

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S NEW PARISH HOUSE.

"We are not going to make paupers; we propose to correct the conditions that foster pauperism." These words of the Rev. G. A. Carstensen, the superintendent of St. Bartholomew's new parish house, express with epigrammatic brevity the great and philanthropic object of that admirable institution. Located on Forty-second street, just east of Third avenue, it occupies a field peculiarly rich in materials for a work of this kind. The presence of more than forty-four thousand persons in the cramped quarters of the old Rescue Mission of St. Bartholomew's church during the past year shows how pressing was the need for a more commodious and perfectly equipped building to meet the demands of so much poverty and distress.

Scarcely had the Rev. Dr. Greer, the rector of the church, made known his desire for such a building than two of his parishioners came generously to his aid with land and money. Mrs. William H. Vanderbilt placed at his command the sum of \$400,000 for a parish house, and her son, Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt, presented a lot, 75x100, on which to erect the structure. As a result of these contributions, New York has an institution without a parallel in the country. In architectural beauty and in adaptability for the work to be done, it is perfect. Within its walls will soon be gathered the unselfish hands that for many years have been busy in different parts of the parish rescuing the abandoned and relieving the distressed. The house is now nearly complete, except the equipment, and will be ready for occupation in two or three weeks.

There is nothing ecclesiastical about the exterior of the buff and gray structure. It might be taken for a handsome business block of brick and stone. So completely have the architects complied with the desire of the donors that a secular aspect be preserved, that the three arched entrances are not, in fact, unlike those of a theatre or music hall. Indeed, the illusion of a place of amusement becomes quite perfect as one in passing through the central entrance sees on either side the little windows to the offices of the attendants connected with the work of the Rescue Mission. But for the fine organ, which cost several thousand dollars, and the rather shallow platform, where lay and clerical speakers will address their auditors, the room in which this work is carried on, with its opera-chairs and spacious galleries, has a most secular appearance. The services to be held here every night of the year will, however, be far from secular. On Sunday evenings there will be the regular liturgical services of the Episcopal church; on Monday, a stirring evangelical address by some speaker, lay or clerical, of any denomination of Christians; on Tuesday, services of song; on Wednesday, the experiences of those who have been secured and converted; on Thursday, stereopticon lectures on the life of Christ or on some temperance theme; on Friday, social and devotional services, accompanied by the gift at their close of a cup of coffee and a sandwich to every person present; on Saturday, Bible-reading and other services preparatory to those of the following day.

The only part of the building which betrays no secular touch is the beautiful chapel to the east of Rescue Mission room. Entering it through the small arched doors, there is disclosed in the dim light from the large stained-glass window in the chancel a miniature church, wrought with taste and skill. Here, besides the baptisms and occasional services, will be held the weddings of those who have been rescued, or the funerals of children that have died in the tenements.

