MRS. LYDIG PLEADS FOR DRUG ADDICTS

Attacks Present "Brutal" Procedure and Urges Separate Hospital for Them.

TREATED AS CRIMINALS

Witness Tells Story of His Wife's Futile Efforts to Be Cured.

It was a rather hectic session yesterday of the legislative committee which is hearing drug addicts and those interested in their cure in the City Hall. There were verbal collisions between the men and women in private life who are aiding these victims and Justice Collins. Mrs. Philip Lydig astounded the committee by estimating that one in every ten persons in the State used drugs, and the argument on the floor was as copious as the testimony from the stand.

Toward the end of the confusion, when the committee had been requested to protect from police persecution the addicts who come to the hearing to give their experiences with so-called cures, a heavily built, good looking man, whose hair at the temples was turning prematurely gray, rose to his feet and asked permission to speak. He went to the stand.

"I don't need any protection," he said. "I can take care of myself, and I would like to tell my story."

Experiences of a Husband.

He said his name was Charles M. Welch, the husband of one of the witnesses who had told of her unavailing efforts to get cured. He was in Washington when he read that Justice Collins had characterized the stories of addicts—of their being unable to get a cure in private or public institutions—as pipe dreams and came to New York yesterday to attend the hearing and refute that statement.

"I understand," he said, "that a certain gentleman made the remark before your committee that addicts were not to be believed and have pipe dreams. That is not so.

"Twelve years ago I married a woman as perfect physically and morally and in every other way as a man could wish. After we had been married two years she had an operation and then a second operation, which greatly impaired her strength. I decided that it would be best to get out of the city, and we went to the country and got a little home, where I hoped she would regain her health. We started off very nicely.

"She was attended by a physician, and during my absence in the city he was frequently called in. After several months I found out that this doctor had not only given my wife morphine but had taught her to use a hypodermic syringe. She wanted to be cured and I sent her to institution after institution without any encouragement. It meant a great deal of expense to me. I get only a salary, and I have been able to get no results.

"My wife does not lie, she does not have pipe dreams, and her sufferings in her attempts to be cured have been painful. You people have no idea of what it means to live with a drug addict as I have done for years."

The committeemen, who were visibly affected by Welch's story, did not ask him any questions and he soon left the room. Mrs. Lydig and the other women present and many of the men applauded him vigorously. His wife is now being treated by a physician who has made a specialty of drug addicts, and has hopes of being entirely cured of her habit.

Mrs. Lydig, who is vice-president of the Woman's Conservation Movement, read her statement and testified before one of the largest audiences the committee has had. Among those present were Justice Cornelius Collins of the Court of Special Sessions, who has opposed the public hearing of addicts as prejudicial to public interest, and Justice Frederick Kernochan of the same court. Many of the doctors who have made the treatment of addicts a specialty and conduct sanitariums that have been the object of attack were also in the room.

Mrs. Lydig's Statement.

"Our present day management of the drug sufferer is not treatment, it is brutality," said Mrs. Lydig, "tempered with ignorance. To jail the drug trafficker may help, but to jail the drug sufferer cannot possibly."

Mrs. Lydig then asserted that she could not agree with the learned Judge Collins that to the judiciary alone shall be given the power to supervise the cases "instead of the duly legalized medical practitioner."

"The drug addict is a patient, a sufferer, a victim of his own habits, if you will, but he is not a criminal," she continued.

"In our penal institutions, however, he receives the same treatment as a criminal. A case in point, a typical case of institutional restraint and judicial procedure, with your permission I will bring before your committee.

"Perhaps you remember the mother of Geoffrey Davis having appealed to us to save her boy from what she considered an excessive sentence and much grieved because of the forced incarceration of her son for whom she had planned a course of medical treatment.

"The probation officer, however, in spite of her protestations had him committed to the reformatory presumably for violating his parole. The boy therefore started in upon a twenty months period of sentence. When you inquire how and upon what authority he was incarcerated for twenty months, we are told that the chairman of the parole board, Katharine Davis, imposed 5,000 counts, equal to twenty months imprisonment, ignoring the pleadings of his mother to permit her to send him to a sanitarium for treatment.

Clandestine Arrests.

"Furthermore, as Mrs. George Davis will bear witness before your committee, the parole officer told her that he was not taking him to arrest him, but to have him report to his parole officer. The mother accompanied her son to the parole officer and upon their arrival her son was placed under arrest and sentenced to a term of imprisonment. Using her own words, 'she was tricked' and her efforts to give medical treatment to her son frustrated. He was therefore arrested under false pretence. These clandestine arrests, Mr. Chairman, are not uncommon. It is well known in police and in probation circles that an increase in arrests tends to augment and lead to the honor roll.

"In October Mrs. Davis consulted us as to the best means of saving her boy. We conferred with Commissioner Woods, giving him full details, and subsequently visited the boy at Hart's Island, where we had every reason to believe from authentic sources that he was getting the drug. He bore every evidence of deterioration from contacting criminals. Following our investigation Commissioner Woods promised to release the boy.

