HOME

THE NOVEL OF THE YEAR

BY GEORGE A. CHAMBERLAIN

CHAPTER XXIX—(Continued).

GERRY longed to stay by Alan's side and through his returning consciousness, as through a magnifying glass, gaze upon the world he had forsworn—the heritage he had abandoned. But the fact that Margarita and her boy suddenly demanded itself—demanded digestion—and Gerry turned his back on Alan. He mounted, and with the silent Kemp retraced the drive they had made together months before.

Lieber did not go with them. When he had seen them off, he busied himself giving orders for the tidying up of the veranda, the feeding of Alan's convoy, beast and man, and the preparation of a room for the self-invited guest. From the pile of dusty pillows a servant was picking up, fell a board. Lieber glanced down at it. Words were cut roughly but deeply into the surface. They spoke to him. They held his eyes. He stooped laboriously and picked up the board. He took it into his private room, propped it up against some books on the table and sat before it with his face dropped in his hands. To his closed eyes the words seemed no longer carved in wood. Against the inward darkness of his brain they shone out in points of light. He could not shut them out. "Qui de nous n'a pas eu sa terre promise, son jour d'extase, et sa fin en exil?"

At sundown Lieber came out to his patient. He had him moved, settle and all, into a room whose windows opened upon the veranda. Lieber sat beside him and nursed him through the long hot night. To the deftness of his hand had been added tenderness, and into his face a new determination had come—a resolve to win Alan's battle for him whatever the odds.

Gerry did not sleep that night. He lay on the little extra bed he had made upon his son's arrival and, propping himself on his elbow, gazed around him. The moon shone through great cracks in the warped shutters and filled the vast room with a glow that, as his eyes dilated, became a revealing light. In one corner was an iron washstand with its vessels of coarse enameled metal, a recent purchase. In another corner stood a grotesque clothes rack. It looked like a young pine with irregular branches and top lopped off. On its stubs or pegs, hung his clothes and Margarita's and, on the lowest peg of all, the Lilliputian garments of the Man. The floor was bare and rolling, for the boards, rough hewn from hardwood giants of the forest, had warped steadily through many years. In its centre stood the great rustic bed that Gerry had made from the twisted limbs of trees and Bonifacio had plaited with thongs. By raising himself to the full length of his arm Gerry could see Margarita lying uncovered on the coarse yellowish homespun. On her bare brown arm lay the black head of her son.

Gerry shuddered at the nearness—the familiarity—of everything. The seams of elementary life stood out brutally. For the first time he saw them. From the touch of the coarse homespun that covered him, his mind went back to the feel of Lieber's fine linen and from that it poised on Alan and then flew back to Alix—Alix who, seen through the years, became doubly ethereal and flower-like. Where was Alix? What had Alan done with her? He must ask him. That, at least, he must know. But before he could ask he must decide about Margarita and steel himself to his purpose. He thought of the long still days at Fazenda Flores before Alan had come to Lieber's—the struggle and the reward that had been his—and the firmness in him, the steadfastness that had led Alan to name him the Rock, rose up in defense of Margarita and her son.

Gerry was up early. As he was saddling True Blue, Margarita came on the veranda. "Where art thou going" she asked.

Gerry looked up. He was a little pale from the wakeful night and there were slight shadows under his eyes. "I am going to Lieber's. There is a sick man there—he is dying and I must help. He is my fellow countryman."

Margarita's eyes searched his face. Her bosom rose and fell rapidly. "Do not go," she said, and Gerry started at the passion in her voice.

He looked at her and smiled. "I must see this man before he dies," he said, half to himself.

"Ah," said Margarita, beating with her little brown fist on the veranda pillar, "I know. I know. It is not death that calls thee. Why should one turn from things that live to fondle death? It is the stranger thou wouldst see."

Gerry dropped the reins of his horse and, hurrying up the steps, took Margarita in his arms. "And why not, my beloved? Why does thy heart beat so? It is not a woman I go to see, but a man. Shall I not talk with a man that is at death's door?"

"Let him but die," pleaded Margarita; "let him but die and thou shalt go and bury him. See, the day is beautiful There is a cloud. Perhaps it will rain. Come, my Geree, let us go down to the river and swim. We will take the Man. He shall sit on the bank and the river will play with his bare toes. He will laugh."

Gerry smiled, but shook his head. "Tomorrow, my beloved, tomorrow we shall play with the Man and the river."

Margarita's arms fell to her sides in pathetic surrender. She watched Gerry mount and ride slowly up the slope to the bridge where Kemp awaited him. Then she went back to the veranda steps, sat down and wept with her face hidden in her hand. She did not know why she wept, but she knew she wept for things that were going to be. The Man came toddling out to her, fell on her shoulders, dragged her hands from her face and crowed with delight. It was an old game, played often before, except that this time when the game was over his little fists were wet.

CHAPTER XXX.