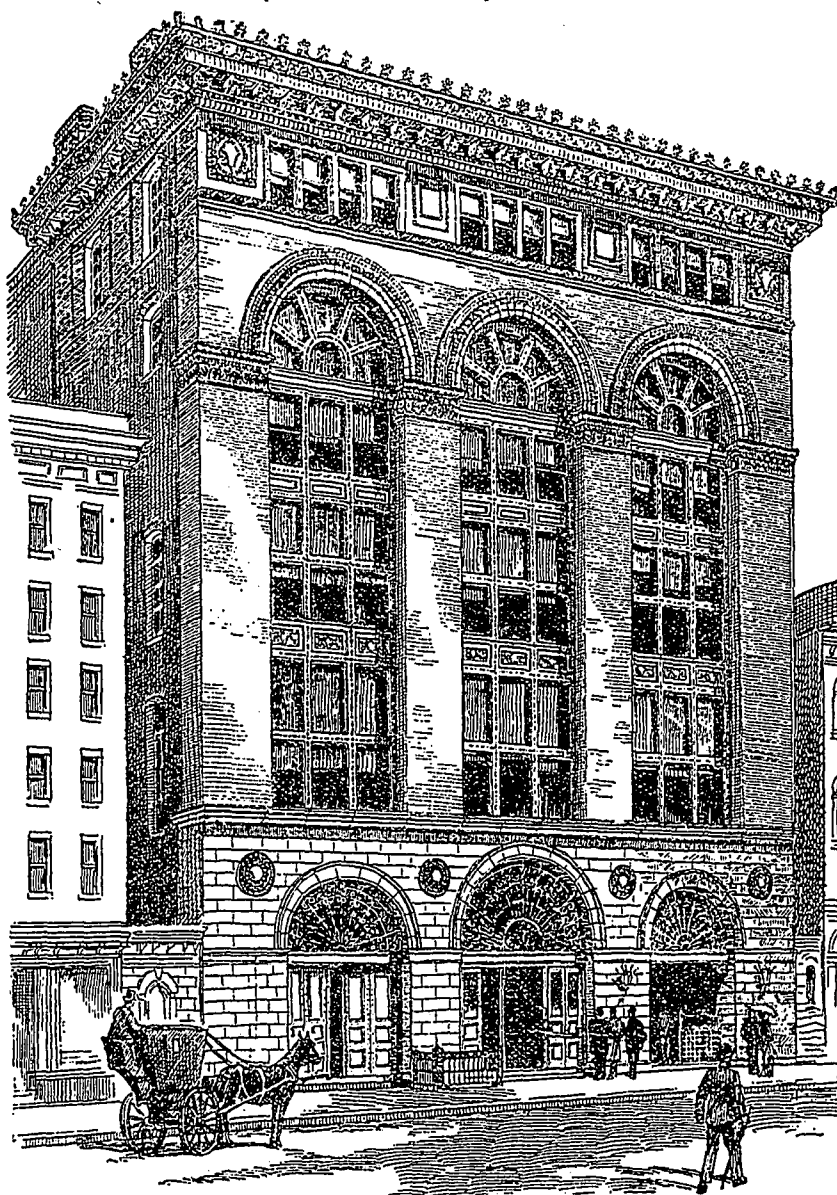
All the other parts of the building are devoted to either education or recreation and the management. There are four floors besides the first, the mezzanines, and the basement. Ample light and ventilation are the priceless possessions of all. At night illumination can be had from either gas or electricity. Fine brass fixtures almost without number are to be found in the halls and rooms, and from the ceilings of some of the latter are pendent beautiful chandeliers of the same metal. The interior is not without other touches of the hand of art. Where there are chandeliers there also are handsome centre pieces. Finely moulded cornices soften

the harshness of the angles of the ceilings and walls. The wood-work is of white pine, highly polished and often prettily moulded. The mantels over the fireplaces in several of the larger rooms are of the same wood, patterned according to the colonial taste. The andirons in the fireplaces are in simple but tasteful designs of wrought iron.

But to return to the more useful features of the institution. The public offices of the superintendent are on the mezzanine of the first story. On the mezzanine of the fourth story he has a neatly furnished private office, with shelves for his library and drawers for his papers and pamphlets. The apartments of the matron are on the third floor. Another room that is given up to the management is on the fifth floor. It is called the Rector's Room, and is the handsomest in the building. On the hard-pine floor is a large and beautiful rug in blue and terra-cotta and harmonizing with the terra-cotta and cafe-au-lait tints of wall and ceiling and

given up entirely to the work among women and children. Two large rooms, looking out on the street, can be thrown into one by opening the wide sliding doors. Here instruction will be given in plain sewing, dressmaking and embroidery. In an adjacent room a perfectly equipped cooking-school will be conducted. The girls have a club-room also. It is amply lighted by tall windows, hung with Florentine lace curtains, and modestly decorated in tints of buff and terra-cotta. The floor is covered with a terra-cotta carpet, and in the centre stands a quartered-oak table that will be covered with periodicals and the current novels. Along the sides of the room, which will be covered with paintings and engravings, are pretty oak chairs and seats. To these will soon be added a fine piano.

The floor for the exclusive use of the men and boys is the fourth. Nothing has been spared for their entertainment and instruction.—The club room for the men will contain an excellent library; the large



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the dark maroon hangings of the many windows. Here and there are light and graceful colonial chairs of oak, or heavier and more comfortable ones upholstered in leather of dark maroon. A handsome quartered-oak table stands in the centre, and to one side a fine old Chesterfield lounge in leather. It is in this room every week that Dr. Greer meets those in charge of the house, and consults with them as to the progress of the work.

