DRESS FOR A MUSICAL

## MOTHERS' CONGRESS ENDED.

NO ABATEMENT OF INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDINGS.

MORE TOPICS OF IMPORTANCE TO THE HOME DISCUSSED—HOLDING OF OUTSIDE CONFERENCE MEETINGS COMPELLED BY THE LARGE ATTENDANCE.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The last day of the first session of the National Congress of Mothers was marked by so many diversified topics to be discussed and such pronounced manifestations of general interest that the congress had to divide itself, as on yesterday, into three or four conventions.

Previous to the regular session of the congress this morning conferences were held at the Arlington Hotel and at the regular meeting-place, the First Baptist Church. Mrs. Pollock presided over the conference held at the Arlington. Among the addresses delivered were one on "Co-education," by Mrs. Barnes, of New-York, and another on "Universal Peace," by Countess Di Brazza. At the Baptist Church conference, which was presided over by Miss Frances Newton, of Chicago, addresses were made by Miss Neal, on "Significance of Play"; Miss Amalie Hofer, on "Froebel's Mothers' Playbook," and Miss Fitts, of the Pratt Institute, of Brooklyn, on "Playthings."

When the president, Mrs. Theodore W. Birney, called the congress to order, at 10:30 a. m., the usual crowd was in attendance, but there seemed to be a slight increase in the number of "fathers" present.

Mrs. H. A. Stimson, of New-York, addressed the convention on "The Responsibility of Motherhood."

Mrs. W. H. Felton, of Cartersville, Ga., who was to have delivered an address on "Heredity," was ill and unable to be present. Miss Julia King, of the Emerson College of Oratory, of Boston, spoke on "The Relation of Proper Physical Culture to the Health and Morals of the Home." Miss King closed her address by giving a recitation of Ella Wheeler Wilcox's poem, "You Never Can Tell."

Mrs. Ellen Richardson, of Boston, addressed the congress on "Character Building in Education." She referred to the solemn trust accepted by the Executive head of the United States Government from George Washington one hundred years ago next January, which provided a bequest, with the earnest wish that an education should be provided for building characters which, as statesmen, would preserve the spirit of the Constitution of the United States. She said she looked hopefully to the future prospects of education, citing the fact that the greatest thinkers in Germany, France, England and America were turning their attention with great seriousness toward the thought of new education.

Mrs. Sallie A. Cotton, of Falkland, N. C., the last speaker of the morning session, delivered an address on a "National Training School for Women." Speaking of man's mission on earth, Mrs. Cotton said: "Man's mission on earth is its subjection, domination and utilization. We are forced to admit that culture cannot accomplish these desired results and we must look elsewhere for help. We turn hopefully to woman as the key to the situation, for universal scientific motherhood, though difficult of attainment, is luminous with possibilities for the uplifting of the human race. But all duty is reciprocal, and it is the duty of the Government which seeks the welfare of its people to offer to its women an opportunity for the attainment of this scientific motherhood which will be fraught with so much good. Scientific motherhood will gain no marked impetus while restricted to the fortunate few. It must be made a National possibility in order to become a National benefit. Like all our National blessings it should be 'by the people, for the people,' and it is the duty of the Government to give her an opportunity to acquire this scientific knowledge.

"It can be done through the establishment by the Government of a national training school for women where the women of the Nation shall be trained in the sciences of domesticity and peace, just as at West Point and Annapolis the men are trained in the science of war. The boys of the Nation, the Indian, the negro, have all received educational opportunities, the arts and sciences have been promoted, but woman and her natural colleague, domestic science, have been apparently forgotten. The elevation of domestic science to its proper place among the other sciences will do much to dispel the poverty, drudgery and disease which are the results of ignorance, and which in so many homes rob woman's heart of happiness and life of its brightness. Thrift will dispel poverty, but thrift is both knowledge and training. Drudgery encourages stupidity, and drudgery can be lightened only by the application of science to domestic labor, while disease feeds on the ignorance of woman despite the doctor's learning."

The programme for the remainder of the day was as follows:

2:30 o'clock—"Nature Studied in the Home," Miss Anna A. Schryver, Ann Arbor, Mich.; "Importance of Bringing the Youth in Touch with Great Literature," Hamilton W. Mabie, New-York City; "Stories," Dr. Walter L. Hervey, New-York City.

8 o'clock—"How Shall the Nation Secure Educated Mothers?" Mrs. Stanton Blatch, New-York City; "Club Organization—Need of Organization—How Organize?" Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, Chicago.

### *MRS. WALLERSTEIN AT THE WEST END.*

Mrs. Harry Wallerstein read an interesting paper before the members of the West End Woman's Republican Club yesterday afternoon on the subject, "Is the Concentration of Capital a Benefit to Society." A lively discussion followed, in which Mrs. George Poole, Mrs. Colonel Robinson, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. John L. Neivar, Mrs. Jane Pierce, Mrs. May Banks Stacey, Mrs. George Trafton, Mrs. Kattie L. Skells, Mrs. Adelaide Brooks, Mrs. George Trafton, Mrs. Jeob and Mrs. Fay took part. This discussion proved that most of the ladies believed that concentration of capital was a benefit.

