

R. C. RESUMES DELAYED WORK

Activities Halted Because of Epidemic Keeping Local Chapter Busy

With its anti-influenza work finished, the local Red Cross chapter is resuming as rapidly as possible those activities that were delayed or halted by the epidemic. The salvage department again is "turning trash into cash" and all the sewing and knitting auxiliaries, with membership augmented through the suspension of surgical bandage making, are making up for the time devoted to fighting the "flu." Woolen goods and hospital and refugee garments will be in demand for many months to come and the Red Cross must continue producing them.

When the chapters new home in the Civic Center has been thoroughly disinfected it will be occupied as originally intended, and the task of transferring the furniture and stock from 942 Market street and 30 Montgomery street will be completed before next Saturday. The Montgomery-street offices will be utilized as a headquarters for the membership "drive" scheduled for the week of December 16-23.

SHOP NO. 1 TO OPEN

Red Cross Shop No. 1, 322 Stockton street, will be opened on Monday, December 2, with a miscellaneous stock for sale and Mrs. John Metcalfe in charge.

Mrs. C. O. G. Miller, chairman of the Naval Auxillary, expects to have the naval seamen's clubhouse at Market and Beale streets ready to receive guests on Thanksgiving day. This building also did good service as a hospital during the epidemic.

The Naval Auxillary's tea-room in the California Theater is once more inviting patronage and will continue to provide intellectual entertainment as well as food.

It is expected also that the Red Cross canteen in the Ferry building will be opened in the near future.

REPAIR WORK GOES ON

Mrs. D. E. F. Easton, chairman of the Masonic Women's Auxillary, has received official notification that the work of repairing military uniforms must go on until further orders, despite the armistice. Mrs. Easton wants women who can do plain sewing to apply at the auxillary's headquarters in the Whitcomb building.

John A. Britton, chairman of the San Francisco Chapter, has appealed to the women of that organization to permit no slackening of their activity in behalf of the Red Cross "until our last soldier has been brought home and returned to his pre-war usefulness and the last European victim of Hun brutality is no longer dependent upon the Red Cross for life's necessities.

UNMUZZLED MUSE TAKES FRESH FLING AT CHRONICLE CONTEST

Peace Poems Also Assume More Robust Proportions and Full Grown Epic Makes Appearance

EVEN the muse of poetry began to breathe more freely when the masks were removed. No sooner had the siren sounded and the Mayor made a speech than the poets set to work more busily than ever. Not only did a greater number of peace poems come pouring into The Chronicle competition, but there was also a marked increase in their length.

Couplets were less numerous than quatrains, quatrains less frequent than sonnets, sonnets less plentiful than ballads, while for the first time in the contest a full-grown epic made its appearance.

A few more such epics, and the judges may have divided opinions on the subject of abandoning the mask.

NO INSPIRATION IN GAUZE

If there was joy on Olympus when The Chronicle offered three prizes—\$50, \$25 and \$25 for the best poems on peace there was lyric rapture when it became known that masks could be removed. As one bard of the Sunset district remarked, "Whoever heard of an immortal masterpiece of melody having been written with a muzzle on? Deathless song has come from poets in exile, and even from poets in prison, but never yet was bard could breathe Elysian lays through the grimy folds of a muslin germ collector."

The office adding machine has been kept busy casting up the totals of each day's contributions ever since the competition started, and an extra machine may be required when the contest closes on December 1.

They are coming in all forms and from all parts of the country. Not a state west of the Mississippi but is already represented, but the Eastern deluge is yet to come in. Particularly heavy returns are expected from Chicago, the Parnassus of the Middle West, and California's most serious rival in poetic output.

VARIETY NO END

In the matter of form, there never was such variety of verse in any previous contest of which there is record. One competitor has gone below the couplet limit and submitted no more than a single line, and a wonderfully good line at that. Short distance run-

ners, poetical sprinters, as one might say, are unusually common for so ample a theme. Thus far the sonneteers are in the lead so far as the number of contributions is concerned, but the ballad writers make a close second. The rondeau writers are not quite so numerous, but they are well represented, while the humorous jinglers are here in plenty. Several competitors label their efforts "Hymns," and thereby set afoot a very interesting controversy as to what constitutes a hymn.

SOME SET TO MUSIC

Quite a number have given a strictly literal reading to the line, "Send in Your Song," and have furnished music as well as words, but the music will not debar the poems from the competition. A few aspirants for the laurel wreath have submitted previously printed poems, but if they were not compensated, then they will not be in this competition.

Only the prize winning verses will be paid for and those only by means of the prizes. If the unsuccessful poets do not want their lines to appear among those honorably mentioned, they should send a notification to that effect, together with stamps for the return of manuscripts.

It is hoped that the competition will bring out the great American poem, perhaps the great world peace poem. The contest is open to all but members and relatives of members of The Chronicle staff, "who are excluded neither as dangerous competitors nor as a punishment, but solely as a guarantee of absolute judicial impartiality."

NO LIMIT TO NUMBER

Any number of poems may be sent in and, as a matter of record, more than half the competitors have submitted more than one contribution. One man has already sent in three separate readings of the one poem, and it is possible he may submit others before the contest closes. Each will be considered as a distinct poem.

Naturally most of the contributions are from bards living within sight of the Golden Gate in the broad and welcoming open expanse of which many of them have seen the perfect symbol of that international friendship which is the foundation of world peace.