

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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by

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FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1919

Ladies First

When a speaker in the German assembly began his address, "Herren und Damen," he was taking note of a revolutionary change in the political status of the women of his country. Never before had there been women to be addressed. But it was characteristic of the domestic ideals in Germany that the salutation should have been first to the men, then to the women.

In the United States it would have been different. Our sense of chivalry always makes us say "Ladies and Gentlemen," but, on the other hand, our gentlemen, at least enough of them to defeat the suffrage amendment, are not sufficiently chivalrous to admit the ladies to the governmental organization. They give chivalry to the women of their acquaintance, without justice. It is a matter of taste whether women prefer the "Gentlemen and Ladies" style of the German, with admission to the legislative halls, or the "Ladies and Gentlemen" of the American, with the exclusion therefrom. There is the choice of chivalry of the lips and chivalry of principle, and it is rather a sad commentary upon the men of the United States of America, the greatest democracy in the world (which isn't saying a great deal) who will permit even the German man to outdo him in the extension of equality to the women of the nation.

Making Men Out Of Wrecks

Never has the greater opportunity offered through the development of science been more conspicuous than in the reconstruction work that is going on with the disabled men of the fighting forces. Those who gave their ability to work in normal ways in our Civil war had no choice but to live on for the rest of their lives, the beneficiaries of the government pension, contributing nothing to the life of the half century or so left to them.

Today how different it is! The disabled man need not become a burden to himself and an object of pity to the rest of the world. He has every opportunity extended to him to be fitted to be an independent member of society. He need not feel that his work is done, his life lived, and only resignation to a hard fate left for him in the future.

The little magazine, "Carry On," which is issued from the Surgeon General's office, bears material explaining the advantages given in the Reconstruction hospitals, the change which many men are accepting gladly, to be restored to usefulness and prepared to lead an interesting life. There is discouragement only for the man who is inclined to rest on his laurels as a disabled soldier, the man who is ready to be a "veteran" while he is yet under thirty, the man who does not wish to make the effort necessary to restore himself to the ranks of the "doers." There is little encouragement to the disabled man who feels that he has given enough to his country, that he has earned sustenance and consideration for the rest of his life. But, fortunately, there are not very many of him.

Everything seems to be possible in the way of restoration of the powers

of normal condition to the man who has lost limb or vision or hearing. Resourcefulness and ingenuity, with the remarkable things that science has developed to serve in the place of the lost sense or member, reduce the inconvenience and difficulties to the minimum. Most of the mechanical properties of the lost members are restored. And with them that self respect that comes from ability to do for oneself the many little services that are likely to grow irksome if demanded of another.

It is hard now for the returning men to be kept from their homes and families until they are as fully restored to normal health as their condition makes possible. But in the future, when the homesick pangs are over, the men will realize how much they owe to those determined men who insist upon application to the task of getting well and of equipping themselves with some weapon to offer to a world grown weary of listening to the tale of service and sacrifice. Then they will rise up and call blessed the workers in the reconstruction hospitals who are bringing back with infinite patience the normal functioning of their maimed bodies.

Our Claim Against Germany

The claim of the United States against Germany is to be set at one billion dollars, a figure which counts about \$25,000 for each life spent in the war.

In view of the fact that England has expressed a determination to demand forty billions, the whole cost of the war, and France is inclined to include both the cost of the present war and the indemnity demanded of her after the Franco-Prussian war, with interest compounded for the half century elapsing, the claim of the United States is moderate to the point of being almost inconsiderable. But it is more in accordance with our position of moral dictator of the world than a higher claim and entirely consistent with our general disregard of figures in matters having to do with the business of the war.

PLAY SMALL TOWN PRANKS; PAIR LANDS IN BRIDEWELL

Sprinkling the sidewalk with gasoline and creating disturbance in general were the charges placed against Clarence Olson, 1106 Florence avenue, Evanston, and Joseph Miller, 1029 Ashland avenue, Evanston, both 13 years old, when they appeared last Thursday before Justice of the Peace D. M. Mickey in the Village Hall. The two Evanston youths were ejected from the Jones dance hall for disorderly conduct whereat they continued their festivities in the street in front of the dance hall. Olson was fined \$10 and costs and Miller \$5 and costs by Justice Mickey. Both men were sent to the bridewell to work out their fines.

It is never easy to say "Good-bye" to God, but it is least difficult in a large city.

Parent-Teacher Activities

Mr. Gerald H. Thayer gave his illustrated lecture, "Camouflage and Concealing Coloration," at the Woman's club Thursday, March 27, both in the afternoon and evening. The afternoon lecture was exclusively for the children from the third to the seventh grades who were brought to the club directly from the schools. The evening lecture was for the older children and adults.

Immediately before the lecture the Social committee of the Parent-Teacher association gave a Camouflage supper to the teachers and the members of the Parent-Teachers' board. More than fifty attended this novel entertainment. The guests were camouflaged with the head-dresses of birds, flowers and vegetables. At the close of the grand march each couple received one of the clever "stop and shop" supper baskets, and the supper was a jolly affair, with comic songs and jokes and toasts. The party was arranged by Mrs. S. J. Eisendrath, chairman of the Social committee. The costumes were provided by Mrs. B. T. McGivern, chairman of the costume committee, who also acted as toast-mistress.

The mothers of the sixth grade of the Horace Mann school visited the classes Thursday afternoon. After the children were dismissed Miss Keenan gave a very interesting talk on her methods of teaching arithmetic, and the mothers had a cup of tea. Mrs. William Noble, the grade chairman, acted as hostess.

Skokie School Notes

An important board meeting of the Parent-Teacher association will be held at the Woman's club on Monday morning, March 31, at 9:30 o'clock.

There was a mother's meeting at the Skokie school last Monday. The mothers met in each grade room at 2:30 o'clock, and at 3:15 all assembled in the Assembly room. A new feature was introduced in the form of a question box. Each mother was asked to drop into the box any question which she wished to have answered. These questions were all brought up for discussion. All agreed that it was a very successful meeting.

Asbestos Ropes?

To lessen the amount of metal used in fire escapes a Hungarian living in Canada has patented one, the chief features of which is a basket to be lowered by ropes from a bracket fastened to a window frame.

Timely Warning

A sturdy tramp went into a suburban garden where the lady of the house was occupied in attending to her flowers. He took no notice of her refusal to give him some coppers, but continued to annoy her until a large dog appeared, barking loudly. The lady seized his collar and held it, calling out: "You had better go; it may bite." "You ain't got no right to keep a savage dog," replied the tramp. "Perhaps I have not," she answered coolly. "If you think so, I won't keep him. I'll let him go!"

Move to New York

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Bourne and family left this week to live in New York City. The family home was at 218 Ninth street.

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