SOROSIS'S SOCIAL DAY.

"MODERN INNOVATIONS ON HOME LIFE" THE QUESTION DISCUSSED.

A CLUBWOMAN WHO LAMENTS THE INROADS MADE ON THE HOME BY CLUB LIFE IS "WIPED OUT" BY HER OPPONENTS.

The members of Sorosis met at the Waldorf at 12 o'clock yesterday for their monthly breakfast, and at 2 o'clock they assembled in the new ballroom to discuss the effects of modern innovations on home life. The question was presented by Alice May Scudder, and then taken up in the affirmative by Susan Hayes Ward, Helen Grandin Lord, Mary Dame Hall and Alice B. Stimson, and in the negative by Susan Ketchum Bourne, Gertrude F. Hess, Mrs. Charles W. Bassett and Katherine G. Townsend, M. D.

Mrs. Ward contrasted the conditions of women and children in the modern home and the home of the good old times, and thereby arrived at the conclusion that things are immeasurably better as they are than they have ever been before.

"Homes are more comfortable places for the children now," she said, "than they were in old New-England days." Old people are younger, and young people are older, and the intercourse between them is pleasanter than formerly. A boy would never think now of addressing his father as "honored and revered parent." The children have improved in health, too, in the light of modern hygienic science, and where our forefathers had fourteen little ones, eleven of whom died, we now have a carefully reared family of three or four.

"The modern home is also a better place for the women, for it is a republic, whereas the old one was a monarchy, the father being the bugbear and ogre, the spoiled monarch on his throne, in whom all the others lived and moved and had their being."

Mrs. Bourne conceded the material benefits of modern innovations, but maintained that they had increased our wants a hundred fold. The ideal home, she thought, was not dependent on stationary tubs and hot water, and the Puritan parlor, with its straight-backed, hair-covered chairs, set back against the wall, appeared to her a good vista of shady spaces, when compared with the modern overcrowded drawing-room. She also attacked the modern apartment, with its lack of space, air and light, and the objection of its landlord to children.

Mrs. Lord vigorously defended the "so-called abomination," the apartment-house, maintaining that it placed within the reach of the moderate income all the improvements of modern science.

Mrs. Hess lamented the inroads made on the home by club life, and referred with satisfaction to the report that a society for staying at home had been formed in Boston.

"Homes are broken up," she declared, "that the home-maker may obtain leisure for lectures and clubs, and even babies of six are smitten with the fever. Cupid has no privacy in which to shoot his darts, and can only make his advances under the cover of a hundred eyes."

Mrs. Hall spoke of only two innovations—the club and the bicycle—both of which, she maintained, had been beneficial to the home, the first being helpful in all departments of life, and the second bringing health, happiness and cheerfulness.

Mrs. Bassett argued that modern innovations had not touched the real home life, housekeeping and homekeeping being two different things. An ideal home might exist with the leaves of the forest for a roof and the running stream for a bathtub; and, while prepared foods were useful things in their way, condensed milk would never take the place of the milk of human kindness.

Mrs. Stimson treated the subject humorously, saying a ride in the elevated train ought to be a sufficient answer to the question, for, if carefully studied, it proved that everything necessary for home happiness could be bought for cash, from "pies like mother used to make" to a potion to restore the wife's fading charms.

Dr. Townsend pointed out the dark side of some modern innovations dwelling on the appalling condition of city cellars, the injurious effects of furnace heat and the flash that accumulates in water-pipes.

The extemporaneous discussion was participated in by Mrs. Sarah Ostrom, Mrs. Brown, president of the Chiropean Club, of Brooklyn; Mrs. Anna Randall-Diehl, Miss Anna Allen, Mrs. Johnson, of Los Angeles, and Miss White, of Maine.

Mrs. Ostrom said that the greatest and most beneficial of modern innovations was the father, which the world needed as much as it did the mother, and Mrs. Brown expressed thankfulness for the removal of the superfluous woman from the sacred precincts of the home.

"The modern aunts and impecunious cousins, who used to be matter out of place, have now gone into business and the professions, she said, and are a blessing to the world and to themselves.

Mrs. Helmuth, in response to a remark of one speaker to the effect that modern mothers had no time to make minceplies and other good things, said that, although she was a member of Sorosis, of a hospital board and several other bodies, she had, nevertheless, found time one year to make all the mincemeat for her own, her daughter's and her sister's families.

