberg & Schuster, Kalamazoo, $32 05; George D. Colt, treasurer Armenian Relief Committee, Norwich, $26; J. E. Forman, $25; T. P. & S., through Board of Foreign Missions (Guatemala), Miss Alice Jay and F. H. B. M. Knight, each $25; the Rev. J. A. Patterson, First Presbyterian Church, Fostoria, $20 46; J. K. T., $20; Mrs. C. S. Holmes, $20; New-York Tribune, account A. Smith, $20; Union Reformed Church, High Bridge, $18; C. C. Elliott, $16; J. Schuster, secretary Armenian Relief Committee, account Desenberg & Schuster, $17 56; J. M. Fuller, P. H., Rita De Mott, Mrs. Samuel D. Stover and Margaret Bergen, each $15; J. H. Hollingsworth, $14; the Rev. J. B. Reiff, account Brethrens Church, $13 75; and William De Pree, M. B. G., E. L. R. B., J. M. Irwin, John McLauchlan, Funnell & Sons, W. C. Taylor, treasurer, D. L. Pearson, Robert Miller, H. B. T., J. N. Bennett, Lucy G. Barnard, H. R. Hilliard, Miss S. R. Storthoff, Ladies' Missionary Society, Franklin Park; M. M. H., J. M. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Bradford, J. E. Fisher, the New-York Tribune, account E. A. Atwater; Mary E. Halock, E. W. Gilman, P. P. O., C. A. Hageman, W. H. La Fetra, account S. S., First Reformed Church, Ridgewood, and E. Miller & Co., American Wringer Company, each $10; German Trinity Mission, $9; Y. P. S. C. E., Alfred, Me., $7 90; Y. P. S. C. E., Peacedale Congregational Church, $7 51; R. M. Hayes, $7 43; Miss A. W. Dodge, $7; W. W. Vanderhoft, Dickman Methodist Episcopal Church, $6 50; O. Bullock, Y. P. S. C. E., Haywards, $6 35; Ladies' Missionary Society, St. Bartholomew's Church; W. J. Anderson, Bethel Church, and A. T. Davis, each $6; E. W. Tyler, Willard Deane, H. Lange & Co., Isaac Edwardson, John P. Peters, account St. Michael's Boys' Guild; Laura G. Dorsey, T. W. Stewart, Upper Montclair Friend, the Rev. J. McNeil, Cash, Cash, Cash, Converse Company, account E. Shaver, Miss F. S. Wadsworth, John L. McCurdy, Louis Wolfers, A. B. Kellogg, John S. Mahoney, J. W. Barber, treasurer; P. E. & L. Larned, J. W. Kurtz, G. P. Lyman and Kate L. Malone, each $5. Various smaller items, $74 61; through Brown Brothers & Co., Boston, $1,079 57; through Brown Brothers & Co., Philadelphia, $81; through Alexander Brown & Sons, Baltimore, $59; grand total to date, $92,507 93.

Brown Brothers & Co. have sent by cable £3,000 to Constantinople the last week in response to urgent requests from the distributing agencies.

As treasurers of the American National Red Cross (Clara Barton, president), Brown Brothers & Co. acknowledge receipt of the following items:

Previously acknowledged, $6,855 55; First Presbyterian Church, New-Rochelle, $1; Mrs. L. R. Cousan, $1; M. E. Hancock, $2; Fortnightly Club, East Orange, $4; First English Lutheran Church, Dayton, $51 17; citizens of Bloomsbury, $244 19; Outlook Company, $240; M. C. Lewis, treasurer, Johnston, Pa., $479 75; First National Bank, Warwick, $10; South Norfolk Congregational Church, $5; Cranston & Curtis, $19; First Presbyterian Church, New-Rochelle, $25; George Randall, $25; Women's Missionary Society, Presbyterian Church, Theresa, N. Y., $5; M. K. S. Eaton, $50; treasurer local committee, New-Haven, $359; two ladies, Newport, R. I., $10; churches of Peru, Ind., $58; Mrs. D. Dresser, Leo, Mass., $54 70; grand total, $8,491 36.