ALAN was struggling back from coma. He was passing through what Lieber termed to himself a stage of reflex cerebral phenomena. He muttered, he talked, but the words were rendered unintelligible by his thick, dry tongue. Lieber listened. When his patient could speak clearly, he would give him broth, even if he had to rouse him. But before Alan could speak clearly he awoke. Lieber found his sunken eyes, the pupils appearing almost concave, fixed on him with a seeing gaze. It was like resurrection. A spirit had come down upon the body. Eye to eye, mouth to mouth, heart to heart, it had given sight, breath, life.

The eyes closed. Lieber hurried away. From the kitchen he brought a bowl of broth. It was steaming and filled the room with an odor of rich essence. It was in itself a concentration of life. Lieber held Alan's unwilling head on his left arm and with a small spoon carried drops of the broth to his dry lips. At first Alan scarcely swallowed them. They stayed in his mouth or trickled down his throat. But gradually his tongue softened. He could feel the contraction of his throat giving way to the oils of the broth. He tried to reach a weak hand toward the bowl. Lieber smiled and fed him with a larger spoon. The bowl was emptied. Alan sank back into the pillows.

His eyes wandered wistfully over the bare walls, the high tiling of the strange room. "'I would have, great gods! but one short hour of native air—let me but die at home,'" he murmured and Lieber heard.

The words clutched at his own heart but he answered cheerfully, "You shall, my boy, you shall die at home if you like, but you're going to have years to think it over. Sleep, that's the word. And sleep it is," he added to himself as Alan's eyes closed and his chest began to rise and fall in healthy breathing. Lieber held his wrist. The pulse was taking on strength.

Alan was still sleeping when Gerry arrived. Lieber looked up, surprised. "You've come all the way back from Fazenda Flores?"

Gerry nodded. "How is he? Has he come to, yet?"

"Yes," said Lieber in a low, modulated tone. "He came to, all right. But the fight's not over yet. Fever goes and comes, you know. If another paroxysm seizes him, he'll not have the strength to pull through. It's a question of hours now."

"You've been up all night," said Gerry. "Go and lie down for a while. I'll call you if anything happens."

Lieber rose reluctantly. "Don't fail to call me," he said. "I'll leave my door open."

Gerry sat down in a chair beside the settle. He had not known how tired he was himself. Soon he drowsed. His head fell forward on his chest. Sleep came to him and then a great trouble came to his sleep. He roused himself from a nightmare and, suddenly wide awake, found Alan's eyes fixed on his face.

"You," murmured Alan.

Gerry did not answer. His face became a mask. It seemed to him that only Alan's eyes were alive, and to Alan that Gerry had projected his spirit to his bedside to watch him die.

Alan tried to smile in defiance. "Can't you speak?" he whispered hoarsely.

Gerry leaned forward. The question he had to ask was stronger than he. It forced its way through his lips. "Alan, what did you do with her? Tell me that and I'll go away."

A troubled look came into Alan's thin face. He frowned. "Do with her? Do with whom?"

"Alan," said Gerry, his suppressed voice trembling, "you know. With Alix."

"Oh," said Alan, still struggling on the verge of consciousness. "I remember. I did nothing with her. She wouldn't go with me."

"Alan," groaned Gerry. "I saw you. I saw you and Alix on the train."

The frown was gone from Alan's forehead. He felt sleep coming back to him and he was glad. "Yes," he said, "she was on the train with me. I remember. She jumped off. A baggageman—caught her." He dropped off to sleep again.

Lieber stepped catlike across the floor. He caught Gerry by one ear and with the other hand over his mouth, led him out of the room. Gerry went tamely. When they were on the veranda Lieber looked at him.

"So," he said, his blue eyes blazing, "you only want to kill him."

"No," said Gerry, dazed, "not now."

"Mr. Lansing," said Lieber, "you get out of here. We'll settle this business some other time."

FARMER SMITH'S RAINBOW CLUB

JUST A LITTLE TALK ABOUT YOURSELF

Dear Children—I have often asked a lot of members gathered together this question: "What is the most interesting thing in the world?" and they answer all sorts of things.

I might take you all to see the most beautiful building in all the world, and yet you would say that it is not the most interesting thing in the whole world to you.

The setting sun is interesting to some, and to others the sun coming out of the ocean is wonderful, but what is that which occupies your keenest interest?

Is it a watch which costs $150 and does not miss a minute in a month?

Or, come with me and look at the mother bird setting on her eggs. How patiently she watches over them until they have become small birds! and yet they do not interest you as much as other things you have seen.

Let us go to the river in spring and see the tiny eggs which later are to become fishes—all a wonderful process of nature.

Look at the electric light, which one little boy called "a burnt hairpin in a bottle"—can I interest you in it? No, it merely makes you yawn when I speak of it.

What, then, you ask, is the most wonderful thing in the world?

YOURSELF.

FARMER SMITH,
Children's Editor, EVENING LEDGER.

