

Two Day Yuletide Fete With Brilliant Dances Each Night Given in Washington for Charity

Ballroom of Hotel Turned Into Picturesque Village for Event.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 4. LAST week was a three-ring circus socially in Washington, and this one hasn't been much better. With the debutantes blossoming out, and the diplomatic corps filling up, and the Congressional crowd gathering in preparation for the opening of the final session of this Sixty-sixth Congress next Monday—(to say nothing of the horde of politicians, office seekers, persons with axes to grind who came to waylay the President-elect on his return from Panama)—the "season" may be regarded as pretty well under way.

Which reminds the writer of the great Yuletide fete, in which nearly everybody's pet charity was involved. For it pooled the interests of half a dozen of the most popular charities and enlisted the aid of all those interested in them. It was a two day fete—and a two night fete—which filled the two ballrooms, in fact, the whole tenth floor of the Willard, with picturesque booths and gay crowds, and winding up each night with a brilliant dance.

aided and abetted by her group of pretty models in a row. The brightly lighted Christmas tree, where Santa Claus and a corps of assistants were selling the work of the soldiers at the various hospitals around Washington—and wonderful handicrafts those convalescent "boys" produce. George Oakley Totten and two other local architects—Ward Brown and Lynch Luquer—helped Mr. Nelson Neighborhood House lay out his "street" and build his "shops."

There is some talk of the President's husbanding his strength with a view to appearing at the Capitol next week to deliver his usual message *viva voce*, after the fashion which he inaugurated, or revived, from Jefferson's day. But the official public here is distinctly sceptical as to his doing anything of the sort. Still one has learned to expect the unexpected from President Wilson, so, if it is physically possible, one would not put such an appearance past him.

Mrs. Wilson is still varying the disposition of occasional box parties at the big concerts with that of semi-occasional very exclusive little tea parties in the Red Rooms of the White House. Once in a great while she receives from half a dozen to, at the outside, a score of highly official women—Cabinet women, wives of the Justices of the Supreme Court, wives of newly arrived diplomats. And of course there are always those "family parties" on which the White House has specialized throughout the Administration.

had been fitted up with projecting machines and screens and is kept supplied with a choice assortment of new reels for the President's relaxation?

The President on Monday afternoon received three new Latin American diplomats, the new Ministers of Costa Rica, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, Dr. Octavio Becche, Dr. Julio Bianchi and Mr. Emilio Joubert, and exchanged the usual compliments with them. The arrival of Dr. Becche in Washington is an event of considerable interest, inasmuch as he is the first Minister from Costa Rica for several years. They've been having revolutions and things down there. He has brought his family with him—Mrs. Becche and several attractive children—and they

have taken an apartment at the St. Nicholas.

The Bianchis also have brought quite a family along and are pretty well settled in the house they have taken at 2800 Ontario Road, while Dr. Joubert and Mrs. Joubert are "comebacks." They were here before, several years ago. Mrs. Joubert is an unusually attractive woman and they were great favorites, so that a warm welcome awaited them.

The arrival of Dr. Bianchi—who is a real, honest to goodness M. D., a physician whose reputation extends beyond the confines of his own country—calls attention to the nice little world famous clinic that might be organized in the Latin American contingent of the Diplo-

matic Corps. Aside from Dr. Bianchi, there is Dr. Dominiel, the Venezuelan Minister, who was perhaps the most famous physician in his own country before embracing diplomacy, and Dr. Alejandro Cesar, who has just arrived as Minister from Nicaragua, replacing Chamorra, who had been Minister here for several years, but was recently elected and has just been inaugurated President of the little Central American republic, who not only won fame as a leading physician of Nicaragua, but served in the medical corps of the French army during the recent world war.

Mrs. Wilson entertained a party at the Boston Symphony concert on Tuesday afternoon and another at Frits

Kreiser's concert on Friday. At the first she had with her Mrs. Oliver Wendell Holmes, wife of Mr. Justice Holmes of the Supreme Court; Mrs. Mathieu, wife of the Chilean Ambassador; Mrs. George Creel (Miss Bianche Bates), who was here this week as leading woman in "The Famous Mrs. Fair," and Mrs. Rufus Day, Mr. Justice Day's daughter-in-law. Mrs. Wilson looked very well in a modish afternoon costume of what seemed to be midnight blue taffeta, made with short sleeves, which require always dressy long white gloves. With this she wore a small black hat with a bunch of ostrich feathers at one side and a splendid sable cape.

Mrs. Colby, as the ranking hostess of the Administration circle, may be re-

garded as having officially opened the season in its behalf when she served her first "Cabinet Wednesday" since her return to Washington. Mr. Colby left last night for his South American tour.

Mrs. Houston and Mrs. Meredith both observed their Wednesdays at home, but both of them have received several times before on Wednesday this autumn. Mrs. Baker, on the other hand, who is generally at home regardless of season, did not receive out at Beauvoir, because she had promised to receive at a reception given for the delegates to the Electrical Communications Conference that afternoon at the Girls' Training School.

Lady Geddes at the British Embassy, and Baroness Shidehara at the Japanese, both observed their first Friday at

home yesterday, thereby giving a sort of official notice that the season was open in the Diplomatic Corps. Baroness Shidehara has announced her intention of observing the first and third Friday during the season. On Wednesday evening Sir Auckland and Lady Geddes were the dinner guests of the Joseph Letters at their Dupont Circle residence. To-day the British Ambassador was at Williamsburg, as chief orator at a celebration at William and Mary College—a captive, presumably, of Admiral Gra-

son, who is a graduate of that institution, and who is down there with Sir Auckland. It is a celebration of the one hundred and forty-fourth anniversary of the alpha, or mother chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity.

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