LECTURES ON LITERATURE.

CLOSE OF THE WEEKLY CONFERENCES AT THE CARNEGIE LYCEUM.

NATURE OF THE SERIES—PAPERS READ YESTERDAY BY PROFESSOR CHARLES SPRAGUE-SMITH AND OTHERS.

There was finished yesterday morning, before a large audience at the Carnegie Lyceum, a series of nine weekly conferences upon "Comparative Literature," under the direction of Professor Charles Sprague-Smith. The idea of this course, which has been developed with encouraging success, marked a radical departure from the ordinary methods of studying literature.

At the opening of each meeting half an hour was devoted to an introductory paper on the general subject for the day. On all occasions except one this was read by Professor Sprague-Smith himself. At its close supplementary papers of from five to ten minutes each, bearing upon various phases of the same topic, were read by men and women specially informed in the particular lines of study which they treated. The remainder of the time was occupied with a general discussion. The result of this method was that fresh inspiration and suggestion were given by the interchange of ideas. Owing to the thorough manner in which the subjects were presented all superficialities were thrown aside, and the word "literature" was made to assume a deeper meaning than that often assigned to it.

A list of the main topics of the course, in the order of their presentation, gives some idea of the work: "The Chanson de Roland," "Ariosto's 'Orlando Furioso,'" "The Spanish Books of Chivalry and 'Don Quixote,'" "The Poems of the Cid," "Corneille's 'Le Cid,'" "The Nibelungen Epic," "The Old Norse Form," "The Nibelungen Lied," "Wagner's Trilogy Compared with the Earlier Forms" and, lastly, which was the closing topic yesterday, "Literature as a Study."

"The masterpieces of literature," said Professor Sprague-Smith, in opening his address, "must be understood by tracing the life of that literature down to its very roots. The typical so-called history of literature is chiefly a chronology. It presents facts and dates, giving useful material to work with, but it does not trace causes; it does not study conditions and influences; history it is not. The germ from which literature develops is the mind of man. Consequently, the first essential thing is to get some conception of the people which have produced it. Then, as climate and other physical conditions determine differences, the second necessity is to study the environment of that people. The third point is that literature must be studied on a background of history. It must be vital, closely connected and related with the political and social life of man."

Professor Sprague-Smith gave an interesting account of his own experiences in literary study for the last twenty years. He had travelled over many countries, to return finally to his own; and he was convinced that America, though somewhat crude at the present time, in comparison with the older countries, offered immense opportunities and contained the promise of a brilliant literary future. In closing he said: "We propose next year to hold a similar series of conferences, perhaps somewhat longer, on the study of the drama. At the same time we shall not forget contemporary literature. A body composed of many of our best students is behind this movement—men whose names are famous. I will mention Charles Dudley Warner, William Dean Howells, Richard Henry Stoddard, and Hamilton Mabie; but the list is a long one. Meetings will also be held in the evenings, when the authors will read from their works."

The supplementary papers were somewhat in the nature of reviews of the subjects of former meetings. The first was by Professor Adolphe Cohn on "The Roland Ideal in Its Successive Transformations." Roland, he said, was the highest type of a man of action to-day. His striking characteristics were truth, scorn of wealth and the sublimation of courage. He was unterrified by difficulties and firmly believed in the ultimate triumph of right over might.

Professor Luis Barait followed with an enthusiastic account of "The Cid Ideal," and Professor Sprague-Smith spoke briefly on "The Sigurd Ideal." "Woman in the Roland Poems" was discussed by Miss Marguerite Merington, and Miss Louise Bothe-Hendriksen read a paper on "Woman in the Cid Poems."

The closing paper, "Woman in the Nibelungen Poems," was by Miss Ragna Boyesen. The differences, and yet general resemblances, between the German and Scandinavian legends were set forth, and the character of the heroic Brünnhilde was described. Miss Boyesen then gave an account of the life, personal appearance, dress and occupations of the typical Nibelungen woman. The rights and privileges which she enjoyed were also touched upon. Miss Boyesen closed by reading a short extract from a poem of her brother, the late Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen.

