Women Do Drink More Now

But They Show No Signs of Harmful Effects.

The opening of a tea room where it is announced women will be permitted to smoke cigarettes has revived the discussion as to whether it is really true that American women are becoming more and more addicted to the habits of smoking and drinking. An odd contribution has been made to the discussion by a clergyman who declared that the drinking habit among women was on the increase and that he would make public the names of some of the prominent women who socially drank cocktails and wines with their luncheons and teas at the popular restaurants.

The naughty tea rooms of Bond street have long been famous in London, but it is hardly probable that similar places could exist in New York. Several experiments in the way of opening rooms where men might smoke in company with women friends have been made before this with little or no success. As to the drinking and smoking habits of American women, here are the observations of the proprietor of one of New York's best known hotels, who certainly has had opportunity to form correct opinions on the subject:

"While it is quite true that a number of women smoke both in society and out of it," he said, "there is little probability that they will frequent a public room started for the purpose. Society women will not go there and other women of late are affecting an imposing air of propriety. They are not the women who drink in public, for any afternoon you can see numbers of them sitting about the dining room of a fashionable French restaurant drinking tea and eating bread and butter sandwiches at 5 o'clock.

"The cigarette has lost its air of naughtiness to women who have travelled, and once a vice, no matter how mild it may be, loses its wickedness it is no longer a danger. We have been appealed to many times to arrange for a room where women might smoke an after-dinner cigarette with their escorts, but we have not done so, for the reason that a strong preudice exists against the habit and many of our conservative patrons would probably object.

"We serve private dinner parties in private rooms where cigarettes are smoked by the women guests, but we are supposed to know nothing of this and if a host and hostess desire to entertain their friends in this fashion in a private apartment it, is, of course, their own affair.

"In regard to the frequent attacks made on the habit of public drinking among women in America, it is only necessary to state that women, the world over, drink more than they used to.

"The type of femininity has changed completely, and despite the fears of alarmists it cannot be said to have changed for the worse. Women have got rid of a great many bad habits such as tight lacing, high heels, fainting and hysteria and the habit of ill health, and if they have formed some other bad habit, it was only to be expected.

"As a rule the women who go about a great deal in New York, putting in appearances at dinners, luncheons and theatres, and, naturally, drinking more than the woman who stays at home, are far livelier and better looking than the domestic type of woman, of say twenty years ago, who lost her interest in everything but home life after she had reached the age of 30.

"It is impossible for any one, man or woman, to go about in New York without drinking considerably. There is, however, little or no drunkenness, people having seemingly become used to the new conditions.

"Luncheons, as a rule, begin the day with the woman of fashion who is in town, and there are very few luncheons at which a wine of some sort is not served. After that in restaurants we lose sight of the women of leisure until tea time.

"Many women take tea in restaurants nowadays and many of them will order a cordial or a drink of some sort before going home.

"Dinner is growing later and later in New York, and a dinner served without a preliminary cocktail, a bottle of wine or perhaps Scotch and soda, is the exception. But there is nothing at all startling about the amount that is consumed and nothing evil to be apprehended.

"One thing that clergymen often forget to state is that since women have begun to drink with their dinners and luncheons they are seen more frequently dining in public with their husbands.

"Within the last ten years women have become more companionable to their husbands, joining them in outdoor sports, coaching trips, golf and tennis, and in a like manner they join them often in a cigarette after dinner at home.

"But the assertion that society is sodden through drink is ridiculous. On the contrary, there is quite an alarming condition of nervousness among the people who keep so constantly on the go; but with all that they are brighter and apparently happier than the persons who choose more serious pursuits and sleep eight hours faithfully each night.

"Drinking and cigarette smoking have, to a great extent, killed the vice of drug taking among women. There are fewer morphine fiends and fewer men and women taking opiates among the class that makes the greatest show of drinking in restaurants, which are the places where they are most on view.

"A few years ago the restaurants were not so popular for dinner parties, and drinking was done more quietly at home. In a public dining room where every table bears its glasses and bottles the sight may seem an appalling one to those who do not know that in a large hotel like this not one dinner party of men and women is ever known to offend by any loud laughter or unpleasant evidence of too much wine.

"Americans, men and women, were bound to learn to drink more as they grew more epicurean in their tastes and they have learned a great deal in the gastronomic line since the days when a handful of *bon vivants*, who have all since died as a result of over indulgence, were the only Americans that were supposed to know anything about eating.

"Moderation is the antidote which removes the dangers that seem to arise from the apparent amount of drinking and wining that prevails at present in town. Both the French and the Russian women drink far more than American women, yet they show no deterioration, for their drinking is done at the table with their dinners and suppers.

"To compare the temperance notions of the woman of twenty years ago with the habits of the woman of the present day is ridiculous. The woman of the present is far superior to the woman of twenty years ago, mentally and physically. She has done away with many sex traditions, it is true, but she is a brighter and more companionable creature and she holds her husband's love better.

"One never hears to-day of the wife sitting up weeping and waiting for her husband's return while he is off amusing himself at the club. Whatever she has lost in achieving this result the woman of the present has demonstrated the fact that she has had mentality enough to grasp a situation and meet it successfully.

