

Is Mrs. Palmer the Leader of Chicago Society Whether She Is Here or Elsewhere.

By Inez Travers.

FROM the time of the world's fair until she began ten or twelve years ago to spend most of her time in Europe or Newport Mrs. Potter Palmer was the unquestioned leader of Chicago society, a brilliant figure well known to the most fashionable people of two continents.

This winter, owing to the war and the disturbance of social life abroad, Mrs. Palmer has returned to America, but not to Chicago. Her friends hoped that she had come back to wield once more the scepter of social dominion in this city, but now she has answered them by her definite plans for a winter in Florida.

In her absence new leaders prominent, have sprung up and new allegiances have been made, and the question that now divides Chicago society is this: Is Mrs. Palmer the leader of Chicago society whether she is here or elsewhere?

Will Chicago society still remain a series of cliques united by the thread of loyalty to its transient leader? Opinions of Chicago society women are divided, as the following expressions will show:

MRS. J. M. JEWETT—I don't think Chicago has any leader. There are a great many prominent women—and a great many would-be leaders—people with money. These circumstances have affected some of those who should be in society, those whose husbands have gone and so forth. All these things must be considered.

MRS. GEORGE ISHAM—There are so many varied people in Chicago that you cannot single out any one person.

MRS. J. J. BURLAND—No opinion.

MRS. C. L. HUTCHINSON—I don't like to be spoken of in the papers at all. It's an idiosyncrasy of mine. Please forgive it.

MRS. F. T. A. JUNKIN—I think Mrs. Potter Palmer is unquestionably the leader of Chicago society whether she is here or not. She will always be while she is alive. And I doubt if her place can ever again be adequately filled.

MRS. S. R. JEWETT—We boast of so many splendid women in Chicago that it would be impossible to name any one.

MRS. EDSON KEITH—It depends upon what one calls a leader. I'm afraid I have no one person in mind.

MRS. E. L. RYERSON—I don't believe I have thought much about it, and I don't know whom I should say.

MRS. MALCOLM CARUTHERS—I have no opinion to express.

MRS. BRYAN LATHROP'S SECRETARY—Mrs. Lathrop has no opinion as she considers it a foolish question.

MRS. RUNNELLS—I never answer any questions, and besides I have no opinion.

MRS. BECOR CUNNINGHAM—I have never given it a thought, so I'm afraid I can't answer.

MRS. ERNEST HAMILL—I think you know more about the subject than I do.

MRS. ROBERT M'GANN—I have no opinion to express on such a subject.

MRS. HENRY BLAIR—I have no opinion. I beg you to excuse me.

MRS. LINDEN EVANS—Whose opinions have you? What did they say? You may quote me as saying that I hope Mrs. Palmer has returned to take the leadership.

MRS. H. S. ROBBINS—I never express an opinion. I'd much rather not be quoted.

MRS. W. W. KIMBALL—Mrs. Palmer can do anything she wants.

MRS. FREDERICK C. BARTLETT—There are more important things in Chicago than society. The nice thing about Chicago society is that no one person stands out.

MRS. JAMES B. WALLER—Of course, Mrs. Palmer is not going to remain here. Mrs. KELLOGG FAIRBANK—I do not think it necessary to have a leader.

MRS. JOHN BORDEN—Mrs. Palmer will always be leader while she is here.

MRS. W. F. CONGER—Every society must have some leader—Mrs. Palmer is leader in Chicago.

MRS. CHATFIELD-TAYLOR—If Mrs. Palmer stays of course she will lead society, and in her absence there is Mrs. Harold McCormick.

MRS. WATSON BLAIR—Mrs. Palmer will always keep her position as leader of Chicago society.

MRS. GEORGE HIGGINSON—I think Mrs. Palmer more wonderful every time I see her, but she is not here long enough to lead society. We have several splendid leaders in Chicago.

MRS. CARTER HARRISON—Mrs. Palmer is perfectly wonderful. She never has lost her leadership and never could. There never was a more hospitable nor a more gracious hostess. It is impertinent to discuss her.

