STORY OF ONE SOPRANO.

A TYPICAL EXPERIENCE OF AN AMBITIOUS AMERICAN GIRL.

As in Many Other Cases, She and Her Friends Imagined That She Had an Operatic Career Before Her and She Went to Paris to Study.

This girl's experience was not unlike that of many other Americans. Nevertheless it is of interest because stories of the kind are rarely told, and the narrative of her struggles may serve as a warning to others just as ambitious as she was and just as little able to carry out the plans she had made and her friends had dreamed for her.

She was one of that large army of American women who set out to make a name in the operatic world and come, if not to grief, at least to a lot that falls far short of their aspirations. She was living in her native Western city six years ago, and in the opinion of her family and those of the townspeople who knew her, there was nothing in the career she was already contemplating, that was beyond her grasp. She was already singing in a church choir, and it was considered a settled fact that Helen, as she may be called, was going to be an opera singer. She had taken lessons from a local teacher, and for six months she had gone to a conservatory in a neighboring large city where there was a professor who had studied abroad and was supposed to be capable of carrying her further along in her work. So Helen already had the supposed advantage of some musical education and was not looked upon in the community as a complete amateur.

She sang for all the visiting celebrities that came to the town to whom she could get access. She did not confine these exhibitions to the visiting vocalists. She sang for pianists and violinists, for actors, and even for eminent persons in no way connected with her art who visited the place. Her uncle was the manager of the local theatre and in that way she had facilities for getting to these notabilities that not all aspirants possess.

Naturally, all these people told her that she had a beautiful voice. Perhaps some of the laymen of the artistic world told her that she sang beautifully, but it is doubtful if the professionals even in their desire to be agreeable said anything of the kind to her. She had a clear, beautiful soprano voice and pleased the ear always to the extent that it was possible for the quality of her voice to do that; but she was entirely untrained in its use; and every person of experience knows that it is impossible to predict a future for any woman merely because she possesses a fine natural voice.

Beautiful voices are said to be met with more frequently in the United States than in any other country, and no man or woman of experience would ever predict in all seriousness that an American girl was going to be a great singer merely because the quality of her voice made such a career possible. So the occasional great ones who heard Helen sing told her that she had a fine natural organ and generally remarked that she needed a great deal of study. When it came to the question of advice most of them shied, because they know the consequences likely to follow such interference.

She was satisfied, anyhow, to be told that her voice was more than ordinarily good. That seemed to her and her friends sufficient promise of her future greatness, and strengthened in her the determination to go to Europe and make whatever use she could there of the talents which she thought could not be properly trained in her own land. That is one of the convictions of every ambitious American girl who looks to the stage, and it is easily understood why she should believe so firmly in the value of a foreign training. All of her country women who have achieved eminence have begun their careers abroad.

This girl's case was so much like nearly all the others that the question of money, of course, came up. Her parents had a little, but it was needed for household expenses and their scale of expenditure included nothing so costly as a European trip. The money had to be raised then. The amount needed at that time seemed very small in view of the great results that it was to accomplish. Was it not agreed that Helen had a fine voice and had not one pianist who heard her said that it was as fine as Nordica's at her age? Another had said it reminded him of Eames's, although he thought it was even more powerful. Had not the famous judge who came to the town to lecture said that he had never heard an opera singer in Europe whose voice moved him so much as Helen's had when she sang at the Fourth of July celebration?

All these tributes were evidence of her great talent that seemed to admit of no dispute. All the friends of the family agreed that it was a shame that she did not go abroad and study, and the teacher in Cincinnati, although he thought she should remain at least a year longer under his instruction, was ready to give her a letter to the famous Frenchman whose method, the only surviving system of the real Italian school of *bel canto*, and whose principles he had brought to the new world. There was no ground for doubt in the matter. It seemed a shame if the small sum of a few thousand dollars could not be raised for Helen to go abroad and develop this wonderful talent.

This feeling in the community spread to a man of wealth there who had never heard her sing until she came to his house one night and delivered "Home, Sweet Home" and "Kathleen Mavourneen" for his benefit. This convinced him, although he had never heard an opera in his life and had never been known to attend a concert, that all the reports he had heard of her voice were true, and he was willing to contribute $1,000 toward her expenses abroad provided it was looked upon only as an advance to be repaid when she should have begun to earn money. It was possible for her father, by careful economy, to add $200 to this sum and two of her aunts raised as much between them. It was settled, too, that when Helen got to Paris she should receive as much from her father as he could send toward paying the expenses of her living there. As it afterward turned out it took all the relatives could get together by self-denial and scrimping to keep their part of this contract.

When the girl thus started for Europe with no conception of what the real cost of her undertaking was to be, her information on the subject having been supplied by the local teacher from what she had heard and by the professor in Cincinnati, she had no more definite knowledge of what she was to do than came from a letter to the music teacher from whom she had heard only through a pupil here. She knew, of course, two or three of the great names among the foreign teachers, but what they were able to do best with her voice she had no idea. Her eyes were fixed on Paris, and her only plan was to present the letter to the teacher as soon as she reached there. She had the address of a boarding house to which she had written and with this splendid supply of worldly knowledge she set out with entire confidence that everything predicted for her was going to come true.