"You remember our asking the boy's mother to appear before you, giving you details of the boy's incarceration. This took place December 6. The following day Geoffrey Davis was removed from Hart's Island to Queens county jail, and Detective Dattlebaum extracted from him an affidavit, duly witnessed by a notary public and signed by Geoffrey Davis and submitted to you in Commissioner Lewis's statement, to the effect that he was cured, that he had never received any drugs on the island, that he was a good example of institutional cure.

"The morning after this affidavit was read before you I reminded Commissioner Arthur Woods over the telephone of his promise to parole the boy to our care. Commissioner Woods acted immediately, but his request to Katharine Davis in a letter to me, which stated that the boy is not a criminal and, according to Judge Collins's statement, had been cured by institutional methods minus any treatment.

Liberty Still Refused.

"He is still refused his liberty, is still retained in a penal institution, if not a menace to himself, an added burden to our taxpayers. Judge Collins in his statement further adds that publicity is wrong. That it robs the institution of its rightful job, namely, to restore to the boy a future of hope, an honorable position, a wage earning capacity, yet we in this welfare work of ours find none willing to give that self-committed addict, with the stigma of the so-called institutional after care, a position—a wage earning capacity. We refuse to Judge Collins the right to determine the proper course for the suffering addict to follow. To the medical profession alone should this task be commended.

"When you, Mr. Chairman, have investigated the records of our institutions from 1914 to the present day, public opinion will be in a position from these findings to demand a separate humane hospital for this type of penalized, victimized sufferer."

William M. F. Magraw, head of the National Committee for the Study and Relief of Drug Addicts, told the committee that despite the activities of the police and the various city departments drug addiction has spread in the last few years. He added:

"For some reason or other the addicts and their relatives fear persecution and annoyance subsequent to their appearing before you, and this fear has increased since your last hearing. The element of fear is the predominating element as we see the present situation."

The discussion shifted immediately to the floor, and Justice Collins jumped up to demand by what right Mr. Magraw said that the probation officers present were hounding the drug addicts who testified.

Edward W. France, the probation officer about whom the whirlwind centred, also denied vehemently that he had come to the hearings in any capacity other than as a spectator, but admitted that he had told Mr. Corwin that it was his duty to arrest one addict who is testifying said that he had escaped from Warwick Farms.

Mr. Corwin then read a letter from Dr. David Blumenstein of 51 Manhattan avenue in which he said that since the hearings some of his patients, drug addicts, who had been requested to appear before the committee, were afraid that they would be subjected to police persecution if they did. He asked that the committee reassure him and extend protection to any patients who might respond to the committee's invitation.

Mr. Corwin said he thought whatever protection could be given to these addicts should be promised them, and Senator Whitney again said the committee would request that no steps be taken to apprehend such addicts as came voluntarily or under subpœna to aid the committee with recitals of their experiences.

OSSINING'S LADY COP ACCUSED AND FIRED

Sought to Force Girl of 16 to Trap Soldier, Says Father.

Ossining's only woman cop lost her baton last night in a stormy and sensational meeting of the village trustees, during which the policewoman was charged with seeking to induce a young girl to act as a lure for men against whom the policewoman wished to make charges.

The town wrangle over the retention of the only lady cop in the valley started a week ago when a motion to reappoint Mrs. Anna O'Shea to the force was defeated by a vote of 7 to 4. When the town fathers came together last night, with nearly everybody in town present to take part in a public hearing, a motion was made to reconsider the action of the preceding meeting. That motion was carried and Mrs. O'Shea, backed by members of the Civic League, an organization of leading women, was on hand to press her fight.

As a curtain raiser to the main storm Robert Martin remarked right out in meeting that he thought the police woman necessary because the soldiers stationed on the outskirts of the town were flirting with young girls.

Mrs. Sarah Davis, mother of a First Lieutenant in the army, vaulted into the oratorical arena to meet this charge. She was thoroughly indignant.

"I will not let anybody reflect upon the men who wear the uniform of their country and are doing their bit," she said. "Because a man is in the army he is no better and no worse than he would be out of it. There are a lot of men who do not wear uniforms who ought to be watched."

Mrs. Davis added that the employment of the policewoman was a disgrace to the town, and that it was bringing the place unpleasant notoriety and making it the laughing stock of the rest of the State.

Things had heated up to such a point by this time that the Fuel Administrator had no business around Ossining. Thomas Creighton came to the front with the charge that Mrs. O'Shea had made threats to his sixteen-year-old niece. Alice Creighton, that she would be sent away to an institution unless she would agree to write to soldiers stationed near the town, induce them to come to the village and then furnish evidence upon which Mrs. O'Shea might act.

He added that Mrs. O'Shea made a similar demand with reference to the Chief of Police, James W. Tompkins, and had demanded that the girl go to the chief's office and scream for aid in time to have Mrs. O'Shea rush into the room and get the evidence against the chief.