The club has decided to give an entertainment after Lent, to which admission will be asked; this is to help swell a bank account that has just been opened.

## *BRIGHT STORY READING.*

MRS. WALDO RICHARDS ENTERTAINS FOR THE BENEFIT OF A FREE KINDERGARTEN.

An appropriate entertainment for the benefit of a kindergarten was a story reading and dialect recital given at the Waldorf yesterday afternoon by Mrs. Waldo Richards. Nothing could have been more charming than her interpretation of the fun and pathos of Eugene Field, Kate Douglas Wiggin, James Whitcomb Riley and some of the other favorites who have voiced the children's thoughts about this wonderful world we live in, and made luminous to obtuse adults the no less wonderful world of a child's mind.

Mrs. Richards told the humorous story of "An Irish Heart," one of her own adaptations. "Isn't she sweet?" was the whisper that went round as she finished reciting Emily Selinger's two unpublished poems—"The Littlest One" and "My Little Boy's Pocket." "A Commencement Day," by Sarah Winters Kellogg, must have touched the hardest heart. Eugene Field's poem, 'Seein' Things at Night," brought down the house. For the strictly adult intelligence there were a few selections like Robert Browning's "Love Among the Ruins" and "Meeting at Night," Henry C. Bunner's "Way to Arcady" and "A Water-Logged Town," by F. Hopkinson Smith.

The entertainment was given by the East Side Chapel Association for the benefit of its free kindergarten.

Miss Dozier, a supervisor of kindergarten schools, said that she found New-York women in a delightful, because hopeful, spirit of revolt. The thousands of children in the city for whom there is no room in the schools present a dreadful problem. In spite of the political situation, in spite of their political disability, women are doing what they can to solve the problem, and they have begun at the right end of it by curing the disease, rather than the symptoms. This they do by suppressing the evolution of the criminal, rather than punishing him after he is full grown.

The managers under whose auspices the entertainment was given were Mrs. Bergh-Brown, Miss Kate Bond, Miss Butterworth, Mrs. J. H. Browning, Mrs. R. H. Bostwick, Miss F. B. Brown, Mrs. J. Warren Goddard, Mrs. A. B. Hart, Mrs. W. B. Horton, Mrs. G. F. Hodgman, Mrs. M. L. Dickinson, Mrs. W. W. Heaton, Mrs. R. P. Lincoln, Mrs. Walter Jennings, Mrs. John McKesson, Miss E. Odell, Mrs. I. S. Platt, Miss Patterson, Mrs. A. A. Riker, Mrs. G. M. Stanton and Mrs. O. Zollikofer.

The patronesses were Mrs. C. B. Alexander, Mrs. Armour, Miss Archer, Mrs. General D. Butterfield, Mrs. Fred Butterfield, Mrs. Brinckerhoff, Mrs. Benjamin Brewster, Mrs. M. C. D. Borden, Mrs. L. Bolton Bangs, Mrs. Calvert, Mrs. M. B. Carpenter, Mrs. I. M. Cornell, Miss Cockroft, Mrs. J. M. Clark, Mrs. Bowles Colgate, Mrs. H. F. Dimock, Mrs. E. N. Gibbs, Mrs. G. L. Gillespie, Mrs. Austin Flint, Mrs. W. G. Hamilton, Mrs. F. R. Halsey, Mrs. W. F. Havemeyer, Mrs. Henry Hawley, Mrs. Reuben Hoyt, Mrs. Robert Hoe, Mrs. A. D. Juilliard, Mrs. D. Willis James, Mrs. Gilbert Jones, Mrs. E. J. Janeway, Miss Jenings, Mrs. Georgi Kemp, Mrs. Francis H. Leggatt, Mrs. C. D. Mathews, Mrs. W. R. H. Martin, Mrs. J. W. Pinchot, Mrs. W. A. Perry, Mrs. C. M. Raymond, Mrs. J. N. Shaffer, Baroness De Saint Seigne, Mrs. W. L. Strong, Mrs. Jonathan Thorne, Mrs. F. F. Thompson, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, the Misses Van Winkle, Mrs. John D. Wing and Mrs. P. B. Wyckoff.

### *ABOUT FRENCH SCHOOLS.*

HOW THEY PREPARE THE PUPIL FOR HIS LIFE WORK—MANUAL TRAINING.

"French Schools in Their Preparation for Life" was the subject of a lecture by Charles Rounde, of the New-Hampshire Normal School, yesterday afternoon, in the Friday afternoon lecture course of the Public Education Association, No. 64 Madison-ave.

