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The "LET YOUR HAIR DOWN" Column

THE editor was full of talk one day this month about a diplomatic reception he had attended the evening before,—the reception at the Netherlands Legation in honor of Lt. Col. John P. Prior who was on that occasion decorated with the Royal Order of Orange-Nassau. But to listen to the editor you would have thought that he is the one who was decorated.

"You know," he said, "I don't go out very much, but the Netherlands Legation is near my house and I got up energy enough to go last night. And everyone I talked to seemed glad to see me and had something good to say about the Journal. Even the woman. I was surprised!"

He quoted himself:

"You mean to say you read the *Journal*? A businessman's paper; economics, finance, statistics, market reports! A woman: I can't believe it."

"But it's true, all right," he went on with a self-satisfied smile. "They told me that their husbands always take their copies home with them and these wives get a chance to read them then. They read mostly the editorials and the 'Hair-Down' column and some of the articles of a more general nature. I hadn't thought of it before,—that we have women readers. But I am convinced now that we have. And it's a very nice thought."

Well, since he put it that way, we didn't jeer.

"It does something to me. It will humanize my job now that I can think of men and women readers. Not that I recommend starting a cooking or housekeeping section, of course. But somehow the thought will soften and mellow the spirit. . ."

"Soften is right!" said we.

Exclaimed the editor:

"Is there no one around here with a touch of feeling, any sense of gallantry?"

TALKING about the ladies,—it was a cheerful group of Chamber members' wives who on the morning of September 29 inaugurated the new Coffee Shop

on the Chamber's premises. A special committee composed of Mrs. Parish, Mrs. Newton, and Mrs. Most, assisted by Mrs. Willimont, the office-head, did a fine job in making the place a really attractive clubroom,—light, airy, comfortable, and quiet. Some fifty or more of the ladies attended, played a little bridge, talked, and had coffee, sandwiches, cake, and what other home-made good things are now provided there. (In view of what the editor had said about the reception he attended, we took especial note of the fact that on this occasion, at least, none of the ladies took any notice of him.)*

The place is now open to members and accompanied guests, and the wives, of course. A chit-system has been established to eliminate cash-handling problems. Bills will be sent out at the end of each month.

Editor's note:—Is that so! I was at my desk and probably looked too busy.

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And speaking of men and women, a friend sent in a note which read as follows:

"Life is never dull. Here is the latest: Labor in the United States is now demanding a one-week 'Paternity' leave with pay. I repeat, 'Paternity.'"

Perhaps this is to be taken as a modern equivalent of the ancient classical and primitive *couvade*, a custom which required a man to go to bed at the birth of his child, fast and groan, all with the idea of emphasizing his paternity and making birth easier for his wife.

We received the following letter from a reader of the Journal who asked us not to use his name:

"In connection with the statement in the editorial in the September Journal on the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights that this is 'not binding law', I came across the following paragraph in Secretary-General Trygve Lie's introduction to the fourth annual report on the work of the United Nations, which is very much to the point:

"It is true that this Declaration is not law, but neither have been many of the most influential documents of history. The United States' Declaration of Independence, and France's Declaration of the Rights of Man were not laws when they were proclaimed.

"Nevertheless, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has behind it the force of public opinion, and public opinion is the source of all law whether it be national or international. The Declaration sets a standard for Governments to live up to. Its power for good is incalculable wherever people are deprived of freedom because of their beliefs, wherever there is discrimination because of the color of a man's skin or for any other reason, wherever people do not have a fair opportunity to enjoy a decent living standard, education for their children, and security in times of illness, accidents, and old age.

"The Declaration, furthermore, is only the first, although the most important, of the steps being taken by the United Nations to extend respect for human rights more widely in the world.

"The Declaration has behind it the force of public opinion'. We in the Philippines should remember that. Our Solicitor General should remember that. Did you send him a copy of your September issue?"

We did.

Mr. Stevens, President of the Chamber, a great kidder but with a heart of gold, and a power behind this Journal, has left us for a while to go on another visit to the home country, and all we can think of now in our depression is that he has promised to be back before the end of the year. May the great planes which will bear him and his wife through the skies be strong of wing.



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