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POPULATION OF LINCOLN, 65,000.

THE SHUT-IN SOCIETY

A UNIQUE AND HELPFUL ORGANIZATION FOR INVALIDS.

A Remarkable Work That is Being Done by Unfortunates, Most of Whom are Women, to Aid One Another—Various Branches of the Good Work.

Fifteen years ago Miss Jennie M. Drinkwater, now Mrs. Conklin, of Madison, N. J., was shut in her room by a long and serious illness. Time hung heavily on her hands, and she conceived an idea so simple, and yet so obviously full of common sense, that the wonder is that some one had not thought of it long before.

She entered into a correspondence with another invalid personally unknown to her, in order that they might be mutually cheered and entertained. This was the origin of that remarkable organization of invalids known as the Shut-In society, which has a membership of many thousands in every country of the civilized world.

The correspondence so modestly begun proved so pleasant that it was extended to other invalids, until in 1884 the correspondents organized themselves into the Shut-In society, and the next year the society was incorporated under the laws of the state of New York, with Mrs. Conklin as president.

Of course the primary qualification for admission is illness. "To be a sufferer shut in from the outside world constitutes one a proper candidate for membership in this society," says the constitution. But there is a character qualification also, and all applicants for membership must "send with their application, if possible, the name of their pastor or their physician, or of some associate member of the society, as an introduction."

The associate members are not invalids, but "being in tender sympathy with the suffering, volunteer in this ministry of love." Each associate member volunteers to correspond with members in a certain assigned district and is expected to subscribe at least one dollar a year.

The society is managed by an advisory board composed of associate members. As might naturally be expected, the society is largely composed of women. There is a man's department, however, under the direction of Mr. Will S. Mather, of Chicago. There is a flourishing children's department, the members of which are popularly known as the "sunshine makers." It is under the direction of Miss G. L. Lewis, of Boston, and Miss Josie A. Jones and Miss Abbie A. Miller, of Dorchester, Mass.

There is also a department of children associate members, which have formed themselves into a band called the Little Cup Bearers to the King. It is composed of boys and girls from six to nineteen years of age, who pledge themselves to carry sympathy and comfort to some little sufferer. It is found that children enter into this work with great enthusiasm, and the little cup bearers have helped many a poor and weary sufferer to become a sunshine maker.

Another department of the society is the wheelchair committee, of which Miss C. O. Ross, of Newark, N. J., is the active manager. Its object is to alleviate the condition of the shut in members by furnishing them, when possible, with a wheelchair. When a wheelchair invalid dies, a little silver plate is fastened on the back of the chair inscribed, "To the memory of \_\_\_\_\_," and it is sent back to the committee, to be used by some other member. The King's Daughters are interested in the wheelchair work, and in fact a number of circles of King's Daughters have been formed among members of the Shut-In society. Many of the members themselves work for the wheelchair committee.

The library of the society is one of its important features. Books, magazines and papers are freely sent to invalids in every state in the Union, as well as to many foreign countries. In Philadelphia a Past-it-Along club has been formed, which circulates periodicals among invalids. The Open Window is the name of the excellent monthly publication issued by the society.

It is an interesting fact that a missionary spirit has been developed in this society, although its members might well be excused if they thought only of themselves. There is an "Invalid's auxiliary," which is now supporting a native nurse in the Margaret Williamson hospital at Shanghai, China, and is also raising a fund to endow a bed in the same hospital, to be known as the "Shut-In society's bed."

Another branch of missionary work done by the society is the writing of letters to prisoners. About 1,700 letters have been sent to Sing Sing alone. They are sent unaddressed to the chaplain, who addresses them personally to the convicts. The name and address of the writer are not, however, given to the convict. It is the testimony of the chaplain that these letters have done much good.

The letters written by invalids to other invalids have resulted in many warm friendships, and the term "letter friend" has become a recognized phrase in the society. The organization of the society has brought out the fact that a surprisingly large number of invalids have been "shut in" for a long term of years, many for twenty-five or thirty years. One member of the society, who died last year, had been confined to her bed for sixty years.