RAINBOW PEN VALENTINES

Our Postoffice Box

Louis Gusst, South 5th street, is in our picture gallery tonight and he deserves to be, because he has worked very hard for your editor. Albert Johnston, Brown street, says very little, but what he does say he says well. How many other people have learned that lesson? Florence Berg, West Dauphin street, is an industrious Rainbow. She studies, draws, takes care of her little brothers and goes to dancing school. That sounds like a very happy time, Florence. Mabel Tulina, Carlisle street, rescued a poor little wet kitten from a bad boy, who was hitting it, took the kitten home with her, washed it and gave it something to eat. Then she found a lovely home for it with a lady who was very anxious to adopt a little kitty. Now the kitten is very, very happy and so is Mabel, because she is the cause of the happiness!

LOUIS GUSST
South 5th street.

John Dawson, Jr., promises a very large branch club in Woodbury, N. J., the town in which he lives. Judging from his enthusiastic letter, we look for great things from his young friends. Sarah Faberman, North 2d street, is a clever little letter writer, and we surely do love to hear from her.

PIN MONEY

Those who wish to earn money after school and on Saturdays should write a letter to Farmer Smith.

Farmer Smith's Bug Book

THE LADY BUG'S SURPRISE

It was getting toward the middle of the day when the Lady Bug tripped down the stairs of her bungalow and out on the porch. She had hardly seated herself when she heard a faint, "Whoa! Whoa!"

Looking up on the high bluff she saw Doctor Beetle seated in his June Bug carriage, tugging at the reins, trying to stop the runaway June Bugs. His high hat was bobbing up and down, bobbing up and down, as the little carriage jerked first this way and then that.

The Lady Bug gave one shriek and, dropping her knitting, ran as fast as she could to the foot of the cliff. She waited and waited, but Doctor Beetle did not come rolling down, as she had expected.

Pretty soon she heard a clatter and, looking toward the house, discovered the good doctor and his fiery steeds, which had now become calm, waiting in front of the steps.

Running back as fast as she could, the Lady Bug greeted Doctor Beetle with, "My dear doctor, I never expected to see you again—alive, that is."

"Never fear, never fear," said the good doctor. "Leave those June Bugs to me. I can manage them!"

The Lady Bug smiled again and the doctor, bowing very low, said, "I have come to take you riding."

"I will trust myself with you," said the Lady Bug, smiling up in the good doctor's face.

But when Jimmy June Bug heard this he winked at Johnny June Bug and—well, the Lady Bug tells Mrs. Potato Bug all about it tomorrow night. It's exciting, too.

Do You Know This?

1. What keeps the water of a river fresh? (Five credits.)
2. Is the water of Delaware Bay fresh or salt? (Five credits.)
3. Mention two rivers that flow into Delaware Bay. (Five credits.)

FARMER SMITH,
EVENING LEDGER:

I wish to become a member of your Rainbow Club. Please send me a beautiful Rainbow Button free. I agree to DO A LITTLE KINDNESS EACH AND EVERY DAY — SPREAD A LITTLE SUNSHINE ALL ALONG THE WAY:

Name ....
Address ....
Age ....
School I attend..............................

Gerry's lip trembled. "You're right, Lieber," he said. "You're right, only you don't know it all. That chap in there—we were boys together. He ran away with my wife. That's why—" Gerry suddenly stopped. Alix had not run away. She had jumped off the train. Where was she then? What had she done through the years he had been away? Why had she jumped off the train? He struck his hand to his head and stumbled off the veranda.

Lieber's anger died in him, but he turned and went back to Alan.

Two hours later he came out again to find Gerry crouched on the veranda. The spirit had gone out of him but he turned on Lieber with a determination in his tired eyes. "You told me to get out and I haven't. There are things I've got to know. I'll wait."

"I spoke in haste, Mr. Lansing," said Lieber. "I want you should forgive me. You are all in, too. Come with me."

He led him into his own room, made him lie down and closed the shutters. Gerry threw himself across the bed, arms outstretched, face downward. Lieber slipped out and noiselessly shut the door. Gerry lay exhausted. He could not think any more. A great weight lay on his brain. The ten minutes' doze in the chair at Alan's bedside had not been rest but a nightmare. Presently he fell into sleep, a deep sleep that was all unconsciousness.

It was almost night when he awoke, and with the awakening the weight settled back on his brain, only now he had the strength to think in spite of it. He got up and went out in search of Lieber. Lieber heard him and came out into the hall. Gerry nodded toward Alan's room. "It's all right, Mr. Lansing. He must have a solid mind. Your talk didn't excite him—didn't even disturb his sleep. He's on the road up—weak, a baby, but he's started life again. He's asked for you twice. Seems to have something he's got to get off his chest to you. You'd better go in."

Gerry sat down once more beside Alan. The questions he must ask crowded to his lips, but he forced them back. He tested his strength with resolutions and held them. It was his way of reassuring himself. He wanted to feel his firmness rising in him to meet the struggle he felt must come when Alan spoke.

Alan knew he was there. He saw him through half-closed eyes but, more than that, he felt him. His brows puckered in a frown. It was still hard to use words. "Gerry, last night I wanted to tell you more only I couldn't. I had to sleep. Alix didn't go with me. She only [illegible] the train. When I kissed her she [illegible] and found she wasn't—carnal [illegible] She went back home. You didn't [illegible] up. You never turned up. They traced you to a river, an empty canoe—pajamas—you know." He stopped and sighed as though his task were over.

