

# FLORIDA, THE LAND OF WINTER SUN AND FLOWERS



GOLF COURSE AT BELLAIRE

## Pilgrims of Pleasure Are Bound Thither in Ever-Increasing Throngs.

WITH no Egypt or Riviera to lure them away this winter, American pilgrims in search of pleasure and climate will confine themselves to the resorts of their own country. The hotel manager is, therefore, rejoicing, as he has not done in many years. The thermometer had hardly begun to show zero tendencies when the restless globe trotters began checking baggage to the Southern resorts. December and early January will witness an unprecedented exodus to the sunny lands of Florida. However, there are those who will not venture further than Virginia, Georgia and Carolina resorts on account of the rather uncertain conditions. Many of these hotels opened earlier than usual on account of the unusual demand. Those accommodating guests before the regular time were the Carolina, Pinehurst; the Magnolia, St. Augustine; the Court Inn, Camden, N. C.; the Partridge Inn, Augusta, and The Breakers, Palm Beach.

Both the west and east coasts of Florida will profit by the lack of European travel. While the leisure class will increase travel, there is less among the middle class, which usually takes holiday journeys.

Bellaire, one of the principal resorts of the west coast of Florida, the prospects are for a brilliant season, with no cottages to let at 98 per cent of the hotel bookings already assured. Palm Beach, the queen of winter playgrounds, will have one of the gayest seasons in years. Every cottage has been rented, and those who hesitated



MORNING BATHING AT PALM BEACH

Photo by William H. Kitzel

will have to seek other quarters. The hotel bookings also indicate a prosperous season. While December 24 was set for the opening of The Breakers, guests were accommodated almost two weeks in advance. It is officially reported that the reservations for Nassau have increased 89 per cent over former years.

Many prominent New Yorkers will go to Bellaire the early part of January for the opening of the Bellevue. Golf enthusiasts particularly are attracted there on account of the exceptionally fine links, ranging in yardage from 3,763 to 6,218, with turf putting greens. It is often referred to as the "Golfers' Paradise," so ideal are the conditions. Bellaire has the advantage of being delightfully located on the

edge of the Gulf of Mexico and overlooks the shores for miles. It is just twenty-five miles west of Tampa and near other points of interest. For those who do not enjoy the strenuous exercise of the golf courses there are many attractive jaunts—a walk or drive among orange trees and the sweet-scented jessamine. In the morning there is a concert on the piazza of the Bellevue and a dance in the evening.

At Palm Beach, so diversified are the amusements, it is like trying to keep up with a three-ring circus, for so much in the day is dull. The ambitious golfer, enthusiastic tennis player or ardent angler is up with the birds and sometimes enjoys his favorite sport before the breakfast hour.

By 10 o'clock everybody is up and doing. The beach becomes a scene of interest and activity for those who go in the surf, as well as those who remain on the sands or recline in a beach chair. From the Casino the crowd moves to the Breakers for that unique "cocktail" hour and dancing on the piazza. In the afternoon golfers bag their sticks and tennis players their rackets and are off for Coconut Grove to enjoy a thés dansant among picturesque trees and subdued red lights flickering through the green overhead. Nine o'clock finds the same dancers in the ballroom or grill of the Royal Poinciana. One of the features of the season is the annual ball at the Poinciana, which varies every season. There is also what is known as

the "golf and tennis ball." Then there are those delightful jungle rides for those who want seclusion. Sojourners at Palm Beach rarely make the home journey without a trip to Miami. The disciples of Isaac Walton find these parts particularly fruitful with more than 100 varieties of fish to tempt the rod. In houseboats and power craft these anglers cruise from Miami to Key West in pursuit of the sport and many notable catches have been made. King fish, amberjack, Spanish mackerel and the sporty tarpon are among the specimens most desired in these waters. It is only a jump from Miami to Nassau, where you are in the real tropics with a climate always around 70. Here in the

little capital of the Bahamas there is much to do besides sleep and eat. There is surf bathing where the water never chills, golf, tennis, fishing and sailing under the most attractive conditions. In the gardens of the Hotel Colonial there are two courses for court golf, a game originating in Nassau, and which has found popularity in the United States and Canada. These games of miniature golf attract many players for the weekly tournaments leading up to the championship match on March 22, the finals being played in the evening, with colored lights. When the tropical moon shines over all the garden is a rare picture. It is needless to say the event proves an attraction for the visitors.