Her idea was to study for about a year, which she concluded would be quite enough in view of her previous instruction and her experience in public singing. The latter consisted of a few appearances in charity concerts at home, and in the conservatory at which she studied. But she had the self-confidence of youth and of her nation and she was certain that it would not be a matter of more than twelve months before the realization of her ambitions would begin to come.

She met on the steamer a singing teacher who heard her in the steamer concert, asked her with whom she was going to study in Paris, and expressed horror when she learned the name of the professor she was going to.

"He'll ruin your voice in six months," the woman protested. "And besides he's not the sort of teacher for a woman with a voice like yours. You ought to go to Bologna. She's just the woman for you, and I'll give you a letter to her, but don't think of going to that German, whatever you do. I know he has an Italian name, and talks about teaching an Italian method, but he'll take your money, and not do you a bit of good, if he does not injure your voice permanently."

In vain Helen mentioned the list of his most famous pupils. The teacher would not hear to it, and insisted in any case she must take a letter to Mme. Bologna. This experience was a little bit disheartening to the girl who had not been about long enough to know that all singing teachers talk in that way about one another, denouncing as frauds all but the one who happens to have taught them. Usually they will recommend their teacher only for the sake of keeping pupils away from others and in their hearts they always believe that they have acquired what they know, not through any merit of their instructors, but from their own superior knowledge or intuition.

Several persons that she met on the steamer told of friends of theirs who had gone to Paris and had their voices ruined or remarkably developed by this person or that. It seemed surprising to her, coming as she did from a small town, that information on the subject of singers and teachers should have been so widely disseminated. She was keen enough to see that with all this denunciation and praise of various professors it was as safe for her to go to the one to whom she had an introduction as to any other.

In Paris her life was the same as that led by the hundreds of American girls who were there before her and are there to-day. The boarding house was cheap, although when winter came and the question of fires arose it was more expensive than she had expected. The autumn did not agree with her, and for a month she was not able to study. She could practice in the boarding house only during certain hours of the day, and as the transient guests who paid more than she came and went it was sometimes necessary for her to change this arrangement to suit their convenience.

The American students she met seemed to be supplied with remarkable self-confidence. They dismissed singers of great reputation with slight comment, and praised none of them. The women usually said after they came home from one of the performances at the opera that if they couldn't do better than those people they would never think of going on the operatic stage. Some of them seemed to have been there a remarkably long time still to be students. One girl had been there for six years.

"I'm in no hurry," she said, "because you see one really has to know so much. You see you have to study pantomime and acting and diction and then all the traditions of the rôles so that really the time slips by before you realize how long you have been here. I did think that I could prepare in two years at the most, but there was always something more to be learned. Now I am studying the rôle of *Manon* with a stage manager of the Opéra Comique who coached Sanderson in the part. He tells me that I'll do it lots better, and I expect to get a chance next fall at Bruges. The manager of the theatre there came to see Madame about a soprano next year and she mentioned my name to him. I'm going to sing for him next week."

She did not mention that the manager had said he would take the soprano if she would sing for three months for nothing, provide her own costumes, and trust to being engaged for the other three if he happened to like her. The teacher knew it was almost a foregone conclusion he would not like her. As for the second half of the season he would probably look for some one else to sing for nothing on trial in the hopes of being engaged for the following year. The teacher did not think badly of that proposition, and advised the pupil to accept it in spite of the fact that she had spent during her six years in Paris nearly all the money that her friends in America had raised for her, and that a New York woman was just at that time trying to raise a fund of $3,000 to keep her abroad for another year.

Helen heard all of this in talks with students who had never once come before the public to have their own qualities tried. It surprised her at first, but she grew accustomed to it, and did not know enough of operatic matters to recognize that the only singers they ever spoke of well were nobodies appearing in some small town.

But her own affairs were troubling her too much for her to devote thought to what the others were doing. She was studying with the teacher to whom she had brought her letter. She thought she was getting on without being in the least certain of it. He had heard her sing on her arrival and had told her that she had a beautiful voice, and that he thought within about three years he would have her ready for the stage. He was one of the eminent men, or at all events one of the much talked of ones in his own business, and his prices were high.

She was shrewd enough not to tell him that she expected to stay only a year with him. It seemed to her at times that her voice did not sound as it had, but she was too ignorant of musical methods to know whether or not she was right, and she had nobody to ask. One day she thoughtlessly intimated that she did not expect to stay more than a year abroad, and when he questioned her she told him that it would be impossible for her to remain there for four years, for she couldn't afford it. The next week he stopped teaching her alone and put her in a class with six girls.

Then she was more uncertain than ever as to the progress she was making. To every question he answered that she must wait, that after awhile the effects of her study would begin to be apparent. She knew very little French, and he luckily spoke English.