Mrs. O'Shea denied the charges vehemently.

The trustees took a recess and sent for the girl. They examined her in private, and then the announcement was made that she had corroborated the story told by her uncle and made the charges before Mrs. O'Shea.

When this announcement was made the trustees proceeded to vote again upon the reconsidered motion to retain Mrs. O'Shea and the motion again failed by 7 to 5. Trustee Joseph Royle, who voted last week against Mrs. O'Shea, changed his vote to her, and Trustee Patrick McCormick, who voted for her last week, changed to a negative vote.

When the session adjourned a superheated town, the only one in the Hudson valley, sought homes and firesides to discuss all over again the events of the night.

LABELS MAY LAND PROFITEERS IN JAIL

State Food Commission Plans to Force All Retailers to Be Truthful.

PROTECTION FOR BUYERS

Containers of Staple Goods to State Kind, Grade and Retail Price.

The State Food Commission is getting ready to adopt rules providing that all retailers must place on containers of certain staple foodstuffs in common use, or on the goods themselves, labels bearing the kind, grade and retail price of the commodity exposed for sale. The rule, if published for ten days, will have the effect of a law and therefore will afford the public a guarantee that it cannot be imposed upon by misrepresentation.

Everybody knows, particularly in the trade, that there are men in the business who add to their bank accounts by selling inferior articles at prices which their competitors receive for superior grades. The average housewife cannot always tell whether she is getting cold storage eggs or strictly fresh eggs when she pays top notch prices, and the new rule will put the responsibility up to the dealer. If eggs go on the list—and they probably will—he will have to tell the truth about the eggs on his labels or bear the consequences.

Fine and Prison Penalties.

A violation of any rule promulgated by the commission is a misdemeanor under the law, punishable by a fine of not less than $100 or more than $1,000, or by imprisonment of not more than a year, or by both fine and imprisonment. If the violation be made by a corporation or association, the corporation or association will be subject to the fine and any officer of either participating in the violation is subject to punishment just as an individual by fine and imprisonment.

It is very apparent under the circumstances that the new State food law has teeth in it that can bite hard. Going on the theory that the consumers have a perfect right to be protected from the wiles of the crooked men of the trade and that honest tradesmen themselves will welcome any plan to prevent rascals from not playing the game fair the members of the commission purpose to put such a new rule in force without loss of time.

The proposition will be considered by the Federal Food Board at its headquarters, 220 West Fifty-seventh street, next Friday, and if it is approved it will be adopted by the State Food Commission. The three members of the State Food Commission compose the majority of the Federal Food Board.

Storekeepers in Opposition.

It is believed that the proposed labelling rule is going to be vigorously opposed by many storekeepers. The argument has already been made by grocers that the use of price tickets on articles is practicable and generally observed, but they object strenuously to marking goods, whether in containers or exposed in groups, with labels showing plainly what the brands are. They have pleaded that the extra expense would add further to the cost of living. Pencils, ink and pieces of cardboard or paper are not very expensive.

John Mitchell, chairman of the Federal Food Board, and Arthur Williams, Federal Food Commissioner of the city, have repeatedly said that the public must be protected against the pleasant little fashion some dishonest dealers have of selling low cost goods at fancy goods prices, and they propose to stop it if they can. The State food law giving the State Food Commission the right to make rules "for the correction of practices in dealing in necessaries" paves the way for abolishing a custom of merchants without conscience fooling their customers.

The proposed rule was announced by Chairman Mitchell at Federal Food Board headquarters last night. It is admittedly drastic and promises to do the work for which it is designed.

End to Misrepresentation.

Retailers will have to bow to the authority of the State and obey it when it goes through, as it probably will, or else dig down deep for fines or reflect in jail.

It is agreed by the food administrators that men who do not feel that they have a right to misrepresent their goods will not object to affixing price and grade labels to articles on sale. They feel that, instead of protecting against something that will insure the confidence of consumers and provide for their protection, well intentioned dealers—and they are in the vast majority—will be glad of a chance to join the food administrations in their efforts to compel the black sheep to do the right thing by the public.

When the rule becomes a law it will no longer be advisable for a fish dealer to sell you whiting, which retails for 7 to 10 cents a pound, as kingfish at 25 cents a pound. Men in the trade have confided to the food administrators that this ruse is very often at some fish stands.

Cold storage eggs will be labelled as such with cold storage prices marked where all who buy may read.

A Texas turkey will proudly bear its name in plain type, either hand made or printed, and the price of Texas birds must appear with it. No longer will cold storage turkeys bear price tickets of the fresh killed turkey, as consumers have often realized when they sat down to dinner and tried to figure out how mother or Bridget got stuck.

Just what staples will be affected by the rule has not been decided yet, but it is believed they will include those staples which appear daily on the American dinner table. Eggs, butter, meats, potatoes, fish, cheese and other things may go on the list.