He gave a brief sketch of the condition and management of the public schools of France, from the primary to the normal. The first school to which a child is sent, called the Maternal School, is an outgrowth of the day nursery, where the working mothers left the small children to be cared for during the day. Children from two and a half to seven years of age are received and taught the system resembling somewhat the free kindergarten of our cities. In this, attendance is not compulsory, but from five years of age upward it is, and the law is strictly enforced.

A prominent feature of all the schools in France is the manual or industrial training. Physical culture with them does not include simply a course of gymnastics, but thorough training in such lines as carpentry, sewing, gardening or some trade with simple lessons in domestic economy, to prepare them for useful lives.

All these branches are taught by the regular teachers. There are no special teachers employed, even for drawing or sewing.

### *MISS LINDNER RECITES.*

A charming programme of recitations was given last evening in Miss Ida Benfey's studio, Carnegie Hall, by her talented pupil, Miss Lindner. As the programme included chiefly selections from Philip H. Welch's "Tailor-made Girl," a considerable number of that author's friends were present, and pleased to be brought in touch once more with a man whose joyous, sympathetic personality and rare mental gifts are still held in singularly affectionate remembrance by his associates.

Although this book, consisting of a collection of satirical society sketches, appeared nine years ago, the sweetness of the humor and the knowledge of human nature portrayed in them render them, like the writings of Charles Lamb, always in touch with the times.

Among the sketches selected for rendition last evening were "An Evening Out," "Luncheon à la Femme" and "An Organ Recital."

With a happy insight into the spirit of the writer, Miss Lindner infused into these selections the touch of benevolent satire which the author evidently intended; for, though Mr. Welch was quick to catch at the foibles of the "tailor-made girl," no malice entered into their delineation, and the satirized one could laugh with him at her own presentment.

Besides Mr. Welch's work, Miss Lindner gave one of H. C. Bunner's sketches, "A Sisterly Scheme." It seemed particularly appropriate that a sketch from that lamented author's pen should be included in a programme made up principally of Mr. Welch's sketches, for it was really due to Mr. Bunner's hearty appreciation of the first dialogue of the "Tailor-made Girl" that Mr. Welch continued his work and brought the series into existence.

Although Miss Benfey's name did not appear upon the programme, she consented to informally contribute to the evening's pleasure, rendering in her inimitable way "The Boy Orator of Zepata City," by Richard Harding Davis.

Among the guests of the evening were noted Mrs. Philip Henry Welch, Mr. and Mrs. St. Clair McKelway, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Bridgeman, Dr. and Mrs. Hall-Brown, Mrs. E. P. Terhune and Mrs. Christine Terhune Herrick.

JAEGER

The Standard Underwear of the World.

OUR MAIN RETAIL STORE REMOVED TO 16 WEST 23rd STREET, near Fifth Avenue.

DR. JAEGER'S SANITARY WOOLEN SYSTEM CO.

## FIRST AID TO THE INJURED.

POISONS AND ANTIDOTES, UNCONSCIOUSNESS AND ITS CAUSES.

VALUABLE INFORMATION GIVEN BY DR. ALFRED E. MEYER IN HIS LECTURE YESTERDAY.

The fourth lecture in the Friday afternoon course on First Aid to the Injured was given yesterday, at 2:30 p. m., by Dr. Alfred E. Meyer, in the rooms of the Association for First Aid, at the Associated Charities Building, the entire class being present.

Dr. Meyer talked of the various forms and causes of unconsciousness, with treatment, and poisons of different classes, with their antidotes.

UNCONSCIOUSNESS.

Unconsciousness may result from exhaustion produced by overexertion or hunger, from tight lacing or other suffocation, from apoplexy, injury to head, sunstroke or excessive heat, shock, epilepsy, sometimes from indigestion, and, in children, from teething.

When the cause is unknown it is always wise to examine the head, to ascertain whether a fall may not have produced a fracture or bruise. Then test the sensitiveness of the eye by lifting the lid. If the eye quivers and shows sensitiveness to touch, it proves that the brain is not injured. The unconsciousness of apoplexy is indicated by a deeply flushed face, eyes insensible to touch, pupils unequally dilated, breathing slow and labored, with cheeks puffing out in expiration and drawing in in inspiration. In cases of seizure in the street the trouble is often mistaken for intoxication, and it is always best, unless the alcoholic odor is unmistakably present and sometimes even when it is, to assume that the case is apoplexy. The treatment cannot injure a victim of alcoholic poison, and the treatment for intoxication may kill one suffering from apoplexy.

The first step should be, while awaiting arrival of the physician, to place the patient in a recumbent position, with the head slightly raised, and loosen all clothing; put chopped ice in a bag, or cloths in cold water, and apply to the head, at the same time using hot applications for the extremities. An injection of soapsuds and water, using an ordinary small basinful, or four ounces of olive oil, should be given. Administer no stimulant.

FAINTING.