His chin rested on his clinched hands, his elbows on his knees. "Alan," he said, "where is Alix now? What has she done?"

Alan opened his eyes and looked at him. "She is waiting. She has always waited for you to come back. She would not believe you were dead, because of the boy."

"The boy!" groaned Gerry. "What boy?"

"Yours," said Alan. "He is a great boy. There is a new Alix since he came. She is as far from me and what she was as the stars. She is a steady star. But it's all right now. You'll go back to her."

"I can't," whispered Gerry hoarsely, more to himself than to Alan. "I've got a wife here. I've got a child here. To me he is my first-born."

Alan's eyes opened, this time in wonder. A twisted smile came to his lips. "You!" he said. "You!" and then the smile changed to a faint disgust. He turned his head on the pillow away from Gerry and slept.

The next morning found Gerry still at Lieber's. He knew he must go back to Fazenda Flores in the end, but just now his soul was too raw. He hung around waiting for Alan to wake up. There was only one way to soothe the pain of his wound and that was to add vinegar to it. It seemed a terrible affront that Alan—Alan of all people—should sit in judgment over him. Alan awoke at last to a ravenous appetite and a desire for the open. They moved him, settle and all, out upon the veranda. "What a murderous day!" he said, his eyes turning, blinded from the blaze of the sun, to rest in the shady nooks of the veranda.

Outside, the heavenly bowl of blue was virgin of clouds. It stretched and domed in a sphered eternity of emptiness. Through its depressing void the sun swam slowly, pitilessly, as though it were loth to mark the passing minutes. The whole earth baked. Strong trees wilted and turned up the wrong sides of their leaves on the sea of heat like dying fish turning up their white bellies at the last gasp. Not a breath of air stirred. Heat rose from the ground in an unbroken, visible wave. "My God," said Alan, gazing with wistful, far-seeing eyes beyond the familiar, repellant scene, "'a homeward fever parches up my tongue.'" There was such an agony of longing in the words that Gerry was frightened. He looked questioningly at Lieber.

"No," said Lieber, "he is not dying. He was dying, but he's changed his mind. He's going to go home instead."

"I believe he's right, Gerry," said Alan with a faint smile. "But I didn't change my mind. He did it for me. He's in line for a life-saving medal. Lieber's all right." He stopped, tired out.

Lieber began to talk to Gerry. "How's the water in the ditch, Mr. Lansing?"

"Mighty low," said Gerry. He spoke almost absent-mindedly. For the first time in months the ditch was far from his thoughts.

CONTINUED TOMORROW.

TELLS MINISTERS THEY NEGLECT SOUL WORK

The Rev. J. E. Tuttle Says Clergymen Give Too Much Time to Social Affairs

Ministers of today are burdened with too many business and social affairs and therefore neglect their main duty—that of looking after the spiritual welfare of their congregations.

This assertion was made today by the Rev. John E. Tuttle, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, of York, in an address before Presbyterian ministers at Westminster Hall in the Witherspoon Building.

"I believe that business and social matters should be placed in the hands of the layman," he said, "but the trouble is they expect the minister to do all the pushing in the way of making things progress. That's why there is a prejudice against taking a minister who is more than 40 years old. In most places they want a young man who, they believe, can better push things to a conclusion.

"They lose sight completely of the fact that the main duty of the minister is to take care of the spiritual matters of the church."

The speaker then pointed out that the manifold duties greatly hampered the real work for which the minister was chosen. He declared that the average pastor could only obtain the proper results when relieved of the numerous duties which encroach upon his time. The speaker also asserted that better progress would be obtained generally if conditions were changed in this connection.

Licensed to Wed at Elkton

ELKTON, Md., Feb 14.—Marriage licenses were issued here today to the following parties: Fred W. Beck and Mary Parter, Samuel Squillac and Jennie Pilimroe, Thomas Sutherland and Anna Harris, John E. Downie and Cecile B. Klags, all of Philadelphia; William Geiger and Elizabeth W. Wood, Conshohocken; Harry E. Bolt and Anna E. Kenkel, Wilmington; Coleman A. Carson and Lillian Newman, Trenton; Harvey Eshen, Wilmington, and Reba M. Ford, Newport, Del.; John Quigley, Camden, N. J., and Florence Newman, Phoenixville, Pa.

ANNIVERSARY WEEK KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

Local Lodges Arrange to Celebrate Order's Anniversary and Entertain Supreme Chancellor

Grand Lodge Officers Louis Jacoby, grand prelate; Byron B. Bodle, grand inner guard; Julius Mountney, grand master of exchequer; Lemuel Wilt, grand keeper of records and seals, and Samuel M. Pyfer, grand trustee, have issued a call to all lodges in this city to meet at the hall, 1626 Arch street, on Saturday night, at 8 o'clock, to honor the supreme chancellor, Brigham S. Young, who has agreed to come to Philadelphia to help commemorate the 52d anniversary of the founding of the Order Knights of Pythias.

