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VOLTA REVIEW

The Speech-Reading and Speech Magazine

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JUNE, 1921

No. 6



THE LATE DR. CLARENCE J. BLAKE

Boston's celebrated otologist, whose interest in and love for the Speech Readers Guild of Boston endeared him to its members, to whom he was known as "The Godfather of the Guild"

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL, Chairman Publication Committee

JOSEPHINE B. TIMBERLAKE, Editor

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THE VOLTA REVIEW

DEVOTED TO

SPEECH-READING, SPEECH, AND HEARING

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"I hold every man a debtor to his profession, from the which, as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavor themselves, by way of amends, to be a help and ornament thereunto."—BACON.

Volume 23

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THE GUILD HOUSE

FOREWORD.—This account of the new home of the Speech Readers Guild of Boston, written by one of its members, is especially appropriate at this time because of the meeting of the American Association for the Hard of Hearing, to be held in Boston June 8, 9, and 10, at which time the Guild House will be headquarters.

IN OCTOBER certain members of the Board of Directors knew that the Guild House was to be. This dream, this vision, this hope that we had cherished since our Guild first started, was to be actually demonstrated and all owing to the generosity and confidence of a friend who believed in the dear cause for which we worked and labored, and, best of all, believed also in our ability to make wise and thoughtful use of an opportunity that could be offered through the assurance of financial support for a few years, while we in turn tried out our own ability and the Guild's worth.

So our "mysterious Mr. Smith," whose identity is known to the President and the Board, entered upon the scene. Because "Mr. Smith" wishes his identity kept in obscurity, the Board feels a moral obligation to comply with his request.

When the generous proposition was known, the President of the Guild was requested to go about, looking for a house suitable for our needs, and after careful, systematic search through the desirable and most central section of Boston, 339 Commonwealth Avenue was located. The house, of rare beauty in itself, built probably in the early eighties, at a time when much English oak and other beautiful hardwoods were used, provides a perfect "setting" for the gifts and loans that have poured in. The house seems to us all like a fairy's palace!

The Board reported to "Mr. Smith," who, after seeing the house, agreed that

it was most suitable for our needs. After the necessary preliminary arrangements were made and the rent we were to pay for the use of the house was determined upon, the following letter was sent out:

To the Members of the Speech Readers Guild of Boston:

The Board of Directors take pleasure in announcing that a Guild House is soon to be a reality. Number 339 Commonwealth Avenue is offered to the members for this purpose, with the assurance that the Finance Committee will have sufficient support financially to make the project a certainty for a term of five years, while the experiment of testing the need of and wisdom in establishing such a home is determined.

It is hoped that the spirit of co-operation will in no way be lessened by the generosity of this project. It is believed that the spirit which has made us the society that we have grown to be will continue and increase.

Though to some this news may seem overwhelming, it is no greater than the cause for which we labor and strive deserves. The one who has made this instrument for greater service possible realizes this, and with the Board of Directors looks to the members to keep our spirit of simple co-operation pure and untarnished.

The Guild is ours, and we make it. It is an organization that each individual member helps to make, and has helped to make, from our first small beginning. Let us continue in the same effort to serve one another and our cause, each one giving in proportion to his or her ability.

The question of furnishing the home is now before us, and the Board will appreciate any help that you may care to offer. Furniture, rugs, suitable pictures, and other household necessities, either as gifts or loans, will be most acceptable. Any one having furnishings or materials to offer toward the equipment of our

new home is asked to notify the Board of Directors, who will gladly consider the possibility of using such.

It is hoped that we can be in our new home by the first of the New Year. Good news! But let the very joy we feel in this realization quicken our spirit—the spirit of our Guild.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
MILDRED KENNEDY,
Chairman.

November, 1920.

It sounds like a fairy tale, doesn't it? And we who have seen it all develop feel that it *is* a fairy tale, and the most magical part is to follow.

We moved from Trinity Court and settled in "339" between December 26 and January 2, when the regular routine of our scheduled work began again after the holidays, with classes, lectures, social meetings, and all. One of our Board, who since her husband's return from Europe after service in the World War had been living in a small apartment, asked if they might rent two of the rooms in the Guild House, unfurnished. Then they proposed taking all of their own beautiful mahogany and other furniture out of storage, letting "us" have the temporary use of these lovely things till they should be replaced by permanent possessions!

