

Academic Honors For Noted People



AGNES IRWIN.

THE most notable feature in connection with the commencement exercises at Radcliffe college, the women's department of Harvard university, was the farewell address of Miss Agnes Irwin, the first dean of the institution, who retires in September from the post she has held from the time when this branch of the work at Harvard was first established. It was then an experiment. It is now a well accepted and highly valued part of the education imparted by the university as a whole.

A marked compliment was paid to Miss Irwin in the gift of \$1,000, presented in her honor by the Alumnae association, to be used by the college in scholarships or in any other way it deems best. The former pupils of Miss Irwin have already established a scholarship at Radcliffe, known as the Agnes Irwin scholarship. The fund provides for the tuition fees of one student.

President Taft had a good time at the Yale commencement this year, but next year he will have a better one if all goes well, for then his eldest son, Robert Alphonso Taft, a member of the Yale class of 1910, will graduate. It was quite a Taft day at Yale this year, however, when the degrees were conferred. Six male members of the family participated in the ceremonies—President William Howard Taft, 1878; his son, Robert Alphonso Taft, 1910;



PRESIDENT TAFT AND PRESIDENT HADLEY. THE MARSHAL AND THE MACE BEARERS.

his brothers, Charles P. Taft, 1864, and Henry W. Taft, 1880, and the latter's two sons, Walbridge Taft, 1907, and William Howard Taft, 1909. The president smiled noticeably when his nephew and namesake of the graduating class was given his Yale sheepskin.

Another interesting episode of the day was the president's visit to the temple of the noted Yale secret society, Skull and Bones, admission to which is considered such an honor. Robert's scholarship and general standing have won him election to it, something which is especially pleasing to the president, as it was his father, the late Secretary Taft of Grant's cabinet, who established the order when he was a student at Yale.

When the chief executive passed

pany with his military aid, ^{Archibald W. Butt, and even the secret service men acting as his guards, for none but members are admitted beyond the portals of the temple.}

President Taft walked to Woolsey hall, where diplomas and degrees were conferred, with President Hadley, secret service men being on each side of him and his military aid, Captain Butt, a little to the rear. The president wore the traditional academic cap and gown. Directly in front of him and President Hadley marched the marshal of the procession and the alumnus who was honored with bearing the great golden mace of the institution, symbol of academic authority.

New York In Midsummer.

Perhaps It Is the Heat That Makes Denizens of the Big Town Want to Fly—The Popularity of the Aviator—The Sugar Trust Situation.

By JAMES A. EDGERTON. (Our New York Correspondent.)

DESPITE the fact that some of our human birds are gliding gracefully into trees and others are bumping into the landscapes from great heights, we are still flying. What is more, we are going to continue flying. There is nothing to stop us, nothing—that is, except those same trees and landscapes and a few other hard and immovable obstacles. We only learn to walk by taking many tumbles, and it is evident that we learn to fly in the same way, the only difference being that we have farther to tumble. A baby sits down suddenly and sustains nothing more serious than a bump and a surprise, but when an aeronaut makes a miscue and hits the earth or the side of a house he makes a dent. We do not stop automobiling because a few joy riders try to break down telegraph poles, run over the population and take flying leaps from high embankments. Neither are we going to quit aviation because some of our aeroplanes do not aviate. The first man I ever heard of trying to fly jumped off a house with a dry goods box under each arm. The boxes did not help keep him up, but added to



JOHN E. PARSONS.

the excitement of the crash when he lit. Since the day of that first martyr of science, or, rather, near-martyr, for he was not killed, we have gone on smashing aeronauts in ever increasing ratio. But it is so the world moves. Every battle with nature has its maimed and dead, like the wars on which both sides are human. Besides, we are making progress. Now the aviator only breaks his machine, whereas formerly he broke his neck.

Paris is not the only city that can afford the luxury of flying machines. New York can now support an occasional flock of her own. We have just got through with one of the aerial tournaments, and every other man one meets has a crooked neck in consequence. There ought to be some way invented by which spectators at a flyingfest could lie on their backs and look straight up without making their necks writhe like a worm. At the Morris park aerial races there were sometimes as high as 15,000 in attendance, and the neck exposure and contortions were something frightful to behold. I will not say that I told you so—for I didn't—but the Glenn H. Curtiss machine won. This is the little two plane creation with the wonderful motor, the whole weight of aeroplane, motor and operator being only about 550 pounds. In three flights, covering a mile and three-quarters, at the rate of thirty-three miles an hour and at approximately thirty feet above the ground, this machine gracefully flew

to the grand stand and back, circled the track, alighted without mishap and was always under control. It won the medal and the spectators' hearts at the same time. After that exhibition no one can doubt that the aerial age is really here. If we are not all flying in ten years it will be because we have not enough money to buy wings.

