ARCH SELWYN GETS WORD HE IS TO GIVE A PARTY

Expensive News Is Broken to Prospective Host Over Long Distance Telephone—Hudson Theatre the Place, and December 19 the Time.

When everybody who is anybody on Broadway from the Square to the Circle limped streetward about midafternoon yesterday to meet the air and, incidentally, to breakfast at the Forty-second Street Country Club, the first thing that greeted the clubmen, all aglow now with the red eyes and blue lips of youth after their simple pleasures of the night before, was a notice on the bulletin board in the grill to the effect that "That Prince of Entertainers Mr. Arch A. Selwyn" had completed all arrangements for his annual party, to which all Broadway always is invited.

In fact, all the preliminaries of the function such as arranging for the time and place, list of guests, &c., had been attended to before 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, everything except the annual custom—always put off until the last moment at these affairs—of selecting a committee to wait upon Mr. Selwyn and break the news to him that he is to give the party.

By 5 o'clock P. M., however, a committee headed by Rol Cooper Megrue, a playwright, and C. Pincus Hayes, a well known man about Broadway and Forty-second street, had been got together for the purpose of trying to find Mr. Selwyn's home address in the city directory. Thereupon toward dusk the committee started out in four taxicabs to look up Mr. Selwyn to let him know that he was again to be a host.

For at least three seasons it has been the belief of the Broadway geniuses, whose presence at the yearly affairs given by Mr. Selwyn go far toward making the parties the one really important function of the social season, that the thoroughly impromptu nature of the Selwyn affairs is the chief cause of their ecstatic success. Mr. Megrue, Mr. Hayes, Douglas Fairbanks, Raymond Hitchcock, James Forbes, playwright; Irvin S. Cobb, Charles Belmont Davis, Miss Margaret Mayo, Miss Margaret Illington, George Doran, publisher; Crosby Gaige, Miss Madge Kennedy, Miss Mary Pickford, William Courtenay, Charles Hanson Towne, Seumas O'Sullivan, Frank Crowninshield and many, many others too numerous to list, once a year just get together as they did yesterday on the spur of the moment, agree on a night for the party, engage the Hudson Theatre because the Hudson has a foyer big enough for a sufficient number of supper tables and a good sized stage for dancing, hire an orchestra, submit food and wine lists to a caterer and send out the invitations.

Trouble Is Saved for Host.

Therefore by the time the committee annually calls upon Mr. Selwyn to let him know that he is to give the party all of the preliminary details, usually so irritating to a busy man of affairs, have been attended to for the host. All Mr. Selwyn has to do then is to make a mental note of where and when he is to give his function and, when the dust has settled the next day, to pay the bills.

Last year's affair, which sagged ever so slightly because of the fact that Billy Sunday opened against the Selwyn function that night and thus drew many potential guests to Paterson, set Mr. Selwyn back $1,150, so the host confessed with a touch of bitterness while weeping in his oyster patty between dances that night.

By a unanimous vote of the important part of Broadway yesterday the evening of Sunday, December 19, was selected as the date for Mr. Selwyn to Open Wine and otherwise entertain his many friends. The Hudson Theatre also was chosen again as the scene of the gay function. The Messrs. Megrue and Hayes, before leading the way to the taxicabs to hunt up Mr. Selwyn and acquaint him with the fact that it had been decided that he was to revive his annual custom, announced in no uncertain tones that this year they will arrange an affair which for costliness and elaborate splendor will so far outshine anything Mr. Selwyn has done in the past that he will have reason to be proud of their efforts.

In fact, the more or less important item of letting the host know about the party he is to give was the only detail which was not arranged with a rush yesterday. Before the committee could get in touch with Mr. Selwyn taxicab bills had been run up which will play no small part in the general expense account to be turned over to the host for payment on the stage of the Hudson Theatre on the night of the party.

Arch A. Selwyn, the host, better known to Broadway as Al, the abbreviation of his middle name, Aloysius, who is the head of the theatrical producing firm of Selwyn & Co. whenever his brother Edgar goes out to luncheon, in past seasons had been formally told on a weekday that he was to give a party. Yesterday the committeemen in their impetuousness forgot that the Selwyn offices were closed on Sunday.

