



The Smart Set

The Christmas question is one that will probably never be settled. What to give one's friends will always remain indefinite and unsatisfactory. Every year reformers study it. Specialization has been suggested. Send picture frames to every one. Eliminate 50 per cent of the tension. Don't try to please people. Please yourself. If you like picture frames, send them. It seems self-considering and ruthless, but there can't be 100 per cent of pleasing, and if every one followed the plan it would unquestionably be the greatest good to the greatest number, which is perfectly ethical.

This year there are posters for distracted givers. On stone walls and board fences, he is advised to send her a merchandise order. One pictures him pining, lost in thought. Wondering what to give her. She hates books—never reads. Doesn't care for candy. Flowers are so formal. At this point, "Send her an order" looms on a fence.

In streetcars there are placards for her: "Send him an order." The Christmas situation has been benevolently considered this year, and the care of givers greatly reduced. But San Francisco is still behind New York.

In New York women like Anne Morgan and Mrs. August Belmont, with wealth distinction and progressive ideas, have studied the question and advanced theories. More from a sociological and philanthropic point of view, though all harassed givers are worthy their philanthropy. They declare Christmas has become a burden on the working class, and they've founded a society for the prevention of useless giving. Rather more appealing than specializing. But very difficult. So hard to discriminate. The most useless roses in the world may be important, after all. Weighted with significance of pleasure in the sending and receiving. How is the society to know?

Obvious cases, of course. That of the giver who sent Browning to a lover of Longfellow could be adjusted. It was carelessness, and when the giver remembered that Longfellow was the name, and not Browning, his chagrin may be imagined. He couldn't have made a more hopeless mistake. As a member of the society, he would have been protected, very likely, by investigation. Referred to authorities the name of the person to receive his gift and his decision to send Browning. They would investigate the person's taste and notify him of his error. They might suggest Whittier, Bryant and N. P. Willis with Longfellow for his personal selection. Though this may not be at all the way the society proceeds.

Miss Katie-Bel McGregor, one of the attractive debutantes who has been a conspicuous figure at all of the recent parties given by the younger contingent will be the featured guest at one of the most elaborate affairs of the week, when Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Tynan will entertain in the evening at a dinner-dance to be given tomorrow evening at the Bohemian club.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace G. Hellmann gave a dinner last evening at their home in Gough street for Frederick W. Hillman, who is spending the winter from Nevada and who will be the guest of his brother during his stay here. He will leave in a few days for New York, where he will be joined by Mrs. Hellmann and will sail shortly for South America where he goes to manage a large copper mine.

Tina Lerner's Last Recital Tonight

Diva's Concerts Won Local Fame



Russian pianist, who will make last San Francisco appearance tonight.

representation of the younger set at an affair, which was marked by informality, and was concluded at midnight, according to the new rule adopted by the younger set who indulge in dancing.

Mrs. Samuel Blair and her daughter, Miss Jennie Blair, will leave for the south after the holidays and are planning to pass a month or more of the New Year at Coronado.

The theater party given last evening by Miss Jennie Blair, when Miss Jane Hotelling was the honored guest, was a delightful occasion for the members of the younger set, and more than a score of young people enjoyed the reunion. Miss Hotelling, assisted by Mrs. Ella Hotelling, will entertain this evening at one of the elaborate dancing parties of the holiday season.

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Crocker left yesterday for New York, where they will pass the holidays with their son, William H. Crocker Jr., and Mrs. Helen Crocker. Mr. and Mrs. Crocker will return after Christmas to their home at Burlingame.

Mrs. G. Alexander Wright entertained at one of the informal parties recently given at the Bellevue, when the diversion of the afternoon was the game of five hundred, which followed the hour at the card tables.

The Sausalito Cotillon club has sent out cards for the dances to be given this season at the San Francisco Yacht club. The first will take place on Saturday evening, January 4, and the second affair is scheduled for Saturday evening, February 1. The hours are from 8 until 12 o'clock and this club will join the other clubs who are advocating the cotillon.

Miss Eda Beronio was hostess yesterday at an informal tea given at the Town and Country club when she entertained Miss Laura Currey, the Russian pianist, who will leave next week for the east. Among those present were:

Mrs. James Ellis Tucker, Mrs. Alton Hayne, Mrs. Frank H. Davis, Mrs. Frederick Meyer, Mrs. Robert L. Collins.

One of the attractive dances of the New Year will take place this evening, January 2, when the debutantes and members of the younger set will enjoy the party for which cards have been sent out by Mrs. John W. Maillard, Mrs. Edgar N. Wilson, Mrs. Edward J. Boyd, Mrs. Arthur J. Perry, Mrs. Perry Byre and Mrs. William B. Tubbs.

Dr. and Mrs. James K. Brodie arrived yesterday from Santa Barbara, accompanied by their daughter, Mrs. Brodie, who will pass the holiday vacation here. They are at the Monarch. Mrs. Wayman will leave early in February for the east on a brief visit.

Mrs. Nicholas G. Kittle has sent out invitations for a dance to be given Monday evening, December 20, at her home in Steiner street, when the honored guest will be her young granddaughter, Miss Jean Boyd, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Boyd, who is passing the winter with her grandmothers. The substitute set from town and across the bay will participate in the affair.

"WHIRLWIND DAY FOR SEAL SELLING" Red Cross Workers to Canvass Business District

Next Thursday will be "whirlwind day" with the Red Cross workers who are selling Christmas seals. A thorough canvass of the business districts will be made beginning early in the morning.

