

To Grandparents

A Xmas Suggestion for the Grandchild

??????

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Chatting . . .

with M. H. B.

● ALTHO SHE DID NOT say so, I suspect it was a dream come true. That's what it sounded like to me at any rate, as Miss Florence Luke, MA, our language specialist at the high school, described her trip to France last summer. In her enthusiasm, she transported me right along with her as she told of her wonderful four weeks in Paris while taking a summer course at the world-famous Sorbonne University . . .

● WE EMPTIED THE TEA-POT and forgot all about Gull November's chill outside, as Miss Luke conveyed to me the thrill she felt when she saw all the famous places she had read about, and visited and talked with the French people whose language and culture she had made a career of studying . . .

● IT WAS ESPECIALLY thrilling that first morning in the early part of July, after their flight across the Atlantic, to walk under the ancient grey stone portals of the Sorbonne, with the realization that for centuries scholars and students from all over the world had sought further knowledge there . . .

The university itself is much larger than the University of Toronto. There were at least 2000 attending the summer courses. One reason, possibly, for the enormous size of the University, is that in France education is free up to and including university. And another salient point is that although the universities in France are government sponsored, the professors are completely free, politically and religiously . . .

Miss Luke took the course on contemporary literature called "Cours de Civilisation." The classes were conducted completely in French. Held in the morning only, they were divided into three one-hour lectures. The last hour was an extremely valuable, and valuable one. For in it, the class was at liberty to ask the professor any question desired on French culture, politics or educational methods . . .

● JUST HOW VALUABLE this information could be, may be more fully realized when you learn that these summer courses are completely international. People

come from all over the world to attend them. In Miss Luke's class for instance, there was a Swiss priest who was bilingual in French and German, an American nun of the St. Joseph's Order, who teaches in Albany, N.Y., and has her Ph.D. from McGill University in Montreal. There were two Italian girls and students from Norway, Denmark, and Poland, as well as the Canadians in the class . . .

At the end of the course, dictation and conversation examinations were given. That is one place where the French universities differ from ours. Most of their examinations are oral. Miss Luke was successful and was awarded two certificates, one to certify she had attended all the classes and one to testify to her academic success in the "Grade Superior" . . .

Actually the Sorbonne's official title is the University of Paris. It became known as the Sorbonne because it was built on the site of the home of Robert de Sorbonne . . .

● I IMAGINE THAT the professors who arranged the summer course for the international students realize they should not depart from France without a glimpse at least of their world famous fashion industry. So as a special treat for the students, who incidentally jammed Convocation Hall to see it, Christian Dior, the leading couturier of France and himself a graduate of the Sorbonne, arranged a unique fashion show of evening ensembles . . .

Preceding the showing of the twelve original models Monsieur Dior and a lady professor held a debate on fashion. Miss Luke tells us that the lady professors were all very chic and charming. The fashion show was quite exciting. As the gorgeous gowns were being modelled the camera flash bulbs were popping, moviemen ground out reels of film and newspaper reporters took notes. In the general melee of getting into the amphitheatre a policeman was hurt. And from their pedestal above the throng, carved busts of the world's most venerable scholars sat unmoved by the scene of frivolity below . . .

● ALSO AS PART of their course the university arranged expeditions for the students on Sundays, at a very reasonable charge, to enable them to see some of the famous landmarks of Paris and its environs. Everyone was asked to bring their lunches on these jaunts, and Miss Luke was amused by the different types of lunches carried by the students from various countries. Perhaps one of the most common as well as conspicuous was comprised of a long stick of bread, a package of cheese and a bottle of wine . . .

One Sunday morning the expedition started out at 8:00 to see Chartres, the beautiful pure Gothic Cathedral. It has at least 9 or more chapels in the crypt. On the way back, they stopped at Chateau d'Un, which is an old castle built like a fortress. One particular point of interest here were the exquisitely woven tapestries . . .

The American University Women's Club where Miss Luke stayed, was in itself quite an historical landmark. The building was the former home of the Duke and Duchess Chevreuse. At one time it had underground passages to the Luxembourg Gardens . . .

● THE GARDENS ARE beautiful. Part of the Luxembourg Palace grounds, they were first built by Catharine de Medicis. Set among spacious lawns, trees, and formal French flower gardens, is a crystal clear pool, surrounded by statues of all the Queens of France . . .

On fine days, children love to sail their boats in this pond. Adjacent to the pool and in fact all along the paths and throughout the gardens, are comfortable chairs where parents or nurses may sit and watch the children at play, or simply enjoy the beauty of the park . . .

● BEAUTY OF A MORE poignant nature is to be found in the Arc de Triumphant, where every night at 8:30, the flame is rekindled over the tomb of the Unknown Soldier of World War 1. This is a ceremony and a place which the French hold in almost mystical reverence. It was even revered by the Germans during the Occupation of France, and was never interfered with. Every night a different organization looks after the placing of flowers and kindling the flame. On the evening Miss Luke visited the Arch she saw the Czech Legion in readiness for the ceremony . . .

Remember, I told you at the first of the column, Miss Luke and I drained the tea pot. At about this point, we were half way thru', so I'll have more to tell you about Paris and France when we're Chatting next week . . .

Halton Trust Company Loans Total Million

The Halton and Peel Trust and Savings Company makes remarkable progress in its first nine months of operation.

According to O. E. Manning, General Manager of the company, they have loaned \$1,000,000 on first mortgages in the district since they commenced business in March of this year. The capital subscribed has increased from \$454,820 to \$725,180, the paid in capital from \$252,180 to \$492,918. Guaranteed Investments from \$51,316 to \$480,100 and first mortgage loans from \$27,500 to \$1,000,000.

Mr. Manning stated that the progress of the company had exceeded all expectations and that the need for a local trust company in this area had been proven. He also informed us that the demand for first mortgage loans had been very great and that the sale of shares and Guaranteed Investment Certificates was quite satisfactory.

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