In a case of fainting, place the patient on a couch or level surface, with the head not elevated; give free access to fresh air, loosen clothing, sprinkle the face with cold water, and, with utmost care, apply smelling salts or ammonia to the nostrils. Carelessness in the use of ammonia may cause serious injury to the delicate membranes of the nose.

Should sunstroke or prolonged exposure to intense heat, as in the boiler-room of a steamship or factory, be the cause of unconsciousness, first try to reduce the temperature of the sufferer. Of course, remove immediately into fresh air, if possible take the clothing off, wrap the patient in a sheet and sprinkle steadily with cold water. Better still, place him in a bathtub of cold water. Administer stimulants.

In exhaustion from heat not reaching the stage of actual fainting, give stimulants and apply warmth to the extremities.

EPILEPTIC ATTACKS.

In epileptic attacks, little can be done except to prevent the epileptic from injuring himself by falling or by biting his lips and tongue. The best resource for the latter purpose is to place a handkerchief between the teeth and make it serve as a gag. Take him into the fresh air. When the attack has passed away administer mild stimulants such as coffee or wine.

CONVULSIONS

When children are suffering from convulsions caused by constipation, indigestion, worms or teething, give a hot bath with a tablespoonful of mustard in the water, or roll the child in a blanket wrung out of hot water—not so hot as to scald the tender skin—apply cold water to the head and administer every fifteen minutes a teaspoonful of syrup of ipecac; continue this until vomiting is produced.

POISONS.

In treating the subject of poisons, Dr. Meyer divided them into poisons causing local irritation, narcotic poisons and general poisons. Describing their symptoms succinctly and clearly, he then noted the proper antidotes. In the first class are mercury, arsenic, metallic poisons and their compounds, or derivatives. For mercury, including corrosive sublimate, calomel and vermillion, the antidotes are raw eggs, milk, flour and water. Give castor oil and stimulating drinks—no emetic.

In arsenical poisoning (including paris green and Rough on Rats), cause repeated vomiting and give hydrated oxide of iron, made by adding eight parts ammonia water to ten parts tersulphate of iron. Then give castor oil and stimulating drinks.

In copper poisoning, caused by food cooked in copper vessels or blue vitriol, give white of eggs or, if not obtainable, flour and water, ice and administer opiate to relieve pain. No emetic.

In poisoning from chloral or opium give emetics, stimulating drinks, apply heat to head and keep in motion to prevent sleep.

In aconite poisoning give emetic and stimulating drinks. For beladonna, emetic and opiates to relieve nervous excitement. For lead poisoning, give emetic and large doses of Epsom or Glauber's salts, with stimulants. For phosphorus matches, emetic, magnesia in water, rest and warmth. For prussic acid, no emetic—strong stimulants.

In cases of poisoning from berries, toadstools or other noxious plants, cause vomiting and give stimulating drinks—rest. For strychnine, cause vomiting once or twice, administer chloral or tannin—rest.

The last lecture in Dr. Meyer's course will be given on next Friday at 2:30 o'clock. Subject: "Transportation of the Injured and Review." A lesson on nursing will be given by a trained nurse as supplement to the course, Saturday, February 27, at 11 o'clock.

### *A PEEP AT THE MARKETS.*

In the markets yesterday Bermuda vegetables were still coming. Fish stays at its old price, while fruit and game are a few cents higher. Coffee has gone down a cent or two.

FRUIT.

In the fruit market California oranges cost from $4 to $4 50 a box; grapefruit, 10 to 20 cents each; Florida oranges, 40 to 60 cents a dozen; Messina oranges, 30 cents a dozen; lemons, 15 cents a dozen; Havana pineapples, 20 to 60 cents each; wine grapes, 25 cents a pound or $8 to $10 a 50-pound keg; catawba grapes, 30 cents a basket; cocoanuts, $1 a dozen; table apples, 40 cents a half-peck; cooking apples, 25 cents a half-peck; tangerine oranges, 50 cents a dozen; mandarin oranges, 45 cents a dozen; bananas, 25 cents a dozen; winter nellis pears, 50 to 60 cents a dozen; Florida strawberries, 75 cents to $1 25 a box; maple sugar, 15 cents a pound; figs, 15 cents a pound, and dates, two pounds for 25 cents.

GAME.

In the game stalls Vermont ducks frozen sell for 20 cents a pound; Boston goslings, 23 cents; Vermont geese, frozen, 18 cents; Philadelphia capons, 25 cents; Western capons, 16 cents; Philadelphia spring roasting chickens, 20 cents; State roasting chickens, 16 cents; Philadelphia spring broiling chickens, $1 50 a pair; State broilers, $1 25 a pair; Philadelphia fowl, 14 cents a pound; State fowl, 12 cents; salad fowl, 10 cents; English snipe, $3 a dozen; large yellow leg snipe, $4 a dozen; wild mongrel geese, 35 cents a pound; wild turkeys, 35 cents; extra Vermont turkeys, 20 cents; Philadelphia white squabs, $1 a dozen; dark squabs, $2 50 a dozen, and canvasback ducks, $5 a pair.