Mrs. Ogden Armour's secretary refused to broach the subject to her employer. She considers the question ridiculous.

MRS. J. W. THORNE—I am entertaining guests in my living room. I cannot express my opinion.

MRS. ARTHUR MEEKER—I have no opinion to express. I hope you will excuse, but I never wish to be quoted.

MRS. ORSON SMITH—I know nothing of Mrs. Palmer's plans and do not wish to discuss them.

MRS. GEORGE PULLMAN—I don't think we need leaders in Chicago—we're all leaders.

MRS. EDWARD CUDAHY—I don't know anything about such things—and I must prefer not to be quoted, please.

MRS. J. G. COLEMAN (laughing)—I don't see why you want to quote me. I'm living in a flat, you know, and I don't discuss people who live in houses.

ing from all precedents by devoting the proceeds of these performances, not to the Triangle club, but to the Chicago Red Cross European war relief fund. This is the first benefit in Chicago authorized by the Red Cross.

The Triangle club dramas are famous all over this country. The plot, play, and music are all produced by the club members. This year's Christmas tour of 3,000 miles started in Brooklyn Dec. 23.

The new production has an encouraging title "Pie! Pie! Pie!" Pie! Pie! Pie! the heroine of the piece, is a transcendently lovely manœuvre girl and is played by Walker M. Ellis of New Orleans.

Many Chicago men have been prominently identified with the Triangle club. Uri B. Grannis was its president in 1908, at which time Harold Smith was assistant business manager of it. Granville L. Burton and Donald Scott were both identified with it for several seasons. In 1910 James H. Walker Jr. brought the club here in a famous performance of "His Honor the Sultan," of which the libretto was written by Cyrus H. McCormick III. A year later the latter wrote portions of the play of that year, "Simply Cynthia."

Two years ago Eugene Barnhart was president of the club and took a chief part in the play of that year.

Among the other Chicagoans who link the Triangle club to us are Cyrus H. Adams Jr., Chester H. Walcott, Thomas C. Longcope, and John Paul Welling.

The club dramas began in 1891. John Kendrick Bangs and Booth Tarkington are among its early contributors.

A representative audience is assured Tuesday's entertainments by the list of patronesses, which includes such well known names as Mesdames Cyrus Adams, Arthur Aldis, Ogden Armour, Arthur Meeker, Cyrus H. McCormick, T. B. Blackstone, Henry Blair, Clyde M. Carr, and John A. Spoor.

The Casino is gaining headway and speed. Every day there are groups about the tea tables, while other groups are playing cards in the cosy card rooms—where it must be confessed that the chimney is full of pranks—and smoke. Each evening sees diners there and dancers later on that perfect floor. Saturday afternoon is the most popular time there. There is music then and much dancing and chatter. Sunday afternoons there is more music, though no dancing.

Out of doors the problem of achieving a good skating rink is being daily tackled. The younger members of the club are watching with keen interest. The holidays have given a decidedly juvenile atmosphere to the club, as members can put their offspring who are at home from college and school up for the holidays at the Casino on the payment of \$5.

The club Christmas tree on Thursday evening was a great and festive occasion. Many dinners were given beforehand and the company was augmented by the crowd of members who came in later. Each one was requested to bring a toy for a child and these were sent to the Eli Bates settlement house in West Elm street to help make Christmas for the young of that district. The warm and cheerful light of the Casino shone out into many a not so well lit home that night—or the next day. To make pleasure a hand mail on benevolence is to strike the note of today.

Do you wish to be up to the very latest wrinkle of smart English society? Then serve barley water during dinner and luncheon, and after dinner, with coffee and fruit, serve hot milk. The barley water is made by boiling about a cup of barley in two or three quarts of water until the latter is milky. Then cool and



MRS. POTTER PALMER. FROM A RECENT SNAPSHOT

add just enough lemon juice to take off the flat taste, but not to have a perceptible taste of the fruit.

