

A CLUB OF DELTA PSI MEN

THE PRETTY HOME OF THE ST. ANTHONY CLUB.

A THRIVING INSTITUTION NOT OFTEN HEARD OF BY THE BIG PUBLIC—SOME NOTES OF OTHER CLUBS.

The ornate little building on the north side of East Twenty-eighth-street, between Madison and Fourth avenues, with a façade of red and yellow brick in the style of the Renaissance and a churchlike roof, is often supposed by passers-by to be some religious institution connected with one of the churches in the neighborhood. It is, however, the domicile of the St. Anthony Club, the representative of the distinctively "college clubs" of this city. It is true that the University Club lays claim to being the college club par excellence, and only graduates are eligible for membership, but its mantle extends over all of the colleges, while only the members of the fraternity of Delta Psi can join the St. Anthony. The membership is limited to graduates; the undergraduates are accorded access to the "society rooms" overhead, but not into the suite of rooms occupied by the club. There are over 200 members, the majority of whom are residents. The initiation fee and dues are small, so as to prevent no one eligible from joining. The club was founded in 1879 and the front portion of the building was erected, the rear extension having been built about two years ago. The building is owned by the club, having been erected by subscriptions from the members of the Delta Psi, and is practically free from debt. The façade is an indication of the ornate interior—indeed, the club is a perfect bijou of tasteful decoration and elegance in window designs, woodwork, frescoing, and furniture, harmonious without ostentation. The rules of the society of privacy and exclusiveness are suggested by the latch key required for admission. The straight "way" leads to the society rooms above, but a diverging vestibule leads into the club rooms, which the undergraduates in their passage to and fro cannot even see into, but the temptations to enter and explore might be as great as St. Anthony's were. The office, which the club entrance opens into, is a square room, furnished with desk, register book, and cigar cases. All the members are expected to register on entering morning and evening, as there is no roster at the door. The walls of the office are hung with a series of engravings representing the temptations of the patron saint. The front room is a parlor, with tables for cards. In cases on the mantelpiece are "Goodwood Cups," trophies of which the club is justly proud. The furniture and fittings here are in cherry, with harmonious upholstery and walls. Several fine prints are to be seen, including views of the buildings of the Delta Psi at Yale, Trinity, and other colleges. A passageway, richly decorated in the baronial style of the twelfth century, leads from the office past the buffet, in a crypt under the stairs, to a large room, which, with a noble open fireplace, offers, in cosy leather cushions in stalls in the corners and more spacious chairs, a quiet retreat. The fantastic and unique lattice-work of the windows attracts attention, with the bold and artistic studding of the ceiling, and ornate chandeliers, especially manufactured, emit their jets of gas from imitation candles. The rear window stretches almost across the entire width, while the inside one gets light from a court or well between the old and the new buildings, connected by the passageway. This is the smoking and lounging room. Stairs by the side of the buffet lead to the billiard room, which is immediately underneath the smoking room and corresponding in size, with windows of another unique design and another big fireplace. There are the billiard tables, illuminated by unique chandeliers. In the rear or new portion the woodwork is a rich polished oak, with a high wainscoting, the walls being embossed in tints of old gold and greenish blue. There is no restaurant, the viands on special occasions being obtained from outside; but it is contemplated to soon establish a grill room in this lower region by making use of the kitchen already in the basement. There are electric bells convenient to the touch all about the house at almost every step. The library occupies the third floor of the extension. There is a small room, with desk and writing materials, and a larger room, equally well lighted, which is lined with bookcases containing a well selected library of books of reference, history, and travel. General subscriptions to the Mercantile Library Association keep the members supplied with modern literature. There is a portrait of the first President, Gen. William G. Ward, who held office until 1885, when he was succeeded by Commodore Augustin Monroe. Mr. Nicholas Fish, formerly Minister to Belgium, was elected President at the election recently. The frequenting membership is probably as large as that of any other club.

The organization of the Lawyers' Down-town Club and the Underwriters' Club are the best evidences of the growth of the club idea. These down-town clubs are more dining resorts than social retreats, as they are little frequented in the evening. The most prominent, of course, are the Merchants', the Down-town, and the Exchange. Besides, there are the Master Car Builders', the Hide and Leather, and others of lesser note. These clubs embody the old London fundamental idea. Here, however, the ideas are more liberal, and a popular inn is not the meeting place, but sumptuous suites of rooms, affording all the comforts of the up-town clubhouses. One of the reasons of the organization of these down-town clubs, aside from the professional affiliation, is the inadequate accommodations during the hours of the rush and the lack of privacy. There are libraries of reference in the professional clubs which are valuable.

The Authors' Club has decided to devote \$500 of the surplus of \$900 in the Treasurer's hands to founding a building fund, to which in future all the initiation fees will be devoted; as the dues are now ample for the current expenditures, the club is inclined to agitate the question of a co-operative building.

The New-York Club will probably not vacate its present house until the close of the Summer, as its lease runs another year from May next. The alterations in the new house will take some time, and are even yet not fully decided on.