

SIR:—We very frequently hear, and see written many things about Society in Halifax—what it is, and who compose it. I have tried to find out how it is made up, and this letter is my opinion on the subject. In London, Society, the very height of Society—the set that remains after all others have been weeded out, is that immediately surrounding Marlborough House, a natural Society, and one that is built on a thoroughly substantial and easily understood basis. In New York, Society is artificial, there are no definite lines drawn—the claims of people to belong to Society depend on wealth, or personal accomplishments of a peculiar kind. Now, let us see what it is in Halifax—First I could define Society, as that particular set, most talked of, thought about, and received by the majority of people—Halifax is a peculiar place, and the people are a peculiar people,—and two-thirds of the Society as it exists to-day, consists of people not belonging to the place, but only transient. Take it as it is now. We have a popular General and a popular Governor; they are the heads, and have naturally their own friends and sets surrounding them, the two merging into one. These sets form a nucleus; the rest of the Society is an undefined mass surrounding this nucleus. Undefined because its border merges off gradually into outside sets. Therefore, with the exception of the few forming the nucleus, the greater number of people help to form the undefined body,—Now what are constituent particles of the whole?

1st—Those whose qualifications are official, the military who are not included in the aforementioned nuclei. Some of these stray out into sets bordering on the border land, and become identified with them, depending on their tastes, attainments, and origin.

2nd—Those who are members of the body, because they have never been anything else, belonging to families who are necessary to the maintenance of the whole.

3rd—Those who, like the first, depend on their official position—political, legal, etc. The sons and daughters of these become parts of No. two, that is, if they are worth it.

4th—Those who do not rightly belong to this set, and who have no right to be there, but have pushed and pushed till they have managed to be considered as parts, if not the very highest part, of the whole. This generally depends on the energy and ambition of the female members of the family.

5th—Those of whom we could not say exactly why they go everywhere and are important, but I simply think it is because they make themselves agreeable and useful. Many of the civilian young men, who go out much, can be put in this class.

Nine classes form and make up what is known as Society in Halifax. It is, as I said, peculiar, being composed of a peculiar mixture of trade and military, and what must strike a stranger is, the almost total absence of the professional class—lawyers and medical men. With very few exceptions very few of these are in the set just classified; why it should be so I can hardly find a reason, except that a great many of them do not belong to the town, but come in from the country.

The sets that border on this one are too numerous to mention even. Some in these are contented, others wish to rise and are ambitious, and do rise sometimes. And taking it all in all, Halifax society is just about as pleasant and as real and definite society as there is anywhere. The constant changing of many of its constituent elements gives a piquancy and flavor that could in no other way be imparted; and long may it be so is the wish of

MORRIS GRANVILLE.

We have received a protest against the new police regulation which seems practically to mean 11 hours night but at a stretch with 1 hour off in the middle for "refreshments." Unfortunately, time does not admit of a discussion of question in this issue, but we should be glad to hear from members of the force during the week.

We are asked to announce that the services at the Garrison Chapel during the coming week will be as follows:—

Sunday 22 Feb.: 11, Parade Service, Rev. F. N. B. Norman-Lee. Holy Communion at 12; 7, Evensong. "Misere Mei Deus" will be sung. Preacher: Rev. Norman Lee. Wednesday 25th, Litany at 10 a. m. Mission service and address 730, Rev. Norman-Lee. Friday 27th, Evensong, special address, 730. "I have sinned, 'David.'" The "Misere Mei Deus" will be sung. Preacher: Rev. W. B. King.

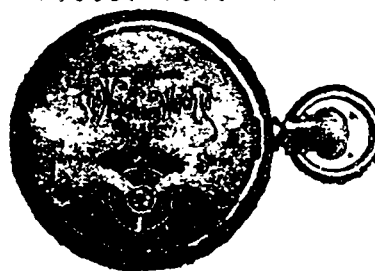
The only novelty at the Stanley Cycle Show of interest to my readers was the electric bath chair and tricycle. The manner in which the motive power is exerted seems feasible, and may prove practical, but at present electrically-driven vehicles of this kind have not got beyond the experimental stage.

Lieutenant de Winter, the young Russian officer who recently made the journey from the Russian frontier to Paris on foot, leaves the French capital this week for Italy, whence he will regain his native country by the Balkans, walking every step of the way. In the meantime, another Russian, M. Euatsky, has made a bet of 20,000 roubles (about £2,400), that he will drive from St. Petersburg to Paris in eighty days in a troika, a vehicle drawn by three horses. He has already started on his journey, and on Wednesday last had reached Gronbechow, where he was six days in advance of time. The wager was made with an Englishman.

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