Preceding the discussion the following programme was rendered:

Song, Miss Allen; Henrietta C. Tuthill, accompanist; recitation, scene from "School for Scandal," Act III, Scene 1 (Sheridan), Carolyn A. Paddock; song, "L'Eté" (Chaminade), Miss Florence De L. Turner.

BROOKLYN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Brooklyn Teachers' Association held its first meeting yesterday and discussed French and German, Professor Carteaux presenting the subjects on French and Professor Schulze speaking on the teaching of German in the schools. "Elementary Latin," by Mr. Behan, and "Principles of Education," by Principal Felter, form the programme for to-day.

This course is intended to assist teachers preparing for the "A" examination. It will consist of five lessons and it will be concluded immediately preceding the next examination.

Wednesday, January 6—"Elementary Greek," Mr. Flint, 4 p. m., Boys' High School, Putnam corner Marcy-ave. Reading circle in psychology, conducted by Miss Davenport, 4 p. m., Public School No. 11.

Thursday, January 7—"French," third year, Professor Carteaux, 4 p. m., Public School No. 15. "German," first year, Professor Tilling, 4 p. m., Public School No. 101.

Friday, January 8—"Latin," second year, Mr. Behan, 4 p. m., Public School No. 15.

Three courses in drawing of ten lessons each will be given by the association: "Pictorial Drawing," Miss Ida E. Boyd, instructor, commencing January 13; "Decoration," Miss Annie L. Young, instructor, commencing February 15; "Construction," Miss Kate F. Pierce, instructor, commencing February 25. These lessons are intended for the benefit of teachers who desire a wider knowledge of these subjects than the school course gives. Special tickets admitting to each course may be obtained on application to the chairman of the Studies Committee. There will be no extra fee for these tickets.

HOUSEHOLD TALKS

HOW TO SERVE OYSTERS.

Oysters are very seldom breaded and fried at home in a perfect manner. The mistake which most cooks make is to incase them in egg and bread crumbs. This is seldom a success. The coating comes off, giving to the oysters a piebald appearance, and they are usually overcooked in the attempt to brown them evenly.

For a dish of fried oysters, select sound oysters which have just been opened. It is more essential that the oysters shall be fine flavored than that they shall be large, though large oysters are desirable. Flatten each oyster slightly and lay them in fresh milk while you prepare a mixture of equal parts of sifted cracker crumbs and flour. Oyster crackers, or the richer butter crackers, are good for this purpose. Let the fat be very hot. Drain the oysters one by one out of the milk, and dip them into the pulverized crackers and flour. Lay them in a wire basket and immerse them in the hot fat for two or three minutes.

Drain them, lay them for a minute on coarse brown paper, and slip them on a folded napkin and place them on a hot platter. Garnish them with a little parsley and quarters of lemons.

The folded napkins which are laid on platters for the reception of fried articles should be of some cheap quality, kept for this purpose. They should be about half a yard square and half a dozen will be enough for use in a family.

When fried articles have been properly cooked and drained, the napkins will hardly be greasy, but they are intended to absorb any remnant of grease which may be left. A mere dash of cayenne is sometimes added to fried oysters before they are cooked. Serve with the fried oysters the thinnest, daintiest slices of graham bread, lightly buttered. The whitest, crispest celery is also a delightful accompaniment.

ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL.

VISITED BY HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE DURING THE HOLIDAYS.

St. Paul's Chapel, the great attraction in Broadway, corner of Vesey-st., was visited during the holidays by hundreds of women sightseers.

This chapel was built in 1766 by Trinity Corporation, and is the oldest church edifice in the city.

Trinity congregation has occupied this chapel several times while its own edifice was in process of reconstruction. Here divine service was conducted in 1789, immediately after the inauguration of Washington, and also in 1889 at the centennial celebration of that event. During the early part of his Administration the first President worshipped in the pew which is situated under the gallery at the northern side of the chapel, about half-way between the chancel and the vestry, and adorned by a fresco of the American Eagle.

Governor George Clinton occupied the pew directly opposite that of Washington.

The churchyard adds to the venerable appearance of the chapel. Under the portico at the Broadway side lie the remains of General Richard Montgomery, who was killed in 1775 while storming Quebec, and on the wall above is a tablet erected to his memory by order of Congress.

At the left stands a monument to Thomas Addis Emmet, the brilliant Irish patriot, who came to America soon after his release from imprisonment in Ireland and established himself here in the practice of law. Dr. MacNevin, Emmet's compatriot and fellow-sufferer, has a monument at the right. The actor, George Frederick Cooke, is also buried in this churchyard.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH—A PEEP AT LIFE AS IT IS.