SENOR PEREZ, 70, SUED BY GIRL

Senorita Bazan Asks $300,000 for Breach of Promise.

A $300,000 suit for breach of promise in which the principals are members of prominent Cuban families now living at the Hotel Claridge in this city was begun in the Supreme Court yesterday. Senorita Mercedes Zayas Bazan, 20 years old, is the plaintiff against Senor Miguel Diaz Perez, 70 years old, who is reputed to be a wealthy planter and Havana realty owner.

Senorita Bazan has asked for an examination of the defendant before trial in order to prepare her case. She alleges that Perez induced her to go with her mother and live at his estate near Havana for the period of one year, after which she was to become his bride. The wedding was put off several times, she continues, and finally they came to New York.

Then, she says, she learned that Perez had a wife living in Spain. The difficulty was settled, she says, by the promise of the defendant to pay her $1,000 a month for the remainder of her life. His refusal to live up to this alleged agreement forced her to bring suit.

N. Y. SCHOOLBOY KIDNAPPED; FOUND HURT AND DRUGGED

Taken From Manhattan by Men in Motor Car and Picked Up in Perth Amboy Unconscious—Had Accused a Man in Court.

Arthur Davis, a thirteen-year-old schoolboy of 716 Tenth avenue, Manhattan, was picked up unconscious in the driveway of a home at 163 High street, Perth Amboy, last night and taken to the Perth Amboy City Hospital. There after regaining his senses he told the police a story of kidnapping by automobile from West Fifty-first street yesterday afternoon, near the Sacred Heart School, where he is a pupil.

Adolph M. Metzendorf, who lives at 163 High street, Perth Amboy, found the boy lying in his front yard about 6:30 o'clock. Around his head was wrapped a thick cloth, stained with iodine. On his skull was a small bruise, but not severe enough, said the physicians later, to result in unconsciousness. From this the local police deduced the fact that drugs had been used to put the boy in a temporarily senseless condition.

The boy regained consciousness early in the evening and told his story to the police. He said two men had taken him in an automobile from Fifty-first street, between Ninth and Tenth avenues, and driven out of the city. The latter part of the ride he could not remember, nor had he any idea how he lost consciousness or reached Perth Amboy. He was able to give a description of his captors.

Late last night William Davis, an employee of the Consolidated Gas Company, the father of the boy, went to Perth Amboy after his son in response to a telegram. His mother remained at their home, 716 Tenth avenue, unable to account for the child's disappearance.

Mrs. Davis said he had gone to a school entertainment that afternoon, and at first she did not worry over his failure to return home. After communication with the school and his boy friends brought no light on his whereabouts at 6 o'clock, however, she notified the police.

She related that the kidnapped boy appeared in police court last month against a man who was arrested on a charge of binding and gagging him at the home of his aunt, Mrs. Joseph Noonan at 431 West Forty-eighth street, on November 17. On that evening he went to care for the children of his aunt. About 10 o'clock, according to his story, three men entered the rooms and bound him, covering his head with a kerosene soaked rag. A little later a watchman heard his moans, and found him. A few trinkets were missed, and the case reported to the police. On the boy's alleged identification a man was arrested, but the case was dropped.

HYLAN FOR STATE FOOD PRICE FIXING

Mayor-elect Writes Senator Wagner Suggesting Legislative Action.

Mayor-elect Hylan believes that the State Food Commission should be allowed to fix prices, and that each municipality in the State should be allowed of its own volition to buy and sell food to relieve suffering in time of emergency. He made public yesterday a letter he had written to Senator Robert F. Wagner suggesting legislative action. The letter follows:

"The most serious question that now confronts the people of New York city is the tremendous rise in the price of the necessaries of life. The poor people of New York are suffering as a result of those excessive prices, while the selfish interests are taking advantage of the present prices to exact even a greater profit than in normal times from the consumers. These selfish interests must be curbed by the Government and our people must be relieved as much as possible of the hardships they are compelled to experience because of these unscrupulous war profiteers.

"Our people are willing to make any sacrifice or experience any hardship, however great, for our country, but they should not be asked to swell the purses of these manipulators, who are so lacking in patriotism as to seek profit for themselves out of this world struggle for democracy into which we have entered.

"To me it appears there is only one way these selfish interests can be curbed and some relief brought to our people, and that is by empowering the State Food Commission to fix the price of the necessaries of life.

"I understand you offered legislation last year which if enacted would have given the State the power to fix these prices. I hope you will again introduce this proposed legislation. I believe, with the experience before us since the Legislature last met, there will be a ready response by our representatives to enact this necessary legislation.

"I believe the present law should also be amended so as to give each municipality in the State the power to buy and sell these necessaries of life to relieve the sufferings of our people whenever such an emergency should arise. Such power cannot now be exercised by our municipality unless the consent thereof is obtained from the State Food Commission.

