

# NEW BLOOD IN OLD CLUBS

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEW-YORK TO BE INCREASED.

THE LOTOS TO HAVE A NEW HOUSE—  
ART EXHIBITIONS AT THE CLUBS—  
MINOR GOSSIP.

There is a marked difference in the administration of a club that has its full complement of members, with a list of candidates awaiting vacancies by death and resignation, and one that is not full but actively canvassing for recruits to fill the quota of membership. The rules regarding the introduction of residents are very liberal in the growing clubs. There is a disposition on the part of the administration to be very liberal in the enforcement of the rules, excepting in the most flagrant cases of violation. The scrutiny in regard to the eligibility of the candidates is not so rigid when there is a desire to increase the list of members, as it is when there is a choice among the applicants for the limited vacancies. The club with its quota of membership full quickly recognizes that the principle or theory of club life is exclusive proprietorship or privacy; that the clubhouse is a retreat to which none but the privileged can obtain admission beyond the little reception room by the entrance door. The modern progressive club, however, claims that one of the most attractive features of club life is the privilege of introducing friends, and that the exclusiveness of the conservative or orthodox clubs produces a monotonous social condition. All the clubs have largely added to their membership during the past season, in consequence of the general improvement in the times, and the old question in regard to the liberal rules or the conservative rules is agitating club circles. Another question that is exciting debate in the younger and growing clubs is the admission of Israelites. In most of the older clubs there is an unwritten law that none shall be considered eligible. The Israelites have a club of their own, one of the most prosperous in the city, the Harmonie. It should be said, however, that there are many very worthy and esteemed Israelites in all the clubs, who were elected in the early days of their organization. The later day candidates had the misfortune of being too late, that is all.

The Canadian Club will close its exhibition of Mr. Frazer's views along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway this week. The next exhibit will be of a collection of pictures by Mr. H. W. Ranger. The season will close with an exhibition of the drawings that have been used for illustrations by the Century Publishing Association, which comprise several hundred productions by eminent artists. There is a special membership of Americans, limited to 100, which is nearly completed.

The Manhattan Athletic Club will give a picture exhibition on the afternoon of April 12 and a reception in the evening. Ladies will be admitted on both occasions, and in the evening there will be dancing. There will be an exhibition of pugilism later in the month.

The New-York Club has decided to admit 100 "young" members at an initiation of \$100, promising to increase the sum after that to \$250. There has been an active increase in the membership since the club secured its mansion on the corner of Fifth-avenue and Thirty-fifth-street, and there is every indication that the New-York will in future be as prominent as in its earlier days.

The gradual ascendancy of the younger element in the Century, delayed for the time being by the recent voting down of the proposed increase in the membership of 100, has caused much discussion in that venerable institution. As long as its present old homestead, with its pleasant associations and memories, affords adequate accommodation, the conservative element is wise to decide to remain there. If the juniors ever gain control, it is only a question of time when the clubhouse will be removed to a more fashionable neighborhood.

The Lotus has decided to move at the expiration of its lease, a year from the 1st of May, and has appointed a committee to secure a new house. The chief motive of the removal is the increase of the rental to a figure that is regarded extortionate (from \$12,000 to \$16,000.) It is likely that the committee will devise a plan for the club to purchase a house. There will be a water color exhibition and "Saturday Night" on the 23d, and a ladies' day on the Monday following.

There is every indication that there will be an active contest between the conservative and progressive elements in the staid and dignified Union Club in the election in May, while the annual meeting ensuing promises to be more than usually lively. Mr. Travers's loss is felt more keenly in this than any of the other clubs of which he was a member, as his counsel was always wise and temperate.

The Mohican Club has secured a house on Twenty-eighth-street, west of Fifth-avenue, and will move the latter part of the month. While there will be an active canvass for new members to meet the increased expenditures, care will be exercised to maintain the professional supremacy.

The annual exhibition of water colors at the Union League will be held on the 14th, 15th, and 16th. Between the Union League, the Lotos, the Manhattan Athletic, and the Canadian Clubs the artists find themselves in great demand. It is generally understood among the artists that the Art Committee of the Union League is the most critical, reserving the right to decline any works offered, and consequently the exhibitions here have taken the front rank. The gallery affords a better exhibition, too, than the parlors of the other clubs. The Lotos Club has added more artists to its membership during the past year than in any previous year. Recent additions to its collection are Thomas Moran's view of the Rapids at Niagara Falls, a landscape by Henry C. Eaton, "Titania" and "Night and Morning," by Sarony, and a bust of Job by Ellwell.

The St. Nicholas will, as usual, have a feast on Pflingster Monday.

The artists are in so much request in the other clubs that the attempt to form a club of their own—the Renaissance—has been abandoned. It is evident that the artists do not need any more social resorts than those afforded by the Salmagundi or the Kit-Kat. The recent celebration, by the way, of the Salmagundi has done much toward advancing its interests. The trouble in the professional clubs is that the business element, admitted for its financial aid, soon controls, and there is an alienation and retirement of the originators in consequence.