PARTNERS.

From The Century.

Love took chambers on our street
Opposite to mine;
On his door he tacked a neat,
Clearly lettered sign.

Straightway grew his custom great,
For his sign read so:
"Hearts united while you wait.
Step in. Love and Co."

Much I wondered who was "Co."
In Love's partnership;
Thought across the street I'd go—
Learn from Love's own lip.

So I went; and since that day
Life is hard for me.
I was buncoed! (By the way,
"Co." is jealousy.)

USES FOR PARISIAN CATS.

PRIZED AS PETS, BUT MANY FIND THEIR WAY TO THE RESTAURANT KITCHENS.

An exhibition of cats is to be held shortly at the Jardin d'Acclimation. This suggests the subject of the cat's social position in France, says a correspondent of "The Boston Transcript." Since the Revolution the animal has conquered in this country "toutes les libertés," excepting that of wearing an entire tail, for in many districts it is the fashion to cut it short. In Paris cats are much cherished wherever they can be without causing too much unpleasantness with the landlord. The system of living in flats is not favorable to cat culture, for the animal, not having every access either to the tiles above or to the gutter below, is likely to pine for want of fresh air and the society of its congeners. In a well-ordered Paris house occupied by numerous tenants a cat dares not put foot upon the stairs, and even the mildest suggestion of feline neighborhood in the atmosphere is enough to make ill-natured locataires call to arms. It is the privilege of those who live on ground floors to be able to keep cats, and it is one that is largely taken advantage of. Probably in no other city do these animals lie in shop windows and on counters with such an arrogant air of proprietorship. In restaurants a very large and fat cat is kept as an advertisement of the good feeding to be obtained on the premises. There is invariably a cat in a charbonnier's shop, and the animal is generally one that was originally white, but long ago came to the conclusion that all attempts to keep itself clean were hopeless.

Its consolation is that it is never blacker than its master. It is well known that the long-haired variety of cat called Persian or Angora is much esteemed in Paris, and it is bred to some extent for sale. It is of so amiable a character that it is supposed to turn its back upon a mouse, so that it may not be tempted to do violence. In the provinces French cats are usually very low-bred animals, with plebeian heads and tails, the stringlike appearance of the latter not being improved by cropping.

Although not generally esteemed as an article of food in France, there are still many people scattered throughout the country who maintain that a civet de chat is as good, or better than a civet de lièvre. To practise the illusion upon themselves that it is a hare, they are careful to keep head, tail and claws out of the dish. The weakness of Baudelaire and Théophile Gautier for cats was quite of another kind. So is that of the poet François Coppée for these renowned serenaders and soothers of the ear of night. The inspired old bachelor would as lief eat one of his brother Academicians as a cat, for to him the animal is as sacred at it was to the Egyptians of old. The society of his feline pets is to him ever delightful and consoling, and it may have inspired him to write some of his most melodious verses. Nevertheless, he is not the cat's poet. This honor belongs to Charles Cros, who wrote:

Chatte blanche, chatte sans tache,
Je te demande dans ces vers
Quel secret dort dans tes yeux verts,
Quel sarcasme sous ta moustache?

Is not this charmingly fanciful and feline?

There are some people so prejudiced against all culinary preparations of cat that they make a point of never asking for a rabbit or hare in a Paris restaurant. There is reason for such excessive caution in restaurants of rather low degree. A few years ago a butcher in the Palais Royal quarter was sent to prison for having tried to palm off a very fine Angora cat for lamb upon a restaurateur whom he was in the habit of supplying. The cat had scratched the butcher's child, and the tender-hearted father gave an order for the immediate execution of the animal. He then thought it would be a pity to waste it, so, having cut off its head, feet and tail, he sold it to the restaurateur at an attractive price. The restaurateur, perceiving some fur that had been forgotten, and having a grudge against the butcher, called in an inspector, and the result was what has been already stated. There are worse risks at Paris restaurants than of eating cat, which it appears is wholesome food enough, provided you suppose it to be something else. Some time ago it was discovered that all the parrots and other exotic birds that died at the Jardin d'Acclimation, and became the property of employes, were, after being stripped of their feathers, sold to Paris restaurateurs ambitious of acquiring a reputation for game patés.

THE DAY'S GOSSIP.

Five hundred dollars was realized from the performance at Hammerstein's Olympia Music Hall for the benefit of the sufferers from the fire that occurred Christmas morning at Thirty-fourth-st. and Third-ave.

