LIVED AMID POOR TO STUDY "HOMES"

Two Women Architects Have Solved the Tenement Problem.

SPENT A YEAR DOING IT.

They Will Now Construct a Model Building Without Hallways.

MANY UNIQUE IMPROVEMENTS.

Miss Gannon and Miss Hands Have Filed Plans That Are Acknowledged by Experts to Be Superior.

Two young women, Miss Mary Nevan Gannon and Miss Alice J. Hands, have solved the tenement house problem. Plans for a building designed by them have been filed at the office of the Building Department.

Within a few weeks ground will be broken for it, at Nos. 215 and 217 West Sixty-seventh street. Men have tried to do what they have accomplished and have failed. Their success is due, perhaps, to the fact that they are women; that they have studied the requirements of a home as only women can, and the needs of the people who will occupy it.

For a year these girls lived among the poor. They have suffered from want of proper ventilation and light, and they have paid as high as $25 a ton for coal, which the well-to-do get for $5, simply because they had no place in their rooms for more than a bucketful at a time. They know the hardships of being cooped up in two small, stuffy rooms, without a breathing spot to go to on warm nights. Out of their experience has grown a plan so simple, so perfect, that Jacob Riis, whose writings on tenement life have won for him world-wide celebrity, says: "I consider it an extraordinary and marvellous achievement; marvellous in its simplicity and demonstration. We have all been groping within reach of the solution without finding it. I am content to know that the question I judged incapable of solution has been solved after all."

"The house will be a fact before many months," said Miss Gannon yesterday, "for well-known architects have examined our drawings, and there is no doubt we shall receive a permit to go on with the building in a few days. And when it is a reality; when capitalists realize they can surely save 5 per cent and probably 7 per cent on their money, I firmly believe many similar houses will be erected by the New York Model Dwellings Company.

Went to Live with the Poor.

"When Miss Hands and I made up our minds to plan a tenement house we realized how very little we knew of the life in one. We could design a home for ourselves, we have built many pretty villas along the Jersey Coast and elsewhere, but how to provide for people of whose necessities we knew nothing? That was a serious question, and there was but one way to answer it—to go and get acquainted with such people and their needs.

"We went down to Forsythe street and hired two rooms. Nobody knew us or the reason for going there. We began housekeeping under just about the same conditions as though we were two poor factory girls. We made our home as pretty as possible, but that was due to judgment in buying rather than expense. We never called upon our neighbors unless there was some reason for doing so, but we went out of the way to find a reason, for we wanted to become acquainted with them. Later we moved to the West Side of town.

"It is surprising the amount of refinement there is among the poorest dwellers in tenement houses. The men are wonderfully well informed on all subjects of the day. Their only libraries are the newspapers, and these they read thoroughly.

"I remember once hearing about some philanthropist who built a model tenement house, provided with bath tubs. He went to visit it and found the tubs converted into coal bins. That convinced him it was useless to try to give these people decent homes.

"A bath tub takes up room. It is used a couple of times a week. Coal is very dear by the bucket—a few cents cheaper by the bushel. These pennies are needed for bread, and the tub will hold the coal. Can you blame them? Can you wonder some of them have dirty homes when they have no conveniences, when there is only one room in their apartment where they can see without lamps or gas, where privacy is almost unknown? Why, we paid as high one month as $7 for gas for two rooms, because we had to burn it all day long in one of them.

"Take the smallest apartment in the house we have planned and see what it offers—three rooms, all lighted and well ventilated, and a closet 3 by 6 feet in each one, not built-in wardrobes, but regular closets. First there is the living room, which contains a built-in range for coal and gas, a sink with hot and cold water, and a large kitchen dresser. Adjoining this room, but entirely separate, is a room where the tubs are situated, a sort of extra room. It contains two stationary wash tubs with a sliding partition between them, which, when removed, converts them into a bath tub. Other conveniences are entirely separate, screened with partitions. The floor of this room is cemented and the walls are of hard finished plaster, which permit of turning on the hose and flushing it thoroughly. The sleeping room is commodious, and, like the others, is well ventilated. All the rooms open either on to the street or inner court, which is 20.6 feet by 50 feet. At night this will be lighted with arc lights. Each apartment has a large balcony without any opening, like a fire escape, and is capable of accommodating the entire family.

"There are no halls in this model tenement. The stairs are situated in the court yard, and the rooms are entered through the balconies. In the center of the staircase is a freight elevator.