The letter quoted above was no sooner sent out than offers of gifts or loans came pouring in. The first two notes of this kind can never be forgotten. They came on the same day, while we were, of course, still at Trinity Court. The first offered furniture, not only of rare beauty in itself, but also rare in its sentimental value, since it belonged to the late Dr. Clarence J. Blake, whom we still call the Guild's "godfather." Two beautiful carved rosewood, plush-covered sofas, with chairs, stools, and ottoman to match; a large trunk filled with wonderful portieres, draperies, blankets, curtains, and other materials, and (a delight to any domestic woman's heart) two perfect sets of linen duster covers for all this furniture. Lo, our reception-room was furnished! Later a magnificent carved mahogany table, with choice and artistic pictures, were given, as well as an Italian painting loaned "for all to enjoy." Some of the atmosphere that these charming things have produced is perceptible in the



—Hodge and Sampson

THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE

photographs, but of course the color scheme does not show; you must come to see for yourself in order to know this.

The other letter received on the same memorable day offered complete furnishings for a bed-room—*complete*, remember; no half-hearted, shiftless, speculative proposition, but an elegant outfit—bed, bureau, wash-stand equipped, table, chair, rugs, curtains, *everything!*

Are you beginning to believe in fairies?



CORNER OF THE HALL, CALLED THE OFFICE

—Hodge and Sampson



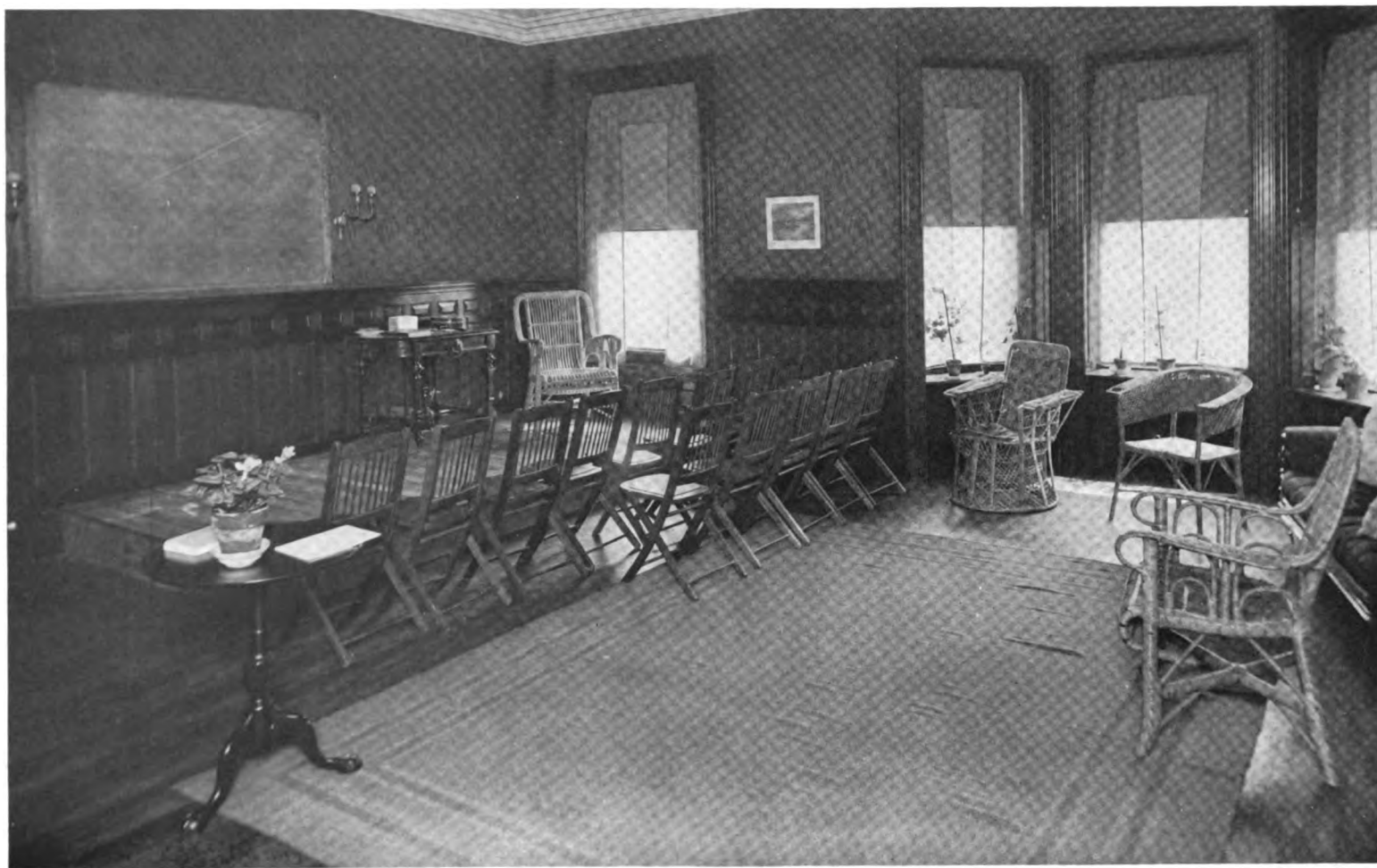
THE RECEPTION ROOM

—Hodge and Sampson



THE ASSEMBLY ROOM

—Hodge and Sampson



ANOTHER VIEW OF THE ASSEMBLY ROOM, SHOWING PLATFORM AND BLACKBOARD

—Hodge and Sampson

Then another came forward and offered to move us free of any expense, as his contribution to the Guild. This fairy was a member, though not all our fairies are. So all of our belongings in Trinity Court were packed up, moved to "339," and placed anywhere in that great house we chose to have them placed. Fairies? Fairies? Why, the Speech Readers Guild is full of them. Wait and hear some more of our experiences and see if you don't agree!

The other loads of furniture from the storage warehouse came soon after. These things were put into place with such efficiency and taste that when the members came to the classes on Monday night, January 2, it positively looked as if we had been in the house for weeks. True, the final touches were not completed (they are not completed yet), but the atmosphere was "settled" and (more fairies to our aid) the curtains and portieres in that wonderful trunk fitted our windows *without our having to do one single thing to them.* (Please Mr. Editor, I'd like those words printed in italics.)