The Loretto Sewing Circle of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Brooklyn, is doing much good work this season for the poor of the parish.

The third course of lectures to the woman's law class began yesterday. Professor Russell takes the morning class and Miss Haggerty the evening. The first few lectures of each course are always free to the public.

The Brooklyn Froebel Society held its regular monthly meeting yesterday afternoon at the Froebel Academy. Papers on the "Consolidation of the Public School Systems of Greater New-York" were read by Mrs. Charles N. Chadwick, Mrs. T. J. Caruth and Mrs. F. J. Wood.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Mount Loretto, Staten Island, entered yesterday upon the charge of St. Benedict's Home for Destitute Colored Children at Rye. It was formerly in the charge of twelve Sisters of the Order of St. Dominic, who now return to their Mother House, No. 329 East Sixty-third-st.

The Donegal Ladies' Association met last night at No. 734 Third-ave., to make arrangements for participation in the Irish-American Fair to be held at the Grand Central Palace.

The Carmelite Sunday-school gave a Christmas entertainment last night in Carmel Hall, East Twenty-eighth-st. "Christmas in Fairyland" was presented by the younger children, and a comic operetta, called "A Dress Rehearsal," by the seniors, besides which there were some religious tableaus. The entertainment will be repeated to-night and on the three following evenings. The three prizes of the recently closed Carmelite Fair will be allotted next Friday. One of these is a work of art, presented by the Pope, and another is an excursion ticket to Europe. Every admission ticket to the entertainment gives a share in the prizes.

Many of the churches in Brooklyn are holding special revival services this week.

A new evening school for women opened last night at No. 226 East Fifty-seventh-st. Instruction is given free in reading, writing, dressmaking and stenography. There are classes for beginners and advanced pupils in the last two studies. The people of this district have long been anxious to take up such a course.

The Silver Cross Circle met yesterday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Ritta Ottarson-Warren, No. 154 West Sixty-eighth-st. The subject discussed was "Tenement-house Work Among Children."

An eclipse of the sun will occur on February 1, and will be visible in New-York at 4:54 p. m., but not distinctly, even with the aid of a glass.

Articles of incorporation for the German-American Non-sectarian Orphan Dowry Society were sent to Albany yesterday. The society has arranged to have four weddings of orphan girls take place at the Metropolitan Opera House on the evening of Washington's Birthday, and four more will occur on the birthdays of Lincoln, Grant and other National celebrities. Each bride will receive $100 immediately after the ceremony, and $400 more will be paid within five years.

The women of China are imitating their sisters of more favored lands, and have gone into the business of agitating. They have not yet begun to sigh for suffrage, so far as appears at present, but they do want natural feet, and to this end two societies—the International Women's Union and the Tien Teu Hui, or Natural Feet Society, have combined. Petitions were drawn up and numerous signatures obtained, but it was found impossible to get the matter before the Emperor and Empress. The authorities to whom it was sent replied that the matter could not be regulated by law; those who did not want to bind their children's feet need not do so; those who did could not be prevented; and therefore it was useless to trouble their Majesties.

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CLIO AND EMERSON.

THE HARLEM WOMEN GIVE ANOTHER DAY TO DISCUSSING THEIR FAVORITE AUTHOR.

The members of Clio dearly love Emerson, and a second day was given to the consideration of his works. Mrs. Bradley gave a short paper on the wit and humor of the great philosopher, and read extracts from his famous essays: "Self Reliance," "Compensation," "Friendship and Art."

Mrs. J. O. Tansley, chairman of the day, considered the essay on "Nature," which, she said, she regards as the most systematic statement of his philosophy.

The exercises were varied with a delightful solo by Miss Dennison. Mrs. Boughton read the two poems of "The Bridge" where the famous battle of April 19, 1775, was fought, and "The Problem"; Mrs. Griswold read his last address written on the one-hundredth anniversary of the battle.

Mrs. J. Pierce was asked to relate some personal reminiscences of a visit to Concord—the homes of a coterie of illustrious people—Emerson, Hawthorne, the Alcotts and Thoreau.

Her remarks were supplemented by Mrs. C. Royal Wight, the guest of honor, who is a member of the Woman's Club of Fitchburg, Mass. Mrs. Smuller read Lowell's criticism on Emerson's manner and style of oratory, and Mrs. White closed the exercises of a most interesting day by reading the essay on "Gifts" as most appropriate to the season.