"New York is one of the greatest cities of the world, if it isn't the greatest, and its social life is bound to keep up a pace with that of other cities. But it must not be forgotten that besides the great army of merrymakers and diners to be seen in the theatres and dining rooms every night it has its people who live a serious and industrious life and have no desire nor money to spend on the gayeties of life.

"In no other city are there so many business successes consummated, so many quick advancements in the world of commerce and finance, so many chances for the ambitious business man or woman. Nowhere else can you meet such bright people or people who spend their money so freely.

"If the social life in which women participate so freely were injuring progress it would be speedily made plain. The present tendency to overdo things is not due so much to the drinking among men and women as to the business strain and the anxiety to get ahead.

"Women dress more richly and splendidly than ever before; but, on the other hand, how many women are making their way in the business world with remarkable success? Women, they also say, are paying more attention to their complexions, to their looks generally, than ever before; but they are also doing more in the great charities of the city and have grown broader minded and kinder to the poor and the unfortunate.

"I have had considerable opportunity to observe the women of New York during the last ten years or more. At their various restaurant functions drinking has, it is possible, progressed somewhat as a custom. But the women of the present day take better care of themselves than ever before and they are far healthier and happier than they used to be.

"I could also mention names, if I chose, of representative women who lunch here once or twice a week, and who have dinner and supper parties often with their husbands and groups of guests equally well known in New York society. On all of these occasions wines, cocktails and cordials are served as a matter of course, and no one pays any attention to it who knows anything about life in town and its customs. The unusual thing would be the omission of wines.

"It is difficult to imagine a party of New York guests invited to a dinner party at which water was the only beverage. They would certainly consider it very bad taste on the part of their host.

"There will probably always be a percentage of foolish people who will overdrink, over eat and over do things generally. Such cases must not be accepted as a criterion of the morals of society any more than the announcement of the opening of a smoking parlor for women means that women will flock there.

"Nothing is so popular as a topic with pulpit alarmists as women and the various sins that are laid at their doors from time to time. But women continue to improve and live through it all just as they have done for numbers of years. Their faults are always taken seriously, while men make a joke of their own sins."

MARCH'S REMARKABLE RECORD.

Its Temperature From 6 Degrees to 12 Degrees Warmer Than the Average.

In all parts of the United States east of the Rocky Mountain region and western Texas the temperature last month ranged from 6 degrees to 12 degrees warmer than the average for that month. The greatest excess of temperature was in New York and Pennsylvania, where it averaged about 12 degrees above the normal.

Western Texas and the entire Rocky Mountain region and Pacific Coast States were cooler than usual in March, the deficiency in temperature averaging from 2 to 6 degrees.

As there was also an unusually large rainfall the weather conditions were wonderfully favorable for the growth of grains and grasses in all parts of the country east of the Rocky Mountains. Owing to the excessive rains, however, and the consequent wet condition of the soil, spring work on the farms was somewhat retarded.

Buds began to swell and burst in the eastern part of the country from two to four weeks earlier than usual. This was not an unmixed blessing, for there was a night or two of frost over large districts in the interior, with the result that some damage was done to the peach trees in Michigan and other Lake growing regions.

In Maryland, Delaware and North Carolina no damage was done to fruit, and the peach crop of our Atlantic coastal plain promises to be abundant.

A CONFEDERATE BREAKFAST.

Silver and Cut Glass and a Mansion—And One Plate of Corn Bread.

From the Washington Post.

"When I got into the town of Spartanburg, S. C., in the closing days of the Confederacy, I realized that our cause was lost, and my idea was to get out of the country, cross the Rio Grande and join the Liberal faction in Mexico," said Col. Philip B. Thompson, the noted Kentuckian, in a chat with friends at the New Willard.

"I was feeling very hungry when I struck the town in the early morning hours, and made up my mind that I'd ask the lady of the first house I struck that had any appearance of prosperity to give me a bite of breakfast. I picked upon an aristocratic brick mansion, and putting on a bold front marched up to the front door. In answer to my knock a well-dressed negro butler came and civilly asked my business. I told him I wanted a word with his mistress, and pretty soon a very handsome lady, elegantly attired, came and listened patiently while I told her that only the pangs of hunger drove me to ask a breakfast.

"'I will willingly ask you in to eat,' said she, 'if you can put up with our poor fare. We had scarcely anything ourselves, and I am ashamed to invite you to the table, but if you are so hungry perhaps you can put up with what we have.' I followed her most willingly, and was ushered into a spacious dining room. The table was spread with a snowy linen cloth; there was plenty of silverware, the real thing, and more cut glass than I had ever seen.

"But what do you suppose the meal consisted of? A single item—a plate of corn bread. Not a blessed thing besides this bread, no meat, no coffee, no milk—not the suspicion of another dish. Hungry as I was I ate a good sized chunk of the bread, and on leaving heaped blessings on the head of my benefactress, but I've never ceased to wonder at the paucity of that breakfast menu, as so oddly contrasted with the fine home and its luxurious furnishings."

