

WOMEN IN MEN'S CLUBS.

Some Swell New York and Boston Clubs Make Special Provision for Them.

A veritable revolution is slowly taking place in the realms of clubdom. If any one had suggested the possibility of ladies being received in aristocratic male clubs a few years ago he would have been considered a most promising candidate for Bedlam. Despite this fact, two of the most fashionable and exclusive clubs in New York city and one club of the same character in Brooklyn make provision for the reception and entertainment of the wives and daughters of their members; a third New York club will soon be added to the list of the clubs which have sanctioned the innovation, and other clubs are looking in that direction.

The revolution was started by the famous Somerset club, of Boston, than which there is no more exclusive and conservative club organization in America. This club among clubs decided about eight years ago to fit up a suite of rooms exclusively for the accommodation of ladies, and provided a private entrance to this suite of rooms, which are entirely isolated from other parts of the club. The wife or daughter of a member was permitted to introduce other ladies as her guests, the sole restriction being that she should in her own handwriting enter the names of her guests in a book kept for the purpose. The innovation won the immediate approval of the social circles so largely represented in the Somerset club, and speedily became one of the distinctive features of that organization.

When the Hamilton club, of Brooklyn, was incorporated it adopted this feature, and shortly after, when the Lawyers' club was established in the Equitable building, the same system was adopted on a much broader scale. The Lawyers' club set aside private dining rooms, a public dining room, a ladies' parlor, boudoir and bathroom for the use of wives and daughters of its members, and subsequently placed them in charge of experienced ladies' maids, who are always in attendance. No gentleman is ever admitted to these rooms unless he is accompanied by a lady. Upon his election to the Lawyers' club a member fills out a blank with the names of the ladies of his family to whom he wishes to have the privileges of the club extended.

The names so entered are copied upon a register, and thereafter the ladies, named by the member have the freedom of the suite of rooms set apart for the use of their sex. They can gain admittance to these rooms at any time during the day, can meet other ladies there by appointment, can lunch or dine there, or can entertain friends at luncheon if they so desire. No check is ever presented to them, but the amount of indebtedness which they incur is charged to the member of the club at whose instance they are introduced.

The somewhat remarkable departure has worked admirably, and has given entire satisfaction to the most conservative members of the club. A somewhat similar custom is in vogue at the rooms of the Riding club, and there, too, it has met with favor. Although the fact is not generally known, a proposition to buy the house on Twenty-first street, next to the Dix property, on which the annex to the Union club is now building, and to fit it up for the use of the wives and daughters of the Union club men, was broached at the time of the Union club's acquisition of the Dix property.

The proposition did not go through, to be sure, but the mere fact that it was made in so conservative a club as the Union club shows the hold which the innovation introduced by the Somerset club has taken on club men. That it will be generally adopted by the better class of social clubs before many years there can be little doubt. And that it will tend to mitigate the asperity with which the feminine sex regards the clubs to which their husbands and brothers belong there can be less doubt.—New York Sun.

Pictures of Beauties.

Remarkable success has been attained by Professor Ahn, of Breslau, in applying photography to fix the indications of different diseases of the eye. Another contribution to one of the newest departments of science are Professor Fischer's photographs of cultivations of luminous bacteria, which were photographed by their own light, the views giving evidence of the constant movement in which the tiny organisms are unceasingly engaged. One of the greatest anthropologists of the century in Paris has been making a collection of the various types of mankind, and he does it by means of the photograph.

He inclines to the opinion that the type or origin, the race to which the party originally belonged, is better preserved among women than among men. He has therefore made his collection from among women, and to increase its attractiveness and value he has announced his intention to choose only beautiful women for his types. Apropos of this idea a prominent photographer proposes to appeal to photographers for selection and contribution of a photographic reproduction of the representative women whom they consider the most beautiful, so that a collection can be made which will be handed down to posterity as representing the standard type of beauty in the Nineteenth century.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Teaching Children to Play.

Some philanthropic women have established a "Children's Happy Evening association" in the east end of London. They have secured for two hours at evening the use of unoccupied school houses, where they gather the poor little children from the wretched labyrinths of the city and teach them (for many of them do not know) how to play the simple games which are supposed to be familiar to children the world over.—London Letter.

TREMENDOUS RAPID FIRING.

A Six Inch Gun Pours Out Shot After Shot at Enormous Speed.