SOME PROMINENT CHARACTERS.

AN INTERESTING TALK ON PEOPLE IN THE TIME OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

In the Astor dining-room of the Waldorf yesterday morning Mrs. Witherspoon gave the first of a series of lectures, the subject being "Some Prominent Characters in the French Revolution." A critical analysis of the character of Talleyrand and his wonderful talents was admirably given, and also a clear account of the part Mirabeau played in provoking the Revolution through his extraordinary mental abilities and as leader of the Jacobin party.

The infamous triumvirate, Marat, Robespierre and Danton, were duly considered, and their death scenes were related with dramatic effect.

Mrs. Witherspoon is a woman of dignified presence; she has a fine, expressive face and a cultured voice which is rare for its sweetness and musical quality. The next lecture will be on January 11 on "Lafayette and Other French Heroes in the American War of Independence."

GOING ON TO-DAY.

Miss Mary Proctor will lecture this evening in the hall of the Museum of Natural History, Seventy-seventh-st. and Eighth-ave., on "Giant Sun and His Family."

The Dames of the Revolution will meet this afternoon at 2:30 at No. 226 West Fifty-eighth-st.

The "New Women," of Brooklyn, will meet to-day at the Kensington, No. 345 Lafayette-ave., in the apartments of Mrs. William Horkitt.

The anniversary meeting of the New-York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital will be held this afternoon in the hospital building, Second-ave. and Twentieth-st. The wards will be open for inspection.

Alfred M. Collett will lecture on "Lincoln Cathedral" this afternoon, beginning at 3 o'clock, in the rooms of the Church Club, No. 578 Fifth-ave. The entrance is in Forty-seventh-st.

Mrs. Sarah B. Howe lectures this morning, beginning at 11 o'clock, at the Woman's Exchange, No. 12 East Thirtieth-st. Her subject will be "The Way to a Man's Heart."

The annual meeting of the New-York Historical Society will be held this evening at the library, Second-ave. and Eleventh-st.

The Society for Political Study will resume its meetings this afternoon at No. 144 Madison-ave.

The Harlem Auxiliary of the Woman's Republican Association will meet this afternoon at 3 o'clock at No. 68 East One-hundred-and-twenty-seventh-st.

The Ladies' Health Protective Association will meet this morning at 10:30 in the Academy of Medicine, No. 17 West Forty-third-st.

St. John's Guild will hold its annual meeting this evening at the Plaza Hotel, Fifty-ninth-st. and the Plaza. Reports will be read, and stereopticon views illustrative of the Guild's charitable methods will be presented. The Mendelssohn Quartet Club will be present. The Committee of Arrangements consists of Mrs. John A. Lowery, Mrs. H. W. Gray, Mrs. Jordan L. Mott, jr., Walter Stanton, William Brookfield and John P. Faure.

The Sorosis Carol Club will give a musical this afternoon at the home of Mrs. William C. Demorest, No. 12 East Fifty-seventh-st.

Miss E. Marguerite Lindley will give a health talk this afternoon, beginning at 3:30 o'clock, at No. 41 West One-hundred-and-twenty-fourth-st.

The classes of the Business Woman's Auxiliary will begin this evening with a lecture on economics by Mrs. Cornelia S. Robinson. The schedule for the other classes, so far as it is at present arranged, is as follows: Wednesday evening—Elocution, voice culture and literature. Thursday evening—Stenography, art of dress cutting and fitting. Friday evening—History and English language, for foreigners. Saturday evening—Spanish, stenography speed class and business correspondence. Tuesday afternoon—Stenography. Friday morning—Economics and sociology. The classes are free to members, and to non-members a fee of 15 cents a lesson is charged. Men may join if they wish, and all who contemplate taking advantage of the opportunity should register at once. The club held its usual weekly meeting last night in Room 74, Hamilton Bank Building, Nos. 215 and 217 West One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st.

ON A POSTER BLUE.

Said a Beardsley boy to a Bradley girl
Whom he met on a poster blue:
"I haven't an idea who I am,
And who the deuce are you?"
Said the Bradley girl to the Beardsley boy:
"I'll tell you what I think:
I came into being one night last week
When a cat tipped over the ink."
—(Robert B. Peattie in the Clack Book.

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INCIDENTS IN SOCIETY.

FIRST LARGE PRIVATE BALL OF THE SEASON GIVEN BY MRS. ASTOR.