Although the order was founded in the city of Washington, Philadelphia has always been among the leaders in Pythianism, at one time holding first place.

With the celebration planned and an encouraging visit from the supreme officers, an effort will be made to restore the order in this city to its former position of prestige and leadership.

A splendid program has been arranged for Saturday night, and the convocation is expected to crowd the hall to its full capacity.

Integrity Lodge, No. 48, will initiate three candidates tonight in the "first and second ranks," doing the work in "long form." The lodge will celebrate its 48th anniversary this month, and the members on the Entertainment Committee are enthusiastically working to arrange a splendid program for the occasion.

Chancellor Commander I. L. S. Smink is arranging to have the grand chancellor, George A. Mentzell, hold a convocation in Integrity Lodge on the third Monday night next month, when the long-form third degree will be exemplified upon a class of candidates.

Quaker City Lodge, No. 31, initiated two candidates last Friday night in the long form third rank, putting on the work in an excellent manner. They were the recipients of three handsome pictures and frames presented to the lodge by Brothers Doll, Neal and Haines.

Next Friday evening the rank of knight will be conferred, after which a game of lodge polo will be played with a team from Minonk Tribe, No. 451, of Red Men. The members of Quaker City Lodge team are Harry L. Neal, captain; James Wood, left quarterback; John Spencer, right quarterback; Alexander Shingle, fullback, and J. G. Broomall, goal keeper.

The Dramatic Order Knights of Khorassan held another open meeting in the castle hall of Eureka Lodge, No. 12, last Thursday night, when it proceeded with the project of getting a temple inaugurated in this city. A large attendance was had at the meeting, which aroused enthusiasm to a greater height than had heretofore been shown, so that a temple in this city seems to be a certainty.

William Penn Lodge, No. 39, initiated eight candidates in the "second rank" last Friday night with a well-filled lodge room of members who saw the "rank" put on in good style.

Pythagoras Lodge, No. 129, will give a social night to the members and their families on Thursday, at 51st street and Baltimore avenue.

Oriental Lodge, No. 25, is doing good work in West Philadelphia, initiating candidates at every meeting night. Brother D. McDonnell, of this lodge, who is also deputy chancellor, reports that the lodges in his district are progressing rapidly and gaining in membership at every meeting.

KNIGHTS OF MALTA

Commanderies Prepare for Election of State and Subordinate Officers

The election of officers of subordinate commanderies of the State of Pennsylvania will be held on the last meeting night this month of each commandery. . t the same time ballots will be cast for all past commanders for officers of the Grand Commandery for the coming year. To stimulate interest in the work of the order and bring out as complete a vote as possible, recent regulations have been made by which past officers living more than three miles from meeting place of the commandery, as well as officers unable to attend by reason of illness, are permitted to forward their ballots by mail.

The official ticket for grand commandery officers is as follows: Grand commander, James P. Brady, No. 92; grand generalissimo, Harry M. Askin, No. 125; grand captain general, Warren J. Raffensberger, No. 152; grand prelate, Clint S. Miller, No. 132; grand recorder, John H. Hoffman, P. S. C., No. 90; grand treasurer, Charles W. Bassler, P. G. C., No. 112; grand senior warden, S. Raymond Snyder, No. 147; grand junior warden, James L. Penney, Jr., No. 143; grand warder, Eli J. Sterner, No 159; grand sentinel, J. M. Pollock, No. 189; C. L. Cleaver, No. 22; Frank C. Ellis, No. 358; W. A. Gretzinger, No. 422; W. E. Braunlich, No. 387; W. L. Meguigan, No. 171; A. M. Hornberger, No. 277; J. Smith Reihle, No. 27; George G. Orme, No. 369; W. F. Engle, No. 214; S. B. Glass, No. 378, and T. C. Stephens, No. 454; grand trustee, O. H. Houck, No. 5; Cass Morgan, No. 177; A. L. Snyder, No. 186; J. J. Beisel, P. G. C., No. 12, and W. H. Davis, No. 319.

Constantine, George H. Pierce, St. Elmo, Quaker City and Mystic Cross Commanderies, of this city, will hold a joint public installation of newly elected officers Wednesday evening, March 8, in the North Broad Street Drawing Rooms, 715 North Broad street.

GOLDEN EAGLE KNIGHTS

New Corps of Grand Castle Officers Elected by Subordinate State Bodies

The board of Grand Castle officers will visit Bethlehem on February 23 for an all-day business meeting and in the evening will attend the 30th anniversary of Hellertown Castle, at Hellertown. The

stone Review, and Mrs. M. E. Evans, commander of Bartram Review, were also welcome guests.

The Uniform Rank held a business and drill meeting at 814 North Broad street, and will meet hereafter the first and third Mondays of each month. A Maccabee ring was presented to Captain Crouch and arrangements made to hold an entertainment, drill and dance the latter part of April, with Miss Ella Haney as chairman, who will select her assistants. The guard is trying to raise enough money to go to Port Huron, Mich., for the dedication of the home office building and to demonstrate to the West that the East, especially Philadelphia, has a good drill team.