MUSIC AS A CURE FOR DISEASE.

RESULTS OF A WOMAN'S STUDY OF THE SUBJECT.

She Thinks It a Valuable Adjunct to Almost Any Kind of Treatment—Principles on Which the Theory Is Based—The Music May Be Orchestral.

The systematic use of music as a remedy is being studied by Miss E. A. Vescelius. She believes that music is a powerful cure for disease, and has long been overlooked. Her first attempt in this line was made in the case of a friend who was seriously ill.

Before administering the musical prescription she played a brief prelude to soothe the invalid's nerves and call her mind from her sufferings. Then with all the art and sympathetic power she could command, she sang, "She Touched the Hem of His Garment." Even before she had finished, a change had come over the sick woman, and within an hour the more serious symptoms had vanished. After that she mended rapidly. Subsequently Miss Vescelius frequently administered doses of music to different persons for various ailments, with such success that she determined to devote herself to a serious and careful study of music as a remedy.

Following the old Pythagorean teaching that "all is number and harmony, numbers being the guides and preservers of the universe, at the same time the spiritual essence of all music; while form is the visible expression of musical vibration," she first took up the form making power of music tones.

It was the last century scientist Chladni who first conceived the idea of tone figures. On a square metal plate fastened to a central support he scattered fine sand. By touching the edge of this plate lightly with his finger and drawing a violin bow across the edge of it near a corner, the sand was first tossed about in confusion, then it settled in a definite form. It was in this way that he demonstrated that the octave forms a circle, and that, under like conditions, the same number of vibrations form the same figure.

The ediphone, invented by the Welsh singer Mrs. Watts Hughs, enabled Miss Vescelius to make similar tests. This device is a tin tube bent upward in the form of a tobacco pipe, with an opening about four inches wide at one end, while the stem is an inch across. Over the bowl is stretched a delicate sheet of rubber securely fastened. On this rubber a fine powder is strewn.

When a note is sung into the stem end the powder rises in a little dust cloud, and, as the note dies away, it settles in a well-defined form. Each note has its own peculiar shape and it is always the same.

Having established to her satisfaction the uniform objective power of music, Miss Vescelius proceeded to investigate what had been done in the way of utilizing this power as a remedy for the cure of disease. As far as it was possible to do so she verified all the statements she was able to find on this subject.

In some cases this was difficult, but not when they were such as those found in Gretry's essay on music, where he gives the following directions for determining the influence of music on the action of the pulse:

"Place the three fingers of the right hand on the artery of the left arm, or on any artery of the body, sing an air, the tempo of which is in accordance with the pulse. Then change to one quicker or slower and note the pulse; not suddenly, but by degrees it will accommodate itself to the new tempo. For example, first sing 'The Watch on the Rhine,' then Schubert's 'Ave Maria,' and, noting the pulse action, it will be found that the former stirs the heart to quick and vigorous action, while the latter soothes it to a less rapid, softer rhythm."

The experiments of Dr. Warthin of Vienna were not so easily verified. He states that he gave his patients doses of music while they slept, and cites instances in which cases of catalepsy were completely cured by repeatedly administering music when the patient was sleeping.

He also tells of a man whose pulse would at once become more rapid and stronger while sleeping when a certain air was played. The tension would increase to 60 and the beats to 120, while the respiration would rise from eighteen to thirty a minute, and in a short time the body would be covered with perspiration. When the patient awakened he had no recollection of music, but remembered a sensation as of rapid motion and exhilaration.

Although Miss Vescelius has not treated catalepsy, she has administered musical prescriptions, while the patient slept, and also to induce sleep, in cases of hysteria, melancholia, insomnia and other nervous diseases, with success. She strongly advocates administering music during sleep, and says that he who falls asleep while at the opera or concert should not be criticised, as he is getting more benefit from the music than many who are intent on their neighbors, the libretto or the quality of the singing and the action.

While pursuing her research along these lines, Miss Vescelius was much with the late Dr. Henry Houghton, the ear specialist, who used what he called musical massage for deafness and other diseases of the ear. In giving this treatment he used a reiterated sounding of what he found to be the person's keynote, on the ear. To get this personal keynote, Dr. Houghton had the patient pronounce each of the vowels in his singing voice, prolonging the final U until the corresponding note was found on the piano.

Miss Vescelius uses the same method of finding the personal keynote, which is so simple that any one can find it for himself or another, and she uses it as a point of departure and recall in administering treatments, the tempo and kind of music being determined by the nature of the disease treated. She says that keynotes in general are of great importance, and that there was a sound scientific reason why Pythagoras and his followers held middle F in great reverence, and also why the great bells of China and Japan all sound this middle F tone, since it is the tonic of nature.

In his "Principles of Physics" Silliman says:

"The aggregate sound of nature, as heard in the roar of a distant city, or the wind through a great forest, forms a single definite tone of appreciable pitch. This tone is middle F of the pianoforte, and may be considered the keynote of nature."

In his "Philosophy of Sound" Higgens says: "Every note produces a certain number of vibrations, and a certain number of vibrations in a second will always produce the same note, whatever the instrument used. The power of the vibrations on the individual may be understood from the law that the undulations of any vibrating body can put in motion any other body when the vibrations are the same."