The first large private dance or ball of the season was given last night by Mrs. Astor at her home, No. 842 Fifth-ave. The invitations read "a small dance" but as the guests numbered over five hundred, the entertainment was considerably more of a ball. Mrs. Astor's house is too beautiful to call for further embellishments, so the only decorations were roses, hyacinths and lilies, placed in vases in the drawing-room and dining-room, and palms, the latter being used in the large hallway. As at the ball given by Mrs. Astor last winter, the two houses, her own and that of Mr. and Mrs. John Jacob Astor, were used for the entertainment, the arrangements being practically the same. A particularly effective arrangement of lilies, American Beauty roses and pink and white carnations nearly covered the balustrade of the white marble staircase up as far as the second story. Mrs. Astor received her guests in the white and gold drawing-room, where there was a wealth of sweet-smelling roses. She wore a handsome gown of white satin brocade, with trimmings of silver and lace. Her jewels were diamonds and sapphires. Lander's orchestra and the Hungarian Band played for the dancing, which before supper was general and took place in the ballroom.

Supper was served at 12:15 o'clock by Pinard at small tables placed in the dining-rooms of the two houses, the large hallway and the reception-room. Each table was decorated with a different kind of flower.

The cotillion, which was danced immediately after supper, was led by Elisha Dyer, jr., with Miss Van Alen as a partner, at one end of the room, and by Richard Peters, with Mrs. Orme Wilson, at the other end. The favors were silver and fancy French trinkets.

Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Welles, Mr. and Mrs. George Griswold Haven, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cooper Hewitt, Mrs. Burke-Roche, Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Mills, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Witherbee, Lispenard Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. George B. De Forest, Mr. and Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, Mr. and Mrs. W. Storrs Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Julien T. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Karrick Riggs, Mr. and Mrs. T. Suffern Tailer, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney J. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Bryce, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Mortimer, Mr. and Mrs. Francis K. Pendleton, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Drexel, Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge T. Gerry, the Misses Gerry, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund L. Baylies, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Schermerhorn, Miss Schermerhorn, Mrs. Elisha Dyer, jr., Mr. and Mrs. James M. Waterbury, Mr. and Mrs. S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Dickey, jr., Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Rives, Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Post, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Tiffany, Mr. and Mrs. C. Albert Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. W. Watts Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clews, Miss Clews, Mrs. George Tiffany, Miss Tiffany, Miss Kittie Garrison, Miss Josephine Johnson, ex-Governor and Mrs. Levi P. Morton, the Misses Morton, J. Woodward Haven, Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Kountze, Mr. and Mrs. A. Newbold Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Rhinelander, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Fish, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cutting, Miss Juliana Cutting, Miss Madeline Cutting, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tuckerman, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hampden Robb, Miss Anna Sands, Mr. and Mrs. J. Langdon Schroeder, the Misses Iselin, Mr. and Mrs. C. O'D. Iselin, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Gerard, Mr. and Mrs. Jules de Neufville, the Misses Blight, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lanfear Norrie, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Wysong, Mr. and Mrs. Almeric Hugh Paget, Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Havemeyer, Mrs. Leslie Cotton, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Harriman, jr., Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mortimer, Miss Katherine Duer, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Duer, Mr. and Mrs. H. Mortimer Brooks, Miss Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Francklyn, Mr. and Mrs. J. Pierpont Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sloane, Mrs. Edward S. Willing, Miss Willing, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Edey, Mr. and Mrs. W. Butler Duncan, Mrs. Frederic Neilson, Miss Neilson, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Bronson, Miss Bronson, James J. Van Alen, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic J. De Peyster, the Misses De Peyster, Miss Turnure, James Otis, Mr. and Mrs. Prescott Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. James F. D. Lanier, Count Sierstorpff, Herbert D. Robbins, Hamilton W. Cary, Mr. and Mrs. J. Frederic Tams, Worthington Whitehouse, Mr. and Mrs. A. Cass Canfield, Mr. and Mrs. I. Townsend Burden, Miss Evelyn Burden, Mrs. Frederic Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, Orme Wilson, Chauncey M. Depew, Mrs. Lawrence Townsend, the Hon. Colonel and Mrs. Herbert F. Eaton, of London; Miss French, Mrs. George Hoffman, Miss Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs, Miss Virginia Fair, Mrs. Calvin S. Brice, the Misses Brice, James W. Appleton, Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Chanler, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Sorchon, Miss Marie Churchill, James V. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. C. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. P. Lorillard Ronalds, jr., F. Gray Griswold, the Misses Webb, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Travers, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webster, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Lucius K. Wilmerding, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Belmont Tiffany, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. LeRoy, jr., Sir Roderick Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Lorillard, jr., E. Parker Deacon, and Mrs. Alexander Van Rensselaer.