"It seems to me that the local Board of Estimate and Apportionment is in a better position to determine when an emergency exists in our city than the State Food Commission.

"If there is any way that I as Mayor of New York can be of assistance in the passage of such legislation, please command me."

SET PRICES FOR STEAKS.

Food Board "Suggests" What Butchers Should Charge.

In its list of "suggested" prices, representing what certain foodstuffs should be purchased for by consumers on a cash and carry basis in retail stores, the Federal Food Board announced last night that sirloin steak, untrimmed, whole loin, for which the retail butcher pays 23 and 25 cents per pound, should be bought in medium rental and low rental stores at 30 cents a pound. Round steak, top cut, which costs the retailer 25½ to 27 cents, should be bought by the consumer for 34 cents. The "suggested" retail price of round steak, bottom cut, for which the butcher pays 25½ to 27 cents, should be 34 cents in medium rental and 32 cents in low rental stores. The steaks quoted are from medium steers, dressed weight, 550 to 650 pounds.

COAST GOVERNOR'S HOUSE DYNAMITED

Reward of $1,000 for California Plotters' Arrest.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Dec. 18.—A reward of $1,000 for the arrest and conviction of persons responsible for what is believed to have been an attempt by pro-Germans to kill Gov. William D. Stephens by means of a powerful explosive bomb at midnight last night was offered in a resolution adopted to-day by the Sacramento Board of City Commissioners.

The explosion resulted in the wrecking of the Executive Mansion, the entire rear end of the building being blown out. The Governor and Mrs. Stephens, as well as the household servants, were asleep at the time, but all escaped injury.

Two men were seen fleeing from the house immediately after the explosion.

The detonation was heard all over the city and windows were broken two or three blocks away. It was believed that from twenty to twenty-five sticks of dynamite were used.

A clew as to the perpetrators was given to the police by the Rev. Frazer Langford, pastor of a church, who reported that four months ago a man was noticed lurking about the Executive Mansion, and that he continued to haunt the locality until a week ago, when he disappeared.

William D. Stephens became Governor of California last spring when Gov. Hiram W. Johnson assumed his duties as United States Senator.

Last week Gov. Stephens made a series of patriotic addresses in southern California.

ALDERMEN REFUSE MOSKOWITZ APPEAL

Commissioner of Markets Sought Authority to Spend $25,000 for Milk.

Dr. Henry Moskowitz, Commissioner of Markets, asked the Board of Aldermen yesterday to designate him as the city's agent to spend $25,000 for the purchase of milk and sale of it through the city's milk stations and public schools for the benefit of the poor children of the city.

The Commissioner spoke very earnestly to the Aldermen. He told them he made his application on December 3 and fourteen days had been lost in inaction, although there was need for speed. Unless the designation was authorized, he declared, the Commissioner of Markets could not go to the Comptroller for the proper financing.

The Aldermen, however, were primed for Dr. Moskowitz, and Aldermen Robitzek and Palitz sprung a substitute designating the Commissioner of Health as the agency instead of the Commissioner of Markets, which prevailed by a vote of 40 to 11.

The resolution authorizes the Health Commissioner to establish and maintain stations or depots for the storage and distribution of milk and to employ, pursuant to the regulations of the municipal civil service law, such persons in addition to those now in the employ of the Health Commissioner to effectuate the purpose of the resolution. The resolution, however, did not give the Health Commissioner the power to request the Comptroller to advance any money for the purchase of milk.

Dr. Moskowitz told the Aldermen that when he first applied to the board it would have been possible for him to buy milk from the Dairymen's League at 9 cents a quart and sell it for 10 cents, but he couldn't get it now for less than 10 cents and would have to sell it for 11 cents. He declared that he had two purposes in view in making the request, the purchase and sale of milk and the purchase and sale for the city of other foodstuffs.

Several Aldermen found fault with the Commissioner for not formulating a programme and telling them all about it.

"Is your office removable like other commissioners at the will of the new Mayor?" asked one Alderman.

"It is," replied Moskowitz.

"Good business!" exclaimed another Alderman.

"What grade of milk will you sell at 11 cents?" asked Alderman Heyman.

"Grade B," returned the doctor.

"Grade B is sold to-day at stores for 11 cents," returned Heyman. "Then what's the use of giving you the power? We want to wait until we get a practical Commissioner of Markets, one who knows an ox from a jackass. We want a man who knows what the people of the city want in order to keep body and soul together. We don't want a lawyer for a Commissioner of Markets, or a butcher for a lawyer. Your Department of Health can sell milk to a woman cheaper than what you can get it for her."

A large delegation of settlement house workers was on hand to give their moral support to Dr. Moskowitz.

11,156 MEN SHOVELLING SNOW.

Contractors Still Find It Hard to Get Workers.

In addition to the 1,500 sweepers of the regular force, the Street Cleaning Department yesterday had 6,900 emergency men working in Manhattan, and the contractors had 524 trucks and 592 men busy. The contractors had the greatest difficulty in getting snow shovellers to load the wagons.

