

Chicago Hot Bed for Odd Cults

See's "Absolute Life," Latest Freak, Shocks Morals of Windy City More Than Other Strange Religions.

BY JONATHAN PALMER.
 CHICAGO, Jan. 14.—(Special.)—If there is any possible school of philosophy or cult of religion that could not gain some sort of foothold in Chicago, the imagination is taxed to picture what it might be. A survey of the religious cults that have sprung up and flourished here for a time would cover many pages of a newspaper. An assembling of the details of the creed offered would make the same man wonder a little about the psychology of a certain class.

John Alexander Dowle's religious enterprise was the most ambitious that ever had Chicago for its center and feeding ground. And it is said to the credit of the Dowle cult that, whatever might be thought of the creed its founder promulgated, it was without exception, without anything in it that was repugnant to the moral sense of a community. Dr. Dowle stood firmly for decency in all things. So did his followers, and so does his successor, Wilbur Glenn Voliva. There is no shame attaching to Zion City. Dowle made the town too Puritanical to suit the tastes of most moderns. Voliva is trying to do the same thing.

Evelyn Arthur See's "absolute life" and "purification" cult is the latest thing in Chicago's religious innova-tion. What Chicago thinks of the new system is pretty well indicated in the fact that Mr. See was taken in charge by the police.

See thought so much of his particu-lar brand of religion, or ethical culti-vation, that he left his wife to give himself a better chance to propagate it. In the process of "purification," look-ing toward the development of perfec-tion in the human race, See could see (no pun) where young girls might be more susceptible than any one else.

That he might get the best results in achieving the "absolute life" it was essential, he said, that the girls should be constantly in a matter of imbu-ing teachings and to absorb the religious atmosphere which he radiated. Conse-quent to two girls, one 22 and the other 17, were invited to the same house with him, unchaperoned. They had their mothers' consent for this arrange-ment.

See admitted that this juxtaposition of the sexes was not in harmony with the conventions of the day, but insisted that consideration was not to be reckoned with when the matter of what practices went on in the apartment, there was no guile behind them. The police failed utterly to appreciate this ideal way of looking at things, so they arrested See.

Mothers Agree to Plan.

See had found others who were not so blunt and matter-of-fact in the mental processes as the policemen. The mother of Mona Rees and the mother of Mildred Bridges had perceived the high and lofty motives of See and had willingly lent their daughters to pro-duce the perfecting of the race. The mothers believe See already is in the martyr class, if they have been quoted correctly. Mona and Mildred also think See is a much-abused individual. They are in a much better position to judge, for they have not kept within the conventions, but quickly take up the cue of See that the conventions do not go with the See school of thought and conduct. The girls decline to go into the details of the purifying and perfecting process.

Revelations of the See school, called the Junior Commonwealth, turned the attention of the police to other cults that have had local vogue and notoriety in recent years. The investiga-tors found that the "Spirit of Truth" colony of Jacob Behrman, at Wooster Lake, near Ingleside, Ill., has become almost deserted since the death of its founder. At present only 12 persons are living on the 250-acre farm, which is said to be for sale.

Miss Virginia Moore, head of the colony, says the place does not last com-pany, and that the "Spirit of Truth" followers are said to be anxious to leave their present site and go to Colorado to start anew.

Behrman had a following of 100,000 at the time of his death. The keynote of his philosophy or religious creed was nonresistance. His disciples were to show natural love to all men. He came to Chicago from Lisbon, O., eight years ago and established his colony. He was a harness-maker by trade, be-came a Seventh Day Adventist, and entered into a traveling evangelist, finally launching his creed of resisting nothing.

In novel health plants Chicago has been as prolific as in its religious en-terprises. Segregated men and women—segregated by a high board fence—wallowing in a state of nature in the December and January snows, pro-vide gossip for prim Evanston. Sun-baths in the nude is another health di-velation of the Evanston retreat. Po-lice have looked on with a tolerant at-tention, but have found nothing to war-rant their interference. The patients are all old enough to know what they are doing, and the health officials have health discipline has worked wonders with their hardiness. Boys of a near-by university fraternity say that the theory of the nudists is to give them some interesting glimpses of high life in the health factory.