Mrs. John Jacob Astor will give a dance on January 18.

A pleasant reception, with music, was given last evening by Mr. and Mrs. Olin D. Gray, at the Hotel Majestic, Central Part West and Seventy-second-st. The decorations in the ballroom, where the entertainment took place, were remarkably attractive and lavish. Assisting Mrs. Gray in receiving the guests were Mrs. Frank Treat Southwick, Mrs. Charles C. Rauthroff, Mrs. Charles H. Brush, Mrs. H. C. King, Mrs. William Gerry Slade, Mrs. William Tod Helmuth, Mrs. William T. Evans, Mrs. J. Barker Brown, Mrs. Gage E. Tarbell, Mrs. John H. Judge, Mrs. Arthur L. Root, Mrs. John T. Douglas, Miss Slade, Miss Maude Stumm, Miss Evans, Miss Louise Brown, Miss Florence Evans, Mrs. W. C. Carr and Miss Thomson. The musical programme was rendered by Mme. Clementine De Vere-Sapio, Miss Cleary, W. N. Searles, Ericsson Bushnell, Mr. Campbell and Kuzdo, the Hungarian violinist. An elaborate supper was served during the evening.

The fashionable marriage to-day will be that of Miss Elizabeth Screven, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Screven, of No. 40 West Thirty-ninth-st., to Ernest Lorillard, which will be celebrated at noon in the Church of the Holy Communion, Sixth-ave. and Twentieth-st.

The wedding of Miss Eliza Watson, daughter of the late William Watson, to her cousin, G. W. Wesley Watson, of Belfast, Ireland, will be celebrated at noon to-day at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. William H. Tailer, No. 14 East Seventy-second-st.

Miss Grace Vernon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Harwood Vernon, will be married to Norman White Dodge at noon to-day in the Brick Church, Fifth-ave. and Thirty-seventh-st.

Mr. Bagby's musical morning at the Waldorf yesterday was enjoyed by a large audience of fashionable people. The entertainment was furnished by Walter Damrosch and his New-York Symphony Orchestra, the soloists being Miss Marguerite Hall and Evans Williams.

A NEW MAGAZINE FOR WOMEN.

Among the features of interest which the new year has brought to public attention is a notable magazine for women, "The Puritan," issued by Frank A. Munsey. It is a monthly edited on new and progressive lines, and designed to occupy an unexplored field in the world of feminine interests. It combines the salient points upon which a woman's attention is supposed to fasten with the touches of art and literature and the array of general knowledge that the intelligent reader demands, whether man or woman. The Puritan woman is believed to represent all that is best in American womanhood, and this idea has given the new journal its name. It is thoroughly modern, however, and not at all Puritanical in the sense of ultra-conservatism. The first number is rich in illustration, half-tone portraits of people whom the public wants to know about, and reproductions of the work of delightful paintings. The articles take the reader by turns into the realms of social, literary, musical and artistic affairs, and present subjects of current interest. "The Ducal House Party at Blenheim" is an account of an affair of social importance, illustrated by admiral portraits of the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Lady Randolph Churchill and others, and by views of the drawing-room and entrance of Blenheim Palace. The other features of "The Puritan" lead to the belief that the magazine will form a permanent and valued addition to available reading matter.

TENNESSEE'S OLDEST WOMAN DEAD.

Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 4.—Polly Brannum, the oldest woman in Tennessee, died here last night at the age of 109. She was a daughter of a Revolutionary patriot, and in her day was acquainted with Sevier, Blount, Roan, Carroll, Sam Houston, Andrew Johnson, Andrew Jackson, Polk, and other men of National reputation.

MRS. A. BOURCHIER TO GIVE UP WORK.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Mrs. Arthur Bourchier, known on the stage as Miss Violet Vanbrugh, who appeared at the Columbia Theatre to-night in "The Chili Widow," has been compelled by ill health to close her engagement at the end of this week. Her physician has ordered a long rest, and she may return to Europe in a short time. The engagement at Pittsburg for next week has therefore been cancelled, as well as the remainder of her American tour.