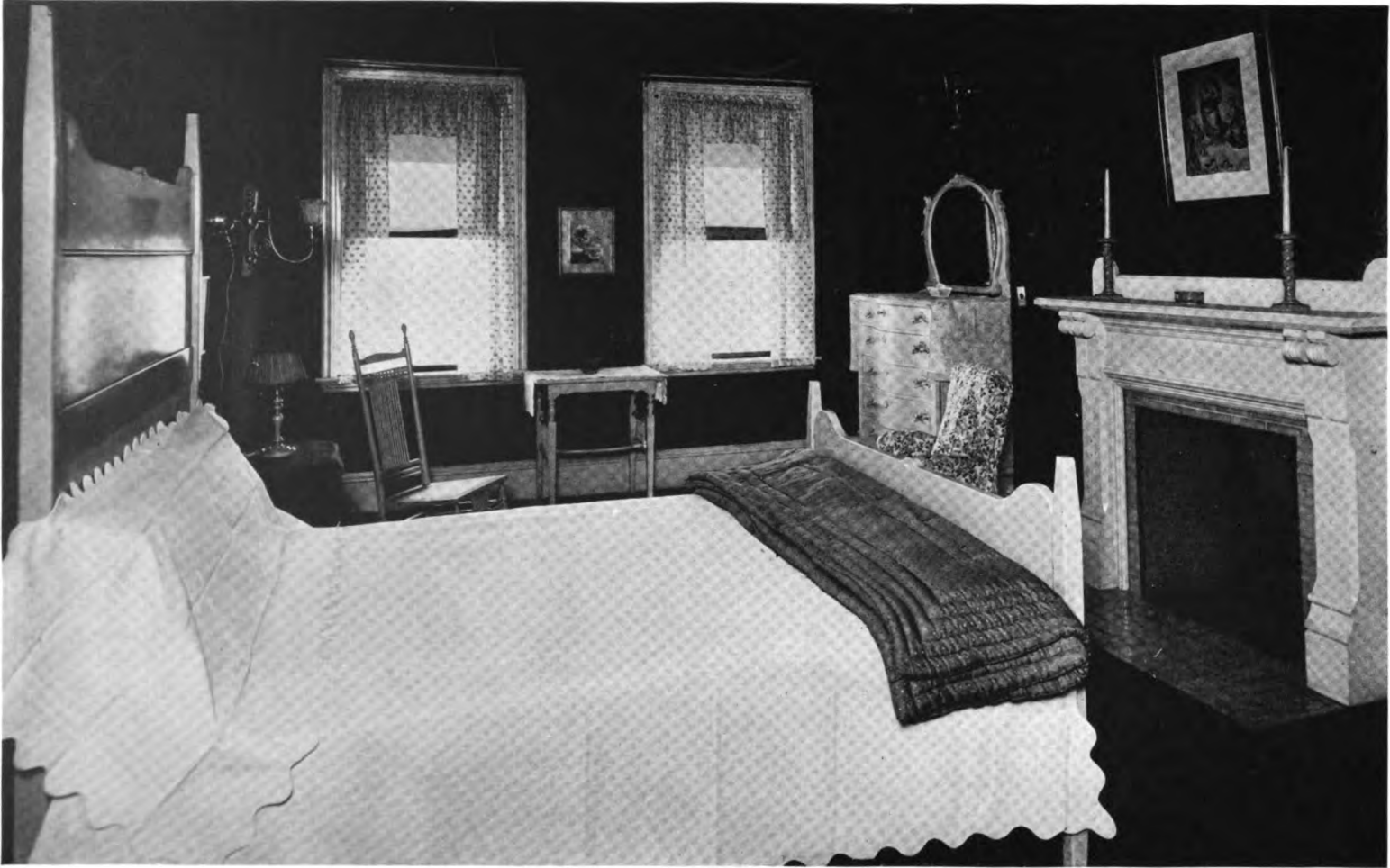
Well, I can't tell you all the wonderful things that have happened at the Guild House since January 1. You'll have to come and see for yourself the California redwood table loaned us; the carved-oak, leather-seated dining-room chairs—ten of them, too—given; beautiful hand-made, hemstitched sheets and pillow-cases for another bed given for another room (Would any but a fairy be guilty of such a labor of love?); a large hand-painted, beautifully executed reproduction of our seal, framed in a gilt frame, not to mention the reproduction in filet lace made last summer, before the possibility of a Guild House was even known—made just "for the Directors' room"—another labor of love, made by another Guild fairy. That place is veritably filled with them.

Today, while I was thinking of writing this article, more magic happened: A beautiful, rare, old mahogany bed came to "339." The head-board and foot-board curve up and away from the mattress at just the right angle for a child to climb up and sit on the highest point with feet dangling over toward the floor; then, at a given signal, "let go" and slide down backward over the smooth surface of the

woodwork onto the soft, springy mattress. My grandmother had just such a bed, and I used to do just such a stunt, so I know. With this a rich, aristocratic old bureau, a solid severe table of the same period, and chairs. These were given, all given, together with cretonne curtains and two steel engravings, to complete the beauty of the room. We who were there when they arrived felt almost awed and hushed by the wondrous beauty of the gift and the wondrous beauty of the Guild, since it could awaken in the hearts of our donors the desire to bestow upon us all such treasures. Yes, upon us all, for the Guild House is *ours*, and we will, we must, come up to what is expected of us—we must demonstrate that our work really is worth while. There is not one member of the Board of Directors or the Finance Committee who fails to realize the extent of the moral and spiritual responsibility that has been placed upon us all through these acts of confidence and trust in our ability to "carry on."