THIRTY-FIFTH BUSINESS ANNIVERSARY.

A. Simonson, manufacturer and importer of human hair goods at No. 933 Broadway, between Twenty-first and Twenty-second sts., in view of its being the thirty-fifth anniversary of his successful entrance into business, has issued a dainty little pamphlet for presentation to his patrons and women generally, descriptive, in colored illustrations, of his establishment in its various departments and showing the advantages of his special methods for beautifying treatments of the human hair.

MR. BARKER MAKES NO REPLY.

President Barker, of the Tax Department, was asked yesterday regarding the attack made by ex-State Senator Thomas J. Creamer at the Greater New-York hearing.

"I have not a word to say about the matter," he said. "I did not read what was said at the Greater New-York hearing, and I decline to say anything about it."

The assessment books will be closed on April 30, when the legal battles will be begun in the courts by those who have not persuaded the Tax Commissioners that they have nothing to pay taxes on.

E. G. THURBER ON THE STAND.

The special Commissioners, Lewis L. Delafield and Dr. John H. Gibbs, yesterday morning again took up the inquiry into the mental condition of Edmund G. Thurber. Dr. Austin Flint, who was retained as an expert by Francis L. Wellman for Edmund Thurber, was recalled.

"Cannot insane persons sometimes conceal their deranged mental state through a long examination?" asked Mr. Ashley.

"I have known of such cases," was the answer.

Dr. Flint on Friday testified that he had put Thurber through an hour's examination and found him to be entirely free from delusions, and of sound mind.

Continuing, Mr. Ashley asked: "So you acknowledge that an examiner might be deceived by the patient?"

"I admit that the patient might deceive the physician throughout the examination, but I think in almost every case the truth would become apparent at the conclusion. As soon as the strain and tension terminated the patient would give himself away."

Edmund G. Thurber was then placed in the chair, and testified that his age was thirty-two years, that he graduated from Brown University at the age of twenty-three years, and that while in New-York he had lived consecutively at No. 72 West Forty-ninth-st., No. 62 West Fifty-fifth-st. and at Mrs. True's house, No. 51 East Twenty-third-st.

Mr. Wellman asked:

"Have you had that impediment in your speech since childhood?"

"I have."

Thurber answered questions in a halting manner, although his mind seemed to be clear as to dates and the value and character of his property-holdings.

The case will go on Wednesday.

PARK POLICEMEN ON BICYCLES.

Park Policemen England and Lynch were detailed yesterday for bicycle service by Captain Collins, of the Park police. They will go on duty to-day for the first time and will be stationed on Riverside Drive. Other policemen will probably be detailed to the same work. The bicycling policemen will wear the same uniform as the other park policemen, with the addition of rough leather gaiters.

Importers, S. Koch & Sons *Manufacturers.*

EXCLUSIVE MILLINERY.

A PRONOUNCED SUCCESS! THIS, IN THREE WORDS, SUMS THE HISTORY OF OUR LAST WEEK'S SPECIAL SALE.

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL SALE SHALL SURPASS EVEN ITS PREDECESSOR. WITH THIS END WELL IN VIEW, WE MAKE THE FOLLOWING OFFERINGS OF

MILLINERY

UNTRIMMED HATS—
Very high quality Bernina Braid, Short Back Sailor, in Black, White, Violet, Brown, Navy, Butter and Green 59c

FINEST QUALITY FRENCH CHIP HATS—
In Short Back Sailor and other popular shapes, all colors, value $1.50 . . . . . 98c

We have a large variety in this department of Imported Samples and odd Creations in hand-made Hats. Needless to say they are all in the newest shades and latest styles.

FLOWERS—
Fine French Branchettes, with Roses, Buds and Foliage, value $1.25 . . . . . 60c each.

