

PERSONAL MENTION

Mrs. Charles Lippincott is visiting in Omaha.

Mr. C. A. Dorsey spent Sunday at Kearney.

Mr. John D. Morrison left Monday for Purcy, Ia.

Miss Belle Hollingsworth left Tuesday for Chicago.

Secretary of State John C. Allen has gone to Chicago.

Mr. J. H. Culver, of Milford, was in Lincoln this week.

Mr. J. Staley left Tuesday evening for Kansas City, Kan.

Mrs. H. Hollowbush left Wednesday for Bowling Green.

Mr. W. Cook and Mr. Van Dusen left Wednesday for Chicago.

Miss Addie Mastin is enjoying a visit with relatives in Wahoo.

Mr. A. C. Townsend is enjoying the beauties of the White City.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Clark are enjoying a visit at the world's fair.

Mrs. J. D. Harris is enjoying a visit with relatives in Salt Lake City.

Mr. D. A. Campbell has returned from his visit to the Columbian exposition.

Dr. Garten, wife and daughter Blanche, left Monday for Chicago and the east.

Judge M. B. Ruse and son have returned from a visit to the world's fair.

Miss Grace Yule, of Beatrice, is the guest of her friend, Miss Gertrude Hill.

Dr. and Mrs. Crim and Mrs. J. E. Hill are enjoying a few weeks at Grant Lake, Col.

Mrs. C. O. Whedon has returned from a visit with Mrs. C. O. Otterman in Malcolm.

Mr. E. E. Hoag, of Wymore, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. John A. Dempster in this city.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Roberts and Mrs. J. S. Barwick visited in Malcom during the week.

Mrs. Van Dresser, of South Bend, Wash., is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Oakley.

Mr. H. R. Ecker returned Monday from a visit with relatives and friends in Clinton, Ia.

Judge and Mrs. J. H. Broadly have returned from a very pleasant trip through Western Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. McVicker departed during the week for Portland and the northwest coast.

Lieutenant R. H. Townley left Wednesday evening for Plainview to look after a bank failure there.

Miss Grace Oakley has returned from a delightful visit with her friend, Miss Margaret Cook, of Omaha.

Master John Hill is enjoying a delightful vacation at his uncle's ranch near Alliance, in this state.

Miss Lillian Sanders left Monday to spend her vacation with her aunt, Mrs. J. V. Ellis, of Cheyenne, Wyo.

Mrs. E. Hallet and son, Scott, have returned from Red Cloud, where they visited Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Bell.

Miss Clara Carmody is entertaining her sister, Mrs. Sperch and two daughters, of Washington, D. C.

Dr. and Mrs. F. W. Tucker left Saturday for a professional trip through Holdrege, Bertrand and vicinity.

Miss Lillian Campbell left Tuesday to spend a month at Chicago and visiting at her former home in Maroo, Ill.

Mr. Herbert Hill has accepted a position in Chicago, and left last week to take up his residence in that city.

Miss Laura Stein, of Westmoreland, Kan., is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Stulz, 112 North Twenty-seventh street.

Dr. W. D. Shields, who has been confined to his home the past week with sickness, is able to be around again.

Mr. E. B. Smith, who was the guest of Dr. Creighton during the week, has returned to his home in Fremont, O.

Mrs. A. D. Hicks, Mrs. W. C. Jones and Miss L. A. Griffin formed a party that left for the White City Tuesday.

Mr. H. H. Shaw and wife (nee Miss Fannie Marley of this city), left Tuesday for their future home in Leadville, Col.

Mr. and Mrs. George R. Miller, of Omaha, are enjoying a visit with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. R. Miller.

Miss Ruby Jones has returned from a month's visit to the world's fair. She was accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Jessie Stiles.

Mr. A. Meyer, of New York City, spent a few days in Lincoln last week, the guest of his brothers, Messrs. Louis and Willie Meyer.

Hon. W. J. Bryan addressed the students of the Lincoln Normal university Tuesday morning of this week on the free coinage of silver.

Mr. G. W. Gering, formerly in the insurance business in this city, but now of Allegheny City, Pa., is visiting his many friends in Lincoln.

Mrs. Edward Manchester, who has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. William Hopkins, left Wednesday to join her husband in Denison, Tex.