No contracts were let in The Bronx this year, and the department reports its efforts to do the work with its own forces have been successful. Two hundred regular men and 1,692 emergency men have been employed, with 116 trucks and 192 contract laborers. A total of 11,156 men are at work in the two boroughs.

The department has provided sand boxes for the points where the grades are steep and slippery for the protection of men and horses.

INSIST ON DRILL AT CITY COLLEGE

Three More "Shirkers" Dropped From Rolls.

Continuing its campaign of cooperation with the State Military Training Commission in the enforcing of the Slater law, the City College yesterday dropped three more men from its rolls for non-attendance at drills, making a total of five men dropped and fourteen suspended until January 7.

The City College is the only college to actively cooperate with the State commission. In spite of its strict enforcement of the law, less than one-half of 1 per cent. of the men drilling have been dropped. There are 1,000 men liable to the provisions of the law.

On December 1 the dean of City College announced his intention of cooperating with Major Lyon, who drills the college details. He said that all men lax in their attendance at drill would be dropped, and his action yesterday was in line with his warning.

$9,000 XMAS GIFT FOR CRIPPLED BOY

Court Makes Lad Happy by Permitting Compromise for Street Accident.

PLANNING HIS OWN TREE

Widowed Mother Teaches School and Helps War Savings Stamp Sales.

Last Christmas Johnny Mahoney had his Christmas present from the tree in the ward at Bellevue Hospital where he lay, gritting his teeth so he wouldn't cry with the pain of the leg that had been crushed when an American Express Company wagon ran over him the autumn before.

This Christmas he will have a tree at home, he and his big sister, Helen Mahoney, and his little sister, Kitty Mahoney, and his mother and grandmother, in their flat at 636 Third avenue. And a grand tree it is to be, in spite of the fact that Daddy has been dead these seven years, and his mother has supported the children by teaching school. For nine-year-old Johnny is quite a millionaire. The suit Mrs. Mahoney started against the express company has been compromised, and Johnny is the proud possessor of $9,000. Mrs. Mahoney receives $8,000 for loss of services.

Very unsteady on his crutches as yet is Johnny, and one leg hangs helpless, bound up in a steel brace; but his black eyes snap merrily at the world, and there are two deep dimples in his fat cheeks.

Disposition Pulled Him Through.

"It's his disposition that carried him through the dreadful pain," Mrs. Mahoney said last night. "And I used to say to him these days in the hospital, 'Johnny, the more feeling you have in your legs now the better it will be for you afterward.' I was afraid he'd be paralyzed, but he isn't; and by and by he's to have another operation and then he will get along on one crutch. He'll never be the fine active boy he was, but he'll get along.

"I can't say that I didn't worry," confessed Mrs. Mahoney, whose bright face looks as if she never let anything dishearten her. "I mind one day I came home when he was to be operated on, and I couldn't see him because he was under the ether. I got inside the street door here and sat down on the stairs, and I would have sat there all night if my brother-in-law hadn't come to see us, and he carried me upstairs. I couldn't walk. Miss McBride at the hospital used to say: 'Mrs. Mahoney, you are wonderful; you never worry.' Well, I worried, but no one ever saw it. For what's the use of telling the world your troubles?"

Seven years Mrs. Mahoney supported her children, her mother doing the housework while she was at school. Then one day Johnny, playing in the street—"And where else is there for a child to play?" Mrs. Mahoney wants to know—fell under the wheels of the wagon that crushed his hip. But even with all that expense and the loss of her time when the boy was at the worst Mrs. Mahoney managed to serve her country.

Liberty Bonds for Children.

"I bought three Liberty bonds," she says proudly, "one for each of the children. One is all paid up——"

"Which one is paid up, mother?" Johnny demanded, teetering on his crutches, with one hand grasping his mother's arm and the other fingering the Liberty Loan button he wears.

"Helen's. The oldest first," said the mother, and Johnny proudly announced that he would pay his own now.

"Of course I don't have the $9,000," said Mrs. Mahoney. "The City Chamberlain takes charge of that and pays Johnny the interest. My $2,000 I have right away. But I'm not going to stop working—no, indeed.

"We're glad to have this money, though it's small pay for the spoiling of the child's body, and such an active boy he was. I sued for $20,000 for Johnny and the same for myself, but I reasoned it was best to accept a compromise that would save us the worry of long court proceedings, and then it was settled amicably and the company feels kindly toward me. That is a great thing. My brother has worked for that company a long while and I'm glad to have their good will."

A bright, cheerful home have the Mahoneys, with a piano in the little parlor, and a music box, and a canary and pictures of Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney when they were married hanging on the wall. Kitty's doll sits on the sofa, looking at the place where the Christmas tree is to be set up. Mrs. Mahoney cordially invited the reporter to return on Christmas Day and see the tree.

Recalls Nurses' Kindness.