The condition of such long term patients is apt to become very desolate, as their early friends die or drop away and they are made to feel that they are a burden on those who are charged with their care. To such invalids the society comes as a blessed boon, for it not only puts them in direct communication with many fellow sufferers and sympathetic friends, but the various interests of the society give them something to think of, and thus break the dreary monotony of their lives.

One of the best known members of the society is Miss Jennie Casseday, of Louisville, who has been confined to her room for twenty-five years. She has acquired a widespread reputation as the founder and national president of the Flower mission. —New York Tribune.

LITERATURE

"Pray You, Sir, Whose Daughter?" is the striking title of a new story by Helen H. Gardner. The story deals largely with three American girls, Gertrude Foster being the heroine and typing most splendidly what the author conceives to be the robust, noble femininity of the coming woman. This story is by far the most finished work from the pen of this brilliant woman, and although it deals Herculean blows at the "Age of Consent Laws," and necessarily touches upon delicate subjects, nowhere will the sensibilities of any healthy imagination be offended.

Several critics that have read this work predict that it will prove the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" of the "Red Ribbon" or "Social Purity" crusade. This work will doubtless prove even more popular than Helen Gardner's former novel, "Is This Your Son, My Lord?" thirty thousand copies of which have been sold. Arena Co., Boston. Price, paper, 50 cents; cloth, \$1.00.

"Bondholders and Breadwinners," by S. S. King, Esq., is a startling picture of political crimes committed in the name of liberty. Facts and figures, from the eleventh census, with maps and illustrations, Massachusetts enabled to accumulate more wealth than nine great Western and Southern states, Pennsylvania more than twelve. New York more than fifteen. Agriculture and labor robbed. It is less than two weeks since the first copy left the press, and it is meeting with enormous sales. Price 25 cents. The Arena Co., Boston.

The Magazine of American History for August contains several illustrated as well as exceedingly readable articles, the first being a sketch of the "Historic Tea Party at Edenton, North Carolina, in 1774," by Dr. Richard Dillard, with a fine, queenly full-page portrait of the tea party. Mrs. Penelope Baker—another facts, not picture having before this been given authoritatively to the public. The second is entitled "Muscouon." "The Successful Novel of Fifty-six Years Ago, Horse-shoe Robinson," a work that has been out of print for forty or more years, is brought into fresh notice through a brief summary of the exciting story. There is an appreciative sketch of the late Professor Theodore W. Dwight, and an account of the great Christian Endeavor meeting in New York City. Each of the departments this month are admirably filled.

With the number for August The Forum finishes its thirteenth volume. Among the leading topics of this number are: "Shall the Southern Question be Revived?" under which are grouped two articles—"The Unparalleled Industrial Progress of the South" by Richard H. Edmunds, the late editor of the Manufacturers Record of Baltimore, and "The Business Effects of a Force Bill" by Hoke Smith, chairman of the school board of Atlanta Georgia, and chief owner of the Atlanta Journal. Other articles of a political kind are: "The Folly of the Free Coinage Agitation," and "The Necessity of the repeal of the Sherman Silver Act of 1890," by Louis Windmuller, a widely known merchant of New York. There are two studies in practical religion—one a description of the singularly successful industrial establishment of the Messrs. Harmel, in France, which may fairly be called "an example of organized thrift," the motive of which is largely religious; and "The Divergence of the Preachers and the Labor Leaders," by Mr. R. L. Gardner who has gone to Africa to continue his investigations into the origin of speech by studying the language of native tribes and of wild apes, writes a summary of the scientific results that he has obtained by the study of language with the help of the phonograph. There are other clever articles by writers of renown. This number contains a prospectus of Vol. XIV.

A drowsy August afternoon, the light shimmering through the dense leaves of the broad spreading hick trees; a figure lying upon the grass holding in his hand a magazine—not too heavy—just heavy enough for easy holding—the Cosmopolitan, for August; full of attractive illustrations; scenes and life in the far off Philippine Islands, with an experience of an earthquake, photographs on the Atlantic beach accompanying a charming sketch of Jersey's "Salt-Water Day," by Hamlin Garland; charming Spanish bits by the artist Chase; lovely vistas, and enticing groves, illustrating a California Farm Village, in which Colonel Fitzsimons describes the growth and development of a model community of fruit farms. Of the fiction, Harry James, "Jersey Villas" makes delightful midsummer reading and there is an odd story of Southern life, while Curiousities of Musical Literature will furnish a half-hour's entertainment for every lover of music. The one heavy article of the number is that of the famous English writer on Evolution, St. George Mivart—one of the most important series of papers ever produced in a Magazine, and attracting the widest attention among religious and scientific minds, both in England and this country.