After eight months she was convinced that her voice was not so good as it had been, and after consulting an American student she had met in Paris she went with her to another teacher. It was only necessary for her to mention the name of her teacher to throw the woman into a fury of denunciation.

"He's ruining your voice," she cried, "just as he does every woman's when she has a dramatic soprano like yours. He's making you sing piano, piano, piano until you wont have a bit of voice left. Get away from him as soon as you can."

She did not say "Come to me," but she meant that. Four weeks more of the term with her first teacher remained, and after that Helen was studying with the woman who was teaching her acquaintance. The first year of her work abroad which was to have completed her preparation was drawing to an end. Of the real art that was to make her as great as she wanted to be, there was not yet the slightest trace.

Her pride prevented her from returning to America, but it did not prevent her from getting the family to send over enough money for another year. Already she had written back of her great progress because that seemed the least she could do to those at home. They were struggling, and so was she for that matter, although the work was not producing the results they had all expected.

She got along better with the new teacher who was but little known, and she felt herself that she was beginning to get some grasp on the art she was struggling to learn. She felt herself improving. There was never any prospect of engagements or of any means by which she might make money. The first year had gone, a complete loss of time and of the fund that she had brought abroad with her. Several times she told her teacher that she was anxious to get to work to earn money as soon as possible. The woman knew better than to discourage her, but one day she talked to her frankly.

"My dear girl," she said, "you do not know French well enough to sing in any French theatre, and you have never learned a note of Italian. The study of these two subjects will take you at least a year. You have a good voice and you are learning now how to sing. How are you going to appear and be paid anywhere when you have had no experience, are ignorant of foreign languages, have never yet studied diction, nor *mise-en-scène* and have nearly every practical part of an opera singer's work to study except the singing? So you must wait and be patient and look forward to the time when you will know these things and will be ready to come before the public. Then we will see what can be done."

Helen heard stories of her fellow students' careers that seemed strangely at variance with their satisfied mien and self-possession before they tried to become professional. One girl had paid $500 for the privilege of singing three times at Nice, and had had to buy her costumes for these operas. Nobody had engaged her after that, although the critics spoke very kindly of her. Another had gone to Holland to sing for six weeks for nothing, and her family was still supporting her. Half a dozen others had appeared in different provincial cities at trial performances and never had any offers after that. To one had been promised an appearance at the Opéra Comique for which she was to be paid nothing, and she had waited for six months before she got the opportunity. The most she had got for it was a line in the French newspapers announcing that she had sung.

The men appeared to be doing very little better. They seemed always to be singing for managers who never engaged them permanently, or they were going to distant places and appearing for a few weeks at a time gratuitously in the hope that they might be hired. And all of these men and women had been from three to five years in Paris, knew the operatic languages perfectly and had influential friends who were helping them. The only prize that went to the group was won by a girl who was engaged for four months in a Belgian town at a salary of $60 a week. Out of that she was compelled to buy her own costumes or wear those left behind by her predecessor.

It all seemed a hopeless struggle, entirely unlike the spontaneous acknowledgment of ability that Helen had expected to encounter so soon as her education was completed. Nobody talked especially of her among the students, and it was a fact that a dozen women in Paris then among the Americans had voices quite as good as hers. None of them seemed to realize the truth that the great singer was not so much dependent on her voice as on her art. Helen did not know this, but she was beginning to feel that her task was something more serious than she had ever taken it to be.

The second year of her stay in Paris was coming to an end. She had never sung in public and had appeared only at concerts given by her teacher. Other girls, who had been studying much longer and sang much better than she, were evidently no nearer realizing their ambitions. Managers heard them sing at the concerts and heard them in their theatres, and always wondered how much they were willing to pay for a début, or for how long they could be had free of charge.

Helen's nature was essentially practical, and she had never become so much saturated as many of her colleagues by what they called the atmosphere of the music rooms in Paris. She knew now perfectly well that the game was entirely different from what she had in her ignorance supposed. If she saw Americans in Paris who had been there for several years and sang much better than she did, she also saw others who had been there twice as long and had not learned so much. She had kept her clear American sense about her, and it was the futility of the thing that decided her to go home, swallow her pride as much as possible and try to do the best she could when she got there. Possibly if plenty of money had been forthcoming she would never have adopted this sagacious course, but the money was at an end. So, to the astonishment of her teacher, who railed at the impatience of Americans, she left Paris after an experience that had cost her two years of time and in money nearly $3,000. She had undoubtedly learned something about her art, but not enough to lift her above the level of a hundred other girls, and she was still far below the art of the illustrious country women who had inspired her to begin the task of becoming a great singer.

Her acquaintances in Paris viewed her departure supercilliously, and it seemed to so many of them a mere acknowledgment of failure that Helen took resort in the fiction that she expected to return the following year. Some of the women looked at her obviously when she had come to the decision about returning.