The search through the city directory thereupon was begun for the Selwyn residence. "Selwyn Arch A pres Selwyn & Co h Rowayton Ct," said the directory. To the Broadway committeemen that "Rowayton Ct" meant only an apartment house on some side street between the Square and the Circle named the Rowayton Court.

Cruise of the Taxicab.

Thereupon two of the taxis, once the committee had been unable to find any Rowayton Court address in the directory, cruised steadily through cross streets from Broadway west while the other two taxicabs cruised the cross streets east of Broadway in search of an apartment house with artificial palms in the lobby, a doorman in a frock coat of scarlet and gold and "Rowayton Court" in letters of bronze over the revolving doors. Not a thing doing.

The wistful cocktail hour of eventide had come and gone and, tired but doggedly determined, the committee's parade of taxicabs had returned the committee to the trophy room of the Forty-second Street Country Club when Mr. Megrue, who is a college man, suggested that perhaps the "Ct" after Rowayton in the directory was a nickname for Connecticut. Sure enough, a gazetteer in the club library revealed these facts: "Rowayton, a post village of Fairfield county, Connecticut, 3 miles from South Norwalk, its banking point. Pop. about 750. Chief output lobsters."

Three playwrites, seven actors, a novelist and four magazine men became clogged in a long distance telephone booth a moment later. By brute strength Mr. Megrue finally wrested the receiver from Clubman Ernest Truex and at last located Mr. Selwyn in the Rowayton Watercress No. 1 Hook and Ladder's fire house, the company of which Mr. Selwyn recently was made chief in recognition of his work in instituting the special delivery letter system of sending out fire alarms which recently replaced the old system of notifying the Rowayton firemen by post card when a fire occurred.

As a fire was under way out near Kate Durkin's farm last night and Chief Selwyn had only begun to get his uniform out of his locker in the fire house he found himself unable to give more than five or six minutes to the formalities of discussing over the telephone the official notification that he is to give his annual party at the Hudson Theatre on December 19 next.

"May I offer a suggestion, Mr. Chairman?" the fire chief hollered over the telephone from Rowayton to Broadway.

Chairman Megrue conferred briefly with the committee and then hollered back to Mr. Selwyn that any suggestion he had to make concerning his party would be received and placed on file by the committee and considered for whatever the committee thought it worth.

"I merely wish to say before going to the fire," thereupon said the chief, "that I think this year's party you say I'm giving should have as its chief guests the cast of 'Under Fire,' inasmuch as that's the company now at the Hudson."

"That seems perfectly fair," replied the author of "Under Fire," Chairman Megrue. "Carried."

"And then there are the casts of our Ed's 'Rolling Stones,' and of 'The Eternal Magdalene' and 'Fair and Warmer.' The party will be in honor of all of them. 'Fair and Warmer,' by the way, reminds me of this fire I must hurry off to. S'long—and spare no expense."

The committee after carefully counting the seats and measuring the standing room spaces in the Hudson Theatre last night decided that it will be possible to get at least 1,000 of Mr. Selwyn's friends to the party. It is likely, however, that the completed lists, which will be out to-day, will include less than half this number, thus allowing more than twice as much as Mr. Selwyn's licker and victuals per capita.

Dance music will be played by an orchestra made up of musicians selected from the orchestras of the Hudson, Harris, Forty-eighth Street and Eltinge theatres. Carriages should be ordered in time to clear the theatre for the "Under Fire" performance on the night of December 20.

MRS. HEATH TO MEET CRITICS.

Will Explain Housewives Constitution to Jersey Women.

Mrs. Julian Heath, president of the National Housewives League, will meet delegates from the New Jersey Housewives League at national headquarters, 25 West Forty-fifth street, to-day to explain the workings of the national league's constitution. A request for this information was made at a recent convention of the New Jersey organization, which is planning to adopt a constitution of its own.

Because of attacks made on the national body by a few New Jersey women Mrs. Heath said last night she is anxious to meet all issues raised by her critics and wishes to take the public into her confidence concerning everything in relation to the league or its conduct.

Leo Stern of McLaughlin & Stern, 15 William street, said no date has been fixed for the preliminary investigation ordered by the Attorney-General's office into matters pertaining to the Nations' Housewives League as the result of an application filed by Frank C. McKinney, attorney for individual members of league branches in New Jersey and New York.

TO PLEAD FOR GIRL'S SLAYER.