The educational work will be done mostly on the second and third floors. The Sunday school room on the second floor, where there is also a large Sunday-school library, will seat several hundred children. It will be used for a night school, meetings of various societies in the parish, and for public entertainments. Besides classes in the ordinary English branches, classes in history and civil government will be formed. On this floor, also, there is a kindergarten, the hundred or more seats in it being arranged in amphitheatre form. On the floor above another kindergarten is provided, of the same capacity and arrangement. The third floor is, in fact,

oak table in it will be covered with newspapers and magazines; and those who prefer to pass their time in other ways will be permitted to indulge in chess, billiards, dominoes, and other harmless games. To lessen the allurements of the saloon, temperance drinks will be sold at cost. In the club-room for the boys, lectures on travels, natural history, chemistry, and other subjects that can be made entertaining by illustration will be delivered from time to time. On this floor, too, is a completely equipped gymnasium with all the apparatus of the finest athletic club in the city; on the mezzanine there is a padded running-track and a padded floor for tumbling. To insure cleanliness, handsome bath-rooms are provided for both sexes, having tiled floors, marble basins, shower-baths, and porcelain tubs.

Of the rest of the building but little need be said. An office on the first floor will be devoted to the Penny Provident Fund. The large room taking up nearly the whole of the fifth floor will be used for drilling and calisthenic exercises. On the roof provision has been made for a summer

garden, with music and flowers, admission being had for a trifle. In the basement, where lunch-tables will be set, food will be sold at the lowest price. Nothing, in fact, is given away. The management are determined not to cheapen their privileges in this manner and thus foster the pauperism that they are trying to prevent. At the same time they expect to make no money. It is their hope, however, that the fees from the members of the clubs and the revenues from other sources will be sufficient to meet the expenses of the institution.—*Frank Leslie's Weekly*.

ANOTHER TRAIN COMING.

We were thundering along through the darkness of night, luxuriously enjoying a berth in the first section of the excursion train to Minneapolis. Ten minutes behind was the second section, keeping as close to us as safety permitted. At our locomotive's head flashed a signal lantern, telling to every side-tracked train, "Wait, another train is coming." And not content with the mute warning, ever and again the whistle uttered a short, sharp sound, calling attention to the signal, and gaining in response an answering call from the train that was patiently waiting for our passing.

Another train coming; look out for it. How often that warning needs to be uttered along the crowded tracks of life! Here is a father, behind whom a boy is closely following; here is a Sunday-school teacher, whose very position makes him in a certain sense the pilot, the forerunner of others. Shall such a one consider simply his own progress, and think nothing, say nothing, do nothing for the safety of others who are later to pass over the same track? Is it enough for one to say, "I can overcome this obstacle; I can conquer this temptation; I can resist this retarding influence?"

The saloon has no attractions for me, one may say; I can spend an hour at the card-table or an evening at the theatre, and go to my business the next morning with a clear brain and an undisturbed purpose. How about my office-boy, who must pass half a hundred of those yawning mouths of the drink hell every morning and night? How about that clerk, whose youthful imagination once set in motion by the dram is not so readily controlled?

Let every traveller on the track of life take counsel of his best judgment, and watch closely the suggestions of a quickened, sympathetic conscience. Let him imitate the caution of the railway management, and in every possible way prepare for the safety of those who follow him.—*Dr. Clark, in Golden Rule*.

SEEING SNAKES.

The cause of persons whose nerves are excited by protracted and excessive use of stimulants seeing the shapes of animals passing before them is not due wholly to the imagination. In fact, the fancy only operates to induce a belief that what is seen is alive and hideous. The eyeball is covered by a network of veins, ordinarily so small that they do not intrude themselves visibly in the path of the light that enters the sight, but in the course of some diseases these veins are frequently congested and swollen to such size as to become visible, and when this happens the effect generally is to appear as if there were an object of considerable size at a distance from the eye.

Of course this vein is generally long, thin, and sinuous like a serpent, and the figure seen is frequently startlingly like a snake. That they seem to live is due to the fact that they are often not in perfect line with the direct front of sight. They are either to the side, up or down from the focus; therefore, when discovered, the victim naturally turns his eyes toward the effect, and the effect, of course, moves away. The eye follows, and thus a continuous and realistic motion is got. Now, if the eye be returned to the front again quickly it will see another snake, which, if watched, will glide away in the same manner. The writer of this is afflicted by malarial disease, and after his eyes are thus congested many strange shapes and clouds pass within his vision, which, if he were in a state of nervous collapse, might easily be all that are seen by those suffering from delirium tremens.—*New York Times*.