"In a building of this kind," said Miss Gannon, "no particular style of architecture has been followed. It is nearer the Renaissance than anything else, as near Renaissance as practical for the purposes intended. It will be of buff brick, with limestone trimmings, six stories high, and fifty by one hundred feet. There will be eight apartments on each floor, and the rents will range from $8 to $18 a month for three to six rooms. The building is fireproof, and we have been given the lowest insurance rates of any tenement house in New York."

"It would be difficult to tell what share each of us has taken in the work," said Miss Hands. "We are partners, and we work together with just one end in view—success. One will suggest something, the other something else, and we work until we get what we think is best. We try to be practical and to remember we are planning for those who are going to live in the house—not ourselves. In thinking of the tenants, we have not forgotten the stockholders who will put up the building. We have tried to utilize every inch of space to the best advantage.

"While it is not a charitable scheme, it is one which cannot fail to appeal to those interested in helping the wage earner secure for himself and family better surroundings. The promoters include Clarence M. Hyde, Mrs. J. Pierpont Morgan, James J. Goodwin, Mrs. Morris K. Jessup, John M. Dillon and Mrs. Josephine Shaw Lowell."

Miss Gannon and Miss Hands are both graduates of the New York School of Applied Designs. They are the first women to have their drawings hung at the Architectural League. Miss Gannon is from Bethlehem, Penn. Before coming to New York she studied in an architect's office there, where she learned the practical part of her work. Miss Hands is a New Yorker. Both are young and pretty and devoted to their profession. They have an office in East Twenty-third street.

BANQUET HALL OF THE NEW ASTORIA HOTEL, WHERE MILLIONAIRES MAY SIT AT FEAST.

As the Room Appears After Builders, Decorators and Artists Have Done Their Work—Opening of the Hotel, Which Wil Occur in November, Is to Be an Important Social Event.

THE picture was made from the first and only photograph of the magnificent room in its finished condition and shows all the beauties of architecture and decoration and also the outline of mural paintings accomplished by Mr. Simmons.

The opening of the new Astoria Hotel, at Fifth avenue and Thirty-fourth street, which is scheduled to occur on November 1, will be an event of great importance in the social and hotel life of New York and is awaited with a marked degree of impatience.

So far only those persons engaged in building and decorating have been privileged to view the wonders contained in the interior of the new hotel palace, and the public has as yet no idea of the artistic decorations and general character of arrangements other than that gained from the descriptions and illustrations which have appeared exclusively in the Journal.

The banquet room, or "Astor Gallery," as it is called, is the artistic and architectural gem of the hotel, and is one of the most beautiful halls in the world. Situated on the second floor, and looking out over Thirty-fourth street, it is thirty feet wide by sixty long, lighted by seven large windows, and of lofty height. The style of decoration is distinctly Rococo, expressive of lightness and elegance. The scheme of color for the woodwork is cream and gold. On three sides of the room small carved balconies extend out over the floor and are entered from the hallway above.

At the east end are two Caryatides, a man and a woman, upholding the gallery. In this setting Mr. Edward Simmons has placed sixteen pendentives—V-shaped paintings—running along the four walls of the room near the ceiling. Twelve of these paintings are figures of women, draped, semi-nude and nude, allegorical of the twelve calendar months of the year. The remaining four paintings represent the four seasons, again by symbolical figures of women.

GIRLS KEPT IN A PIG PEN.

Grave Charges Brought Against the De Peyster Home at Tivoli, N. Y.

When the New York Auxiliary of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church assembles in annual convention at Poughkeepsie next Thursday, the Rev. Mr. A. M. Griffin, of the De Peyster Memorial Church, of Tivoli, N. Y., will appear and formulate charges of cruelty against Mr. and Mrs. E. F. George, who have charge of the De Peyster Home for Orphan Girls, which nestles among the hills of Tivoli, some two miles back from the railroad station.

According to the statements made by reliable persons, Mrs. George has been in the habit of using a pig pen attached to an outhouse on the orphan asylum grounds as a detention pen for refractory children.

Several instances have come to the personal knowledge of the minister, where on three successive occasions during the last month, two little girls were penned up in the pig sty from early morning until late in the evening. The children were guilty of no grievous violation of the rules.

Mr. and Mrs. George thought to punish them by making them inhabit the little enclosure where pigs formerly wallowed.