The government's prosecution of the sugar trust and the indictments brought against that concern and its directors, including John E. Parsons, its chief counsel, show that Uncle Sam is quite as much in earnest in punishing violations of the anti-trust law as he has been in unearthing and forcing restitution from the same corporation in the weighing frauds at the New York custom house. This is all the more welcome because of the fact that the trust at one time employed the law firm of which Henry W. Taft is and Attorney General Wickersham was a member. There are plenty of political and financial wisecracks hereabouts who wagged their heads over this fact and said that nothing would be done. The fact that Henry W. Taft, brother of the president, was counsel in the identical case that forms the basis of the government's suit, the one unearthed by Receiver Earle in which the trust shut down the refinery of the Pennsylvania Sugar company, was an especially sweet morsel to the pessimists. To the glory of American manhood their predictions have been proved false. Without regard to party, this should be food for pride to us all.

The manner in which Police Commissioner Bingham was forced out of office by the Duffy case is now ancient history, but certain political gossip arising therefrom is very much up to date. For one thing, it is said that Tammany, thoroughly aroused by the independent wave sweeping over the city, intends to make Judge Gaynor, the author of the Duffy letter, its candidate for mayor. This sort of talk is rather surprising, inasmuch as Gaynor has been the most talked of candidate of the independents. It would be still more surprising if the Brooklyn justice were to listen to this suggestion of accepting a Tammany nomination. The gossip aforesaid goes into particulars. It avers that there is an understanding between Murphy and McClellan and that both are agreed that Gaynor is the man. This would be even more sensational than Murphy's action in taking up Furness and Grout, independent candidates for president of the board of aldermen and comptroller on the last Low ticket. And while all of this talk is in progress Gaynor himself sails for Europe to be gone till September.

For my simple self, I believe that this sort of political prophecy is of the pipe dream variety; that William J. Gaynor, if he is a candidate at all, will run on an independent and not on the Tammany ticket and that he is not the sort of man who would work in collusion with politicians of the Murphy and McClellan stripe. Nevertheless the mere fact that he is talked of puts a different face on the political situation. There is no gainsaying the fact that Gaynor would be a strong candidate wherever he might run. As a Tammany nominee, however, his personal strength would be much weakened, since the bulk of his friends are sworn enemies of the Murphy machine and for the further reason that Gaynor's acceptance of such a nomination would imply a deal and would disgust honest men. I believe it is doing him a wrong even to consider such a possibility. As the matter now stands, however, no certain forecast can be made as to candidates before the early fall. There is persistent talk that the Republicans will insist on running a man of their own, and this still further complicates the situation. The Hearst papers charge that this is part of the plan of Thomas F. Ryan, who, they assert, will control the nomination of both parties. If Hearst were trying to picture Satan he would make him look like Ryan.

New York's famous "bread line," which formed in front of Fleischmann's bakery on Broadway, has been temporarily wiped out, or, rather, has been shifted off Broadway by the destruction of the bakery by fire. This procession of the hungry has long been one of the most familiar and one of the most saddening sights of the metropolis. The assurance that the bakery will be restored and with it the bread line therefore brings mingled feelings—pleasure that the needy will be fed and sorrow that our civilization has not progressed to a point beyond the necessity of such exhibitions. While some professional bums infest the bread line, there is no question in the mind of any one who has ever studied the matter that many of those who tramp in the daily procession for a loaf are men who are able to work and anxious to work, but who are not permitted to work. The man who will solve the problem of the unemployed

of modern times, a veritable savior of the poor.

There is a pretty kettle of fish over the Early case, all due to the fact that doctors cannot agree. When Captain Early went to Washington he was pronounced a leper and detained as such. Now when he succeeds in returning to New York he is a leper no longer and in consequence threatens to bring suit against the Washington doctors. Early is somewhat like John Armstrong Chanler, or Challoner, as he persists in calling himself. In New York state Challoner is insane and is liable to be locked up in a mad-house. In Virginia, where he has bought a fine estate, he is as sane as you or I. Thus, though our government cannot punish by exile, the courts in effect have done so in his case. Yet there is a shadow of reason for this legal anomaly. One might be mentally right in the peace and quiet of Virginia and yet be utterly bug-house in the swirl of New York. There is something here that brings out latent insanity as a hot bath brings out the measles.