FISH.

In the fish market cod tongues sell for 25 cents a pound; crab meat, 50 cents; frogs' legs, 75 cents; oyster crabs, 15 cents an ounce; green turtle, 22 cents a pound; prawns, $1 40 a gallon; crayfish, $3 50 a hundred; scallops, $2 a gallon; Spanish mackerel, 20 cents each; imported English sole, 60 cents a pound; sole, 10 cents; striped pan bass, 16 cents; sea bass, 18 cents; black bass, 16 cents; green boiling bass, 25 cents; blackfish, 10 cents; green bluefish, 18 cents; market codfish, 7 cents; live cod, 9 cents; large dressed eels, 18 cents; flounders, 9 cents; flukes, 10 cents; haddock, 7 cents; halibut, 9 cents; kingfish, 15 cents; large live lobsters, 18 cents; white perch, 14 cents; pickerel, 15 cents; pompano, 25 cents; red snappers, 10 cents; salmon, 20 cents; sheepshead, 12½ cents; smelts, 14 cents; salmon trout, 14 cents; weakfish, 15 cents, and whitefish, 18 cents.

VEGETABLES.

In the vegetable market eggplants sell from 10 to 20 cents each; Bermuda potatoes, 50 cents a half-peck; sweet potatoes, 15 cents a quart; green peas, 85 cents a half-peck; parsnips, 20 cents a dozen; pumpkins, 25 cents each; romain salad, 10 cents a head; radishes, 5 cents a bunch; hothouse asparagus, $1 a bunch; Jerusalem artichokes, 15 cents a quart; French artichokes, 50 cents each; string beans, 15 cents a quart; new beets, 10 cents a bunch; red and white cabbage, $ to 15 cents a head; carrots, 3 bunches for 10 cents; chives, 6 cents a bunch; cucumbers, 10 to 18 cents each; leeks, 4 cents a bunch; cauliflower, 20 to 50 cents a head; cranberries, 15 cents a quart; table celery, 75 to $1 50 a bunch; chervil, 10 cents a bunch; knob celery, 8 cents; watercress, 4 cents a bunch; garlic, 12 cents a string; mint, 6 cents a bunch; oyster plant, 10 cents each; dandelion salad, 12 cents a quart; lettuce, 10 cents; mushrooms, 75 cents a pound and red, white and yellow onions, 10 to 22 cents a quart.

BUTTER AND EGGS.

Fresh laid Plymouth Rock eggs are 28 cents a dozen; fresh laid eggs, 23 cents a dozen; Philadelphia print butter, 28 cents; good butter, 25 cents.

### *NO SHOPPING AFTER 5 O'CLOCK.*

MEMBERS OF THE CONSUMERS' LEAGUE HOLD AN INTERESTING MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Consumers' League was held in the Young Women's Christian Association Hall, No. 7 East Fifteenth-st., yesterday morning. The report of the Governing Board was encouraging in character, and contained many valuable suggestions. Similar organizations are to be formed in Boston, Detroit, and possibly in Baltimore.

It was suggested that parlor meetings be held, where the object of the organization can be brought more fully and constantly before the public.

It is hoped that women may be induced to forego all shopping after 5 o'clock from June till October. This is to encourage early closing hours and half-holidays. It is also hoped that women in time will learn not to insist upon having their goods delivered after 6 o'clock.

The good results of the Mercantile bill in reducing the hours of labor were commented upon. This bill originated with the Working Girls' Society, and was indorsed by the League. This association made several ineffectual attempts to secure proper legislation at Albany. It was owing largely to the zealous work and influence of one of its members, Mrs. Edward Lauterbach, that the bill was finally passed on September 1, 1896.

Mrs. Charles Russell Lowell resigned as president, and Mrs. Nathan has been appointed in her place.

President Charles G. Wilson of the Board of Health gave some interesting information regarding the work of his department in carrying out the law regarding the inspection of the stores. After the appropriation was secured, one chief inspector was appointed and fourteen deputy inspectors, ten of whom were women and four men. There is still one vacancy, which will be filled by a woman.

The president reported that the merchants of the large stores seemed desirous of co-operating with the Board in necessary reforms, but the smaller stores were not so ready to comply with the conditions.

The third inspection has now begun, and will be final. All proprietors who have failed to comply with the law will be prosecuted. In conclusion Mr. Wilson said that the desire was to make it a popular law, and that the relations with the merchants should be harmonious.

J. M. Reynolds, of the University Settlement, spoke briefly from the philanthropic view of the work of the League, calling it preventive in character, which is far nobler than the aid which comes simply from relief.

John Graham Brooks spoke on the economic side of the question, saying in part that there is a living wage and a dying wage, and it rests with the buyer whether by his economic approval he shall demand those things which are produced under good or bad conditions. By our demands we create the things we buy. A plea was made for greater thought as to individual responsibility.