A feature recently added to the out-

door life at Nassau is pony racing and polo. The Governor's cup, Ward Line and Colonial sweepstakes are events in which these riders will take part. There is also riding, driving, motoring, cycling and plenty of dancing to fill in the days at Nassau.

If the winter pilgrim does not visit St. Augustine on the way down he is pretty sure to stop on the return journey. No one should miss this historic spot. Here the outdoor amusements consist of golf, fishing, tennis, horseback riding, driving and automobile riding, being somewhat a change from the life at Palm Beach and Miami. Motoring and aviation are among sports to be enjoyed at Daytona, just 110 miles from Jacksonville. Sea Breeze, right at hand, has splendid

## Golfers, Anglers and Surf Bath-ers, as Well as Mere Tourists, Are There.

golfing on the Clarendon links. Among the attractions of a trip to Florida there is the fishing camp on Long Key, an island 477 miles south of Jacksonville. Every thought has been given to the comfort and convenience of the Nimrods who visit there, and everything is supplied from a launch to fishing tackle.

The sojourner here must not look for luxury, but neat and comfortable cottages are at his disposal and he may have his seafood according to his taste. This year there will be unusual interest in fishing on the east coast with the Saltfish Club to regulate the sport. This club was organized last season at Palm Beach with John D. Crimmins, of New York, as president. Prizes are offered, and while the membership is confined to men there are special competitions for women. Last season Mrs. John S. Phipps and Mrs. Arthur Scott Burden were among those to cast lucky lines. Mr. Crimmins became famous as an angler when in company with the late Grover Cleveland and Joseph Jefferson he fished in these waters. Among the members are John Dunbar Adams, Reginald Brooks, Clifford Brokaw, Henry C. Phipps, John S. Phipps, Stuart Duncan, Michael P. Grace, Payne Whitney, John F. Harris, Cortland Godwin, Lawrence Waterbury, Jean H. E. Saint Cyr, Leonard Thomas, Dave Elkins, Stephen B. Elkins, J. Dunbar Wright, Arthur Middleton and J. E. Rumbough.

No matter whether the pleasure and climate seekers choose Florida or California, the sources for amusement are so varied that the Americans who stay in their own country not from choice may find a new inspiration in the sunshine and flowers of their own land.

## Public School Policies, Plans and Accomplishments are set forth here.

### DR. WIRT TELLS PARENTS HIS PLAN COMBINES WORK, PLAY, HOME DUTIES — THEY WATCH FOR RESULTS.

Edited by L. E. TUCKER.

Mayor Mitchell, President Churchill of the Board of Education, Associate Superintendent William A. McAndrew and other city educational officials have been investigating the schools of Gary, Ind., with the result that the school organization plan of that city is being tested in several schools in this city. Superintendent Wirt, of Gary, has been placed in charge of this important experiment.

One of the schools so chosen is Public School 89, in Newkirk av., Brooklyn. The reason for Superintendent Wirt's selection of this school for one of the experimental ones was that conditions in it are very badly congested. For a long time—several years—the parents of the children in Public School 89 have been clamoring for a new building, but the school building appropriation has not been of sufficient size to provide the necessary money. Therefore, there has been no new building, and great has been the dissatisfaction in the neighborhood.

In October this school was reorganized on the Gary plan of school organization. The school is fortunate in the possession of an unusually wide-awake parents' association, the members of which have been watching with interest the working of the Gary plan. To be sure, all of the members of it are by no means satisfied with the new plan, due, probably, partly to the fact that all do not yet understand the plan and partly to the fact that others have not been able to readily give up the idea for which they have so long been striving, namely, the idea that a new building is necessary for the needs of their children. Now that the new plan has been working for nearly three months and the parents have had the opportunity to study the work that is being done with their children, Dr. Wirt is most anxious that the parents understand the aim and should follow the progress of the work. Therefore, a meeting of parents was held in Public School 89, and Dr. Wirt explained to the parents the working of his plan as follows: "My work," said Dr. Wirt, "is the reorganization of the school in a fashion as to bring greater facilities to the children. The fact that congestion is relieved and that two schools can thus be housed in the building which was formerly occupied by one is merely an incident and not a direct aim of the plan.

"City life in New York has changed perhaps more than in other large

every 100-minute period spent in the classroom. Moreover, he made clear to the parents that relaxation through calisthenics is by no means the same kind of relaxation which is obtained through play, because calisthenic work makes heavy demands upon the child's attention.

