

## MR. CHANLER NEEDS REST

### Cause of the Well-Known New York Clubman's Commitment to Bloomingdale.

#### SOME QUEER HALLUCINATIONS

The Former Husband of Amelie Rives.

Breaks Down Mentally and Is Placed in an Asylum by His Nearest Friends.

John Armstrong Chanler, lawyer and clubman, and great-grandson of John Jacob Astor, the founder of the Astor family in this country, was committed to the Bloomingdale Asylum about the middle of last February because of his alleged tendency to hallucinations, and the manifestation of symptoms of a nervous collapse. His commitment was procured by his nearest relatives and friends upon the advice of physicians and after careful deliberation. He was taken to Bloomingdale quietly, and in order that his privacy there might not be intruded upon the impression was allowed to obtain that he had gone abroad.

Since Mr. Chanler's marriage with Amelie Rives, the young Virginia society girl and writer, who achieved a sudden fame as the author of "The Quick or the Dead?" he has been more or less in the public eye. His robust physique, progressive disposition, varied accomplishments, and restless, nervous temperament made him an active figure in social and business life both here and abroad. Two or three years after his marriage rumors became current that the young couple were not living a congenial life, and soon afterward they separated. By divorce proceedings, in which there was no contest, Mrs. Chanler secured a decree on the ground of incompatibility of temper.

#### What His Partner Says.

Harry Van Ness Philip of 120 Broadway is Mr. Chanler's law partner, and while deprecating, yesterday, the publicity given to his unfortunate partner's affairs, he spoke frankly of the situation.

"In the first place, let me say," he remarked, "I do not consider that Mr. Chanler is an insane person by any means. I saw him yesterday and he talked with me in a perfectly rational manner. Of course he realizes his condition and is sensible of the necessity of having absolute rest. His nervous system was undermined by hard work and too close application to important interests which he has in the South. He has been engaged in a big scheme of water power development to which he has given much thought and time. His mind became overtaxed, and some months ago his relatives and nearest friends saw that he was getting into a bad way and needed the change and rest that only perfect seclusion could give. It was deemed wisest to place him in a large institution where he would not only have all of the advantages of experienced and skillful treatment, but would also have the protection of an adequate discipline, which might be lacking in a private institution.

"The friends of Mr. Chanler have never doubted that he would be restored to physical and mental health. So far as I am concerned, I have never seen him in what might be called an irrational mood. There is no truth whatever in the suggestion that his present condition is due to worry over domestic troubles. I know that his mind has been perfectly tranquil regarding the separation between Mrs. Chanler and himself, and I am quite certain that the more recent developments in the lady's career have not had any irritating influence on my partner's mind. The report that Mr. Chanler had gone to Europe was given out in order that he might have absolute quiet and rest in his retirement. Only his relatives and closest friends were aware of his whereabouts until this recent publication of the facts.

#### He Will Probably Recover.

"He did not wish it known that he was in Bloomingdale, and for that reason has taken extra precaution to maintain his seclusion. The last time I saw him, the subject of newspaper publications came up in our conversation, and he urged me to use every means in my power to keep his matters out of the newspapers. Such facts as found their way to the public passed through channels entirely beyond my control, but now that the main fact is known, I think the best way is to tell the exact truth about the case. I feel confident that Mr. Chanler will recover his mental vigor, but I am afraid that this newspaper talk will retard his recovery. He is bound to see the newspaper stories. He is comparatively a free agent where he now is; he sees whoever he wants to, and he reads the newspapers. It is to be regretted that he cannot have perfect quiet and protection from worry."

Mr. Chanler's private apartments at Bloomingdale are in the Macy Villa, which is practically a separate building attached to the sanitarium. To friends, other than Mr. Philip, who have called on him Mr. Chanler has evinced a disposition to object to his commitment to the Bloomingdale Asylum. Although manifesting no bitter feeling toward his relatives, whom he regards as being mistaken and ill-advised, he has expressed a strong objection to his incarceration. To at least one friend he raised the point that his commitment to an institution in New York State is illegal, because he is a citizen of Virginia. Friends who only learned of Mr. Chanler's retreat through invitations from him to call and talk with him have listened to his own statement of the circumstances of the case without feeling called upon to interfere with the policy pursued by those who are responsible for his commitment.

At no time has Mr. Chanler shown any violent symptoms of insanity. One of the hallucinations which are said to have aroused the suspicions of his friends as to his mental soundness is a belief on his part that he has succeeded by will power in changing the shape of his face and the color of his eyes.

#### His Alleged Hallucinations.

Other alleged hallucinations are that Mr. Chanler believes himself to be the reincarnation of Napoleon, and also believes that he could make a great fortune at Monte Carlo by a system of play devised by himself. There is a miniature roulette wheel in one of Mr. Chanler's rooms at the asylum, and also two pictures of the great Napoleon. One of his friends who visited him recently testifies that Mr. Chanler asked him if he did not notice that his eyes were lighter in color than formerly, and also that his nose had changed its shape.

John Armstrong Chanler is thirty-seven years old and is the eldest of eight children of the late Prof. Chanler of Columbia University. He is a cousin of William Waldorf Astor and John Jacob Astor, and is said to have an income from inherited estates of \$30,000 a year. He is a graduate of Columbia and also took a course at Rugby. He formed a law copartnership after graduating from the Columbia Law School, but he has never conducted a case in court, most of the legal business of the firm being attended to by Mr. Philip.

Mr. Chanler married Amelie Rives, June 14, 1888, and divorce proceedings separated them finally about two years ago. Mr. Chanler is a member of several New York clubs, including the Union, the University, Century, Players, Calumet, Metropolitan, Racquet, St. Anthony, and other organizations. As a member of the American Fine Arts Association he, in 1891, started "The Paris Prize Fund" in New York and Boston, under the terms of which \$900 a year was to be provided as a prize for the benefit of art students wishing to pursue their studies in Paris. An annual competition for the prize was established.

Amelie Rives Chanler returned from Europe to her home, near Charlottesville, Va., early in 1896, and almost immediately after her announcement of her divorce from Mr. Chanler she was wedded to the Russian Prince Pietro Troubetskoy, an artist.