Miss Minnie Buford is home on a visit to her parents, Major and Mrs. C. H.

Buford, 116 North Fourteenth street, after an absence of two years.

Mr. H. R. Ecker has accepted a position with the Guarantee Investment company of Chicago, and will leave for that place in about six weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Dill left Tuesday evening for a month's tour through the west. They will visit Denver and Salt Lake City before their return.

Miss Myrtle Stephenson has returned home from a month's visit with friends in Kearney. She was accompanied by her friend, Miss Mamie Malhev.

Mr. and Mrs. M. C. King, of Iowa City, Ia., who have been the guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Price for the past two weeks, departed for their home Monday.

Miss Mary Cunningham and Miss Daisy Tuttle gave a concert in the opera house at Milford last week to an appreciative and enthusiastic audience.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Benedict, who have been the guests of the former's father, Mr. S. M. Benedict of this city, have returned to their home in St. Louis.

Mr. Emmel F. Seybolt, of Washingtonville, N. Y., is stopping a few days with his brother, Mr. George A. Seybolt, on his return from several weeks' visit in California.

Mr. Fritz Westerman is enjoying a six week's vacation with friends in Milwaukee and other cool points on the lakes. He will visit the world's fair before his return.

Mrs. William Wolf and her friend, Miss Hattie Couit, of Kearney, Neb., left Wednesday for a visit to their old home in Lancaster, O. They will visit the world's fair before their return.

The Misses Conard who have been the guests of Mrs. W. N. Abbott for the past few weeks left Saturday for Chicago where they will spend two weeks seeing the sights of the White City.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Carey and son, and sister, Miss Emerald Jones, are enjoying a trip through the east. They will visit Cleveland and Philadelphia, and spend about two weeks at the world's fair before their return.

Rev. C. C. Lashby left Wednesday for a trip through the mountains. He will visit Hot Springs, S. D., Yellowstone Park and other places of interest in the northwest, and will visit Denver and other Colorado cities before his return.

Dr. E. H. Miller, Miss Ida Miller and Mrs. N. C. Thomas, father, sister and aunt of Mrs. M. W. Folsom, arrived from Nyack, N. Y., on Tuesday. They will spend a month visiting in Lincoln and return via Chicago and the world's fair.

Mr. F. G. Shaffer, who has been a member of the repertorial staff of the Journal for the past six months, has gone to Broken Bow to take charge of the Custer County Leaker. His many friends in Lincoln wish him success in his new home.

Professor and Mrs. Hagenow and family left Sunday for New York. They will stop at the world's fair on their way. Mr. Hagenow takes a position in the Damrosch orchestra. He has many friends and admirers in this city who will mourn his departure.

Mr. Herbert Marsland left Tuesday for Belmont, Cal., where he has accepted a position as instructor in science in the Belmont school, one of the leading preparatory schools of the Pacific coast. Mr. Marsland will be greatly missed by his friends and relatives in this city, where he has lived since boyhood.

Eye and Ear Surgeon.
Dr. W. L. Dayton, oculist and aurist, No. 1203 O street, Lincoln, Neb.

AN IMPORTANT WORK.

Jury of Awards at the Columbian Exposition.

NEW SYSTEM OF MR. THACHER.

A Revolution in the Method of Granting Medals or Awards After a Bitter Battle Fought Single-Handed and Alone—Comparison Between the Old and New Way of Judging.

WORLD'S FAIR, July 28. — [Special.] — For a week or more visitors at the exposition have noticed small squads of men going about among the various exhibits with catalogues and notebooks in hand and attended, usually, by the owners of the wares, or in the case of foreign exhibits often by the royal or imperial commissioners from the country whence they came, with a guard of honor in resplendent military uniform, a secretary and messenger as well. These are the examiners and jurors who are to sift out of the mass of exhibits those which are worthy of the medals to be awarded for excellence or advancement. This is important work, and upon these men who go about so quietly, attended with such diligence and eagerness by interested parties, the eyes of the commercial world are now fixed. The result of their labors means a great deal to all the arts and industries represented here, to the sixty thousand or more exhibitors and the vast interests which lie behind them.