The Board tried in the beginning to help the cause through using practical methods, and the fairies of the Guild have helped us beyond belief or our wildest dreams, through bestowing upon us a host of beautiful and practical gifts. At our annual birthday party (it was five years ago last January that our little organization started) over \$100 in cash and checks was received, besides many lovely useful and necessary things for the equipment of a large house. With this money the Board of Directors is buying needed things that are in harmony with our gifts, such as a mahogany mantel-shelf clock and a table lamp for the reception-room, to add to its comfort and the artistic effect.

The beauty in what we all cherish and call the spirit of the Guild seems to us to have found an actual material expression in the quality of our gifts and loans. The members are "catching" more and more the sense of responsibility and each helps us more and more to work out the problems that confront us. It is not going to be all easy, smooth sailing, by any means; but the service, no matter how taxing, how problematical, is going to be worth while. The fairies have demonstrated this already. Don't misjudge the Guild



ONE OF THE BED-ROOMS—"MRS. PORTER'S ROOM"

—Hodge and Sampson

House and think it is all due to our "mysterious Mr. Smith." He did furnish the house itself. We are grateful to him for this—grateful beyond words, and he knows the depth of our gratitude—but the house is merely a shell, and of itself alone could mean nothing to us save four

square walls. The fairies of the Guild have made it something far more, more than we ever dreamed any house could be; *they* have made it our home.

A cordial welcome awaits you always, and our sign still hangs upon our door—

"PLEASE WALK IN."

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HARD OF HEARING (INCORPORATED)

Notice of Adjourned Annual Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given that the adjourned annual meeting of the members of the American Association for the Hard of Hearing (Incorporated), which was adjourned from the 11th day of March, 1921, will be held at Boston, Mass., on the 8th, 9th, and 10th days of June, 1921, for the purpose of electing five managers and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

The headquarters of the Association will be the Speech-Readers' Guild, 339 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, and the sessions will be held at the Guild House and at such other places as may be selected by the Committee on Arrangements, including a joint session with the Section on Otology of the American Medical Association.

In conjunction with the meeting an exhibition on Educational and Social Alleviations of Acquired Deafness will be held.

A copy of the tentative program is appended to this notice and all members are urged to attend.

ANNETTA W. PECK,
Corresponding Secretary.

Dated New York, May 8, 1921.

PROGRAM FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HARD
OF HEARING (INCORPORATED),
AT BOSTON, 1921

(This program is subject to possible alterations.)

Wednesday, June 8

Morning Session, 9 a. m.

1. Address of Welcome. Dr. David Harold Walker, 2d Vice-President.

2. Announcement by the Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements.
3. President's address. Dr. Wendell C. Phillips.
4. Reports from constituent bodies:
 - a. The New York League for the Hard of Hearing.
 - b. San Francisco League for the Hard of Hearing.
 - c. Chicago League for the Hard of Hearing, by Miss Valeria D. McDermott, Field Secretary.
 - d. Jersey City League for the Hard of Hearing.
 - e. Newark League for the Hard of Hearing.
 - f. Toledo League for the Hard of Hearing.
 - g. Pittsburgh League for the Hard of Hearing.
5. Reports from organizations not members of the Association:
 - a. The Speech-Readers' Guild of Boston.
 - b. Los Angeles League for the Hard of Hearing.
 - c. Speech-Reading Club of Philadelphia.
 - d. Dayton League for the Hard of Hearing.
 - e. Saint Louis League for the Hard of Hearing.
 - f. Lip-Readers' Club of Cleveland.
 - g. Speech-Reading Club of Washington.
 - h. Toronto Lip-Reading Club.
 - i. Kansas City League for the Hard of Hearing.

Afternoon Session, 2 or 2.30 p. m.

The following papers will be presented, to be followed by discussion:

1. How to Prevent Deafness. James Kerr Love, M. D., F. R. F. P. S. G.
2. Deafened Service Men in the United Kingdom. Dundas Grant, M. A., M. D., F. R. C. S., Major (retired), President of Special Aural Board, Ministry of Pensions, and Henry Lloyd Ingram, Captain, late teacher of lip-reading at Belleville, Ont., Secretary Special Aural Board.
3. The Physician's Responsibility to the Deafened. Wendell C. Phillips, M. D., F. A. C. S., and Harold M. Hays, M. D., F. A. C. S.