At 1 o'clock at the St. Francis Ma-Int, the magician, will auction a gold wrist watch, set with sapphires. He has promised to do some of his feats of magic before he gets down to the real business of the day, but it is expected that he will do greater marvels in the way of adding to the fund for the Red Cross fight against tuberculosis.

On Thursday it is promised that the tickets sold at every nickelodeon in town will bear a Red Cross seal.

A meeting was held yesterday afternoon, at which Mrs. Henry Payot presided, and at which most encouraging reports were made of the progress in selling seals.

LOOKING FOR HER SON—Mrs. Minnie Martin, 31 Gibbs street, Portland, Ore., yesterday asked the local police to institute a search for her son, George J. Martin, aged 14 years. Mrs. Martin in her letter says she has been frantic with grief since the boy disappeared September 20. She believes he is in San Francisco.

Pianist Who Came Here Almost Unknown Popular Now

Lovers of music will have an opportunity of showing their appreciation to-night at Scottish Rite hall of Tina Lerner, the celebrated Russian pianist, who will appear in a recital.

Miss Lerner arrived in San Francisco a few weeks ago, virtually unheralded and unknown. Her two appearances with the San Francisco orchestra stamped her as an artist of the first rank, and her womanly and lovable qualities firmly entrenched her in the hearts of the San Francisco public.

The program that Miss Lerner will give leaves nothing to be desired. It includes such a wide range of possibilities that the pianist must needs be the most versatile. Miss Lerner will depart tomorrow for New York.

SUFFRAGE CLUB HOLDS ELECTION

Report Made of Aid Given Movement Elsewhere

Election of officers and reports occupied the Susan B. Anthony club at the annual meeting yesterday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Austin Sperry, the president, who was unanimously returned to that office.

A report, read by Mrs. Sperry, showed that nine meetings of the club had been held within the last year and that most of the energies of the organization had been directed in aid of the suffrage movement in other states. The following amounts have been donated:

For the work of Mrs. Rhoda Ringrose in Oregon, together with the College Equal Suffrage League, \$50; for Ohio, \$50; Arizona, \$25; Kansas, \$20; Grants Pass, Ore., \$10; Milwaukee, \$10.

The president recalled that just 16 years ago the club was formed in the same room in which it met yesterday. Of the 12 charter members but two have died, Ellen V. Sargent and Agnes M. Mannings.

The report of the treasurer, Mrs. C. C. Baker, showed that \$311.35 had been received during the year and \$287.75 had been expended.

The officers elected were as follows: President, Mrs. Austin Sperry; first vice president, Mrs. Isabel A. Baldwin; second vice president, Mrs. J. O. Low; recording secretary, Miss Isabel Munson; corresponding secretary, Miss Mattie Hunter; treasurer, Mrs. C. C. Baker; auditors, Mrs. M. C. Baylor, Miss Mary Keene.

It was voted to abolish the office of financial secretary.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS TREE—The Bryant Cosmopolitan school will not have any graduating exercises this term, but instead there will be a Christmas tree and entertainment for the children in the auditorium of the school in Bryant street near Twenty-third at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday next. The story of Santa Claus is to be presented in little scenes in a series of stereoscopic pictures.

On Throwing Away

By RUTH CAMERON
A friends of mine who was about to move was sorting over a drawerful of accumulated "trunk"—I can think of no other equally expressive word—and was throwing more than half of it into the waste basket. "It makes me feel dreadfully to throw all these things away," she said.

"Why?" I asked. "Do you think you'll ever need them again?"

"Oh no," she said, "only it seems terrible to throw them away after I've kept them so many years, given them valuable house-room and sorted and tied them up every year. The time and space I've given them sort of makes them seem valuable though I never got any good out of them."

Isn't that a suggestive statement? How many of us have closets and bureau drawers and chests and garrets filled with "trunk," whose only value is the time it has eaten up and the valuable house-room it has filled.

Do you know how to throw things away?

There are a great many people in the world who never master this art. Accumulation is a mania with them. It seems to hurt them to destroy, or give away, or otherwise get rid of any article no matter how remote is the chance of their ever having any use for it.

The wise person who understands the art of elimination as well as that of accumulation, asks of each object that is taking his time and space, "Is it likely that I shall ever use this again?" And if he thinks it is not, he gets rid of it. He knows that the annoyance it will cause him to have a burden of unused objects in his home is greater than the annoyance he will feel from having gotten rid of one or two things that he might have used again.

The unwise man with whom accumulation is a mania asks, "Is it possible under any combination of circumstances that I would ever want this again?" and accumulates accordingly.

I once had an elderly relative who acted on this principle. Her mother had been a dressmaker and she actually insisted on keeping all the paper patterns, from which her mother had cut out gowns 30 years ago. "Oh they might be useful sometime," she would insist vaguely but obstinately when she was urged to get rid of this clutter and make the house more habitable. She never used them and, of course, they were thrown pell-mell into the fire along with several cartloads of similar stuff by her heirs.

The ability to accumulate is valuable, but the ability to choose and eliminate is equally so.

There is scarcely one of us who does not possess too much, who does not need to make a raid upon his or her house about once in so often, and sternly get rid of those articles which are hindering rather than serving.

THIEF OUTSPUN HER

Stopped by a shabbily dressed stranger near her home at 705 Vallejo street early yesterday morning, who mumbled a few inarticulate questions, Miss Mae Smith was about to reply, when the thief snatched her purse.

The sneak thief ran with the purse, which contained \$15, with Miss Smith in close pursuit.

The thief, however, outdistanced the plucky woman. Out of breath, Miss Smith went to her home and telephoned the police, but they found no trace of the fellow.

BOOKS TO GIVE

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