"It is true," said the Rev. Mr. Griffin, when seen last night, "that I have been summoned to appear at the Conference next Thursday, and I know that I am called to explain the charges against the management of the Home. I regret to say that there has been a decided lack of judgment in punishing children. Confining little tots in a pigpen all day is inhuman, to say the least. I do not think the conduct of Mr. and Mrs. George can be justified by the explanations they have made."

The people of the village are greatly incensed at the management, and demand a rigid investigation. Recently a mother of one of the children called at the home, and, to her amazement, she found her child a prisoner in the pigpen. It then became noised around the village and aroused intense feeling. When a reporter for the Journal visited the Home yesterday Mrs. George was too ill to be seen. Mr. George was not willing to explain the charges and was surprised that detention of children in a pigpen was considered an evidence of inhumanity.

"Two of our children," he said, "Hazel Cahill, an eight-year-old girl from New York, and Bueia Delaney, aged nine, from Poughkeepsie, have caused us much annoyance. Dr. Barton, our physician, said that they were negligent in their habits and needed severe punishment. To make them more careful, on several occasions we kept them in the barn, where there is also a pig pen. They were there each time from 8 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock at night. They had lots of good food to eat and could sleep on the straw if they wanted t. They were not detained there over night."

The superintendent brought Hazel and Bueia into the room to be inspected by the reporter. Both are bright-eyed, rosy-checked little orphans.

"We went to the pen early in the morning," said Hazel, "and had to stay there all day. It is a bad place and we cried all the time. We could not play with the other children and we had to eat there. It was dark when we got out."

Mr. Hartwell, the editor who made public the charges, said when asked about them:

"I think the management of the home is not what it should be. Some two years ago a little girl took paris green at the asylum because her hair was shaved off. It was then charged that Georges management was careless and that at times he was unnecessarily harsh toward the unfortunate children. The pig-pen episode, however, has incensed the people and they insisted that publicity should be given it. It was a disagreeable duty, but I had to perform it. The facts, I think, warranted it."

Just see the chance you have to get
A job from brainy leaders!
Four hundred thousand business men
Are Sunday Journal readers.

CLARA BARTON RETURNS.

Represented America at the Inter-National Red Cross Society in Vienna.

"Every nation represented in the Red Cross treaty, except the United States, has passed salutary laws to protect the insignia of the Red Cross from illegal use."

This was the reflection of Miss Clara Barton, president of the American National Red Cross Society, when she landed yesterday from the French liner La Bretagne. Miss Barton had been in Vienna, Austria, attending the sixth International conference of the organization.

On the steamer also were Dr. J. B. Hubbell, an American delegate; George H. Pullman, financial secretary of the American National Red Cross, and Dr. Lucy Hall-Browne, who also acted as an American delegate.

The report of the American Red Cross represented an exhaustive detail of the work accomplished on Port Royal Islands, off the coast of South Carolina, during the famine of 1893-4; also the work done in America during 1896.

Miss Barton spoke of the neglect of Uncle Sam to adequately protect the Red Cross.

"It was humiliating," she said, "to confess before those assembled delegates that our American Congress had, up to the present, passed no law for the protection of the Red Cross.

"The delegates were astonished at our report, and they were mystified to know that the wealthy men of so great a Republic had not richly endowed their own Red Cross."

Gates to Run the Wire Trust.

Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 10.—It is rumored among iron and steel men here that John W. Gates will soon resign the presidency of the Illinois Steel Company to become the head of the Consolidated Steel and Wire Company, with plants in various cities.

Soldiers' Monument Commission Returning.

Gettysburg, Pa., Oct. 10.—The Soldiers and Sailors' Monument Commission, from New York, left here at 5 o'clock for Arlington, D. C. They will make a short visit there and then proceed to New York.

SOAKED WITH OIL AND BURNED ALIVE

William De Peyster Accused of Roasting His Wife to Death.

Canton, O., Oct. 10.—The half charred remains of Mrs. Mollie De Peyster was found by a woman in the rear yard of the house where she resided with her husband in South Cherry street, at an early hour this morning. Later her husband, William De Peyster, was found in an intoxicated condition, with his hands badly blistered, hair and mustache singed, clothes smelling strongly of kerosene and unable to give a lucid explanation of his actions or those of his wife.