The Bacon-Shakespeare controversy which opened in the July Arena is attracting general interest of Shakespearean literature. The August number contains an argument in favor of Lord Bacon. During this discussion the most eminent Shakespearean scholars will be heard pro and con. Among other contributions is a political symposium to which Gail Hamilton, U. S. Senator James H. Kyle, Congressman George Fred Williams and William T. Ellis contribute. Other leading papers are contributed by Mary A. Livermore, Twenty-five Years on the Platform, Frances E. Willard, The Coming Brotherhood. A symposium of Women's Clubs is the most important discussion of this very interesting subject that has ever appeared in print. Among the contributors are May Wright Sewall, president of the Woman's Council of America; Kate Garnett Wells, Hester M. Poole, Mary E. Munford, Annah Robinson Watson, Katherine Nobles, Ellen M. Mitchell, Dr. Julia Holmes Smith, Mary E. Boyce, Louise Chandler Moulton and Mary A. Livermore.

St. Nicholas Magazine has been getting suggestions from its readers as to a national song. "The Star-Spangled Banner" seems to have the strongest existing claim to that honor, but one young person, who objects to the words but thinks well of the music, makes the novel proposition to fit the words of "My Country 'tis of Thee" to the music of "The Star Spangled Banner." The editor of St. Nicholas suggests that she seek out some quiet place and try the effect of mixing the two very cautiously.

The August Peterson opens with two very fine engravings, both artistic gems. Gilbert S. Whittle's article, "Some Noted Washington Women," will attract much attention. It gives excellent photogravures of Mrs.

Lieutenant Mason, Miss Kate Doering, Miss Mattie Thompson and various other society bells. "A Country Wedding" by Dana B. Stevens is not only a pretty description but gives many valuable suggestions. "Story Work" describes the newest fad in embroidery and the directions for doing it are rendered still clearer by good illustrations. "Dorothy's Devices," by Miss Irving, will be worth reading. "Uses for Odds and Ends," by Cornelia Redmond, shows a fertility of resource amounting to genius. Terms, \$2.00 a year; sample number 5 cents. Address Peterson Magazine, 306 Chestnut st., Philadelphia, Pa.

Outing for August is filled with pleasant, breezy matter of a seasonable nature, and as usual sparkles with many beautiful illustrations. Among the contents are the following: "Around the World with Wheel and Camera" by Frank G. Lenz, illustrated; "August Rides" by Jessie E. O'Donnell; "Aunt Abe's Fishing Party" by Jennie Taylor Wainwright, illustrated; "Saddles and Saddlery" (continued) by Wagona Gilman, illustrated by Stull and Watson; "From the German Ocean to the Black Sea" (continued) by Thomas Stevens, illustrated; "The City in the Valley" by Matthew Lester; "A Three Mile Run" by Willard Hendrick; "With the Iowa Chickens" by Ed. W. Sandys, illustrated; "Harry's Career at Yale" by John Seymour Wood, illustrated, and the usual editorials, poems, records, etc.

The complete novel in Lippincott's Magazine for August entitled "The Martlet Seal," by Mrs. Jeanette H. Walworth, depicts with readable interest the strength of an old family feud that draws round it like a loadstone sufficient of love, misunderstanding and strained friendship to make a striking tale. Edgar Allan Poe contributes to the Athletic Series a paper on "Intercollegiate Foot ball." Mrs. J. K. Wetherill deals a pointed paragraph or two about the need of "A Professional Plauditeer." There are short illustrated stories by Lorimer Stoddard and Frederick M. Bird. The poetry is contributed by Louise Chandler Moulton, Clinton Scollard and Irene Putnam.