It is a tremendous task which these men have undertaken. Their business it is to examine carefully and critically every article here exhibited. They must slight nothing, must deem nothing too trivial for their attention. These are the men upon whom devolves the responsibility of summing up the achievements of the artisans, artists, mechanics, farmers and manufacturers of the whole world as mirrored in this most thorough and comprehensive of universal expositions. They will be weeks at their task, and after they shall have completed their rounds of examination they will have weeks more of labor in reducing their findings to form and in writing out their reports. When these reports are published, as they will be some time during the coming winter, we shall have the best critical judgment on the achievements of man in the world of art and fabrication that was ever formed or set down in words.

It is with a genuine feeling of satisfaction that I record a noteworthy fact in the history of this exposition. It is not only the greatest of all known expositions, but it has marked a distinct step forward in the all-important matter of granting medals or awards to exhibits and exhibitors. It was not enough for the Columbian exposition to follow the beaten track in this matter. Through the genius and the energy of a single individual, John Boyd Thacher, of Albany, N. Y., a revolution has been effected which promises to equal in this exposition to accomplish more that is really valuable to civilization and to the arts than all the expositions that have preceded it. Mr. Thacher is entitled to more credit because in order to effect this revolution he has been compelled to fight a bitter battle single handed and alone.

The representatives of foreign nations did not like his new system, for reasons which I will explain. They rebelled, and made so much ado over their dissatisfaction that they alarmed the managers of the fair and Mr. Thacher soon found not only all the representatives of foreign nations and exhibitors but the very men who should have been with him up in arms against him. To add to the difficulty, the press of Chicago maligned and misrepresented him. They lied about his plan, and ridiculed him personally. Without ever understanding what it was that Mr. Thacher was trying to accomplish, without ever taking the trouble to look into his work and ascertain if there was not some good in it, the newspaper men of Chicago hounded him in a manner which was creditable to their profession and to the city of the exposition. Mr. Thacher was not working for glory or profit. A cultured, broad-minded, progressive man, he had seen an opportunity to mark a distinct advancement in the method of awarding prizes to exhibitors, and like the man of courage and persistence that he is he fought it out on that line with all these allies against him. He won his fight, too, and that is why I am writing this letter. He gave his time and his energies to the cause without a dollar of pay, to the neglect of his private affairs, and amid personal discomforts and annoyances which would have driven almost any man from the field. When the history of the Columbian exposition is written as it deserves to be written I predict that no name will stand higher on its roll of honor than that of John Boyd Thacher.

First let me tell you what the old system was, the system of awards that had been followed at every international exposition up to this time. It was a system in which there were juries of awards. A jury was selected for each line of exhibits, and consisted of three, five or seven men, sometimes more. They went about among the exhibits, attended by a secretary, and each man marked on a card his estimate of the artistic or commercial value of each article. For example, let us suppose we are with the committee on pianos. Mr. A. thinks a certain piano is worth 95, Mr. B. thinks it is worth only 90, while Mr. C. puts the value at 98. An average of these three estimates is made by the clerk with the aid of a lead pencil and a few figures, and the official finding of the valuation of this piano comes out as 94 1/3. Mr. B. is sure that his judgment of 90 was all the instrument was fairly entitled to, while Mr. C. is just as sure that the piano should be marked 98. The only man whose judgment has been supported by the lead pencil method is Mr. A., who has been endorsed because he happened to be about midway between the figures of his colleagues.

This method of ascertaining values or merits goes on through the entire exposition. When all the pianos have been marked the one which has the highest value is adjudged winner of the gold medal. The next highest gets the silver medal, and the third the bronze medal. Now what is the effect of this award? The manufacturer who gets the gold medal (the only one that amounts to much commercially) may be richer by half a million dollars than he was before he got it. This award is worth to him, for the purpose of advertising his instrument and extending his trade, fully that sum. If he could have gotten the award in no other way, and could have done so without being discovered, he might have been willing to pay several hundred thousand dollars, in cash

for it. The jury of awards has helped him mightily in his endeavor to amass a great fortune. It is a good scheme for him, but how about the other piano makers? How do they fare? Excepting the two who have received consolation awards of silver and bronze medals all are unhappy. They have been handicapped in the race for trade. They have entered a competition only to see their enemy gain an immense advantage over them, which you may be sure he will make the most of.