This is supposed to be a most wholesome beverage. It has long been popular among the elite of France. A few years ago its merits were suddenly realized by fashionable England, since when it has been generally served there instead of water. It is beginning to find favor here and is to be quaffed at a few up-to-date tables.

Hot milk is an even later shriek. It was also introduced into England from France and is in line with the whole, widespread, hardly recognized movement towards hygiene and sane living, a movement which has already done away with long and hearty dinners and luncheons and many wines and overheated houses.

Hot milk is a well recognized stimulant, but an innocuous one. It should be served piping hot in little square glasses with handles and slowly sipped instead of coffee, with or without a liqueur. It has not yet appeared as an adjunct of Chicago feasts, though it is much the vogue in the English great world.

In line with this tendency towards wholesome living is the growing disfavor of cocktails among women anxious to keep their health, youth and good looks. Also it is no longer a particularly chic or dashing thing, as it was a few years ago, for women to smoke cigarettes. A few still do it, but most of those who once did it have abandoned the habit. Those who still continue to puff at the little white perils do it because they like it or take an esthetic pleasure in watching the smoke form and float away.

Apropos of this, it is worthy of note that the ban has been lifted against women's smoking by one of the most fashionable, popular and smartest restaurants in Chicago. This is a great departure for us. For while this custom has been allowed in the leading New York restaurants, such as the Ritz, Delmonico's and Sherry's, and in all of the San Francisco restaurants and hotels, puritan Chicago has steadfastly opposed it. It is a European habit and in none of the great capitals on the other side of the Atlantic is the practice considered even worthy of note, so universal is it.

The Russian and Viennese women are most addicted to smoking. The latter even carry their fondness for the Indian weed so far that they smoke cigars. It must be confessed that the spectacle of a pretty, young, perfectly dressed Viennese puffing at a big black cigar is not particularly alluring.

The dying out of the custom shows that stronger than any question of morals or taste is that of health in this day and generation.

In England tea goes—that uniform of the British matron—are being made now with large silk pockets or pouches in front—a kangaroo—to carry balls of knitting wool. In this country natty and becoming silk work aprons are worn by fashionable knitters, aprons which have pouches and which can be taken off and pulled up into work bags by a system of drawing strings.

Mrs. William Beale, Mrs. Edward Blair, Mrs. Arthur Ryerson, Mrs. C. M. Ely, Mrs. E. W. Cramer, and a host of other well known and prominent social leaders are never seen without their knitting, at luncheons, card parties, or dinners.

The custom is growing in favor at the symphony concerts, though some of the more sensitive music lovers and concert patrons complain of the faint, but unmistakable click click of the needles, saying that the knitters don't knit in time to the music.

The hats of role at the concert is meetings with almost as much criticism and opposition as the recent (and now defunct) order of the street car magnates keeping lovers of fresh air off the rear platforms of the cars. It is an ungracious opposition, however. If the music lover behind you likes to watch Mr. Stock and his inspiring baton, or get a good view of some special artist at the piano, or singing or playing the violin, it is small sacrifice for you to remove your hat for an hour and a half or two hours. Besides which, it is much better for your hair. Grasp that thought and cherish it when you are inclined to be disgruntled at revealing a ruffled coiffure.

So absorbed is every one in the preparations and cares of the season that not much heed is given at this time of the year to outsiders, strangers within our gates. Yet the recent visit of Chrystabel Pankhurst interested many society women, who met her at a small tea given by Mrs.

James Morrison last Monday afternoon. Miss Pankhurst was a great surprise to most of those who met her then for the first time. In the first place, she is young, pretty, chic in her dress, quiet in her manner, and altogether prepossessing from the medieval point of view that woman's chief mission is to charm.

She did not suggest conflict, course, violent action, as did her quondam coadjutor, Mrs. Pethwick Lawrence, who was lately with us. The latter has a certain rugged, attractive beauty, but she gives the impression that she met easily her due put up a good fight with the three doctors and six wardresses who undertook to feed her forcibly at Holloway jail after five days of voluntary starvation on her part.