Betsy Ross Review, Capron Post Hall, 5017 Ruth street, received one application for membership and made arrangements to celebrate its 13th anniversary on Tuesday evening, February 29, with Mrs. Sabina Friedhoff as chairman and Mrs. Hoffman, as assistant chairman. On March 14 it will give a masquerade with Mrs. Florence Osborne, as chairman and Mrs. Henrietta Goering as assistant chairman. Miss Burgin presented her membership campaign, which was adopted by Betsy Ross Review, who will continue to hold interesting and profitable meetings. Miss Anna E. Berll, record keeper of Girard Review, was among the visitors.

ROYAL ARCANUM

Monthly Session of Local Associated Councils Plans for Order's Good

The Associated Councils of Philadelphia and vicinity held their monthly meeting in the Parkway Building February 5. President Roedel commented upon the good attendance representing 19 Royal Arcanum Councils. The meeting was honored by the presence of Supreme Trustee Henry K. Lathy, of Pennsylvania Council. Committee reports were received and the usual line of business transacted.

Philadelphia Council, No. 293, at its regular February meeting served a Dutch lunch. About 15 visitors from the Carnation Club and other Philadelphia councils enjoyed a good meeting. Philadelphia Council members who do not attend their council meetings are missing some good times. Regent Brother Culbert will have something at every meeting, and is deserving of a full house and the cordial support of his fellow members.

Printer's ink is now being actively used by the leading councils. For some time past Haverford Council had abandoned its monthly paper, The Hustler. The February number has just been issued again, better and brighter than ever before, containing council news. Philadelphia Council's paper, The Visitors, appears in a new form, with increased space for news matter and a promise of considerable improvement over this issue. Pennsylvania Council's Leaflet, always newsy, reflects the hands of experienced writers and carries cheerful reports to the members of the order.

Arrangements have been perfected and a great time is expected at the "500" to be given by the Ladies' Auxiliary Wednesday evening, February 16, in the Hotel Adelphia. A liberal number of handsome prizes will be awarded to winning players.

Brothers Fowler and Gelpke, of Haverford Council, are industriously at work organizing a new Royal Arcanum Council in the northwest section of Philadelphia. They propose to hold a rally tomorrow evening at 29th street and Lehigh avenue.

The various teams contesting in the Royal Arcanum Bowling League are now fighting for position as they enter on the last round of games.

Haverford Council holds first position by six games, with two teams occupying second and third positions. Credit should be given the bowlers of Philadelphia Council for their sportsmanship for entering two teams in the race, thus weakening a possible team capable of landing the championship. The other three teams are so evenly matched that it is a question as to which will land in the cellar position. At the close of the tournament a banquet will be held, and the prizes will be distributed and officers elected for next season.

Friday next has been set aside by Haverford Council as of particular interest to the ladies in their relation to the order. Februry 4 Brother W. S. Miller delivered an interesting lecture on cotton. This council is noted for its instructive as well as entertaining meetings.

Shepherds of Bethlehem

A movement is under way to organize a new lodge of the Shepherds of Bethlehem in this city. At a preliminary meeting held in the hall, 1324 Melon street, the supreme officers attended and explained to a number of prospective candidates the principles and purposes of the organization. Among those who spoke were Mrs. Eva Wyckoff Hall, founder of the order; Supreme Commander Sir J. Tracy and Supreme Treasurer S. Miller. It was decided to name the new body after its organizer, Annie M. Stokes Lodge, No. 122.

In addition to the organizer, the following names were attached to the application for a charter: Joseph McNee, Anna A. Thurman, Gertrude T. Stokes, Nellie McNee, Elizabeth Thurman, Andrew Hamilton, Mrs. A. Nelse, Maria Hamilton, Elizabeth Butler, Mary Hinkel, Katherine Hicks, Frank Norton, Edward McNee, Pearl Sanders, Elizabeth Harron, Walter Harron, Mary Klenk, Anna Brown, Katherine Liggett, William Norton, Jr., Helen Strohecker, Fanny Rody, Nellie Casar, Regina Belger, James Trainer, Jennie Collinair, Mrs. K. France and Miss M. Trainer.

Another preliminary meeting will be held Thursday evening, when officers will be elected and final arrangements completed for the organization ceremonies on March 2.

PUSH GOOD ROADS WORK

Bucks County Automobile Association Joins Movement

DOYLESTOWN, Pa., Feb. 14. — The Bucks County Automobile Association has lined up behind the various civic and trade organizations that have joined the movement for good roads. The efforts of the association will be directed toward freeing the pike from Doylestown to Langhorne. Steps have been made to have the toll gates thrown open. State Highway Commissioner Cunningham wrote the association that he would cooperate in the good roads movement.