Some important experiments were carried out at the artillery range of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Mitchell & Co. The principal object of trial was a six inch quick firing gun of 40 calibers of length on a mounting of new design, specially arranged to be suitable for either the upper decks or the between deck batteries of our new cruisers. Another feature of this trial was the use of cordite, the new smokeless gunpowder, which has been the subject of extensive trial during the last twelve months and seems likely to make a complete revolution in artillery warfare. The proof of this gun was carried out by the Woolwich authorities at Silloth, when the remarkable velocity of 2,669 f. s. was obtained with a charge of cordite powder.

The programme began by firing five rounds with a charge of E X E powder and service projectile for rapidity. The total time of firing these five rounds was sixty-one seconds. The same experiment was then carried out with a charge of cordite, but after three rounds the firing was stopped for a few minutes to remove a burr in the threads of the breech action, caused by sand getting into the gun. The first three rounds of this series were fired in twenty-four seconds, and the second two in fifteen seconds. Five rounds were then fired with E X E powder (non-smokeless) and service projectile at a target which consisted of two casks lashed together with a flag above them, at 900 yards range.

There being no wind the smoke hung a great deal, and the firing was therefore directed by an observer who stood clear of the smoke. The five rounds were fired in sixty-one seconds, the target being struck twice, the other three shots just missing.

To show the advantage of cordite over the E X E powder five rounds were then fired with the former at the same target, the flag and staff of which still remained upright, as the tide being low the target rested on sand. It was found quite feasible to fire with the utmost rapidity, and yet, on account of the smokeless quality of the powder, to aim each shot deliberately. The result was that out of the five shots the target was actually struck four times (which completely destroyed the casks and perforated the flag several times), and the last shot was only five yards short; and these five rounds with the above remarkable accuracy were got off in the surprisingly short time of fifty-five seconds.

Five rounds with E X E were now fired, changing from one target to another, three targets being placed at ranges 900, 1,400 and 1,800 yards, and spread out so that the gun had to be traversed through a considerable arc of training in going from one to the other. The results were as follows: 1,900 yards, hit target; 3,900 yards, hit target; 3,1,400 yards, fifty yards over; 4, 1,400 yards, hit target; 5, 1,800 yards, hit target, cutting flagstaff.

The total time of these five rounds was 3 minutes and 43 seconds, but a few seconds' delay was occasioned by the cap of a cartridge case, which was only temporarily secured for these experiments, falling off in the gun during loading, which necessitated re-loading. Five rounds of cordite, under similar conditions to the last series, were now fired at the 900 and 1,400 yards targets, the 1,800 yards one being no longer visible. The results were as follows: 1,900 yards, hit target; 2, 900 yards, hit target, cutting flagstaff; 3, 1,400 yards, ten yards over; 4, 1,400 yards, five yards over; 5, 1,400 yards, twenty yards over. The total time for these five rounds was 1 minute 37 seconds.

The gun was then fired with 5 degs., 10 degs., 12 degs., 15 degs. and 20 degs. elevation, with charges of E X E and cordite, to test the mounting, and except for a little difficulty in running out when at 20 degs. elevation everything went perfectly.—London Times.

An Irish Legend.

Among the legends of Ireland is this beautiful and suggestive myth—the islands of life and death. In a certain lake in Munster there were two islands. Into the first death could never enter, but age and sickness and the weariness of life and the paroxysms of fearful suffering all were there known, and they did their work till the inhabitants, tired of their immortality, learned to look upon the opposite island as upon a haven of repose. They launched their barks upon the gloomy waters; they touched its shore and they were at rest. This legend represents with pathetic fidelity the sad Erin of today, looking over to Atlantis across the sea—America, the haven of repose, the shores of rest. Of the four and one-half millions of Irish people now left in Ireland it is safe to say 50 per cent. have an ambition some day to see the land of the free and the home of Yankee Doodle.—Cor. Lewiston Journal.

Texas One-Tenth the Country.

A great many people want to know how large Texas is in area. They look in quite a number of alleged statistical abstracts and never find the same figures in two of them. The official figures of Texas area are 252,696 square miles—equal to about 8.9 per cent. of the entire area of the United States and territories. Texas is six times larger than New York, seven times as large as Ohio, and 100,000 square miles larger than all the eastern and middle states, including Delaware and Maryland. Compared with the countries of Europe she has 34,000 square miles more than the Austrian empire, 62,000 more than the German empire, and nearly 70,000 square miles more than France.—Texas Trade Journal.

A Valuable Dog.

Bilkins—Bothered by a piano next door, eh? Well, I have a dog which always howls when my wife plays the piano—howls so she has to stop, and I'd

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