Porto Ricans Take Steps to Save Ponton From Chair.

About 250 representatives of the 12,000 Porto Ricans in New York met at the Hotel Ansonia yesterday afternoon to choose a committee to plead with Gov. Whitman for a stay of the execution of Antonia Ponton, who has been sentenced to die in the electric chair on December 20 for the murder of his sweetheart more than a year ago in Albany.

Ponton is 22 years old and a native of Porto Rico. While he was a law student in Albany he fell in love with a school teacher there, Miss Bessie Kromer. They were engaged to be married, but after his return from a trip home he found that the girl no longer loved him and was engaged to another. In a fit of jealous rage Ponton stabbed her to death.

A committee from Porto Rico will arrive in New York to-day with evidence to prove that Ponton suffers from hereditary insanity.

Mrs. Lucretia Roberts, Sheriff of Santa Cruz county, Arizona, will head the committee. Those who will go with her to see Gov. Whitman are Dr. J. H. Henna, A. Veley Alvereda, Manuel Argueso and M. J. Glavan.

N. Y. STREET RAILWAYS SHOW BIG DECREASES

Nearly 9,000,000 Fewer Carried in Year Ended June 30 Than Previous Year.

A. F. Weber, chief statistician of the Public Service Commission, has issued a report covering traffic, revenues and expenditures of street railway companies operating in New York. The figures are given as of June 30, 1915. The total number of passengers paying fares during the preceding period of twelve months was 1,807,632,726, a decrease of 8,714,836 over the year ended June 30, 1914. Of these the subway and elevated divisions of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company carried 345,585,749 and 301,792,517 respectively, an increase of 5,172,646 for the subways and a decrease of 9,681,051 for the elevated lines.

The Brooklyn Rapid Transit companies carried 530,504,918 passengers; the Manhattan surface roads, 415,651,116, a decrease of 95,895 for the B. R. T. companies and of 8,254,623 for the Manhattan surface lines. Surface roads in The Bronx carried 81,302,803 passengers, an increase of 1,850,670, and the Queens surface roads, carrying 52,686,108 passengers, also increased traffic by 2,712,412 fares. The total carried by companies in the Borough of Richmond and four companies in Brooklyn was 21,043,101, an increase of 666,281. The Hudson and Manhattan Railroad, which means the Jersey tubes, carried 58,966,414, a decrease of 1,085,476.

The total operating revenue for the twelve months was $93,644,428.41, a decrease of $623,317.01. The total of operating expenses was $50,322,473.15, an increase of $127,014.76 over the corresponding period ended June 30, 1914. The net corporate income of all the companies was $11,624,809.66, a decrease of $177,025.56. Of this amount the Interborough took in $8,068,484.66, an increase of $13,904.01.

Mrs. Lydig Gets Her Gems Back.

Mrs. Philip M. Lydig said last night that she had recovered the jewelry which she lost on Saturday. She left her home, at 14 Washington Square North, early in the afternoon to go to Carnegie Hall. She carried a black velvet handbag with a large Oriental pearl clasp, containing a vanity box studded with diamonds, a platinum rouge stick adorned with diamonds and some money. She missed the bag when she got home at 5:30, and advertised for its return, offering a liberal reward.

GIFTS for the HOME

Mahogany tea wagon, with removable glass serving tray, $19.50.

Mahogany table with electric lamp attachment, $30.

Mahogany muffin stand, with shaped shelves, $6.

Mahogany gate-leg table, $12.50.

The John Wanamaker Store presents a distinguished collection of the small furniture so much in favor for Christmas giving. It has been selected with the greatest care. It was bought in sufficient quantities to permit of very reasonable pricing. The exquisite beauty of the woods and designs, the variety, comprehensiveness and usefulness of the pieces—are very unusual.

In Brief—

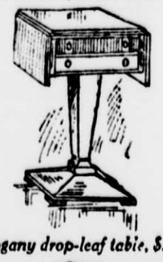
Pedestals begin at $5; tilting tables at $8.50; tabourettes at $3; muffin stands at $6; fern stands and boxes at $12; smoker stands at $4.25; sewing tables at $12; candlesticks at $1.50; magazine stands and racks at $11.50; dinner gongs at $6.50; book blocks at $4.50; gate-leg tables at $10; nest tables at $12; foot rests at $5; desk chairs at $10; hall clocks at $39; desk chairs at $4.25; leather upholstered chairs at $25; serving trays at $5.25; lazy Susans at $9.50; tea wagons at $12.