"You know I envy you more than I can say," one of them told her, "and I only wish that I had the courage to go back; but I have the money to stay here another year, and I wrote to the people who sent it to me to stick it out. If you did not know the truth I might tell you that I was making wonderful progress, that all the managers in Europe wanted me, and that my teacher told me I was to be a second Nilsson; but none of those things is true. I have been here four years, and in the past six months I had the same chances to sing for nothing in third-rate theatres that every woman has, but nobody talks of paying me for my work, and so far as I can see I am no nearer to-day to the sort of début that I expected to make than I was two years ago.

"Like seven out of ten women who came here I expect to go back and teach, which is probably the best I shall ever be able to do. My family and friends at home are expecting me to blaze up any day and extinguish all the other prima donnas. If they only knew! Why since I have been here I have heard only a dozen women who can sing better than I do and being foreigners are able to speak the language too, and they seem to be having just as hard a time as I am."

This was some comfort to Helen, and as the steamer neared New York she was more confident of her powers than she ever had been in Paris. Her family only knew that she was coming back because she had better opportunities here, and they supposed she had really found a profitable engagement. It was a little disappointing that she was not to make her début in Europe, but they were reconciled to that.

As a matter of fact she had no more plans in New York than she had in Paris. She was not so inexperienced, and she knew the names of a few managers, but that was all. She stopped long enough here to make the rounds of their offices. Again it was the question of the unknown beginner. They said they could not get her engagements because nobody knew her. Could she pay $500 or $300 or $200 to be advertised? They listened to her in a perfunctory way when she sang for them and when they found there was no money forthcoming seemed less interested than ever.

One did get her an appearance at a charity concert for which she received nothing. He did that because he threw in a soprano for nothing along with a baritone and a violinist, for whose services he had been paid. She was frightened to death, and did herself no manner of justice, but the audience was pleased, and she felt that her career had begun. The manager did have confidence enough in her to get her two or three engagements to sing during the early part of the winter. He paid her $50 and she deducted from that her travelling expenses.

Apparently the supply of singers was just as great here as abroad. Singers with church places could afford to live on such outside concert work as came her way. It was too irregular and the pay too meagre for her to do more than exist on it poorly. There were all sorts of expenses that eat up the fees she got from the concerts. She had to be well dressed when she sang and to have a carriage and an accompanist to work with her. Two concert appearances a month at $50 paid poorly for this.

Her one triumph came when she returned to her native town to give a concert there. It was a great event, and it seemed to her friends as if every promise of her youth had been fully fulfilled. They applauded her enthusiastically, not more enthusiastically probably than they had before, and she thought of that and the weary months that had intervened. This triumph in her own town did not blind her to the fact that even a living was not to be made out of her singing in concert as she had begun here. It was a question of teaching or of finding some means of using her talent more profitably than she could in the ambitious way she had attempted it.

That opportunity came to her unexpectedly. The continuous theatres are constantly seeking new performers. One day the manager, who had got for her the few engagements she received here, suggested that she sing for one of these. The proposition seemed to her at first a little louder proclamation of failure than any of her plans had been since she came back, but money was needed just then, and she took his advice. That was two years ago. Last spring she was singing in one of the theatres here.

"I'm singing in continuous vaudeville," she said, "when I set out to be a grand opera singer, and for three years I have earned $12 a week for forty weeks of the year. I suppose some of my fellow pupils in Paris would think that I had fallen from my artistic scale, but the most successful of them wrote me from Paris the other day that she had got back there after singing all winter in one of the French opera houses in a provincial city and she told me that she had not been able to save enough from the salary they paid her to live through the summer, without writing home for help. So I don't think my case is the worst."

MODERN APARTMENT HOTEL.

Some of the Later Wrinkles to Be Found in Their Equipment.

"The modern apartment hotel," said the manager of such an establishment, "is likely to have for one of its features a complete telephone system, with an exchange of its own. Every tenant has a telephone in his own apartment, with local and long distance connection. He can have this telephone right beside his bed, if he wants it there, so that he can telephone to anybody, anywhere, without getting up, if he so desires. But it is for communication within the house that this telephone system is brought into the most common and constant use.

"It is not necessary, for instance, to send a boy up to the apartment to ascertain if somebody whom a visitor desires to see is in. We simply telephone from the office to the apartment and ascertain the fact in one-tenth the time it would take a boy to go and come. The tenant has a perfect means of instant communication with the office without leaving his apartment at all.

"The manager, or superintendent, on his part has communication from his office with the chef and with the engineer and with the housekeeper, and so on; so that he can speak with any of these persons of the house staff or any of them can speak with him, all without any running to and fro, without any loss of time.

"Such an installation costs something, but on the other hand a house thus equipped requires only half as many hall boys as one without such equipment.

"A newer wrinkle is the providing of a safe deposit box for every tenant. A section of the big house safe is divided into separate small locked compartments one of which is set apart for each tenant.

"Though the apartments may not be designed for housekeeping, the tenants, at their pleasure, eating in the dining room of the hotel, or elsewhere, as they see fit, yet the modern apartment hotel has a refrigerator in every compartment; this for wine, and fruit and that sort of thing. In some buildings no ice is used in these refrigerators which are cold storage rooms in miniature, kept cold by means of a refrigerating plant installed in the basement with a system of piping extending to every refrigerator box. In some buildings ice refrigerators are preferred, these of course being specially designed for the use.