There is in this department a very complete assortment of all the different varieties of Flowers—branched and unbranched.

VELVETS—
This Department is replete with all the new spring shades. Special sale this week of an exceptionally high grade Velvet, all colors . . . . . $1.60 the yd.

Note.—There are many cheaper velvets in the market, but none of so high a quality at so low a price.

VEILINGS—
We can beat the world in Veilings. A special line is offered this week at . . . . . 25c up.

RIBBONS—
High grade, all silk, imported Dresden warp print and embroidered Ribbon; five inches wide; all the newest colorings and effects, including violet shades on white and light grounds; imported to sell at 85c to $1.00 the yard . . . . 39c the yd.

TAFFETA—
Finest all silk, 5 inches wide, all colors, value 50c. the yard . . 25c the yd.

Our patrons will find a most complete assortment of all qualities of Satin, Double Faced Satin, Moire, Moire Antique and Gros Grain, imported direct from our establishment in Paris.

OSTRICH FEATHERS—
Great variety of Tips and Plumes, best qualities . . . 59c

FEATHERS—
Paradise and Aigrette, in almost endless variety . . 25c to $9.00 each.

FANCY WINGS AND BIRDS—
Elaborate assortment, including combination Wings and White and Black Birds; all the newest effects . . . . . 49c each.

ORDER DEPARTMENT—
We specially desire to direct attention to our Order Department, where ladies can have executed either their own designs or selected reproductions from our French models. Patrons can, if desired, use their own materials, and the work is performed by skilled French artists.

24 WEST 23D ST.

Paris: 10 Rue Ste. Cecile.
Brooklyn: 438 Fulton St.

REAL AND FANCIED EQUALITY

JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS LECTURES TO THE LEAGUE FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION.

HE REJECTS THE THEORY OF ACTUAL EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN, BUT SAYS ARTIFICIAL INEQUALITIES CAN BE LESSENED.

The first of John Graham Brooks's lectures, given under the auspices of the League for Political Education, was delivered in the theatre of the Berkeley Lyceum yesterday morning. Mrs. C. A. Runkle, the league's vice-president, introduced the speaker, whose topic was "The Dream and the Reality of Social Equality." Mr. Brooks rejected, first and foremost, the theory that actual equality between man and man had any existence. "Inequalities have always existed, and will continue to exist," said the lecturer. "There is no wiping them out, but the inequalities arising from artificial and traditional conditions can be lessened, and thinking people are pondering on this problem and trying to make possible greater equality of opportunity for the less fortunate to cope with those born in happy influences."

Spencer, said Mr. Brooks, held that it was fallacious to argue from the family to society, that what held good in the one relation did not apply in the other, but he believed that, inasmuch as a judicious parent or guardian treated each child in the household with reference to his or her peculiar gifts and needs, so was it advisable to accord to erring men and women of the community such leniency or sternness as suited each individual case. "I know a New-England girl," added the lecturer, "who has become a successful and popular singer. I know the sacrifice made by her parents to provide the opportunity for her to gain access to the world of music. No one of that girl's sisters could sing a note that anybody wanted to hear, and they had no money lavished on them, yet all thought it reasonable and preferable that they should be denied comforts and small luxuries, in order that the gifted one might be trained. Just so, in dealing with the deserving and undeserving tramp. We have in Boston what we term a 'work test.' Before the candidate for help receives aid he is set to work at something tangible and real, that will show whether or not he has energy and an honest purpose to be self-supporting." The speaker told of a tramp who refused work because he could get meals by begging them, while on the same day another man sat patiently and willingly performing the work the other scorned. It was not right to judge these men by the same standard. He told, too, of a proposed law in Massachusetts, which would reduce the imprisonment of criminals for whom there were extenuating circumstances. They were also to be allowed to make articles to be sold for their benefit.

The practical side of the problem of equality was, in the speaker's opinion, to consider how to use organized strength for the attainment of a fairer human society. "The ugliest fact that confronts authorities to-day