Fifth Gallery, New Building.

Imported chair for the baby, mahogany, rich satin-like brown finish, green velvet cushion seat, $44

Drop-leaf tea table in black and enamel, hand-decorated, $20.

Mahogany pie-crust tilting table, antique brown finish, $32.



Mahogany drop-leaf table, $23.50.

Mahogany or brown oak nest of tables, the smallest of the tables fitted with a drawer, $12.

JOHN WANAMAKER

Broadway at Ninth, New York

CALLS BIBLE BOARDS FOES OF THE GOSPEL

Dr. Gates Charges That Parts of Inspired Writings Are Suppressed.

HE WANTS ALL PRINTED

The Rev. Dr. Milo H. Gates made an attack on the Bible societies of this country and England in an address yesterday at the popular vesper service in the Chapel of the Intercession, Trinity parish.

"The time has come," said Dr. Gates, "when all real Protestants should demand from the Bible societies the whole Bible. One of the greatest libraries of sacred writings is contained in what is known as the 'Apocrypha.' In that is contained such wonderful books as 'The Wisdom of Solomon,' 'Ecclesiasticus' and 'The Song of the Three Children' from which comes the hymn called 'The Benedicite,' sung each Sunday by millions of Christians.

"The Bible societies each year flood ministers with their appeals, yet it is the fault of the Bible societies that this wonderful part has been stolen from the Bible. If these societies were truly Protestant they would not commit such a grievous theft. They would not keep the Bible from the common people.

Calls Them Enemies of Bible.

"It was not until 1826 that the Protestant churches refused to print these books as part of the Bible. To-day, therefore, the societies stand before the Christian world as the great enemies of the Bible. They are all largely subsidized. It is difficult for any private publisher to compete with them. As a result the Bibles in general circulation are mutilated Bibles.

"In another aspect they stand as inimical to the Bible. Their books are martistic and as a general thing badly printed, in the worst possible taste.

"What we need to-day is either a reform or retirement of the so-called Bible societies. If they are permitted to go on I fear that they will continue more seriously to hinder the use of the Holy Scriptures. What we need is a new Luther to arouse us and to lead a new reformation for the freedom of the Bible. He will find his most powerful enemy not at Rome, but in the 'Bible houses' of the United States and England."

The Rev. Henry O. Dwight, secretary of the American Bible Society, replied to the charge of Dr. Gates with the assertion that "The Apocrypha" was never considered to have divine inspiration, as had the other books of the Bible.

Not in Hebrew Testament.

"Dr. Gates probably chose yesterday as the time for his attack because it was 'Bible Sunday' in the United States and Canada. Services for the exaltation of the Bible were held in all Protestant churches.

"The Apocrypha did not appear in the Hebrew original of the books of the Old Testament and has never been regarded as part of the canonical Bible. It is for this reason that the American Bible Society does not include these books in its Bibles. Another reason is that they deal for the most part with trivial history. The Apocrypha, although it concerns the Jews, was first written in Greek.

"In answer to Dr. Gates's second charge, that we publish cheap Bibles I can say that we publish Bibles of various kinds. Some have fine leather bindings and are really artistic. A large number are cloth bound in order that the book may be available even to the poorest people."

$500,000 ADDITION FOR MT. SINAI GROUP

New Hospital Building to Be Known as the Guggenheim Memorial.

HUNDRED PRIVATE ROOMS

Designed for what may ultimately become the largest hospital in the world, the Mount Sinai Hospital is to be enlarged by the erection of a new building on Fifth avenue. This building will be a memorial to the late Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Guggenheim and will be known as the Guggenheim Memorial. The entire expense of construction will be defrayed by the six Guggenheim brothers. Its estimated cost will be $500,000.

The new building, plans for which will be submitted to the directors at their meeting this month, will occupy half a city block and will complete the two square blocks on which the sixteen buildings of the hospital stand. The Mount Sinai group extends from Ninety-ninth to 101st street and from Fifth to Madison avenue.

The Guggenheim Memorial will follow in design the general construction of the main building fronting on Fifth avenue. It will be a complete hospital in itself. Installed in it will be kitchens, laboratories and operating rooms. The only thing in common with the other buildings will be the archway connecting it with the main building. A separate staff of doctors will take care of the patients.