This is what happens when an instrument at rest resounds to a note played on another instrument. The same law is used in wireless telegraphy. This is one of the chief reasons why, in giving a dose of music, it is important to get the patient's keynote.

Another consideration which is deemed important is the administering of music, like other remedies, at stated intervals. It is asserted that it is necessary to give each dose time to assimilate, and that there is a cumulative effect of music as of certain remedies taken internally.

Dr. Egbert Guernsey of this city, while he was connected with the Middletown Asylum, tells of having tested musical therapeutics in treating the insane, and says that he found music a powerful agent in relieving and controlling them. He advocates its use in hospitals and asylums as a specific, which should be as intelligently prescribed and as skilfully administered as are other powerful remedies. He advocates teachers of musical therapeutics in training schools for nurses.

In a book which she is preparing on the result of her investigations and work Miss Vescelius says, in discussing the power of music, that in utilizing it as a remedy she has obtained the best results when the patient is not in the room with the musician, as the music is then quite impersonal and the patient, freed from all self-consciousness, receives much greater benefit. She also says that if the power of music were utilized by teachers they would be relieved of much of the irksomeness of their work, and would add greatly to its efficiency.

For example, when restlessness and inattention prevail let the teacher, for a few moments, drop all work, open the windows of the schoolroom, and, after giving the children a short breathing lesson, have them sing a favorite song. It will be found that, without exception, the result will be brightened eyes, alert attention, and minds willing and able to undertake the work which, before this was done, was both distasteful and difficult.

She also affirms that teachers that are in the habit of doing this have no trouble in controlling their pupils, and that discipline becomes easier to maintain.

While she does not pretend that she finds music a cure-all, or that it can replace other and well-known remedies, Miss Vescelius holds that she is able to prove that it is a valuable adjunct to almost every kind of treatment. She says that it can be made more potent than strong sedatives and also that its harmonizing vibrations are a great aid in surgery.

More than this, she says that it is a valuable aid to hypnotic suggestion, and also that it has power to disintegrate as well as heal, and therefore should always be used with care and skill.

That each human being is a peculiar instrument, in that it not only registers musical tones, but is materially altered by them, Miss Vescelius says she has abundantly proved. While taking no credit to herself as a discoverer, she says that, as long as its healing power has been known, music as a remedy is practically a sealed book to those who are concerned with the care and cure of the sick.

It is her purpose to make practical the use of music as a remedy, not only by pointing out its value and how it can be used, but by inducing skilled musicians to undertake this work. She already has a small orchestra of violin, 'cello and piano and vocalists to administer, according to prescription, either singly or together, this most agreeable remedy. Some of the work these musicians have done in hospitals, without remuneration, has been highly successful, it is stated. Persons interested in the work already accomplished have recently formed a society for the promotion of musical therapeutics.

CAN'T IMPRISON THEM FOR LIFE.

A Mistaken Impression Revived by the Case of William McShane.

There is a mistaken impression that under some circumstances a person may without having been convicted of a serious crime be committed to jail and kept there for life unless the complainants themselves ask for his release. This delusion was brought to the front again by the recent case of William McShane of Brooklyn, who was committed to Raymond street jail on Jan. 5 for disorderly conduct and seems likely to stay there indefinitely.

The Code of Criminal Procedure provides that a person failing to support his family, or acting in such a manner that he becomes a menace to the public peace, though he he has not committed any statutory crime, may be held in a bond of $1,000 for his good behavior for a period not exceeding one year. Then Section 911 says:

The Court may also, in its discretion, order a person convicted as a disorderly person to be kept in the county jail, or in the city of New York, in the city prison of that city, for a term not exceeding six months at hard labor.

"Nothing can be clearer than this section," said A. H. Hummel, when asked about the law covering the imprisonment of persons not convicted of statutory crimes. "It says in so many words that a person arraigned on a count which does not demand a jury trial cannot be imprisoned for more than six months.

"This section applies not only to disorderly persons, but, as amplified by other sections, to persons convicted of contracting fraudulent debts, or of contempt of court. It is not generally understood how a man can be committed for debt. It must first be proved that he contracted the debt and then that he did it for a fraudulent purpose.

"For instance, take the case of a man who buys goods on the installment plan. When he fails to continue his installments, it must be shown to the Court that not only does he refuse to pay anything more to his creditor, but that he will not surrender the goods which were sold to him, on which the creditor still has a lien.

"There is no doubt that many of those who are thrown into Ludlow street jail on such commitments are too ignorant of the law to seek the remedy that awaits them. In many cases the unfortunate still has the goods he bought, but is never asked to give them up, and does not know enough of the law to realise that by giving them up his immediate release would follow.

"His creditor, the professional installment shark knows that by casting his debtor into prison he will eventually enforce the unfortunate's relations to raise enough money to release him. Therefore, he simply makes affidavit that the debtor contracted his indebtedness with a deliberate intent to defraud him, that is, to get the goods and then sell them before paying for them.