The Governing Board of last year was re-elected. It comprises Mrs. Frederick Nathan, Mrs. W. H. Dewees, Mrs. John R. McCarthy, Miss L. T. Caldwell, Miss Annie Stone, Mrs. L. B. Keefer, Mrs. G. T. Canfield, Mrs. Alfred Chapin, Mrs. Grace Dodge, Dr. Mary Putnam Jacoby, Mrs. Thomas J. Flagg, Mrs. Edward Lauterbach, Mrs. Charles Russell Lowell, Miss Edith Campbell, Mrs. Henry P. Loomis, Miss S. A. Moller, Mrs. C. M. Perry, Miss Florence Rapalo, Mrs. Mary D. Safford, Mrs. S. C. Reid, Miss Lillian D. Wald, Mrs. D. C. Wild and Mrs. F. J. Pomeroy.

### *THE REFORMED TRUANTS' CLUB.*

NINETY "ONCE-BAD BOYS" FORM THEMSELVES INTO A MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

A new club has been formed. Not a woman's club, or a man's club, but a Reformed Truants' Club. The children thought of calling it the Hookey Club, but after due reflection it has been decided to adopt the title of Mutual Benefit Club, as being more dignified. Mrs. Alger, the first attendant officer of the public schools, who is doing genuine philanthropic work among the truants of the West Side, has been for a long time forming this club. The first meeting was held yesterday, the officers duly elected, and the constitution and bylaws read and adopted.

It was a wild and noisy lot of boys that gathered in the little empty store at No. 1,760 Broadway yesterday. But Mrs. Alger is the one person who has been able to reclaim them and make something of them.

There were ninety-six boys, ranging in ages from nine to fourteen years. Most of them have been reared in poverty and vice. Typical street gamins. Each one at some time has "bossed de gang." But bad and unruly as these boys are, Mrs. Alger, in her duties as attendance officer, has found some good in them all. She told them long ago if they would stop playing hookey and would attend school regularly that she would form a club, of which they should be members and officers.

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP.

The conditions of membership are six good tickets for each boy from his teacher, showing he had been excellent and regular in attendance for six weeks. Mrs. Alger proposes to have the boys of this club publish a monthly paper. It will be called "Echoes of the Hookeys." Everything in it shall be written by the members, and every member must sell one copy. The money will be used for buying shoes for boys who have none.

The following officers were elected yesterday: President, George Malloy; treasurers, Frank Carolan and James Walsh; secretaries, Edward Tennis and Michael Hutzler; special assistant, Louis Saracco; messenger, Edward Comeford.

The boys meet once a week. On April 1 Mrs. Alger will take them all to the Aquarium. A little silver badge was given to each boy, bearing the letters M. B. C. (Mutual Benefit Club).

### *A PLAN FOR AN INAUGURAL TEA.*

The ladies of the Brooklyn Woman's Health Protective Association are nothing if not patriotic. At a special meeting yesterday morning it was decided to celebrate McKinley's inauguration by an inaugural tea given in their rooms, No. 204 Livingston-st., on March 4. This unique function will be possessed of many novel features in decoration, costuming and plans of serving, embodying suggestions of the striking events of political history from 1789 to 1897. The invitations, which are confined to members and one friend each, are in Mrs. Scrimgeour's happiest vein:

Upon Inauguration Day,
On March the Fourth, with spirits gay
And hearts elate,
The members of the H. P. A.,
In quite a simple sort of way,
Will celebrate.

In honor of the great event
Which gives to us our President
We'll have a Tea!
And fleeting moments quickly spent
Will tell of hope and courage blent
With loyalty.

Street Livingston, two hundred four,
For you will keep an open door—
For friend likewise.
From 3 p. m. there'll be in store
Welcomes and smiles for all, galore,
Till daylight dies.

This homely rhyme don't underrate,
Nor the things that lie for you in wait,
But come and see.
Come with your thoughts quite up-to-date,
Attend the day we celebrate
Our jubilee.

The special Committee on Decoration consists of Mrs. Calvin E. Hull, chairman; Mrs. Howland, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Forrester, Mrs. Perkins and Mrs. Copperthwait.

### *AUXILIARY TO THE BOARD OF MISSIONS.*

In the almonry of St. Thomas's Church yesterday afternoon the joint meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions with the junior branches from the different churches was fully attended. Mrs. C. B. Curtis, president of the Diocesan Branch of New-York, conducted the meeting. Miss M. A. Tomes, diocesan secretary, read a letter from Bishop Potter approving the constitution, which had been submitted to him.

Miss Julia Emery gave a little explanatory statement of the work that is to be extended through the junior department. She said that twenty-five years ago women were roused to exert more effort in missionary work, and it was then the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions was started. Since that time it has given $5,000,000 worth of help to the Board.