In other words, the exposition has resolved itself into a huge advertising auxiliary. It presumes to set one man up in fortune-making, and to hold another man down. It presents one man with a piece of metal worth half a million dollars to him, and hurts all his competitors. If this could be done on absolute lines of accuracy and infallible judgment there would not be so much objection to it. It would be still objectionable, but not so grievously so. But it cannot be done and has never been done on any infallible plan. In fact, the selection of a piano justly entitled to grand prize in this exposition would be altogether a work of fancy, of taste, of favoritism or of prejudice. It would take infinite intelligence to do that. One piano excels in tone, perhaps, another in touch, a third in durability, a fourth in some other quality. The differences between them on each of these lines is so slight that not even an expert can estimate them with certainty. His judgment must be more or less arbitrary, dependent upon his education, his tastes, his surroundings. In fact, the making of these awards of



JUDGES AT WORK.

first, second and third prizes is largely a lottery, and has always been, as is shown by the granting of first prize at Paris to the pottery of one country in 1878, and first prize to another in 1879, though the same exhibitors with the same class of wares contended on both occasions. This is only one of many examples that could be mentioned of the purely arbitrary or fanciful method of granting first, second and third prizes.

The plain, blunt truth is that these big gold medals, worth fortunes to their possessors, have in the past been struggled for just as men struggle to win lawsuits. Interested exhibitors have employed skilled diplomats to handle their cases for them. They have hired lawyers, counselors and even detectives. They have schemed and intrigued to pack the juries. The prize was worth struggling for with every art known to human ingenuity, and thus these gold lottery awards have been struggled for at every exposition in the past.

At the Vienna exposition, for instance, an American firm of beer brewers won a gold medal. No one has contended that they had the best beer in the exhibit, but they had the best managers or the best luck. Well, the gold medal the firm has estimated was worth more than a million dollars to them in working up sales in this country. With its aid they have built up the greatest brewery in America.

The most serious objection to the graded prize, competitive method of awards, aside from the scandals which often accompany the juries, the injustice to defeated exhibitors and the extravagant value given the winner on merely fanciful grounds, is that it does not help the consumer. It throws no light upon the questions in which he is interested. On the contrary, it may very easily, and often does help to deceive him. To illustrate, suppose you want to buy a piano. Your circumstances are such that you want the best piano made for durability. If it has good tone and touch and other qualities, even if not the best, you will be satisfied. But durability it must have to suit your purposes. For light you turn to the award of the latest exposition. That will surely give you the evidence you want, you think. But it doesn't do anything of the sort. It only deceives you. Noting that a certain piano obtained the grand prize you naturally conclude that must be the best, and though it costs from 80 to 40 per cent more than other makes on account of the honor awarded it by the exposition, you gladly pay the difference in order to get the best. In a short time you discover that while the piano which you have purchased has as fine a tone as any in the market it does not wear well, and that as a matter of fact for a much smaller sum you could have bought one with as good a tone and greater durability. You have a right to complain that the exposition award, which should have been a help to you, has actually been a harm.

This exposition has abandoned all the old methods. There is no competition between exhibitors. There are to be no scandals, no intrigues of the glittering prizes. There are no gold medals, no silver medals, no graded medals of any sort. No man through a fancy or a shade of difference in lead pencil judgment is to be enriched while another is handicapped. The only medals to be awarded are of bronze, and all have the same value, the same inscription, the same significance. They are awarded not for the best, or second best, or third best, according to some one's fancy, but as reward of excellence or of advancement for general usefulness of a high grade.

Best of all, each of these medals is to be accompanied by a diploma which will set forth in simple, lucid language the grounds on which the award is made. If a piano is given a medal for its touch, that fact will be stated in the diploma. If for durability, that will be set forth. If for tone, the diploma will so state. If for a combination of these qualities, the parchment will explain in what proportion. So with everything in the exposition. Everything that reaches a high stage of excellence, that shows meritorious advancement in that art, will be awarded a medal. And the public, the cause of education, the value of honest methods of advertising, will receive the benefit of this illumination by experts of all the handicrafts of the arts and sciences.

When an article gets a medal at this exhibit you will know that it is a fine article of its class, that it has strong points of merit, and you will be able to ascertain just what those points are.

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