"The motion for commitment is usually unopposed, from simple ignorance on the part of the defendant, and it follows as a matter of course that the order is issued and the debtor committed. But at the end of six months he must be released. If he is kept any longer, the prison warden becomes liable for an action for false imprisonment. Even that is only when the debt exceeds $1,000. Under that amount the debtor can be committed for only three calendar months.

"Now, take the other case, that of the man who is committed for disorderly conduct, for non-payment of alimony or for being a dissolute character. Of course we all know that once in a while the black sheep of a family becomes so objectionable that it is deemed advisable to have him locked up. The idea is that it may bring the delinquent to his senses again. The procedure in such a case is simple.

"A magistrate before whom one is arraigned as a disorderly person is empowered to give him a trial then and there, and such trial, inasmuch as it deprives a defendant of his right of trial by jury, or before a court of record, must be very carefully conducted, and be strictly followed on the lines of law set down for it, and the interests of the offender must be carefully and jealously guarded. When a conviction, which is called a summary conviction, follows, the entire proceedings must, under the law, be sent to the County Clerk's office, where any competent court of superior jurisdiction may at any time review it.

"Thus you see that every precaution is taken to insure to every man his right of life, liberty and happiness under the Constitution. Sometimes the man is so ignorant that he cannot himself assert his rights and knows no one who is friend enough to do so. But in the most extreme of such cases, the law that compels the payment of a dollar a day for the prisoner's maintenance in the county jail is invariably sufficient to effect his release at the end of the legal period.

"All stories of men who are said to have been kept in jail for years here, through the malevolence of their relations, may be branded at once as absolutely false. Successive commitments might, of course, be obtained, but the man himself must have been a party to the proceedings and wanted to be jailed.

"In the case of militiamen who are arraigned under the State militia laws, for failing to pay dues or to appear at drills or for other offences, the extreme punishment is the same as in the case of men committed for fraudulent indebtedness, namely, not more than six months' imprisonment in the county jail."

FASHION FOR OLD BRASSES.

CURIOS ONE MAY FIND IN DINGY EAST SIDE SHOPS.

New Uses for Ornaments and Useful Articles of Brass—Vast Variety of the Candlesticks—Old-Fashioned Utensils in Use Again—Salvers and Cups.

The demand for old brasses, bronzes and beaten copper and silver ornaments and articles of use has grown wonderfully in the last few years.

Persons are beginning to realize how attractive is a room when it glows with the warm lights of brass.

There are Colonial and old English andirons varying in size from little ornaments to brazen posts in front of the fire, which range in price from a few dollars to more than a hundred. With them come brass fire sets, and often a wide brass fender graven, chased and ornamented with figures beaten on the metal.

To-day the Colonial andirons are used both for city and country homes. An impetus was given to their sale by the recent coal strike, and the demand for these brass andirons, as well as those of wrought iron, could hardly be met.

With the demand for andirons comes that for the brass chests and coal scuttles that once served the purpose of holding wood or other fuel. The chests are as beautiful as they are expensive and are suited to many other purposes than the one for which they were intended. They are about the size of shirt-waist trunks, or hat trunks, and would be an ornament to any room. The old beaten brass chests never can be mistaken for modern substitutes.

For years persons have been gathering up the rare brasses and silver and copper pieces in old garrets and the auction and junk shops in New England and the South. Old families died off and left descendants who preferred a plain grate with a wire fender to brass fixtures. They were not willing to clean the brasses nor able to hire negroes to do it for them. Splendid examples of the brassworker's art were relegated to garrets, for the swarm of dusky lads who formerly spent their time amid brick dust, flannel rags and brasses—when they were not eating or loafing—had disappeared.

Another brass antique is the old English trippet, with its top formed of open figures of beaten brass and its little spindle legs.

"Dear me!" exclaimed a very old lady, upon seeing a trippet of wrought brass, "how that reminds me of my young days. I've toasted many an apple upon a trippet just like that!"

Besides interior decoration in brass, exterior uses are found for it, and the brass knockers that once graced the centre of old-time doors find places upon the portals of modern homes. The accompaniment of the brass door knocker, the brass shoe scraper, is missing. Modern days have paved streets, and a new use must be found for the brass shoes scraper.

The fad for rich old furniture has helped to bring beaten brass to the front. The fashionable French furniture of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is adorned with brass in artistic designs, and both French and English furniture has ornaments and door pulls of brass. Some of the colonial designs represent George Washington's head, an eagle and thirteen stars, a beehive, an ear of corn, and one rare design is of thistles.

Superb are the tankards, drinking cups, horns and goblets of English, Spanish, Italian, German, Russian and French manufacture. No two are alike, yet each rivals the others in elaborateness of design and originality of style.

Not an inch of the surface, save where crystal is used about the base, is without ornamentation in raised figures and delicate chasing. The Italians worked in infinitesimal designs; the Russians in bold outlines. Spanish art was tempered by the Italian school, and English by the Russian.

There are many immense salvers of elaborate workmanship. One, in the Italian style, depicts a besieged city, and no detail of camps, horses, arms, the march upon the city and the attitude of the besieged is missing.