"In one house there have been built, for example, refrigerators designed to hold an ice block of a specified size, the ice being supplied by the house, the tenant having nothing to bother with about it, at all. At fixed intervals, according to the weather, the house removes whatever ice may be remaining in the ice compartment of the refrigerator and puts in a new block. In the latest of modern apartment hotels, in apartments not designed for housekeeping, which may be had in any number of rooms from two up, a refrigerator and bath room, of course would be found in a two-room apartment, the same as in any other."

No Better Home Papers Published than THE SUN and EVENING SUN. Embodying as they do all up-to-date fashion and society notes, and other matters cultivating and refining in their influence and of interest to all women.—Adv.

FILIPINOS ARE WELL OFF.

AN ARMY OFFICER'S VIEW OF THE SITUATION NOW.

Far More Liberty Granted to the Filipinos Than They Ever Expected to Get Under a Republic of Their Own—The Problem of the Friars—Capabilities of the People.

One of the General officers of the army, who has seen much service in the Philippines, has written to a friend in this city a letter discussing the situation there as he sees it, of which this is a part:

"You want to know how things are progressing. Well, I think we are doing well. The Civil Commission has worked hard and is an excellent body of men. Just at the present time, during the formative period of the Government, it is of the utmost importance that only strong, able men should be put at the helm of State. The commission is making every effort possible to select only first-class men, and I believe is succeeding very well.

"You doubtless remember that, notwithstanding I sometimes fight Filipinos, I always advocated a kind and considerate, just and generous policy. I think the great majority of officers agreed with me. There was an occasional exception of a blackguard in shoulder straps who thought it a fine thing to tyrannize over defenceless and ignorant people, but he was the great exception. For the above reasons our people have continued to pursue a mild and benignant policy, notwithstanding their hard fighting. Now our people are beginning to see the result, and to say I told you so.

"The people, worn out with the exactions of insurgents and the intimidating policy pursued by them, resulting many times in assassinations or torture, have had time and opportunity to reflect upon the difference between what Americans really are and what they have been represented to be by designing persons. The consequence is decidedly favorable to us.

"At the present time Americans are everywhere, in every town, almost, in the archipelago. All natives, except a few savages, who don't count, who exhilarate in the atmosphere of mountain peaks, have had a chance to mingle with and know Americans. This is also in our favor. Gen. Tinio, who surrendered a few days ago, remarked that with the Spaniards they would certainly have succeeded because the Spaniards would have helped them some by their cruel reprisals on those whom they caught and on friendly people, thus converting them into real insurgents, but that the Americans had been so kind, so just and so liberal with the people it was hard to convince them that they needed independence to achieve their happiness; that notwithstanding it was a time of war the Americans had granted them more personal liberty than they have ever expected to enjoy on earth. Under such conditions it was pretty difficult to make people take their lives in their hands to fight for an ideal which they really had no hope of attaining.

"Cruel war engenders bitterness and mutual hatred. This was true in our Civil War, after which it was very difficult for Southern people to forgive the Government. This bitterness lasted thirty years or more and there are still many unreconstructed among the women, but I have yet to know a single sane person who wanted to have civil war again. So I think it will be with these people.

"There will be bitterness, but it will wear away in time, and I don't believe they will want any more insurrection. I am not meaning to say, however, there may not be ambitious blackguards with no consideration for any one's interest but their own, who may get up small uprisings and give the Government a small bit of trouble, but the people will not be with them. It will not be a general uprising such as we have struggled against for several years. No sensible man could fail to expect such uprisings from a people who had been dominated and trained by Spaniards. We Americans are too familiar with Mexican and South and Central American history not to expect to hear of somebody wanting to 'revolute' every week or so.

"Under the American Government I really believe those people are going to get more than they originally demanded in the nature of reforms from the Spaniards. They will meet with one keen disappointment, however, I fear; they will not secure their long-hoped-for joy of seeing the religious orders kicked out of the islands. Uncle Sam has too much respect for time-honored principles to be guilty of such violence, but that is where he is a chump. We ought to kick them out, and I would hail the day with delight when the last mother's son of them shook the dust of the Philippines from his feet.

"They are going to be a thorn in our side forever. Uncle Sam's principles are all right, but they were made for civilized people. He forgets that and wants to apply them indiscriminately. These people are not civilized, and they are not fit for a forbearing, self-restraining government like that of the United States. Neither are these Spanish priests. They are a miserable lot, these Spanish friars, and don't deserve to be treated like civilized beings.

"Now, I want it understood I am not attacking the Catholic religion. I am more than half Catholic myself; but these *padres* are not disciples of Christ or ministers of the Gospel. They are a lot of merchants, and their corporation is a pure business one, which they have reduced to a science and understand down to the ground. They are experts in their line. Their business is to wheedle money out of the faithful, and they do it by means of cultivating superstition and idol worship.