ARTISANS' ORDER MUTUAL PROTECTION

Annual Report of Most Excellent Recorder Presents Figures Showing Gains During Last Year

The coming 44th annual session of the Most Excellent Assembly, which will convene March 1, promises to be of exceptional interest by reason of suggested changes in the laws of the order, which will be certain to invite considerable discussion.

Among the amendments which will come up for consideration is a novel one, to abolish wholly the initiation fee, thus opening the door freely to all desirable candidates who may seek the advantages of membership, without the payment of any charge for admission.

Other amendments seek to limit the term of office of a director to three years; to permit members to reduce or increase death benefit certificates at any time, and to pay benefits to members for the first week of sickness when under a physician's care for two or more weeks.

Oriental Assembly, No. 17, will hold its regular monthly meeting tonight, with Master Artisan Frederick R. Gilpin in the chair, in Fraternity Building, 1414 Arch street. With one candidate for initiation, a luncheon supplied by the Entertainment Committee and a progressive pinochle party on the program an enjoyable meeting is assured.

Bartram Assembly, No. 55, started its new term in a most satisfactory manner at the February session. Ten candidates were duly initiated and an enthusiastic interest manifested, which presages a bright and prosperous fraternal year.

The new corps of officers installed for the year are: Master artisan, Thomas C. Vance; superintendent, J. D. A. Mann; inspector, C. W. Martin; cashier, C. F. S. Rubbert; recorder, C. W. Higgins; medical examiners, P. Samuel Stout, J. M. Delo, John B. Becker and John S. Thorp; conductor, C. Oscar Hall; chaplain, F. C. Denkhaus; representatives, C. F. S. Rubbert, H. G. Yocum, H. W. Palmer and C. E. Steel; alternates, W. A. Gray, J. M. Delo, William J. Ellis and Louis Biester, Jr. The new Entertainment Committee consists of the following active members: H. W. Palmer, chairman; A. W. Boysen, secretary; Thomas C. Vance, ex-officio; J. D. A. Mann, C. U. Martin, C. E. Steel, Joe Durning, J. C. Marr, H. G. Yocum, J. J. Brennan, H. G. Braun, J. C. Simpson, L. Biester, Mart Schilling, W. Gray, J. E. Craig, William J. Ellis and Oscar Hall.

The Entertainment Committee of St. John's Assembly, No. 28, was entertained Tuesday evening by Master Artisan William A. Purks at the Adelphia Hotel.

The committee has made arrangements to entertain a large number of visitors at the regular meting on Washington's Birthday and will hold a special meeting February 29 for the purpose of initiating candidates and entertaining out-of-town representatives to the most excellent assembly, which will be held Wednesday, March 1, at Prospect Park, at which time Brother Robert C. Thompson, of St. John's Assembly, will be elected and installed as most excellent master artisan. The members of St. John's Assembly feel highly honored to have one of their members selected to head the A. O. M. P. this year. To show their appreciation they have pledged their support to Brother Thompson and will use every effort to make this a banner year in Artisanship.

William Patton Assembly, No. 70, introduced an innovation at its meeting on Tuesday evening in a handball contest between the members of the assembly. It became so popular at once that a tournament was arranged and a schedule will be played at the coming meetings of the assembly. Two new members were received.

Recorder C. Walter Higgins and Brother Joseph Briggs were the star features of the bill of home talent that entertained Bartram Assembly on Monday evening. This team has been promising to do a stunt for the last six months which suffered none by the waiting.

The most excellent recorder has completed the statistical review for the year 1915, which shows the organization to be in a most excellent condition numerically and financially. The death benefit fund of the order on December 31 showed a balance of $911,114.83, a gain of $122,509.68. The combined contingent funds were, $178,393.44, giving combined assets of $1,690,508.27; $850,000 of this is invested in mortgages on Philadelphia real estate and is earning 5.4-10 per cent. interest. The average interest on the entire death benefit fund is 5.07 per cent. The latter item is important and is better than the earnings shown by most insurance and trust companies. The interest receipts were $41,568 and paid more tahn 20 per cent. of the death claims. The huge amount of $19,112,250 of risks is carried upon members. Death benefits paid were $198,163, making a total of $2,175,213 paid out for this purpose. Sick benefits paid were $27,787.50, which totals $357,841.30 expended for the relief of members. The expenses of management were $18,173.68, or $1.04 per member. The membership at the close of the year was 17,118, of which number 2143 were received during the year.

Isaac C. Underdown Assembly No. 35 had a good turnout of members at the meeting on Thursday evening, who were royally entertained by the new committee, of which Brother Harry C. Smith, most excellent master artisan, is chairman.

Passyunk Assembly, No. 58, has begun already to work for the year 1916. Ten new members were received at their second meeting this year.

Philadelphian Hit by Auto at Shore

Theodore Karsch, of 243 North 4th street, Philadelphia, was knocked unconscious by a motorcar near Atlantic City this afternoon and is in a serious condition. He was rolled over several times in the snow by the force of the impact, but recovered consciousness later. He was taken to the City Hospital at Atlantic City. The police are seeking the owner of the machine.