The war of the Chinese tongs, growing out of the murder of Elsie Sigel, did not come off as per schedule. It seems that the tongs wanted to fight, but the police would not let them. Owing to the appeals of the Chinese minister at Washington and the consul at New York, a few hundred plain clothes men went down to Chinatown and nipped all martial valor in the bud. As a consequence several cues will remain in place that otherwise might have been cut off just below the ears.

Just as the president and other dignitaries are celebrating the discovery of Lake Champlain we are breaking ground in New York for the Hudson monument and preparing for the Hudson-Fulton celebration. This occurs in September and October, most of the ceremonies being scheduled for the city, but some of them extending all along the Hudson river. There is no question about it, this is the most centennialized year in the calendar.

CHAMPLAIN'S ASTROLABE.

Interesting Relic of Discoverer Found in Canada.

A relic which is of interest in connection with the Champlain tercentenary is the astrolabe once owned by the discoverer of the famous lake in New York state and lost by him, it is supposed, on his first journey up the Ottawa river in 1613. This curious remainder of the explorations of the brave and farsighted Frenchman of three centuries ago was found in 1867 in the county of North Renfrew, in the province of Ontario, near the river of the same name. Perusal of Champlain's narrative of his journeys makes it certain that he traveled over the portage road in which the astrolabe was found. It is supposed that he lost it during the march of June 7, 1613. The astrolabe is one of the earliest instruments used in determining latitude. The diameter of this specimen is five and five-eighths inches. It is of plate brass one-eighth inch thick above, increasing to three-eighths inch below to give it steadiness when suspended. Its circle



CHAMPLAIN'S ASTROLABE.

is divided into single degrees. The double bladed index has slits and eyelets in the projecting sights. By turning the index direct to the sun at noon so that the same ray could shine fully through both eyelets while the astrolabe hung freely the sun's meridian altitude and thereby the latitude of the place of observation could be taken within about a quarter of a degree. The date of 1603 is inscribed on the face of the astrolabe. It is in the possession of Samuel V. Hoffman of New York, through whose courtesy it is reproduced. It is expected that the instrument will be exhibited in September by the New York Historical society.

African Cymbals.

The natives of the east coast of Africa have a species of cymbal exactly resembling in shape the dumbbells used by athletes. They are played in pairs, one in each hand, and violently smitten together.

FATHER OF THE WRIGHTS.

Rev. Milton Wright, Whose Sons Have Solved Problem of Air Navigation.

At the celebration in Dayton, O., in honor of the achievements in air navigation of Wilbur and Orville Wright a prominent part in the ceremonies was assigned the father of the now noted aviators, Bishop Milton Wright. He was a figure of much interest as he arose to pronounce the benediction at the close of the exercises on the day when the aeroplanists were presented with the medals awarded them



REV. MILTON WRIGHT.

by the federal and state governments. Bishop Wright presents a venerable appearance, but is active for his years and keenly interested in the work of his sons. He went with them to Fort Myer to witness their experiments, and the snapshot of him reproduced herewith was taken there.

The reverend gentleman whom the aviators and their sister call father is very proud of the success his sons have achieved, but none of the family seems to be desirous of publicity and modesty is a prominent characteristic of both sire and sons.

Was Mistake Made In the Sutton Case?



COMMANDER HOOD.

THE inquiry into the death of Lieutenant J. N. Sutton of the marine corps before a board especially summoned to consider the case has excited wide interest because of the insinuations made that powerful influences were originally brought to bear to prevent the real facts in the matter becoming known. The affair which resulted in the death of Lieutenant Sutton occurred in October, 1907. The first board which investigated the case met on the day following Sutton's death, and it rendered a verdict that Sutton had committed suicide. The witnesses were not put upon oath, and certain discrepancies appeared in the testimony. Secretary George von L. Meyer, head of the navy department, and his first assistant, Beekman Winthrop, went carefully over the facts as presented to them and decided that a second inquiry was advisable to clear up all doubts in the matter and prove that the department could not be justly charged with shielding any one or covering up any facts the public has a right to know about. The president of the second court of inquiry is Commander John Hood, and the judge advocate is Major Henry Leonard, U. S. M. C.

The quarrel between Sutton and fellow officers, which occurred early in the morning of Oct. 13, 1907, is said to have originated in words passed between Sutton and Lieutenant Robert E. Adams, which in some way concerned Miss May E. Stewart of Pittsburg, a young lady who was in company with Sutton the evening preceding his death at a dance held at Car-

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