Now a new generation must be stirred to interest as church workers. In October, 1889, the junior branch was organized. One hundred delegates then came from dioceses all over the country. Now it is proposed that all organizations of children working together in the Church with missionary intent shall constitute themselves as branches of the junior department of the Woman's Auxiliary.

Officers were then appointed for the New-York Junior Department of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions. Mrs. Henry Mottet was chosen chairman; Miss Hall, of Zion and Timothy, vice-chairman; Miss Barrow, of St. Thomas's Church, recording secretary; Miss Bertha Smith, of St. George's, corresponding secretary, and Miss Lawrence, of the Church of the Incarnation, treasurer.

HARPER'S FOR MARCH

Captain Alfred T. Mahan's Paper
PREPAREDNESS FOR NAVAL WAR
*shows the chances of conflict with European powers, and outlines a scheme for defence at sea.*

THE AWAKENING OF A NATION
By Charles F. Lummis
Illustrated

THE LAST OF A GREAT BLACK NATION
By Poultney Bigelow
Illustrated

ASTRONOMICAL PROGRESS OF THE CENTURY
By Dr. Henry Smith Williams
Illustrated

*Another instalment of* George du Maurier's "THE MARTIAN." *Illustrated by the Author. Short Stories by* Owen Wister, Charles Belmont Davis, *and* Hildegarde Hawthorne.

Published by HARPER & BROTHERS, New York.

## SIXTY THOUSAND TRAMPS.

JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS SAYS THEY ARE NOT A TEMPORARY PHENOMENON.

THE ONE GREAT CAUSE OF THEIR EXISTENCE—THE SECRET OF THEIR DISCONTENT—AN AUDIENCE ENTIRELY OF WOMEN.

"The Tramp and the Unemployed" was the subject of John Graham Brooks's lecture in the Berkeley Lyceum yesterday afternoon and the lecturer began by explaining that the two terms were not linked together because he thought them synonymous, but because the classes thereby denominated were produced, for the most part, by the same causes. Social conditions have thrown a vast number of people out of employment, and the unemployed tend almost inevitably to become tramps.

Mr. Brooks estimates the whole number of tramps in the country at between fifty and sixty thousand, and says that they are not a temporary phenomenon, that will disappear with the revival of business, but are here to stay into any future that it is worth while for us to consider. It would be impossible, he said, to give all the causes of their existence, but the one great cause could be briefly stated.

"Twenty-four or twenty-five years ago," he said, "several great engineers predicted that when the world had been bound together closely enough by means of steam and electricity there would be a revolution. That has happened to-day, and we have among us the battle of the standards. Great areas with lower standards of living are competing with us, and are doing for the Western farmers precisely what they did previously to the Eastern ones, crushing them out of existence. Argentina, Southern Russia and India can supply us with wheat more cheaply than we can raise it; and farming no longer pays. This is the secret of the discontent in the farming regions, and in their distress they catch at straws, whether they be free silver or something else.

"In connection with these circumstances we have the press, with all its gaudy lying, making the city seem a sort of heaven, and thus all large cities become centres of attraction to all outsiders who wish to better their condition. Thousands pour into the cities every year, and on the vast majority the city life works as with the fingers of death. They drop into the saloon at once because of the free lunch. You have abolished it here, and I am curious to see under what form it will be revived, for it is necessary in order to sell rum, and therefore in some way it will be restored.

"The saloon is the centre of an organization of vice as a profit-making scheme that has reached greater dimensions than most of us imagine, and these men, being idle, go where the vast majority of us would go under the same circumstances. In a few weeks or months there is no more manhood left in them. It is in this condition that you see them, but they were not always so. They have been spoiled as the result of circumstances over which they had no control and through conditions for which we are responsible, and when the work is done we call them bad names.

"After the organized vices have done all that they can, the work is completed by charities. Men find that by a little hypocrisy they can obtain food and lodging, or that they can profit by the eagerness of certain newspapers to advertise themselves. They find that people coming out of the theatre, and particularly out of church, will readily part with a few nickels when asked, and they soon learn the back doors at which it is worth while to apply.

"Such charity as this is doing deadly work, and often with the noblest motives. I know those who are giving their lives to it, and I can only wish that they were not."

The lecturer concluded by proposing a remedy for the evil, one that had been approved, he said, by men of great experience, and the first step of which had been thoroughly tested.

"The great difficulty," he said, "is that the mass with which we have to work is wholly unweeded. It is composed of good bad and indifferent that cannot be distinguished from each other, and consequently we do not know what we are doing. The mass must be broken up, and this can be done by a labor test. We have tried it in Cambridge, the test being cleaning bricks, and it has driven out all the tramps. The same thing has also been done in Ann Arbor.

"But this should only be the first step. The next one will be to have training schools and farm colonies, where the principles of trade can be taught and individual abilities discovered. This must be done at least till we wake out of our sleep and every boy is kept out of the industrial world and under disciplinary forces until he is sixteen years old.

