

## Home Circle Department.

Conducted by Anna Harper Haney.

### MRS. HANEY'S WEEKLY LETTER.

Dear Home Circle Friends:

Now that the holidays are nearly over, we have long evenings free to spend around the open fireplace and we will have time to read some of the new books. We did lots of sewing during December when we were getting ready for Christmas, didn't we? and the spring sewing must be begun in February, consequently January is the logical time to read a few of the much talked-of books of the day.

Do you like fiction or does non-fiction make a greater appeal to you? The librarian says that she has many calls just now for the following novels:

The Breaking Point.—Rinehart.  
The Vehement Flame.—Deland.

Gentle Julia.—Tarkington.

Certain People of Importance.—Kathleen Norris.

Brass—Norris.

Alice Adams.—Tarkington.

If Winter Comes.—Hutchinson.

To the Last Man.—Grey.

The Great Prince Shan.—Oppenheim.

The Head of the House of Coombe.—Burnett.

Mary Roberts Rinehart skillfully tells a romantic tale in "The Breaking Point" and this book is adding more admirers to the ranks of those who praise this well-known writer.

The disrupting of a home because of the wife's jealousy forms the theme of Margaret Deland's novel, "The Vehement Flame," and, incidentally, the jealous wife is twenty years older than her youthful husband.

If you want an evening of real relaxation, read "Gentle Julia." This time it is not Penrod who is the mischief maker but an equally active twelve-year old girl who constantly tangles the family affairs and creates embarrassing situations.

California is proud of Kathleen Norris and "Certain People of Importance" seems destined to attain a well-deserved popularity. The characters are life-like and mirror the virtues and the faults of everyday people.

The problems of marriage receive much attention from modern authors, and, in "Brass", the author contrasts the lives of two brothers, one of whom is happily married and the other divorced—a drifter without vital family ties.

In "Alice Adams," Tarkington seriously presents one phase of American girlhood—the problem of the girl without means who has social aspirations. How she solves her problem will surprise you.

People who feel themselves sometimes misunderstood are enthusiastic over "If Winter Comes." The hero, after many disillusioning experiences with the quirks of human nature, finds happiness at last, for as the poem which is the theme of the book says, "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

Family feuds, hand to hand fighting, lonely mountains, Indian woodcraft—all unite in making Zane Grey's "To The Last Man" a thrilling tale. It is not a book for nervous invalids.

England, Russia and China furnish the leading characters for "The Great Prince Shan". And you will gasp at the audacity of the climax.

Another mysterious story with out-of-the-ordinary characters is "The Head of the House of Coombe."

Not all of the above books described are great books—some of them are even sordid—but they are the books which are being read by the American public today.

But you will want to read some non-fiction, too, and popular non-fiction books cover a wide range of subjects—history, biography, medicine, etiquette. Among these books are:

The Outline of History—Wells.

The Americanization of Edward Bok—Bok.

Outwitting Our Nerves—Jackson and Salisbury.

The Mirrors of Washington.—Anonymous.

The Mirrors of Downing Street.—Anonymous.

Painted Windows.—Anonymous.

The Glass of Fashion.—Anonymous.

The Story of Mankind.—Van Loon.

Queen Victoria.—Strachey.

The Mind in the Making.—Robinson Etiquette.—Emily Post.

A college education within the two covers of one book may well be said of "The Outline of History." This book has created much discussion and is well worth the reading although you may be one of the people who disagree with Well's interpretation of certain historical events.

Every boy and girl (and their fathers and mothers too) should read "The Americanization of Edward Bok," a fascinating description of a poor boy's struggle against poverty until he at last developed into a strong man who has been of great service to the American public. Bok vividly paints America as the land of boundless opportunity.

Does the mind affect the body? Whether you think it does or it does not, you will find "Outwitting Our Nerves," a most readable book. It is especially good for the woman who says, "I'm not sick, but I just feel all tired out."

The student of modern times finds much food for thought in the contributions of an anonymous author—"The Mirrors of Washington," "The Mirrors of Downing Street" and "Painted Windows".

"Is modern life upholding the best ideals?" asks the author of "The Glass of Fashion", "Or should we return to the quieter living of fifty years ago?"

Three other popular books of the day include Van Loon's "The Story of Mankind," Robinson's "The Mind in the Making," and Strachey's "Queen Victoria."

Most people find the reading of non-fiction more truly satisfying than the reading of fiction because the ideas and ideals of the writers of non-fiction often open up new avenues of thought and give us a clearer understanding of life.

The last book on our popular list of non-fiction might be almost said to be in a class by itself since it deals with the very personal problem of manners and attempts to make clear the proper etiquette in society, business, politics, and the home. It is a good book for the home library.

If you have difficulty in obtaining any of the books which you wish to read at your local dealer's, we will be glad to supply you with the names of the publishers who handle these books.

Very sincerely yours,  
ANNA HARPER HANEY.

### A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION.

To live content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable; and wealthy, not rich; to study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly; to listen to stars and birds, to babes and sages, with open heart; to bear all cheerfully, do all bravely, await occasions, hurry never—in a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious, grow up through the common—this is to be my symphony.—William Henry Channing.

#### How to be happy:

1. See something beautiful every day.
2. Learn something new every day.
3. Do a kind act every day.

Try this recipe for happiness for the first week of the New Year, and, if it works, keep on through all the weeks of 1923.

Many mothers bewail the modern tendency toward "jazz." There is only one way to combat this evil—a mind filled with beautiful melodies learned in childhood, will turn inevitably toward the kind of music which will endure.