"There isn't enough religion in the whole institution to fill your wife's thimble. Every American priest who has had the nerve to be independent has been disgusted at the manner in which the great Catholic Church has been administered in these islands. These people have stopped at committing no crime in the name of religion. They have seduced the young and innocent, have accomplished the killing of those who opposed them, have robbed the ignorant by inspiring them with an overpowering fear of purgatory or hell. Their sole business in these islands has been to collect money, not to propagate religion.

"I have been using pretty strong language, but I pledge you my word of honor I have not exaggerated in the slightest degree, and I will also say with perfect sincerity and truth that I have not the slightest particle of prejudice against these people. For instance, I have stated nothing about the priests having families and raising children. Of course it is a violation of their vows of celibacy, but that is nothing, for they ought never to have made any such vows. It is unnatural, and I have generally found that there is too much of the animal in every man to be restrained by vows. They have generally been kind to their families and educated their children, whom they cannot acknowledge. The country is full of children who are proud of the fact that their fathers are friars. I could probably furnish you a list of 100 persons descended from friars, giving you the names of the persons and of the friars who begot them.

"But to return to our progress. Civil governments are being established everywhere. The people are really pleased with them. Military men, as a rule, do not interfere with their action within the limits of their proper discretion. We will never have such a state of society as exists in America until these people are born again and educated. This may come in about one hundred years, but, if I am not greatly mistaken, only a miracle will ever succeed in breeding all the Malay out of these people.

"They have all the bad qualities of Malays. They lie and steal, and have no more sympathy for some one poorer than themselves, who needs their sympathy and assistance, than they have for a dog or a horse. You know how much sympathy they have for them. They will rob the poor much more freely than they will the rich, because there is not so much danger of punishment following the act.

"In this district which I am now commanding ignorance exists to an alarming degree. The poor are as completely dominated by the *principalia* as the privates in one of our brigades by their General, even more so. They rob them and exploit them. Tenants are practically slaves. Such an idea as helping them to rise and improve their condition does not exist, even in embryo, in the minds of the *gente fina*. However, for the present I guess this condition is preferable to labor unions and trusts.

"We will be a long time convincing the average official who gets a chance to steal or squeeze somebody that honesty is the best policy. If we could accomplish this, our task would be comparatively simple. It must come by years of gradual growth.

"My experience for the past three years has tended to destroy some of the sympathy I wasted on these people when I was first turned loose in the Philippines. I have not departed from my principles, which require forbearance and tolerance to their weaknesses, but my sympathies have shifted a bit. I find it in my heart to feel pretty sorry for the Spaniard. He has been misjudged and isn't half as bad a man as the average American thinks him. I sometimes wonder whether I ought to undertake to form a judgment upon such an indefinite and puzzling proposition as we have before us. But I would rather be an optimist than a pessimist, and, consequently, I am in the habit of casting my pessimistic thoughts into outer darkness and giving the glad hand to every optimistic reflection."

FUTURE OF COLLEGE GIRLS.

Opportunities for Teaching Open to Them and the Pay to Be Expected.

"There are altogether too many of them, int he first place," said the teachers' agency man in reply to a question as to the present demand for college-bred women as schoolteachers, "and they all want places that are not to be had rather than chances to teach. They wont take good grammar school places, but want a high school place.

"The college girl is full of wrong notions about the schoolteacher market when she comes out from her academic halls. She has heard of a girl who once secured a place to teach in a high school for $1,000 in her first year and she thinks there are a lot of such places waiting to be snapped up. Now, as a matter of stern fact, I can get all the college-bred girls I want, and plenty more that I wouldn't have anyway for $8 a week; and $10 to start with is good pay. As for a salary of $600 a year, that is uncommon luck. How far these figures are removed from the college girl's dream of $1,000 is obvious.

"Some of the best and brightest girls who were graduated from college last year are now teaching in high schools for $360 a year, and are glad even for the coming season to keep their places in the small towns where they are employed. Life in those towns is very often pleasant and the girls can obtain board for a moderate figure, certainly for a third less than in a congenial private family in the city, so that they are not so much to be pitied as the smallness of their salary might seem to indicate.

"Really, you know your college girl is foolish about what she wants to do. To teach classics and classical history to sixteen-year-old boys she considers a fine and ennobling career, while to teach English grammar and American history to fifteen-year-old boys she regards as wholy unworthy of her intellectual culture. I pity from the bottom of my heart those girls who are looking for places to teach Greek and Latin—imposing tongues which, though so long dead, have never yet been decently buried.

"Just about twice too many girls anyhow are going to college and trying to use their education in teaching high schools. That girl who was talking to me an hour ago, can't write a respectable English letter, but she is in search of a place as instructor in English literature. So far she has been engaged in grammar school work, and by her own account has been fairly successful at it. Now, however, she wants to leave the thing she has been learning how to do ever since she left college and get a place to do what she will never in this world be able to do properly. Is it any wonder that men like Stanley Hall say college going for girls is a calamity?