The De Peysters live in what is known as the Tenderloin district, and occupy one-half of a double house. The night had been spent, so the residents of the other half say, in a drunken carousal, the husband and wife quarrelling and wrangling the entire night.

About daybreak, however, they quieted down and nothing was heard after that hour until Mrs. Elizabeth Feuze, awakening about 5 o'clock, saw through the window what she supposed to be some burning grass close to a fence in the rear yard. Taking a bucket of water she threw it upon the supposed embers of the fire, and when closer investigation revealed that the fire was the burning body of a woman, notified Chief of Police Reed.

Investigation by the officer and force of patrolmen showed that the remains were those of Mrs. Depeyster, horribly charred, the entire upper portion being burned to a crisp. The body was almost nude, all the clothing except the stockings having been burned.

Suspicion at once rested upon the dead woman's husband, but he was nowhere to be found. He was picked up in a saloon by the police later, in the suspicious condition noted. He has so far declined to make any explanation.

The police hold that the two became involved in a quarrel, and that Depeyster threw a lighted lamp at his wife, which, striking her, exploded, the oil igniting and setting fire to her clothing. In this condition, they hold, she ran out into the yard, and, overcome with pain, sank exhausted to the ground, the flames killing her in a few moments.

Stabbed in a Street Row.

George Carroll, twenty-three years old, of No. 176 Prospect street, is in the Homeopathic Hospital, Brooklyn, suffering from several stab wounds. His condition is dangerous. Carroll got into a row with James Bryan, a colored man, at the corner of Hudson and Myrtle avenues, at 12:30 o'clock yesterday morning. A fight ensued and Carroll was unconscious from loss of blood when the ambulance surgeon arrived. Bryan made his escape.

NEW DEVICE FOR THE BIKE.

Milton E. Adams Has Invented a Small Steel Cable to Take the Place of the Chain.

What promises to be a practical improvement to the bicycle has just been completed by Milton E. Adams, of Orange, N. J., a former employe of the Edison Phonograph works at that place. For the last year Adams has been working on a device which will do away with the bicycle chain. In its stead a steel wire cable will be used. Adams has applied for a patent on the improvement, and he expects to put the new bicycle on the market in the Spring. The wheel on which the experiments have been made is in Edison's laboratory.

The new device plans to substitute for the chain a series of six fine steel wires. This, it is said, will lessen the weight of the machine, and avoid any loss of power through friction. In order to prevent slipping the steel cables are made one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter, with seven strands, each strand having seven wires of eight one-thousandths of an inch in diameter, the whole being twisted and run in grooves cut in the driving pulleys.

The device can be readily put on any of the present wheels at a trifling expense.

Thomas Williams Adams Dead.

Thomas Williams Adams died at 6 o'clock yesterday morning of chronic bronchitis at his home, No. 302 Adelphi street, Brooklyn, where he had lived for over thirty-five years. He was born in this city in 1822, and was a sachem of the Tammany Society from 1851 to 1854. He belonged to the Seventh Regiment Troop and the old Continentals, and represented the Seventh Ward in the Board of Aldermen in 1858 and 1859. He was chairman of the committee which escorted the remains of President Monroe to Richmond, Va.

SUICIDE IDENTIFIED.

Body Found at Far Rockaway Was That of Moritz Senftenberg.

The body of the elderly man found in the surf at Far Rockaway on Saturday afternoon was last evening identified as Moritz Senftenberg, of No. 335 East Forty-ninth street. The body was identified by a nephew of the dead man, and it is supposed that Mr. Senftenberg committed suicide, as he was seventy-one years old, and had been in ill-health for some time. Only recently he remarked to his nephew: "I can't stand it much longer. If I only had a revolver I would end it right now."

He had been missing from his home since September 24, and had been in the water at least two weeks.

Mr. Senftenberg was a thirty-second degree Mason, and a member of Humboldt Lodge, of this city. He was also a member of Gad Lodge, Sons of Israel.

Londonderry Lithia Water

The one fashionable club and table water.

Delightfully pure and sparkling.

In addition, it possesses a peculiar power found in no other water, to dissolve and expel uric acid, thus driving Rheumatism, Gout, or Gravel from the system. Endorsed and prescribed by leading physicians all over the land.

Sold Everywhere.

Notwithstanding the advance in price of Imported Waters, prices on Londonderry remain the same.

PIQUED, A GIRL DRANK POISON.