The August number of the Review of Reviews contains a character sketch of Mr. Grover Cleveland, written by a gentleman whose qualifications are admittedly the very best. Mr. George F. Parker, who has recently edited Mr. Cleveland's speeches, offers sympathetic and eulogistic, but careful and candid, sketch of the distinguished standard bearer of the democratic party. The sketch follows the well-received article on President Harrison, written for the July number by Thomas J. Morgan.

The Duke of Argyll, in his article "English Elections and Home Rule," in the August North American Review, presents with clearness one of the features in the argument of the opposition to the theory of home rule for Ireland. Major J. W. Powell, of the United States Geological survey, accounts for our sudden inundations in "Our Recent Floods." For the first time an adequate life of Thomas Paine has been written, by Moncure D. Conway, and in the Review the sympathetic pen of Robert G. Ingersoll takes occasion to review the career of the thinker, patriot and lover of his fellow men. "Business in Presidential Years" is a subject of timely interest and is discussed by Mr. E. B. Thurber. Among other papers are "Art Students in Italy," a word of advice from ex-Governor J. Schuyler Crosby; "The Deaconess Movement," by the Nun of Kenmare; "Farm Organization," by Newton L. Bonnell, and "A Time to be Out of Doors," by Woods Hutehison, M. D., a plea for sunlight in the house.

Mr. Edmund Clarence Stedman's poem, entitled "Ariel." In memory of Percy Bysshe Shelley, born on the 4th of August, 1822, occupies the first three pages of the August number of the Atlantic Monthly. The first article of the series of "New England Boyhood" by Dr. Edward Everett Hale, is presented to the reader in this number. The paper is delightfully reminiscent and will be widely read. The two chapters here given are entitled "The Seventy Years Since," and "School Life." William Cranston Lawton's experience and translations from "The Persians" of Eschylus, Professor W. J. Stillman's critical paper on the "Revival of Art" with Miss Vida D. Scudder's second paper on "The Prometheus Unbound of Shelley," furnish the more weighty matter of the number. A Swiss travel sketch by an anonymous writer, a paper by Bradford Torrey, and various reviews of new books, English and foreign, complete a very valuable number of the ever valuable Atlantic.

The Duke of Argyll contributes to the North American Review for August a paper entitled "English Elections and Home Rule." He seeks to establish in the article that the principles of secession and the maintenance of the Union as fought out in America are identical with the Irish question. Jules Charletie, director of the Theatre Francaise, has written an account of the fantastic, weird and mysterious in modern French literature, under the suggestive title of "The Shudder in Literature."

"Our Recent Floods" is the title of a comprehensive article by Major J. W. Powell, director of the United States Geological survey. Prof. David P. Todd, of Amherst College, describes in the August Century an ascent of Fuji-san, the sacred mountain of Japan. His expedition was one of several which have been made possible by the bequest of a wealthy and eccentric Boston gentleman, who left a fortune of \$300,000 to a board of trustees with discretionary power to employ it in establishing and maintaining an astronomical observatory on some mountain peak. The fund is now managed by the Harvard College observatory, and experimental research has been conducted at high altitudes in different parts of the globe in order to show the precise nature of the improved conditions of vision, and to ascertain the best location for the mountain observatory.

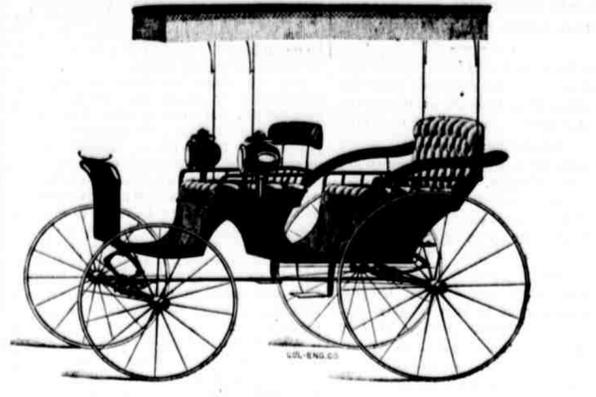
This number also contains several complete stories, including "The Philosophy of Relative Existence," a ghost story which is said to reverse some of the old traditions, by Frank R. Stockton, and "The Colonel's Last Campaign," by the author of "Mr. Cutting, the Night Editor," and with illustrations by Charles Dana Gibson.

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