"Unless a girl's father can amply afford it and there is no need for the young woman, when graduated, to get out into the world and use her education for her bread and water, she would far better not go to college at all. It is utter folly for so many girls to be pinching themselves and their families for the sake of a college education.

"The Barnard girl thinks she's as good as anybody, but the Radcliffe girl thinks she's better than anybody. These girls have no sense of values in the economic world. They are not properly related to life. They haven't the slightest appreciation of the relative importance of a college graduate and a chance to get a well-paying place to work.

"Here's an illustration. I happened to know of a very good opportunity for a Radcliffe girl. Rather oddly, the superintendent who had a place to fill wanted a Radcliffe girl, and so I sent for one, then a senior, about whom I knew something. I told her in my note that it might be for her advantage to come and talk to me about a matter of business I had in hand, and what do you suppose she answered? Well, the reply was atrociously put together in the first place, but that is not so strange, for scarcely any college-bred girls know how to write a respectable English note, but the burden of her answer was that she was so busy with her examinations and class day arrangements that she couldn't come to see me then or indeed for another fortnight.

"The best special work now available for college-bred teachers is commercial courses in high schools, but few are fitted for it. And there are many more calls proportionately for science than for modern languages. Then comes the demand for capable teachers in English, but these, as I have said, are exceedingly hard to find among recent graduates. Another excellent opening is open to the girl who can supervise both music and drawing. For either alone there are many more people than places, but for the educated girl who can combine these two subjects the chances are very good.

"For the young woman who possesses a college degree, a Normal school training, a specialty, and some common sense, the prospects are indeed unusually good this year. In the departments of history, mathematics and natural science trained teachers are in demand. The demand for really good teachers of French is also good. By this I do not mean the girl who, after finishing her course, has gone abroad to study the languages, but the young woman who, having intelligently taken a degree at a good American college, has devoted herself to a few years' hard work in some foreign university or has travelled with a constant eye on future teaching.

"The Philippines have somewhat cleared the field this year. Three or four graduates have gone from each college and since these have seldom been the best students in their class this has taken out of the market some of the surplus supply. So, really, in spite of my grumblings about the college girl, there are tolerably good opportunities this year for girls who are willing to adjust themselves to the demand."

IMPORTED MARBLE.

The Old Ways and the New of Bringing It Here and of Handling It.

"The difference between old ways of doing thing and new," said a man acquainted with the marble trade, "is shown in the manner of handling imported marbles at this port. Formerly all the various kinds of fine Italian marble received here were brought in sailing ships, most being landed at Corlears Hook, on the East River, just below Grand street. There were in that neighborhood and there are some there still, mills for the sawing and working of marble. And hither came lighters to get the marble for mills at various other points about the city that could be reached easiest by water.

"Now the bulk of the marble brought here comes by steam, to be discharged at the steamers' landing place, largely in Brooklyn, and little marble comes to Corlear's Hook.

"This fine, and much of it costly marble, comes a great deal of it in great blocks, weighing tons apiece. In the old days they used to have at the Hook a great sheers with which the ships were unloaded and all the work of hoisting was done by hand, and to get six or eight of these great blocks out of the ship's hold and set out on land was considered a fair day's work. Next steam hoisting appliances were introduced and they raised the limit to twenty-five or thirty big blocks a day. Now the marble is brought over cheaper, sometimes as ballast, and more expeditiously, and it is handled more expeditiously here, and none of it is put ashore at all except at or near the point where it is to be worked.

"It is hoisted with powerful machinery out of the hold of the steamer in which it is brought and lowered onto the deck of a floating steam derrick alongside. With its load of blocks aboard this floating derrick starts off to make delivery at the landing places of the various consignees. To Corlears Hook, for instance, where all the marble ships used to land, now comes a floating derrick with the big blocks of marble on its deck. With its own derrick it picks up and swings ashore here the blocks for the mills and is off for the next point of delivery. All quicker and cheaper and more in line with modern business ways; but the Hook misses the marble ships all the same."

NEW ORLEANS HUNTS MOSQUITOES.

The Belief Is Strong There That the Insect Is Guilty of Disseminating Yellow Fever.

NEW ORLEANS, July 25.—The plan of procedure has been arranged and the initial steps taken to rid New Orleans of mosquitoes, and it is hoped by next year to be done with these insect pests, which are probably worse here than in any other city in the world, and have been growing more bothersome of late, especially in the residential section. It is too late to accomplish much this summer, for the insects are hatched here mainly in April and May, but a thorough investigation will be carried on, both scientifically and practically, to learn the habits and breeding places of the mosquitoes and the most effective way of combating them. The problem is more difficult in New Orleans than elsewhere in the country, because the mosquito lives through the winter and breeds even in January and because the area of breeding land is greater. Nevertheless, it is considered certain that the insect can be greatly reduced in numbers if not annihilated.