A CARD

FROM

C. C. SHAYNE & CO.

Honorable merchandising is a duty. It is commendable and commands the respect of the community. When the article of merchandise handled is such that the buyer must rely upon the integrity of the house rather than his own judgment, the increasing business of an establishment is an evidence of honorable dealing. We simply call the attention of the public to the increase of our business in the City of New York during the past quarter of a century as an evidence of honorable dealing. Notwithstanding the hard times, our factory has been running until 9 o'clock at night to fill orders. Over 100 skilled workpeople have been steadily employed, and at good wages. We believe in paying for good services. A workman feels better and does better work when he is contented and satisfied with his wages.

Immediately after election

orders poured in. We were stimulated by the prospects of a large business and increased our working forces. The warm weather came, still we continued to manufacture; anticipating a very large trade, we made up an unusually large stock of reliable and elegant furs, and have on hand one of the largest stocks which we have ever held at this season of the year. We are

anxious to unload

and have marked goods down in order to effect sales, but will not sell at 50 cents on the dollar. We do not handle that kind of goods. We manufacture the leading fashionable styles from selected skins, so that we can recommend our goods with confidence. This has been our plan of business for a quarter of a century, and there is only one way to secure and hold trade—do a reliable business, and a reliable business cannot be done unless reliable goods are sold. No matter how low priced an article may be, if it does not give satisfaction the customer is displeased. We avoid causing dissatisfaction by handling only strictly reliable furs.

The Fur Trade Has Changed.

The fur trade has retrograded for the reason that many who have been and are still engaged in the trade do not do an honorable business. Dyed rabbit skins, dyed opossum and coney skins, the cheapest and poorest kind of furs, are advertised as electric seal, Canada seal, and Labrador seal. It is dishonorable to use the name of a genuine article to sell an imitation. Muskrat is advertised as mink; dyed China sable is advertised at Russian sable, and dyed marten as Hudson Bay sable.

Dishonorable Methods Censured.

The job-lot warehouses, which deal in dry-goods, boots, shoes, millinery, groceries, hardware, in fact, nearly everything under the sun, are advertising furs and using the names of animals which cannot be found in any of the encyclopedias or ancient or modern history. The public is becoming tired of the falsehoods which are being published in the papers in regard to all kinds of merchandise. Advertisements are inserted every Sunday in the year by department stores, announcing that they are selling goods at 50 cents on the dollar, 60 cents and 75 cents on the dollar, and these houses employ thousands of clerks, spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in advertising, have other enormous expenses, and yet advertise that they are selling goods at less than half value. Is this dishonest method of transacting business ever going to cease? How long will the public sustain houses which continue to do a dishonorable business? For it is dishonorable for any merchant to advertise to do a thing that cannot be done, and one of the most contemptible acts on the part of these merchants is to advertise a certain article, and when the customer calls for it say they are all sold.

This thing ought to cease. If a merchant advertises an article he should have it in stock. There are seasons of the year when merchandise is marked down.

Furs Marked Down.

Furs are marked down at this season of the year, but genuine sables, sealskin, otter, mink, and other standard reliable furs will only stand a certain amount of marking down. A genuine Alaska sealskin sack, which cost $275 to make, cannot well be sold for less, and yet certain parties are advertising that they will sell them for $125. They are also advertising to sell other furs at one-third to one-half former prices. There is no truth in the statement.

Offers to Buy Genuine Alaska Seals.

We are ready to-day to buy every Alaska sealskin in the City of New York at a discount of 20 per cent off last London sale price. Alaska sealskins are not offered by those houses, but China seal and the poorest kind of west coast seal, which cost less than one-half the price, are offered. Electric seal capes are advertised. If they would call them electric-dyed rabbit capes, then people would know what they were buying. These trashy goods have no value, and yet thousands of them are being sold for genuine seal. Why should merchants be allowed to advertise rabbit skins as sealskins? There should be a law to prevent it.

Alaska Sealskins Are Becoming Scarce.

There are only a few caught, and notwithstanding that there were no orders from Americans at the last London sale for Alaska sealskins, they only went down 15 per cent, a very small decline, considering that they advanced in previous sales 80 per cent.

Genuine Russian Sable

is in great demand in Europe and America, and the prices are higher to-day by at least 10 per cent. than they were two or three months ago. Genuine Hudson Bay sable is also firm, and cannot be purchased as cheaply as before they came in fashionable demand. We have marked down our Alaska sealskin jackets 15 per cent.; our Russian coast (Copper Island) sealskin jackets, 20 per cent.; Northwest coast seal jackets, 25 per cent. These prices are in proportion to the decline at the London sale in December. We have also marked down sealskin capes in proportion.

**Persian Lamb,