Saloon for Every 80.

Gary, Ind., the model steel city cre-ated by the Steel Corporation, has be-come the muddled city. Neither its morals nor its administration is at present a thing to emulate by other municipalities.

Gary today has about 17,000 inhabi-tants. It has 212 saloons, or one for every 80 of the population. The saloons are in one part of the town. All but two of the groceries are in one part of the city. Whether there is any connection between the number of saloons and the number of arrests is for the sociologist to study and figure out, but in the matter of police activity Gary has set a pace that is hard to beat.

During the year 1910 the number of arrests was 2312, or one arrest for every five of the population, roughly figured. These figures do not include the city officials who have been ar-rested after being indicted by the grand jury for various alleged offenses.

Politically, Gary is the city of the town in the Hoosier state, not excepting In-dianapolis. Rival claimants for office are making things hot for each other. George Manlove has filed suit against Harvey J. Curtis, whom he seeks to oust from the office of city attorney. Dr. Harry F. Walsh insists he has more authority than the city commis-sioner, while Dr. L. Millstone warns the Gary public that if it wants to do business in the public health line it will have to do it with him.

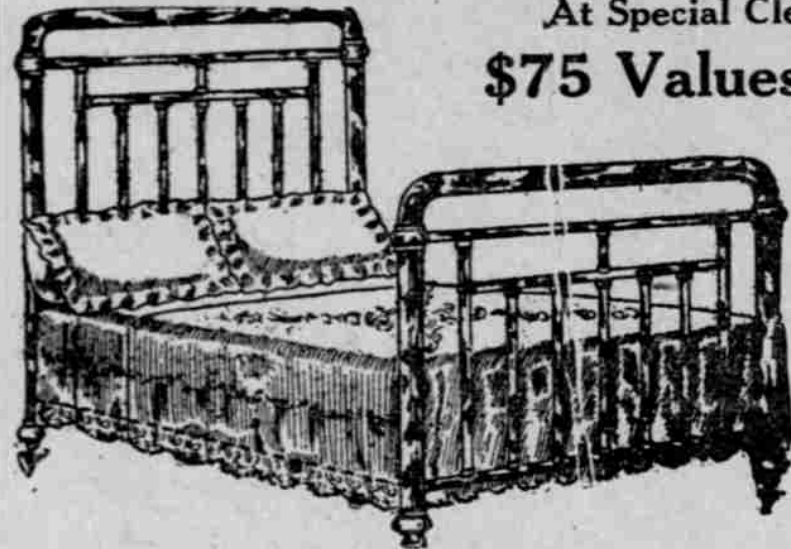
Defying Mayor Knotts, a majority of the City Council announces it will cre-ate a police department and an identi-fication bureau to run in competition with the Mayor's department and bu-reau. One of the aldermen is on record with the opinion that the members of the Council need a private guard to protect them against the aggressions of the Mayor. It is now a daily occur-rence for policemen to arrest and beat

The squabble extends even to the office of township undertaker. C. P. Jones and Pat Flurry both claim the job and both are making sharp busi-ness efforts to take care of the county's

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The cut illustrates one model of these fine Brass Beds on special sale this week; there are several other styles in the special sale lot. They are the product of the Simmons Bed Factory, the foremost factory in America. The laquer is electrified to the brass by their patent electrical process and does not tarnish or rub off with use. These sale beds have large 2-inch continuous posts with many ornamental 4-inch husks; head on many is 5 1/2 feet in height; filling tubes one inch in diameter. Beds are in perfect condition; in the satin or polish finish.