### A NEW USE FOR THE PHONOGRAPH.

"Hans Kindler is going to play the "Melody in F" for us this morning," Edward says to Ralph as they enter the schoolyard and we wonder if our ears are deceiving us or if the Robla school is to be visited by a great artist.

But the mystery is soon explained. Miss Lewis places a record on the phonograph and says, "Now close your eyes, children, and tell me what this music means to you after you have listened closely to this record."

Edward can hardly restrain his enthusiasm. "It makes me think of a garden of beautiful flowers and the violoncello sounds just like a bee buzzing in one of the flowers!" Other boys and girls wave their hands that they may have the opportunity to tell their interpretation of this world-famous composition.

All over Sacramento county, similar incidents are taking place every school day, for the rural school children of Sacramento county not only learn to sing, but through listening to phonograph records become familiar with many of the greatest musical compositions.

School people say that leaders of rural school work all over the United States are observing the use of the phonograph in Sacramento county, and that it is likely that similar work will be undertaken in many counties of various states. The phonograph has long been used in the teaching of songs and for school marching but musical appreciation is a new field.

"My mother carried eggs and butter to market week after week to pay for my music lessons," says Mrs. Jessie W. Mack, principal of the Pacific school. "Now our school children are getting splendid musical instruction free of charge in the public schools."

"In our school we have been studying Caruso, Alma Gluck and Maud Powell as well as some Indian music. Our students know the principal facts relative to the careers of these great artists and they are often heard discussing the way Caruso sings "The Lost Chord," the marvelous control Alma Gluck has of her voice in "Lo, Here the Gentle Lark," and the effect of the flute obligato. Then they like to hum the melody when Maud Powell plays "Humoresque."

"At Thanksgiving time the children enjoyed the story of the first Thanksgiving and with the aid of the songs called "Hiawatha's Childhood," Indian music became familiar. The selections from Longfellow set to music in these songs were studied as poems in the reading classes."

The boys and girls of the Junction school love to march into the school building to the thrilling strains of the "Double Eagle March." And who wouldn't love to take his seat in an orderly fashion if he could imagine he was keeping step with a fine band?

One-half of the children in the upper grades of the Junction School passed a perfect examination on the following test recently given in their musical appreciation work:

1. What is the name of this record? ("Cradle Song" was sung by Alma Gluck.)

2. Who was the singer?

3. Who composed the "Cradle Song"? (Mozart.)

4. What is the name of this record? ("Evening Chimes.")

5. What instruments are used? (Violin, flute and harp.)

6. What is the name of this record? ("O Sole Mio.")

7. On what instrument is the melody played? (The accordion.)

8. What is the name of this record? ("Home to Our Mountains.")

9. What two artists are singing? (Homer and Caruso.)

10. What is the accompaniment? (An orchestra.)

Three-fourths of the children of the Junction School come from homes where the parents do not speak English and the joy which the hearing of beautiful music brings to these children could never be measured in dollars and cents.

Fruitridge School is preparing for a contest similar to that recently conducted at the Junction School although different records will be used. Some schools purchase their own records but most of the schools obtain their records from the county library

where records may be obtained in exactly the same manner as are books.

A very great many of the schools in Sacramento county have pianos as well as phonographs, but now and then a school is found which lacks one or the other of these. At Del Paso, a wide-awake Parent-Teacher's Association has just made the purchasing of a phonograph possible, and their method of raising the necessary funds may give other mothers some suggestions.

First, interest was created when a teacher demonstrated the use of a phonograph for marching, for singing, for musical appreciation and for the playing of folk games. "Looby Loo" is a favorite game with children and a group of children accompanied by the band music of this record showed how the phonograph may be used on the school ground in playing singing games.

Two dealers demonstrated different types of phonographs and a general discussion of the problem followed. The trustees voted \$30 from the general expense fund, \$5 was allowed by the dealer for the old phonograph, the Woman's Club donated \$25 and instead of buying a school treat at Christmas time, the Parent-Teacher's Association will canvass the community to pay off the remaining payment of \$40.

Although machines of the \$100-type are very good, a most desirable school instrument can be purchased for as little as \$35.

Washington School has been studying the different instruments of the orchestra by means of a special record where a solo is played by each instrument. The strings include: violin, viola, violoncello and double bass; the woodwinds—piccolo, flute, oboe, English horn, clarinet and bassoon; the brass—the French horn, cornet, trombone and tuba; the percussion—the drums, the bells and the xylophone.

Pupils soon learn to recognize the different instruments and delight in finding pictures of them. Then when they hear an orchestra play at a theatre they easily recognize the different instruments not only by sight but also by sound.

"We never begrudge the time we spend studying music," says Mrs. E. S. Leedy, teacher of the Fremont School, "for we can do our other work just that much better after spending a few minutes every morning singing and listening to a famous musical composition. We recently gave an entertainment where we raised over \$60 for a piano and we use our phonograph every day. Just now we are learning Christmas songs—a new carol every week—and studying a different record every week. This week one of my pupils brought "Silent Night" so that the other pupils might hear it.

### Oil Light Beats Electric or Gas

#### Burns 94 Per cent Air

A new oil lamp that gives an amazingly brilliant, soft, white light, even better than gas or electricity, has been tested by the U. S. Government and 35 leading universities and found to be superior to 10 ordinary oil lamps. It burns without odor, smoke or noise—no pumping up, is simple, clean, safe. Burns 94 per cent air and 6 per cent common kerosene (coal oil).

The inventor, Z. J. Johnson, 31 N. Fifth St., Portland, Ore., is offering to send a lamp on 10 days' FREE trial, or even to give one FREE to the first user in each locality who will help him introduce it. Write him today for full particulars. Also ask him to explain how you can get the agency, and without experience or money make \$250 to \$500 per month.—Advt.

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