A great Russian salver, with scalloped indented borders, also shows a battle scene. The action of the horse in the charge, of the armored men and of the rush of battle is magnificent. Kindred scenes are wrought upon old brass salvers of great size that come from the older nations of Europe.

Nothing, in the old times, was too humble to be adorned by the worker in brass. Ewers and pails for drawing water; the bath kettle, baking and wash pans and other utensils were wrought in graceful forms. These humble utensils of old Russian, German and English kitchens to-day decorate American rooms of state.

A picturesque Russian ladle of the seventeenth century is in the shape of a large lotos leaf, curved upward at the edges and curling to a point. The stem, of wrought silver, forms a flat handle and every vein in the leaf is beaten in the brass. In the centre of this ladle is a circle containing the eagles of Russia in relief.

Russian mirror frames of the early eighteenth century are of great beauty and originality of form and design. Old Persian scent bottles are exquisite in outline and workmanship, and Japanese and Chinese work in bronze is well known.

Early settlers in America produced some good examples of the brass-worker's art, but they soon became too busy fighting Indians and acquiring wealth to bother with art.

The Dutch and English had a fancy for artistic ewers in old times, while the Russians to-day preserve the custom of having an inverted cone of wrought brass fastened to their walls, through which passes a rod, with a fancy brass bottom; under the vessel, which is full of water, stands a flat brass basin to catch the water as it falls. The Russian is thus provided with the means of washing his hands at the threshold of his dwelling.

Russian ware is less expensive than that from other countries for the reason that poverty has compelled many Russians to part with it; brass articles, too, were common to every household. A Russian had any number of brass samovars in different sizes, from that intended for an individual to one that stands over six feet in height. An American thinks himself lucky to have one.

The samovars usually had a little chimney running from the charcoal tube in the centre to the fireplace chimney in the wall. They belonged only to the nobility. Tea was too expensive when samovars came into use more than a hundred years ago for others even to see how it was made. Tea is still high priced in Russia, and the samovar remains a mark of wealth and distinction.

There are 120 states in Russia, and the lover of brass and copper can go to the little Russian shops in this city and find specimens from each. Here are to be found the slender, graceful wine pitchers of beaten copper and brass, with curved mouths as long as the pitcher itself; copper and brass kettles, fish trays and other quaint and curious objects, in which the Russian eagle and the bear figure in the decoration.

Most interesting are the Sabbath candlesticks, some of which are so ancient that the brass animals wrought in them show only the rudest forms of art. Chamino candlesticks, for the sides of the house, probably, are the most ancient candlesticks on sale in America. They consist of six or seven holders in a frame and were made at a time when the metal had to be beaten out thin enough for use with a heavy instrument before any artistic work could be done on it.

Sabbath candlesticks are lighted by the Jewish women in acceptance of the Sabbath, on Friday evening, and the family eats supper by the light of this handsome candle bearer. At a Jewish wedding the bride receives a gift of candlesticks from each member of her family and often from friends, for there are other ceremonies in her life which require the lighting of a Sabbath candle. Her first candlesticks are presented to her when she is thirteen years of age and she is taught to use and reverence them.

It is said that while other nations are less careful of their candlesticks than of old, the Dutch, German, French and Russians are scouring Europe for old Sabbath candlesticks of brass. These usually hold an even number of lights, but the Roman candlestick, which is among the fashionable articles of brass, has seven branches.

What are known as altar sticks, Colonial tray sticks, French girandoles and quaint English and German candlesticks are popular as candle holders and for use with electric and gas lights. The old English sticks are arranged in hanging lamps and under canopies; they appear in odd lanterns and as fixtures for the walls of smoking rooms, libraries and dens.

The Colonial candlesticks are of all weights and usually have a flat base. The French ones have fancy bases, for the most part, and the Russian sticks have little feet as a distinguishing mark.

In old times, when jewels were scarce and silver and gold not so plentiful, men prided themselves upon brass, copper and bronze. Candlesticks were sold by weight, and a good stick weighed from thirty to fifty pounds. Now they weigh from three to six.

Those in the synagogues weigh from fifty to 240 pounds, and one great candlestick in Rome weighs 2,800 pounds.

A great number of fine brass articles were made during and just after the fifteenth century. In the fifteenth century brass was the leading metal, but in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries more silver came into use and brass lost some of its prestige.

There are in Jewish families rare candlesticks older than the owners can reckon. These are sacred and almost never are sold by their owners.

In an old curio shop in this city reposes a great brass kettle upon whose gleaming sides are wrought the coat of arms of England. Nearby is an elaborately ornamented brass baptism kettle which once belonged to a Russian Hebrew of wealth. These kettles, or high, oblong tubs, are made for the rite of baptism and belong to the child afterward. They are as beautiful and costly as the purse of the father will permit.

One might dream himself back into the pages of ancient history to-day upon finding an old Roman lamp, with the four burners, in four slender corner tubes for wicks, branching from a little reservoir in the centre, if it were not that instead of the faint glow which such a light gave in ancient Rome the radiance shines from four incandescent lights. A rare girandole of richly wrought brass foliage, with crystal pendants, which once reflected the grace and beauty of the French court, has, in place of whale oil of sperm, an electric wire.