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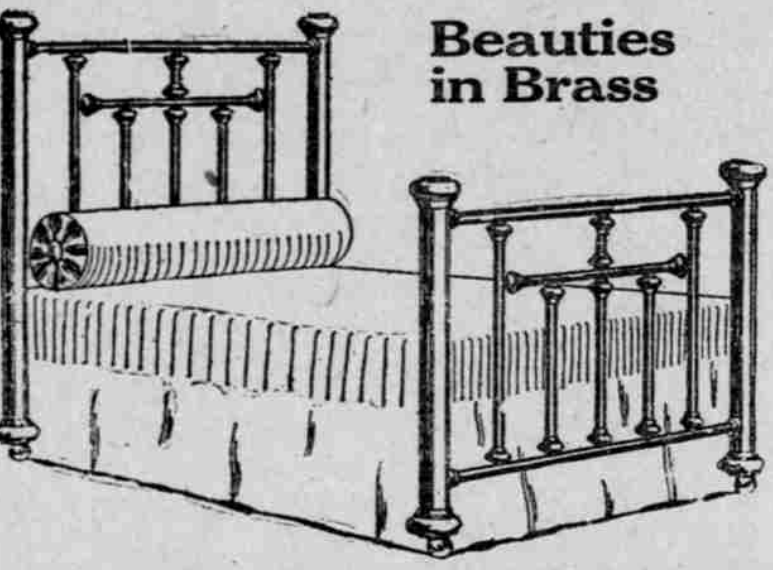
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Brass Beds, many of them over two inches in diameter, large fills, satin and polish finish.

\$60.00 values **\$45.00**

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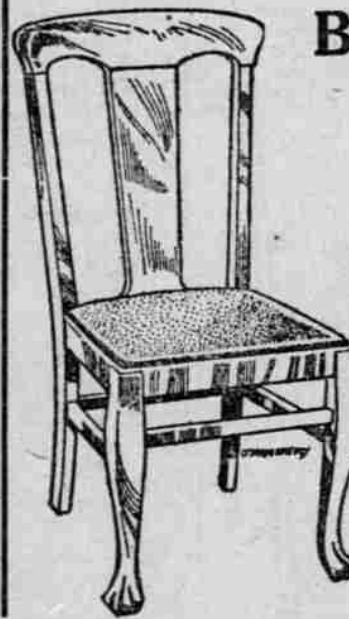
Beauties in Brass

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50c PER WEEK



A new shipment of the Gevurtz Sewing Machine just received and will be sold as heretofore on our Easy Terms of only \$1.00 down and 50c per week. This is positively the best machine offered anywhere for the money. We buy them direct from the manufacturer in carload lots, saving all intermediate commission, and are, therefore, able to sell a better machine for less money than is ordinarily sold by the exclusive sewing machine agents. You don't need to join a club to reap the benefit of these special prices and Easy Terms. Delivered to any part of the city free upon the payment of only \$1.00.



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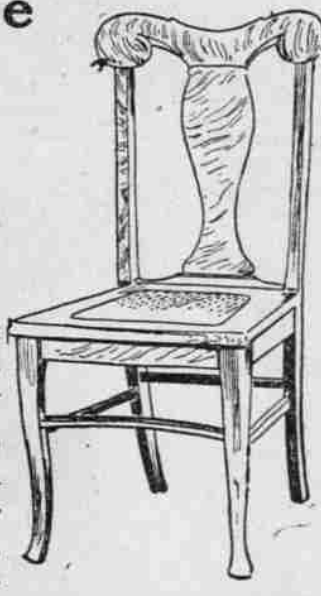
Best \$12.00 Quartered Oak \$7.50

\$4.50 Oak Chairs \$2.95

Slip seats of genuine leather, full box, claw feet, shaped like cut, hand polished and rubbed. A limited number.

We are quoting this week Genuine Oak Chairs, covered with Genuine Leather, values \$4.50, for **\$2.95**

These chairs have quarter-sawed oak panels, waxed or polished finish, full box seat, limited quantity at this price.



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40c Grade 18c Yard

We are offering some splendid bargains in Matting this week. 35c and 40c values, in 10-yard and 20-yard lots, for only, per yard, **18c**

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dead. The dead are about the only safe individuals in the mix-up.

For a "personal liberty" wide-open town, Gary has all other centers in Indiana shoved off the map. The reform element has been working hard to "clean up," but it is going against big odds.

Commission Plan Winning.