"And you orto go see the tree at Bellevue," breaks in Johnny. "Lots of folks go there Christmas Day to see the tree and it's awful fine." Hospital had no terrors for Johnny. The memory of the pain is softened, and he just recalls how good the nurses were.

Mrs. Mahoney teaches in a big school far uptown.

"And do you know what I'm doing?" she said. "It means a lot of bookkeeping, but I like it. I'm getting the children in my class to buy thrift stamps. Every time they get a penny they bring it to me, and I check it up in a book where I have all their names, and when a child gets 25 cents that buys a stamp."

"What do you do all day, Johnny?" the reporter asked.

"I sleep a lot, and I get up late," he responded. "And then I have two helpings of corn flakes and two pieces of toast, and maybe an egg. And I study some—I brought my books home—and then mother comes and takes me out on the street."

"And by and by, son," said Mrs. Mahoney as she guided Johnny off to bed, "by and by you'll go out, maybe, all by yourself."

It was last Monday that the lawyers on both sides decided on the compromise, and Supreme Court Justice Donnelly permitted it to be arranged.

GETS BLACK TOM DAMAGES.

Glass Co. Wins Test Suit for $23,000 Against Lehigh Railroad.

A verdict against the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company was given in Jersey City yesterday afternoon in the first suit to be tried for losses by the explosion at Black Tom the night of July 30, 1916. The plaintiff was the New Jersey Fidelity and Plate Glass Insurance Company, which sued to recover on 600 claims aggregating $23,000. A motion for a non-suit made by Lindley M. Garrison, former Secretary of War and former Vice-Chancellor of New Jersey, was denied by Judge William H. Speer.

The defence put in no testimony. It was agreed the jury need not specify the sum due, and it did not. It is said an appeal will be taken. The case has been looked upon as a test.

CHINESE 'INFORMER' MURDERED IN HOME

George Gee, Who Supplied Information to U. S., Stabbed to Death.

WAS A VALUABLE AID

Identity Believed Revealed to Countrymen by Moving Picture.

It was written in the lore of the wicked Chinese as it is in the codes of criminals of other races that the wage of the squealer is death. So Federal officials were not at all astonished yesterday to learn that George Gee, an Oriental who had a laundry at 551 Rogers avenue, Brooklyn, had been found murdered beneath his bed.

Gee had been operating this laundry as a side line for the purpose of deceiving his countrymen, but he had failed to do so. They had learned that he was a salaried Government informer; that he was successively employed by the Bureau of Immigration, the Customs Office and the Department of Internal Revenue; that he had "turned up" more than 100 cases within the last year.

Gee had told the immigration and customs officials where the Chinese were being smuggled into this country on the Canadian and Mexican borders and through what channels smoking opium was being imported into the United States. So valuable did he prove to them that when Richard Yancey, Jr., special agent of internal revenue, was brought to New York to war upon the drug traffic Gee was highly recommended to him.

He would tell where the opium was to be found, and at what time, and the officers would accordingly break down the doors and seize the dealers and their wares. He exposed the scheme of a wealthy Mott street merchant for smuggling opium into this country in dried duck legs. He furnished evidence on which the authorities raided eighteen dives in Newark recently.

Federal authorities expressed the opinion yesterday that Gee might have been betrayed by a motion picture for which he posed entitled "Queen X." This film dealt with the opium ring, and was based largely upon incidents related to Gee. He appeared on the screen in one of the principal roles.

However, the ways of the Oriental are mysterious, and rumor had it recently that one of the lawless tongs would pay $500 for a dagger stained with Gee's life blood. "They'll get you," Yancey warned him; but Gee only replied, "No, they think I carry a revolver."

"Gee will be hard to replace," Edwin M. Stanton, Assistant United States Attorney, said yesterday. "It is very seldom that we can find a Chinaman on whom we can depend for information. The Government hasn't had any one like him in years. We will not rest until his assassins have been brought to justice."

Detectives Hussey and McCarthy of the Sixth Branch yesterday took Lu-Chu Way, a laundryman, of 330 East Fourteenth street into custody on suspicion of complicity in the killing.

N. Y. LOSES HETTY GREEN TAX.

Surrogate Rules Against Comptroller a Second Time.

A ruling by Surrogate Fowler yesterday practically disposes of the possibility that New York State can collect an inheritance tax on the estate of Hetty Green, estimated as the largest ever held by a woman. Mrs. Green claimed legal residence in Vermont, but transacted much business in New York, where she maintained her office and spent much of her time.

On a motion by the State Comptroller to the Surrogates' office this question of residence was investigated, and Surrogate Fowler decided that the decedent was actually a resident of Vermont. Since then the Comptroller attempted to have the appraiser's statements reconsidered and a tax granted to the State on the ground that Mrs. Green was a non-resident doing business in this State. This was denied yesterday.

NEW WAR BENEFIT STOPPED BY SWANN

Prosecutor Forbids Dance and Lecture for National Woman's Army.