AT ALL OUR STORES
Where Quality Counts : Low Prices Prevail

arrangements are in the hands of Grand Sir Herald Harry A. Herbst.

St. Paul's Castle, No. 37, of Philadelphia, is at the present time enjoying a boom and the attendance has been on the increase. New propositions are being received each meeting night. This castle is one of which Colonel Charles N. Williams is a member.

A. C. Lyttle Commandery, No. 101, has had an unusually busy month, being on the go almost every evening installing the officers of the various castles assigned to it. Captain F. K. Lyttle, who is in charge of this commandery, is one of the active workers in the order, and has had with him a large installing team on each occasion. His commandery is growing rapidly, having now a membership of 75.

At the last meeting it took in nine applicants for membership. One of the strong features of this commandery is the good fellowship which exists among its members, and they are also favored by having a Ladies' Auxiliary. This body has just elected as officers for the following term: Mrs. William Starling, president; Mrs. F. K. Lyttle, vice president; Mrs. Mary Knable, secretary, and Mrs. Clarence Lynch, treasurer.

Supreme Master of Records John B. Treibler is busy making arrangements for the biennial session of the Supreme Castle, which meets this year in Atlantic City, and he, as adjutant general of the military branch, is making arrangements for a splendid demonstration of the military branch at that time.

The Election Committee of the Grand Castle met last Monday evening to open and compute the returns of the vote cast for Grand Castle officers. Unofficial figures show that the following officers have been elected: Grand Chief, John F. Brounley, Aeolian Castle, No. 348, Philadelphia; Grand Vice Chief, Harry A. Herbst, Good Will Castle, No. 75, Bethlehem; Grand High Priest, R. M. K. Lewis, Gilt Edge Castle, No. 128, North Wales; Grand Master of Records, L. L. Gallagher, Chester Castle, No. 29; Grand Sir Herald, August G. Stemme, Antioch Castle, No. 38, Philadelphia; Grand First Guardsman, George E. Kane, West Chester Castle, No. 226, West Chester; Grand Second Guardsman, Aaron A. Hintz, Mount Penn Castle, No. 51, Reading; Grand Trustee, Max Trankner, Delta Castle, No. 8, Philadelphia; Representative to the Supreme Castle, John H. Graybill, East Petersburg Castle, No. 152, East Petersburg.

THE MACCABEES

Membership Campaign Inaugurated by Local Reviews Meets With Favor

Penn Treaty had an enjoyable meeting Wednesday evening in its hall, 1126 Germantown avenue, and received one application for membership. It also adopted the "installation membership campaign" presented by Miss Bargin, the supreme chaplain, who was a welcome visitor. Action was taken to have an enertainment in the near future.

Quaker City Review, 1315 Columbia avenue, admitted one applicant at its last meeting and took action to amend the by-laws in order to pay $5 per week sick benefits instead of $4. Miss Burgin, the supreme chaplain, presented her installation membership plan, which was approved, and the Review will try to place a good net gain to its credit by October 1. Mrs. Rotenbury, chairman of the Installation Committee, was present and thanked all who had assisted to make the installation a success. Mrs. F. M. Helms, commander of Ker-

BIG COFFEE SALE THIS WEEK

A Robinson & Crawford Coffee Sale is always welcomed by the Particular People of Philadelphia, welcomed because it is well known that our price reductions are genuine and our quality is always maintained. So here we are—with the Four Biggest Coffee Bargains in Philadelphia. Take advantage of this money-saving opportunity of supplying your coffee needs for some time to come.

15 Stamps with Each Pound **20c Capital Blend Coffee** Sale Price **17c** 3 lbs. 50c

The best coffee you can buy for 20c the pound, for Capital Blend is not matched at its price.

25 Stamps with Each Pound **25c Robford Blend Coffee** Sale Price **22c** 3 lbs. 65c

The most popular 25c coffee on the market, a reputation won by merit.

35 Stamps with Each Pound **30c Golden Blend Coffee** Sale Price **27c** 3 lbs. 80c

A blend of high-grade coffee, rich in flavor, full-bodied and satisfying.

50 Stamps with Each Pound **35c R. & C. Best Blend Coffee** Sale Price **32c** 3 lbs. 95c

If your taste demands the rich, smooth flavor and delightful aroma which can only be attained by blending the highest grade coffees grown, you will enjoy the R. & C. Blend.

Gold Seal EGGS Carton 30c

The largest, freshest, meatiest eggs that money can buy or hens can lay.

Henfield Eggs, Carton 27c
Second in quality only to Gold Seal.

Selected Eggs, Dozen 23c
Twelve good eggs in every dozen.

There are many other attractive values this week at every R. & C. Store, whether it be located at

21st and Market Streets

Downtown, Uptown, Germantown, Kensington, West Philadelphia, Manayunk, Roxborough, Logan, Oak Lane, Overbrook, Bala, Narberth, Ardmore, Bryn Mawr, Lansdowne, E. Lansdowne, Llanerch, Darby or Media.

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Grocery Stores for Particular People Throughout the City and Suburbs