Illinois cities have taken up the commission form of government with an avidity that presages a general adoption of the plan in the down-state centers. Springfield, the capital, was the first to set the pace. It voted for the change by a big majority. Sentiment there was created by evidence now being adduced that the municipalities have been robbed of thousands of dollars on coal contracts, by a park election that was a brazenly scandalous affair, by a bitter political fight, and by other equally cogent reasons.

Quickly following the capital, Moline and Rock Island voted for the commission form, and Carbondale was next to fall in line. The innovation has been widely advertised in Illinois in advance, and there is no disposition to await the result of "an experiment."

Political students are generally of the opinion that Chicago is too large for the commission form of government. There is no agitation here for its adoption. A new Mayor will be elected in the Spring for a term of four years, and with some long-ferd state legislation permitting Chicago to throw off some of the shackles that handicap it, the Illinois metropolis will try to get along with the present form of government.

In a recent discussion of the need for a court of domestic relations in Chicago, Judge Charles Goodnow declared Chicago has 1500 cases of wife desertion annually. Domestic infidelities of other kinds bring the total up to nearly 4000 a year. It will be one of the provinces of the new court to make a study of underlying conditions prompting to desertions and of methods of pacification and reconciliation in all cases of marital unhappiness.

There is an alarming increase in the number of cases of abandonment of wives by husbands. The high cost of living and the hard work required to support a wife and children are the principal causes. Scores of husbands and fathers leave the city to find employment elsewhere. They go with the best intentions in the world in the majority of instances. Their purpose is to have their families rejoin them in due time. In many instances, however, the relief from immediate family dependence proves over-alluring, and these

well-intentioned husbands yield to a change of heart. They decide to throw off the burden altogether and forget to go back.

Desertion Is Growing.

The records of the United Charities afford a good clue to the drift. Six years ago 4 1/2 per cent of all the cases of destitution brought to the attention of this philanthropic body arose from desertions of husbands and fathers. A year later the percentage had risen to 6 and today it is between 11 and 13 per cent. On the immediate north side last year 62 wives were abandoned by their husbands among the poorer classes. In the stockyards district there were 136 such desertions. The United Charities acquires information only on those cases of marital troubles that bring need and suffering in their wake.

Cold census figures on the population of Chicago have helped to make the death rate record less alluring than it was. It has been the city's boast that it was the most healthful large city in the world. In so far as a small death rate indicates good general health. In 1908 Chicago was reckoned second in the list of cities. Milwaukee being first. In 1909 Chicago dropped to fourth place and in the year just closed it slumped to sixth place with Minneapolis, Milwaukee, San Francisco, Cleveland and Detroit ahead of it. This comparison, by the way, does not embrace the smaller centers of population.

Chicago was able to make a good showing because it was figured that the population was much larger than the census figures proved it to be. The new basis cuts down the rank and makes it incumbent on the boomers to revise their data on healthfulness.

Germany to this subject of public health, a report has just been made showing that of the 231,562 school children examined in the last three years, 128,106 were found to be defective. Of these 39,426 showed enlarged glands, 28,225 had defective vision and 102,243 had bad teeth. Examinations in the last quarter disclose that 13,248 out of 31,048 were defective. The percentage of defective runs about 45 per cent in the schools.

For political precocity the Fullerton-avenue Presbyterian Church challenges the world with a 10-year-old Sunday school boy. Mrs. Katherine Palmer, Todd, teacher of one of the boys' classes, had occasion to question her pupils about King Herod and his subjects. Incidentally, to test the enlightenment of the boys on current af-

airs, she asked who was the chief officer in Chicago.

"The Mayor," was the answer in concert.

"And who is the highest officer in the state?"

"The Governor."

"Now who is the chief executive of the Nation?"

"The ex-President," cried one boy. No blows were struck, but it looked like the answer came near breaking up

GILLETT AND KNIGHT ALMOST COME TO BLOWS IN POLITICAL SQUABBLE

Bitterness Shown in Factional Fight of California Republicans—Disclosures Following Suspension of Newspaper Indicate That Expected "Angels" Were Coy—Roosevelt's Son May Have Senatorial Bee.