Not so Miss Pankhurst. She suggests that her exile in Paris has of profound effect on her taste in hats and frocks. She is, however, of a decided personality, thoroughly mistress of herself, with an air of keen understanding and quiet reserve. Not a passionate advocate like Frau Rosika Schwimmer, nor a one-sided partisan of suffrage like Mrs. Lawrence, but a clever, not very conciliatory, young woman, quite sure of what she wants and capable of thoroughly enjoying a row and outwitting politicians and police by nimble wit rather than force.

Among those who gathered to greet her last Monday were Mesdames Charles Hamill, Arthur Ryerson, Charles W. Walker, Paul Willing, William Prescott Hunt, Augustus Peabody, William McCormick Blair, John Bass, R. T. Crane, Dunlap Smith, Murray Washburn, and John Carpenter.

Mrs. Pankhurst left town yesterday for the east, but will return shortly to be the guest of the Charles Graces. On her next stay here she will have a large meeting at the Auditorium, when she will speak of the English suffragists and their attitude towards the war.

Considering the present state of most of the tribes that people this earth it is almost a mockery to wish every one a happy New Year. We of the western hemisphere can hardly rejoice in a condition which is cheerful merely because of the lurid background furnished by the rest of the ill-fated world. Of one thing we may be thankful: Time can't turn back the wheel; we shall never see 1914 again, though the memory of it will haunt us all our lives. So, welcome to 1915! This column wishes you—courage and good cheer!

coming marriage of their daughter, Marguerite, to Daniel C. Hirsch on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

The net proceeds of the concert are to be distributed by the Junior League of Chicago to local charities. The Junior League has appointed the following committee to work in conjunction with the local alumni committee: Mrs. David Bigelow, Mrs. William McCormick Blair, Mrs. Charles C. Counselman, Mrs. Huntington Henry, Mrs. James C. Hutchins Jr., Mrs. Howard Linn, Mrs. Lawrence M. V. Miles, Mrs. Margaret Billings, Miss Helen Cudahy, Miss Margaret Conover, Miss Eleanor Hamill, Miss Harriet Houghtaling, Miss Dorothy Linn, and Miss Isabel Robbins. The Chicago alumni committee in charge of the concert is composed of John A. Haines, Herman E. Pollock, Samuel A. Bingham, Herbert C. Chatfield-Taylor, Emily H. Gilbert, James H. Pierce, Robert W. Saylor, Edwin E. Sheridan, Lawrence M. Miles, Charles T. Mordock, and William M. Blair.

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Mrs. George A. McKinnick, 712 Rush street, will give a tea-dance from 4 to 7 o'clock the day of the concert and following the performance Mrs. Moses J. Wentworth, 1240 Lake Shore drive, will give a dance for the Harvard men.

Mrs. and Mrs. Washington Porter of 4048 Lake Park avenue will give a reception and dance for their daughter, Pauline Caroline, on Jan. 1 from 4 until 7 o'clock.

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ON THE CALENDAR.

One of the social and charitable events of the present season will be the concert given by the Cornell Glee, Barrio, and Mandolin clubs in Orchestra hall on New Year's night. The boxholders are:

- Mesdames—
- Chamney J. Blair, Frank Matheson, E. A. Leitch,
- Henry Blair, W. H. Mellivaine, Frank Matheson,
- Edward H. Butler, Charles Mitchell, Henry J. Patten,
- B. F. Curry, C. A. Piamondona,
- D. A. Cudahy, P. S. Porter,
- D. M. Cummings, H. C. Goodwin,
- H. C. Goodwin, Douglas Smith,
- W. F. Goodspeed, Edward F. Swift,
- Huntington Henry, George Trigg, G. J. Trigg,
- J. W. Kendrick.

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The marriage of Miss Frances Josephine Small and Francis Clerihew Wynn will take place New Year's day at the residence of Mrs. Albert Paul Smith, Highland Park. Owing to recent bereavement only the family will be present.

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