Lovers of old brass and copper may be found groping among the curios in dim shops, to reach which they have to thread their way through swarms of children in the streets of the lower East Side, where feather beds hang from every fire-escape, where marketing is done from pushcarts, where signs and sounds are in an unknown tongue, but where bargains can be picked up in brass whose beauty speaks through the dust of ages.

FOOTBALL AND ROWING SAND.

The Gridiron Game Calls For More Grit—Crew Man More of a Plugger.

"The temperament required for an oarsman and for a football player is entirely different," says an old college athlete who in his day had had experience in both sports. "In a shell it is not necessary to have as much grit and fight in your make-up as it is in a football game. Of course it takes sand to stick it out to the limit in a hard four-mile race, but it takes more to stick it out in a hard football game and to stand the gaff and stand up to your work for all there is in you when you are tired and bruised in body.

"When a man gets in a boat all that is necessary is to apportion his strength to the four miles. In other words he must be a good plugger. The football player must not only have equal endurance, but he must fight with brain and heart and with every part of him. He must be able to stand up under punishment, and football imposes more wear and tear on the participant than rowing. The contest lasts longer, the player is keyed up more and he has to be more on the alert for the varying emergencies that are constantly arising. The one is a steady grind, the other an ever-shifting conflict, and hence the two sports call for different temperaments.

"The best crews I ever saw," continued the speaker, but changing the subject, "were the Yale crews of '88 and '02, and the Cornell crew of last year. I don't know but that the last named was the smoothest working crew I ever saw sit in a boat. The strongest and best single oarsman I ever saw among the colleges, and I have seen about all of them, was Julian Kennedy, who rowed at Yale in the 70s. He was on Cook's crew, if I remember rightly. A picture of his back is still hanging up in the Yale gymnasium.

"The advantage the English have over us in rowing is simply this: They begin to learn when they are in the preparatory schools, and they all go in for rowing. Furthermore, they are taught the same stroke, and they have nothing to unlearn when they get in college. The English stroke has a long reach and goes 'way back on the recover. This tells on certain muscles and these muscles are hardened from boyhood. However, in this country we are gradually coming to the same stroke by all the colleges.

"I should say that the best weight for an oarsman is between 160 and 180 pounds and the best height about 5 feet 9. The oarsman should be tall enough to get a good reach."

SHE SLAPPED HER PARTNER.

The Incident That Disrupted a Bridge Whist Club of Women.

One bridge club has recently gone out of existence and its last meeting is scarcely mentioned by the members to the outside world. The list of the members reads like a page out of the social register. Even that fact, however, could not save it from disruption after the exciting incidents that marked the last meeting.

One of the players was a woman whose social position is as well established as the fact that she has a violent temper, which she has never found it necessary to control. Her partner was a much younger woman, who thought she was doing as well as she could with her cards.

Her high-tempered partner did not agree with her. She repeatedly showed her disapproval of the other's plays. After one that especially displeased her she lost all self-control and leaning forward she slapped the offending partner on the cheek.

All the women jumped to their feet. The astonished hostess rushed across the room. The irate player had just raised her hand to apply another slap to her unfortunate partner when the hostess attempted to separate the two.

The hostess got the blow. Her surprise at the force of the blow was such that she fell under the table. She discreetly remained there until the fleeing guests escaped from the room.

One woman got wedged behind a sofa and had to stay there until the row had altogether abated. This happened only after the woman first attacked had burst into tears, her antagonist had sailed out of the room in unrepentant scorn and the hostess, not damaged but shocked, had clambered to her feet.

Naturally that bridge club met no more to play cards. All but the belligerent member had a series of informal discussions looking to the suppression of all talk about the affair. They all swore secrecy.

But there were sixteen women concerned and the affair leaked out. It has been a sensation of the winter. Naturally the accounts of it have grown. Some of the exaggerations are grotesque. But they are no more remarkable than the original incident.

SCHOOL FOR "HELLO" GIRLS.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY TRAINED.

A Four Weeks' Course for the Women at the Central Stations—Only the Brightest Admitted to the School—College Graduates Only Employed as Managers.

New York has a "hello" school. As a result not every young woman with aspirations to be a telephone girl may have a job for the asking.

To gain admission to the school is not easy. In fact 92 per cent. of the candidates are rejected.

In these days a would-be "hello" girl who applies at any one of the fourteen "centrals" that dot Manhattan, is directed to the application department and school of instruction of the New York Telephone Company situated in the Eighteenth street "central." The school is now in charge of a woman manager and half a dozen or more assistants and if Mamie and Julie and Kitty want a hearing at all they must apply there between 9 and 12 o'clock in the morning.

The examination that follows has very little to do with book learning. It is preferred, of course, that candidates shall be graduates of a public school but no certificate of that fact is demanded. Indeed, the manager, who is also head teacher in the "hello" school, finds out all she wants to know about a girl's knowledge of English and grammar long before the interview is over. She also finds out some other things which she considers even more important.