District Attorney Swann yesterday punctuated his inquiry into charity and relief soliciting by ordering the National Woman's Army, with headquarters at 347 Fifth avenue, not to hold its benefit dance and lecture which had been planned for last night in the Park Avenue Hotel. Mrs. Lee J. Boardman, president of the society, was at the District Attorney's office in the afternoon and promised the order would be carried out. She promised further, it is said, to return all money which had been received for the benefit, including about $75 taken in as advance on tickets.

The inquiry concerning the National Woman's Army was made originally by agents from the Department of Justice. It is said, who asserted that the society's representatives were soliciting money without authority. Mrs. Boardman said yesterday the benefit last night was to have been for the purpose of supplying ambulances and field hospitals to wounded soldiers.

Speculators obtained tickets to the free Red Cross mass meeting in the Hippodrome last Sunday night and sold them to patriotic citizens at from 75 cents to $3 each. The matter was brought to the District Attorney's attention by Joseph Johnson, former Fire Commissioner, who furnished the names of several speculators. Subpœnas will be issued for them.

Yesterday Mrs. Oliver Harriman turned over to the District Attorney's office a letter which purported to be an appeal for funds for the Junior Patriots of America. The letter was addressed to John McCall, 51 Chambers street, and bore her signature, which Mrs. Harriman says was forged. The letter was sent, it is understood, in connection with plans for the benefit of the Junior Patriots which was held in the Hippodrome March 25, and was written to introduce "Mrs. J. M. Mitchell, a member of our committee." One paragraph of the letter read: "We are at war. Are you prepared to serve, yourself? Fifty dollars or $100 will train a man who may be just the man to take your place on the firing line."

Mrs. Harriman declared also that she has seen at least one check which was made out to her in connection with the relief collection on which her indorsement had been forged.

Gertrude Atherton, who is connected with Le Bien Etre du Blessé, a war charity society, told a representative of the prosecutor's office yesterday she never had sanctioned payment of commission on any collections for her work.

The Sun Calendar.

THE WEATHER.

For eastern New York and New Jersey, cloudy to-day and to-morrow; continued moderate temperature; gentle southwest to south winds.

For northern New England, cloudy to-day and probably to-morrow; not much change in temperature; gentle southeast to south winds.

For southern New England, cloudy to-day and to-morrow; fresh northeast winds on the coast, becoming southeast.

For western New York, cloudy; slight moderate temperature to-day and to-morrow.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Areas of low pressure were central over southern British Columbia and western Ontario yesterday, while the pressure continued high over the Eastern and Southern states.

Light rain fell on the middle Atlantic coast, in the central States and along the north Pacific coast, and there were snow flurries in New York and New England. It was generally cloudy westward into the Mississippi Valley.

It was colder, with the temperature below zero in northern New York and New England, but in practically all other parts of the country it was warmer.

Freezing weather reached southward of Alabama and Georgia in the morning, but at the same hour the temperature was above freezing northward over the Mississippi Valley.

In this city the day was partly cloudy, with a few snow flurries; warmer, and fresh northeast; average humidity, 75 per cent.; barometer, corrected to read to sea level, at 8 A. M., 29.61; 8 P. M., 29.[illegible]

	8 A. M.	8 P. M.
Barometer	29.[illegible]	29.[illegible]
Humidity	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wind—direction	N. E.	S. E.
Wind—velocity	[illegible]	[illegible]
Weather	Cloudy	Fog
Precipitation	None	None

The temperature in this city yesterday, as recorded by the official thermometer, is shown in the annexed table:

8 A. M.	25	1 P. M.	33	6 P. M.	[illegible]	
9 A. M.	29	2 P. M.	33	7 P. M.	[illegible]	
10 A. M.	30	3 P. M.	34	8 P. M.	[illegible]	
11 A. M.	31	4 P. M.	34	9 P. M.	[illegible]	
12 A. M.	32	5 P. M.	34	10 P. M.	[illegible]	
	1917.	1916.			1917.	1916.
9 A. M.	29	22	6 P. M.		24	[illegible]
12 M.	32	27	9 P. M.		27	[illegible]
3 P. M.	34	27	12 Mid.		27	[illegible]

Highest temperature, 35, at 2:15 P. M.

Lowest temperature, 23, at 12:10 A. M.

Average temperature, 29.

Observations yesterday at United States Weather Bureau stations showing atmospheric conditions in the various cities:

Place.	Highest temp.	Wind.	Velocity.	Rain or snow.	Weather.
Atlantic City	40	E.	8	.[illegible]	Cloudy
Eastport	26	E.	14	.[illegible]	Cloudy
Boston	30	N.	8	.[illegible]	Cloudy
Jacksonville	44	N.	18	.[illegible]	Cloudy
Chicago	38	N.	18	.[illegible]	Cloudy
St. Louis	46	S.W.	18	.[illegible]	Cloudy
Minneapolis	38