The movement against the mosquito is backed by the New Orleans Board of Health, Tulane University and the medical profession, headed by Dr. Chaillé, Dean of the Medical Department. It is hoped to secure the assistance of the householders as a body and induce the latter to register themselves as enemies of the mosquito and willing to carry out any preventive measures suggested. A house to house canvass will be made and every piece of ground, cistern or gutter where mosquitoes can be bred will be sterilized and rendered innocuous. This, with the public improvements now under way, the drainage of the swamps back of town and the abolition of that scandal, the open and stagnant gutter, which breed mosquitoes by the million, will render it easily possible to get rid of the pestiferous insect.

The subject has been under investigation for two years both by leading physicians of New Orleans and by the professors of natural history in Tulane University. The investigation has been thorough and complete and has verified the worst that has been said about the mosquito as well as explained many mysteries of the past, which sorely puzzled the doctors of that day. The cause of the spread of yellow fever was investigated again and again in the past and no solution of it found. In the report of the commission appointed by the City Council to study the epidemic of 1853 it was attributed to the canal digging of that year, and it was laid down as an undisputed proposition that the disturbance of the earth by digging during the summer was likely to develop and spread the fever. This idea remained current for a quarter of a century, and laws were passed prohibiting digging, paving and such work that disturbed the soil during the hot months. It was only in the last few years that this law has been abolished and "the disturbance of the earth" theory exploded.

During the earlier epidemics the summer was rainy, and a heavy rainfall and great humidity were laid down as essential to the spread of the fever, if not the cause of the disease, but the falsity of this idea was shown in 1897, when the fever came with drought, and rain was found to check or mitigate it. Then the drought theory, the very opposite of that held before, became general. During all this time a striking fact was noticed which puzzled sanitarians. The disease was worst in the better residential districts of the city where the streets were cleaned and the best sanitary rules were enforced; whereas in the poorer sections, what would be called the tenement district of New Orleans if it had tenements, where the people lived crowded together and in squalor—the very breeding place, one would think, of disease—it did the least harm.

In 1897 it made its appearance early in the Italian quarter, around the French market. This caused great apprehension lest the disease should become widespread. The Italians being newcomers were subject to the fever; most of them lived in great squalor, and there was a strong prejudice on their part against calling in doctors. But the disease never took root there; instead, it moved to the upper districts, the region of handsome residences and ample grounds adorned with trees and shrubbery of all kinds.

With the mosquito key to the problem, we can understand the apparent anomaly, for the upper or residential district is mosquito ridden. The little insect needs a roosting place or hiding place from the sun; and he finds it in the shrubbery. Wherever there are trees there are plenty of mosquitoes; but in the thickly settled portions of the city, well built up and treeless the mosquito has no place to go to in the daytime and if he cannot find a closet to hide in dies of sunstroke.

New Orleans as a whole has not accepted the mosquito-disease theory, although it has been certified to by not many eminent scientists and medical authorities. A special investigation has been under way here to test the theory and the result of that investigation, made by some of the most eminent physicians in New Orleans, will probably settle public opinion on this question.

But aside from this theory New Orleans has determined to get rid of the mosquito as a nuisance, the only thing that stands in the way of making the summer nights here perfect. It is announced by the investigators that most of the mosquitoes are bred on the place where they are found and that very few of them are blown in from the swamps. These conditions are most favorable just now for getting rid of the pest at New Orleans. The New Orleans Levee Board has, for instance, drained the swamp back of the city, formerly the breeding place of mosquitoes. The Drainage Commission is now busily at work getting rid of the open gutters, another source of mosquitoes; and with the extension of the water works the open cistern will be abolished, or nearly so. There remain only the ponds and unfilled lots to look after, and with Beaumont oil at only a few cents a barrel all the material necessary for a campaign can be easily secured.

TRAVELLERS' THERMOMETERS.

A Variety of Them Made—Summer the Time of the Greatest Demand.

"There is no end to the variety of thermometers," said a dealer in such things. "They include, for instance, thermometers for travellers' use. The oldest style has a nickel-plated metal case within which the glass mercury tube is held when not in use. With the glass inside the metal case and screwed down, it is securely and safely carried. Another sort of travellers' thermometer has the tube upon one side of the lid of a slender little rosewood box.

"The newest style of travellers' thermometer has the tube secured to the inner side of one of two narrow, handsomely finished pieces of rosewood that are held together at one end by a hinge. Closed, these two pieces of rosewood shut up together with the glass tube between them, and are secured by a little clasp like a pocketbook clasp. In use this holder is opened widely, the hinge being so made as to permit of moving one part through three-quarters of a circle, one part being then placed flat on the shelf or dressing case, or wherever the thermometer may be put, the part with the tube attached standing up, then inclined a little from the upright back from the hinge. These two last named kinds sell each at $2.

"As we sell more outdoor thermometers in winter, so we sell more travellers' thermometers in summer. At this season they are articles of daily sale."

SOAP PROBLEM IN PARIS.

Famine and Then Superabundance for a Man Who Wanted to Take a Bath.

The little inconveniences that New Yorkers sometimes experience in European hotels and would not be compelled to undergo in houses kept by American proprietors are illustrated by the case