Little Mary Muller Was Nettled at Her Stepmother's Request.

SHE WAS ONLY SIXTEEN.

But She Wanted to Be Treated Like a Young Woman, She Said.

Little Mary Muller, piqued by a harmless caution, drank carbolic acid yesterday and died. She was sixteen years old and lived in Westchester County, at Kinsella avenue and Bronxdale road, Van Nest. Her father, John Muller, is a foreman in the yards of the New Haven Railroad. His wife, Mary Muller's stepmother, was as kind to the girl as though she had been her own child.

Mary was not in good health last Spring and Dr. Pond, who attended her, said she should avoid exposure to the night air.

A regular caller upon the sensitive girl was Jimmy Green, an expressman, twenty years old. It was natural that they should want to go out together in the evenings and just as natural that the father and the stepmother should want to guard the health of the girl. Hence Mr. and Mrs. Muller were worried whenever Mary stayed out after dark.

Mary started out with Green on Saturday evening. He stepmother called after them, "Jimmy, don't keep Mary out late." The direction was not implicitly obeyed.

The girl cried at the breakfast table yesterday morning, and when asked the trouble she answered, "Nothing is the matter."

"But something must be the matter when you cry," said her step-mother.

"Well, I am angry at the way you spoke to Jimmy last night," replied Mary. "And I want to be treated like a woman, too." Then she went into the kitchen. There she found a bottle of carbolic acid. She drank of the acid as much as she could swallow. Then the fearful burning of the acid made her scream.

A physician was called, but they cannot heal carbolic acid burns. She was then taken to the Fordham Hospital, and there she died.

Church Club to Greet Bishop Potter.

The members of the Church Club of New York will give an informal reception to Bishop Potter on the evening of October 26 at the Waldorf. This reception will be in the nature of a welcome home to the Bishop from his Summer's visit to Europe. Invitations to attend the reception will be issued to between 300 and 400 members of the clergy and others in the city and vicinity, including the bishops of Long Island, Albany, Central New York, Western New York, New Jersey, Newark, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

MIRACLES WITHOUT MEDICINE.

HEALING THE SICK WITHOUT MONEY OR PRICE.

Illustrated Lectures and Marvellous Demonstrations by Prof. Damon at Gramercy Lyceum, 23d St., Near 6th Ave.

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, OCT. 13, AT 2:30.

FIRST LECTURES FREE.

Wednesday, the 13th, the celebrated Professor Damon, who created such a furor last Winter, will begin another course of lectures and exhibitions in healing, as above. The first lecture is entitled: "Has Man the Divine Power of Healing?" During these public lectures and clinics all manner of chronic diseases will be treated upon the stage, in full view of the audience, daily, to demonstrate that here is a power, or gift, inherent in man to relieve suffering. The public are cordially invited to attend, free of all cost, and they may bring those of their own choice for treatment. Let them be ever so lame, crippled, rheumatic, paralytic or deaf. The crippled will lay away their canes and crutches, and they will run and jump about the hall with praises upon their lips, thanking God for this power of life and light. Over 250,000 people attended the lecture clinics given and the highest indorsements of prominent people have been showered upon this gentleman for his marvellous work. He gives an exhibition never before attempted in public, filled with serious and pathetic scenes, as well as tragic events. None should miss the grand opportunity thus offered of hearing and seeing this remarkable man. The doors open at 2.

Those wishing private consultation or treatment may go to the Damon Institute, 30 and 32 West Twenty-seventh street, near Broadway. No free treatment is given at the institute.

MANLY VIGOR

Restored in young, old or middle-aged men. Night losses, drains cease at once. Lost manhood, Atrophy, Undevelopment and Weaknesses of man permanently and privately by the use of The Old Dr. Hallock Electric Pills. Used by patients of THE OLD Doctor since 1848, and always with great success. Price $1 per box. Pills, with special directions and much valuable information, sent by mail, closely sealed, in plain wrapper, on receipt of price.

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All secret and private diseases of men cured in a few days; skin diseases, blood poisoning, nervous debility, weak, undeveloped organs, impediments to marriage, lost vigor restored. Go to the HALLEY MEDICAL INSTITUTE, 218 East 16th st., near 3d ave.; no charge unless cured; hours 9 to 9. Sundays included.

The Business Personals column
Of the Journal, by the way,
May be worth a fortune to you,
If you watch it every day.