For instance, in order to gain admission to the school, applicants must have good sight and hearing, pronounce and enunciate distinctly, have a fairly strong, clear voice, write a free hand, appear to be fairly bright and alert and in good health and present a neat appearance. Last, but not least, they must not be younger than 17 or older than 30.

Those lucky enough to meet all requirements are alone admitted to the four weeks' course of systematic instruction in the school, which each must take before being brought into communication with the public. First, the theory is taught.

This is done in a big class room hung with maps, which show the various keyboards in use in central stations, the locations of the different "centrals," and how connections are made from one to another, the names and situation of various suburban places and how long-distance connections are managed.

The first lesson in the course deals with the simplest phases of the work and from that on the pupils are led by gradual steps to the more intricate ones. During a lesson, which lasts an hour or more, learners are expected to take notes and make rough drawings of the special feature on the map under discussion.

Afterward they go to another room to study, and before they go on to master other points they are carefully examined in what they have already been over. After a lesson or two, if a girl shows no aptitude for learning, she is dropped from the roll.

On the other hand those that show promise are sent in relays of fourteen, and for an hour at a time, to a practice room where they are brought face to face with a keyboard which is a facsimile of that in use in the main office, with this difference that the wires terminate at three or four desks in the room instead of spreading out all over the city. Each desk is in charge of an expert operator who does nothing else but call up the novices over and over again, asking for all sorts of connections from the very easiest to the more difficult. The keyboard is being enlarged to accommodate eighteen girls and thus facilitate the work of the school.

Strange to say, there are no text books in the "hello" school, such, for example, as are said to be in use in Chicago, which, if report is to be believed, are running over with polite conversational phrases for the "hello" girls' special use while on duty. None seems to be needed, for the reason that during her four weeks' course the New York "hello" girl goes over pretty much all the stock phrases brought into use by the telephone system, beginning with "Busy; shall I call you?"

In other words, in the "hello" school students are taught to explain as clearly and soothingly, but at the same time as briefly and with as few frills of speech as possible any and every hitch likely to happen over either a long or a short distance wire. Therefore, at the end of the term they are pretty sure to be reasonably expert in this part of their work at least and have small need of a book of set conversational form.

Unlike the majority of schools the "hello" school pays pupils while they are learning—pays each $3 a week and in addition at the luncheon hour gives her tea, coffee or milk, free of charge. In fact in every central station from the headquarters in Cortlandt street to the highest uptown every one of the 2,000 or more "hello" girls may have all the tea, coffee or milk she wants at her midday luncheon for nothing.

Hot tea and coffee are also ready at 5 P. M. and at midnight for the girls that come on duty early in the afternoon and bring their suppers with them, and those that arrive after o'clock to remain the rest of the night—for the centrals never shuts up shop.

At the end of their school course, the pupils are graduated into active duty and take their places among the one hundred and fifty or more "hello" girls who sit before the keyboards that in every Central station. From now on a "hello" girl's wages depend altogether on herself. From $4 she may soar to $20 a week, according to her skill.

Until she becomes an expert, she is never left entirely to herself. Behind every nine girls in a central station stands a supervisor, as she is called, who from time to time comes to the aid of some one of her nine or turns the case of an especially difficult connection over to one of four expert "hello" girls who sit by themselves in the middle of the room.

As each novice is assigned to duty she gets a new transmitter and receiver—the instruments she must thereafter handle when on duty—the one strapped to her left ear, the other held to her mouth. Both of these she is expected to keep religiously for her own use. To that end every two girls share an iron locker containing two cotton bags, and the minute she gets off duty for the day the "hello" girl stores away her individual telephone apparatus in one of the bags and locks it up.

This plan has been adopted to do away with the fear of contagion in case a girl of tubercular tendencies is among operators.

But if the standard set for the "hello" girl by the New York Telephone Company is higher than it used to be, so is that held up for the managers. Every man who applies for that post is expected to have finished his education and have taken a college degree at that. There is no "hello" school for managers.

For the last five years, say, it seems that almost none, save a college graduate, has been hired as a manager or assistant manager, and there are very few now in the employ of the company who have not taken a degree in a technical school. Said a superintendent of the company:

"The evolution of the telephone business in a very few years is marvellous. The complexity of the system to-day with its wonderful chains of wires, involving the most intricate and delicate connections and reaching out for hundreds of miles, makes it impossible to employ a man of common-school education in the capacity of manager.

"Indeed, I may say, it is almost absolutely necessary that he shall have studied physics. Therefore, although there is no cast-iron rule to that effect, when engaging managers and assistants we give the preference to those who have taken a course in electrical engineering and have been graduated from a technical school. In fact, we now stipulate for the electrical course.

"If, however, a man has gained the necessary knowledge and experience by ways and means other than a college course we don't turn him down simply because he can't show a diploma. That doesn't often happen, though. But a certain degree of technical knowledge every manager must have or he is of no use to us."

Nowadays the equipment of nearly every central station includes two assistant managers who sit in the room with the "hello" girls; a head manager and sometimes a superintendent, and every one of them is an electrician.