BY HARRY B. SMITH.
 SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 14.—(Special.)—Ex-Governor Gillett, who has opened law offices in San Francisco, got some free advertising the other day that it fancy was not altogether to his liking. One noon, while about to enter the Crocker building, in which his offices are, he came face to face with George A. Knight, the war horse of the Republican party and now Gillett's bitterest enemy.

How the row started nobody seems to know, but the two politicians vied prominent lawyers had it out hot and heavy with a big crowd around them. No blows were struck, but it looked for a time as if there might be.

The feud between Knight and Gillett is of some standing. Knight thinks that Gillett did not appreciate certain courtesies when he was a budding politician and there is war to the knife.

Knights Slaps at Lauck.

For all of that, they are telling a story that relates to the appointment by Governor Johnson of Colonel Forbes, of Marysville, as Adjutant General, vice J. B. Lauck. Lauck was eager to hold his place at Sacramento under Governor Johnson, as he had held over from Pardee under Gillett.

Evidently, like the famous Bishop of Bray, Lauck didn't much care who came to be Governor so long as he could hold his job. He knew that Knight hated Gillett and also that the Republican National Committee was stout in the cause of Charles E. Curry for Governor. So in the corridor of

the pedagogical dignity in that part of the Sunday school room.

Miss Mary Garden was an enticing auctioneer when she sold the boxes for the fireman's benefit to grain brokers on the floor of the Board of Trade. She made her chief hit because she entered into the peculiar brand of Board of Trade chaffing and seemed to like it. Miss Garden is not easily abashed. She didn't show any signs of the rattles that get hold of most men when they go against the "joshing" of the board.

When she had let the fun proceed far enough to get the bidders into good humor she adroitly suggested that the proceeds of the sale of boxes was to go to the widows and orphans of heroes and that serious bidding was more appropriate than the "five-eighths" offered in the market by one way or another. It was remarkable how quickly the spirit of the occasion was transformed by this incident.

There has been quite a difference of opinion, by the way, over the size of the crowd that greeted the famous diva when she sang for the multitude in front of the Chronicle building on Christmas eve. Chief of Police Seymour, who has had much experience with crowds, says there were fully 200,000 people in the crowd and he says it is a significant fact that not one case of pocket picking or purse snatching was reported at police headquarters that night.

General C. H. Bliss, U. S. A., in command on this Coast, thinks 100,000

is a fair estimate of the crowd. Major Carroll D. Buck, U. S. A., says that 125,000 people were in the crowd.

What do you suppose Teddy Roosevelt, Jr., is doing out here in California? He's asked a wise guy politician of another as they sat at luncheon at the Palace.

"Why, selling carpets," was the answer with a shrug of the shoulders.

"Oh, get onto yourself! Selling carpets, nothing. Can't you see that the insurgents have him in training to succeed Senator Perkins? Just you watch them trot him around. Did you notice how they were putting him to the front and introducing him around at the Union League banquet a week or so ago? Do you remember how he was featured at the Johnson meetings during the campaign? Tell me, I tell you they'll trot out Teddy, Jr., for United States Senator as sure as you are a foot high and more than a year old."

And really, you know, there might be something in the wind.

The women suffragists of California, who have planned to storm the present Legislature for a proper recognition of the franchise for women are in receipt of much advice and assistance from outside sources.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, the "Big Boss" of the cause in the East, is in constant communication with the local cohorts. Women in Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Washington have the right to vote and want California to fall in line.

From what some of the San Francisco women who are in this franchise fight say, members of the Tacoma convention are to send here shortly, for use at Sacramento, reliable figures concerning woman's suffrage in their respective enfranchised states. It is also likely that a member of the convention will visit Sacramento later on to give aid and comfort to her California sisters.

Goodwin Still Holds Property.

Nat Goodwin appears to have held on to a lot of valuable San Francisco real estate, both improved and unimproved, instead of deeding it to his pretty spouse, as has been believed by some of his Eastern friends.

That Goodwin has lavished much money on his wife and she has been extravagant with his means, there is no question. It is also said he has given her choice securities and some Eastern real estate.

Goodwin bought these properties several years before the fire as an investment and they have materially in value increased since that time.