Ten years of study by the directors and hospital staff will make this hospital the most perfectly equipped in this country, it is said. One hundred private rooms will be arranged in corridors on the four upper floors. The entire first floor will be given over to reception rooms and offices. The roof will be fitted up as a ward for outdoor treatment.

One of the features of the building will be a children's corridor. This will be cut off from the others so the noise of convalescent children will not annoy other sufferers. Guest rooms will be an innovation and a patient may have a friend constantly near if he so desires.

In addition to the Guggenheim Memorial, Mount Sinai Hospital has received $50,000 from Murry Guggenheim and $5,000 from each of his brothers to carry on the work of completing and equipping the five other buildings now in course of construction, that occupy the remaining half block in the rear of the site for the new hospital.

Meyer Guggenheim was a trustee of Mount Sinai during the later years of his life and one of its most constant benefactors.

KILLED BY BROTHER'S DEATH.

Shock of Samuel Guthwerth's Sudden Demise Too Much for Harry.

Two brothers, both apparently in good health, were stricken with apoplexy yesterday and died within a few hours of each other. Samuel Guthwerth, 27 years old, of 82 Johnson avenue, Williamsburg, was found dead in bed by his wife. She ran out to find his brother, Harry Guthwerth, 24 years old, who lived a few doors away.

He rushed up the steps and when he felt his brother's forehead he dropped dead. Policeman Martin of the Stagg street station called an ambulance. Dr. Combs from St. Catherine's Hospital declared that death in both cases had been due to apoplexy and that Samuel had probably been dead for several hours.

CHARGES POLICE AID HER FOE'S REVENGE

Woman, Convicted, Asserts Another Woman Caused Arrest.

MAY BE A JURY INQUIRY

A Grand Jury investigation urged by some of the prominent residents of Queens will be begun this week into the circumstances of the arrest and conviction of Mrs. Eliza Altenkirch for keeping a disorderly resort on Queens Boulevard, Jamaica. Mrs. Altenkirch, for whose good character many persons have vouched, asserts that her arrest was caused by a woman of doubtful character whom she forced from apartments over her husband's cafe, and whose relations with the police were such that she was able to bring about Mrs. Altenkirch's arrest in revenge.

The Altenkirch place consists of a park and a large building. The ground floor of the building is divided into a cafe and hall for dinners. The apartments above are occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Altenkirch and other families.

Mrs. Altenkirch says that on June 19 Detectives George Sillafer and Patrick Fitzgibbon and a Mrs. Mildred Martin persuaded her to agree to prepare a dinner for four on June 23. The dinner was served on the ground floor, in full sight of all who might enter, she says, but on June 25 she was arrested. On September 28 she was convicted of keeping a disorderly resort. Chief Justice Russell and Justices Kernochan and Garvan of the Court of Special Sessions, who heard the case, postponed sentence from time to time because of letters sent to them on behalf of Mrs. Altenkirch. Last Tuesday sentence was suspended.

An appeal to the Appellate Division for a new trial is now being prepared by Mrs. Altenkirch's attorney, Herbert A. O'Brien.

Many men of standing, including clergymen, physicians, business men and lawyers of Queens, rallied to Mrs. Altenkirch's support and presented a petition to the Grand Jury recommending that action be taken by that body. District Attorney Denis O'Leary and Judge Humphrey, after a lengthy consultation, decided that the circumstances made a Grand Jury inquiry necessary.

"The trouble," said Mrs. Altenkirch yesterday, "was because information came to me that a young woman boarding in one of the rented apartments was leading a bad life. I had her put out, and I have certain knowledge that she said she would get even by 'framing' me. Being friendly with police officers and having acted as a stool pigeon for them, she was able to fulfil her threat."

WIFE AND CHILD HE SHOT DIE.

Murderer Says He Could Not Live Without Two He Killed.

Margaret Sherer, 4 years old, died in Flower Hospital yesterday morning from a bullet wound in the brain received when her father, Michael Sherer, a Hungarian tailor, shot the girl and her mother in the flat at 209 East 102d street on Saturday night after the woman had rejected his written proposition for the ending of a separation of three months.

Susanna, the wife, died in Flower Hospital a short time before the child.