"Those that cannot and will not work, although they may not have been responsible for the ruin of their character, must be taken out of the market and placed where they will have to earn what they eat.

"We cannot introduce such a system all at once, but we can make it work in some given locality, and example will do the rest."

The audience was a very large one, completely filling the theatre of the Lyceum, and the lecture was listened to with an intense interest that broke occasionally into applause.

Among those present were Mrs. John Plummer, Mrs. J. Milton Cornell, Mrs. Hiram Sibley, of Rochester; Mrs. James Benedict, Mrs. Le Grand Lockwood, of Stamford, and Mrs. Williston Lockwood.

Mr. Brooks gives the same lecture at noon to-day in the Teachers' College.

### *THE GOSSIP OF THE DAY.*

Miss Marguerite Lindley talked to her physical culture class yesterday morning on "The Influence of the Nervous System on the Digestive Organs." The peristaltic motion of the stomach was explained, and she told how the corset pressing on the stomach was often the cause of indigestion. She taught home massage for improving the functions of the liver, stomach and other sections of the digestive tract.

The Woman's League of the Central Throat Hospital, Howard-ave. and Broadway, Brooklyn, gave a euchre party last night at the hospital. There was play from 8:30 to 11 o'clock, and dancing and refreshments afterward.

The Quid Nunc Club held its monthly public meeting last night at No. 181 Lenox-ave. J. I. C. Clarke lectured on "A National Theatre," and Bronson Howard, Charles Barnard and Sydney Rosenfeld spoke on the same subject. The lecture was followed by an informal conversazione.

The regular weekly parents and teachers' meeting will be held at Barnard College this morning at 10:30 o'clock.

The League for Political Education will hold its regular meeting this morning at No. 23 West Forty-fourth-st.

Miss Maria Parloa will lecture this afternoon at 3 o'clock on "The Care and Use of Fruits" at the Young Women's Christian Association Building, No. 7 East Fifteenth-st.

Mrs. Elizabeth Burns Battle began a series of talks on "Mother Plays" yesterday afternoon at the Crescent Kindergarten rooms, No. 71 Pierrepont-st., Brooklyn. Half the proceeds will be used for the benefit of Unity Free Kindergarten and half for other kindergarten work.

The Kings County Women's Christian Temperance Union is holding a series of conferences. The work of the temperance union is divided into a number of branches, and these conferences are for the purpose of discussing the scope of these various departments.

The teachers and students of the Teachers' College, on Morningside Heights, have become very much interested in social questions. In order to get fuller information themselves and to interest outsiders the faculty has arranged a course of free lectures on sociology. These lectures are given at the college on Mondays at 4 o'clock and Saturdays at noon by John Graham Brooks, of Harvard.

Æolian Recital
TO-DAY, Saturday, at 3 P. M.

SOLOIST:
MR. DAVID BIMBERG,
VIOLINIST.
Admission free to all.

PROGRAMME:

1. Overture, "Des Vespres Siciliennes" ..... Verdi
2. Church scene, "Faust" ..... Gounod
3. Concerto, Op. 64 ..... Mendelssohn
Andante—Finale.
MR. BIMBERG.
Æolian Grand Accompaniment.
4. a. Æolian Harmonies ..... Lavignac
b. Eldorado, Polka de Concert ..... Bartlett
5. Les Preludes ..... Liszt
6. a. Air ..... Bach
b. Mazurka, "Kujawiak" ..... Wieniawski
MR. BIMBERG.
Æolian Grand Accompaniment.
7. Concerto, A minor, Allegro ..... Schumann

18 West 23d St.

Mrs. E. A. Stevens, of Castle Point, Hoboken, gave a reception yesterday afternoon in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of Stevens Institute.

TRIBUNE. SUNSHINE SOCIETY.

Sunshine Members: The new club pins have been decided upon, and in a short time they will be ready for distribution. All the old members are requested to send again their names and addresses, for many changes have been made in the last year, and no doubt some of the members have moved since joining the Sunshine Society. A description of the pin and full instructions for joining the society will be given in Sunday's issue.

Sunshine President: I wish to thank the generous members of the Sunshine Society who have lately forwarded to me magazines, books and papers for the Evans Branch of the Tribune Sunshine Society. I can use all the matter that was sent me, which means I have been able to distribute everything.

Some of the members live twenty miles apart. I am making a library of all matter returned to me. It is known as The Tribune Sunshine Society Library, and any member has access to it at any time.

We have few papers or magazines devoted to women or the work of women, and we would heartily welcome some such contributions. If at any time our branch can be of use to some other branch, do let me know, for there is not a member out here who does not feel deeply indebted to the society. Yours truly,

MRS. MINERVA E. YOUNG.
Evans, Col., Feb. 13, 1897.

Sunshine President: I will gladly send "The Ladies' World" to any one you think will enjoy it. Please state in Saturday's edition; we take that one