"It is a question," continued Dr. Wirt, "as to how each child can spend his school time most profitably. There is no reason why the public school system should not do for the children what is best for those children. The average public school takes the child too early in the day and keeps it too late for the child to have sufficient time at his disposal to enable him to profitably devote to other interests. When these other things are taken up when the child is tired he loses much of the benefit from the work.

"Of course, the ideal school plant would have to be arranged as a combination between the Park Department and the Educational Department of any city. The Park Department should purchase ten acres and the school board should buy the adjoining land for a school site. This is what is done in Gary. Then each building has shop room, library facilities, a swimming pool and lockers and dressing rooms. On an average a building used by 2,000 children in the daytime would be used at night by two young men and young women at night. In other words, the school-house served as a free community club.

"This can be done in New York, for this is what is now being done in Public School 89. Land prices have risen so high here that it would be impossible to get sufficient facilities, if all the children are to work on one shift. In each school building there should be two or three separate schools, grouped under the same administrative staff, to be sure, but as separate and distinct as if they were housed in different buildings. For instance, during the same period, School 1 could be doing arithmetic, School 2 could be enjoying a library hour and School 3 could be playing. At the end of the period they could alternate in their different varieties of work, and so on. This cost would be reduced and the children would progress faster and would receive a more rounded kind of education. If the family desires let the older daughter go home and get the family dinner instead of taking a cooking lesson. She may learn cooking from her mother a little less scientifically than from her cooking teacher, but she will also learn the lesson of helpfulness.

"What Gary has done in its poverty," concluded Dr. Wirt, "surely New York City in its wealth can do. If the Gary plan of the combination of recreation, study, play and home helpfulness are combined this community will spend far less for school accommodations and more for real education."

At the close of Dr. Wirt's explanation of his plan many of the parents warmly endorsed his views, but others expressed their preference for the old type of education and more buildings. Perhaps a few more months of the working out of this plan will convince them also of its educational soundness. Mr. Parsons, the engineer who is working on removing the rocks in Hell Gate, stated that he had lived in Gary for at least two or three times during

period his two children attended the Gary schools and they now attend the schools of Flushing. Mr. Parsons made a comparison of the schools of Gary with those against the Flushing schools. He said: "My children loved the Gary schools, and still eagerly wish that they could return to them. Here they are overworked and their health suffers. I hope that the Gary plan is put in throughout the city."

Mrs. Alice Ritter, principal of Public School 89, expressed herself as heartily in favor of the plan. She commented that she had started it with many misgivings.

It now remains to be seen in the ten schools to be placed under Superintendent Wirt's direction what will be the actual results as tested by the highest educational standards. The public is watching with interest this important educational experiment.

### MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENTS.

A demonstration recital of the Helen Maigille method of voice culture was given on last Tuesday afternoon in the school building, 134 West 82d st. Mme. Maigille teaches by actual demonstration, and her system of training has been endorsed by the most eminent vocal specialists and authorities on voice culture. Mme. Maigille presented two of her most talented pupils—Dorothy Maynard and Greta Stoeckle. They sang in French, German, English and Italian, and the programme included songs by Brahms, Franz, Faure, Hue, Ronald, Kramer, Borsdorf, and "Batterly" by Puccini. Dorothy Maynard displayed a soprano voice of good range and very agreeable quality, which she handled with taste and skill. Greta Stoeckle, who comes from Wilmington, Del., sings with much expression and style, and was also well received. An audience composed of lovers of music applauded with great enthusiasm. Mme. Maigille was heartily congratulated after the concert for the good showing made by her pupils. Elmer Zoller accompanied.

Paolo Martucci, pianist and teacher, 217 West 11th st., played the "First moments" given last Friday afternoon in the ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria. He is the son of the famous composer of the same name who died a few years ago, and he played his father's scherzo with sympathetic treatment.

Mrs. Margaretha Kirpal, teacher of singing, 140 Barclay st., Flushing, Long Island, owing to the many demands made upon her time by her New York City pupils, has opened a studio at 124 West 34th st., where she will teach on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. One of Mrs. Kirpal's pupils is the teacher of Allan McLeran, of Grace Church.

The Bertrand de Bernz Opera, Concert and Oratorio Society of New York, of which Bertrand de Bernz is president, and which is organized with the object of creating a fund for the purpose of assisting talented young Americans without means to become vocal artists and to secure opportunities for them has appointed a fund committee of the society.

RESORTS.

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