In the Harlem Hospital, where Sherer was taken after he had fractured his kneecap in attempting to escape, he told the police that he killed his wife and daughter because he could not live without them.

The Wanamaker Jewelry Store

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It is a store universal in its helpfulness. Its doors are open to all; and its safeguards protect all. It has some things not to be found in the same completeness in any New York Jewelry Store—notably the old English silverware; it has everything that a good Jewelry Store should have.

Enter by Grace Church and one sees first the

DIAMONDS

A large specially acquired collection from two importing and mounting houses retiring from the mounting end of the Guild enables the quotation of prices 20 to 30 per cent. under current figures—an opportunity much appreciated at Christmas time.

Rings, bar brooches, bar pins, pendants, lavallieres, necklaces, bracelets, earrings.

OLD ENGLISH SILVER

holds the centre of the Silver Courts—and 46 new pieces are just off the steamer, greatly enriching the group; all old Georgian pieces, of the best designs of the period.

CLOCKS

Hall clocks, mantel clocks, desk clocks, traveling clocks—all are represented by standard makes and classic designs. Particular attention has been paid to their time-keeping qualities.

STERLING SILVERWARE

for the table is complete in its variety and we are making a specialty of tea services in Colonial styles and of chests of silver. The selection of small individual silver is quite extraordinary.

WATCHES

are always a center of interest these holiday times, and one is assured here of getting watches of accuracy and pedigree. Some diamond bracelet watches just over from Switzerland are regal in both design and workmanship.

NOVELTY SILVER

includes charming gifts for the boudoir, and for a man's needs as well; with additional novelties such as smoking sets, desk sets, miniature frames and bigoutenc.

GOLD JEWELRY

is just a step across the aisle—a specially arranged Christmas collection at moderate prices—both 14k. and 10k. pieces.

Rana pearls, the nearest artificial approach to the natural; Fleurigny opera glasses from Paris; accurate sun-dials, faithful copies from Italian models; field glasses and other optical appliances from Europe; exquisitely fashioned enamels—frames, boxes and trinkets; English and personal greeting cards and social engraving; these are some of the additional specialties of the Jewelry Store which makes it distinctive and especially helpful at this time of year.

The honor of your visit is invited any day or any hour of the day.

JOHN WANAMAKER

Tenth and Broadway - - - - - - - - New York

WIFE, CHANGING MIND, SEEKS DIVORCE AGAIN

Mrs. Benner, Who Left One Wooer at the Altar, Tries Anew for Decree.

An order of the Supreme Court of Nebraska directing the taking of testimony in New York in a divorce suit brought at Nebraska City, Neb., by Mrs. Happy Theodora Van Wyck Benner against Fernando Wall Benner, president of the F. W. Benner Real Estate Company of 6 Church street, discloses that Mrs. Benner, who has changed her mind several times in the past, has done so again.

Mrs. Benner is the only daughter of the late United States Senator Van Wyck of Nebraska, who left her half a million dollars. She was one of the belles of the younger set in Washington eight years ago, when she became engaged to Frank Mitchell, a young Southerner. The two were at the altar of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church waiting for the pastor to perform the ceremony when Miss Van Wyck suddenly changed her mind. She then invited the clergyman and Mitchell to "go down town and have a good supper and forget all this foolishness." A few weeks later she married Benner at the Little Church Around the Corner.

Mrs. Benner went to Nebraska in 1908 and brought suit for a divorce, alleging that her husband was no longer devoted to her and that he had spent a large part of her income. She asked for the custody of their son, now 10 years old. Not long afterward she was seriously injured in an automobile accident and surprised her husband by discontinuing the divorce action.

The order just sent here for the taking of testimony shows that Mrs. Benner has decided again that she wants a divorce. Charles Swanson of 203 Broadway has been appointed to take the testimony of Benner and Gilbert E. Orcutt, Henry J. Robert, Thomas H. Charry, Yale B. Benner and John Morris.

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Ulsters.

Dress overcoats.

Raglans, with shapely shoulders and roomy lines.

Fur lined and fur outside coats.

Every good sort of Winter overcoat.

Suits for business wear.

Suits for afternoon and evening dress, made of the identical fabrics used by the best custom tailors—at about half the price.

Dress requisites from silk hat to patent leathers.

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