The Birmingham Eccentric

22 PAGES, PART 1

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 35 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1930 | $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

Do you recall the lovely green of last spring's first foliage? As you look at today's gaunt branches, recall that within them are next spring's beauties —just waiting for a chance to bring you themselves again.

Fire Chief Is Discharged; Row Looms

THIS and THAT

Along about this time of night newspapermen and women usually weaken and compose such nonsense rhymes as this:

If you can make a sound
Like a very old bicycle
It will soon be found
Hanging on an icicle.

* * *

Reports that Mr. R. J. Coryell recently offered 26 unemployed men jobs digging ditches at 40 cents an hour and received only one reply, are hereby denied by Mr. Coryell. In fact, the Bloomfield Township supervisor declares, $1,090 was given out to needy families last month and $636 of that amount was returned in labor.

* * *

And, speaking of the depression (?) we heard a private in the army of the unemployed remark recently that it was no depression atall. "It's just a cavity," sez he.

* * *

Irwin Neff counts among his abilities that of being an accomplished "off stage noises." What ordinarily are silent motion pictures exhibited at the Y. M. C. A. on Friday nights have been changed to pictures "with sound" by the versatile Mr. Neff. At the showing of "The Third Alarm" last Friday night, Mr. Neff WAS "The Third Alarm." A siren and bells borrowed from the fire department enabled Mr. Neff to perform with a realism that thrilled the audience to a state of goose-flesh (fact). "I am an art," is Mr. Neff's modest comment.

* * *

Whether to buy Friend Husband another tie for Christmas or renew his bedroom slippers need not be the perplexing problem that makes unemployment and high tariff walls so insignificant to the average housewife. All she has to do is obtain a copy of the Christmas lists compiled this year by The Birmingham Eccentric with the co-operation of village merchants. There's everything in it from antiques to upholstery.

* * *

What about the bill-boards, you ask? Well, sir, enough bill-boards obscure the northern view of Maple avenue to the southerly village limits to hide a drove of gas stations. In fact, we counted 40 the other day—and 16 on the side of Woodward avenue and 16 on the other—or did we tell you about it? If these bill-boards were placed end to end they'd be longer than the Chrysler Building is tall.

* * *

And in speaking of bill-boards it is not amiss to mention that in Holly, "one of the most prominent bill-boards in town carried the ad of a national product, the biggest thing in it being the name of the local agent—who had gone out of business before the ad was posted.

* * *

"The proper way to hold a cat while feeding it castor oil," or some such brief title might well be the subject of an essay by Patrolman Henry Timm. Patrolman Timm hastened to a home on Tooting Lane last week in response to an urgent summons and when he arrived he was requested to assist in serving the dose to a fractious kitty. Patrolman Timm did his duty.

* * *

Back in the good old days when combined sofas and bath tubs were all the rage, The Eccentric was going strong and the advertising business was booming. As is recorded in the silver anniversary edition of The Adcrafter. An ad, reprinted from The Eccentric 25 years ago, is included in the interesting article and it may be well to note that F. Blakeslee & Co. of Birmingham announced the end of a similar business depression to the present one with a sale of boots and shoes at "20 per cent less than former prices." History repeats itself.

MRS. OSBORN FOUND DEAD IN HER HOME

Villager Was Active For Many Years In Civic And Church Affairs

FUNERAL TUESDAY

Mrs. Elizabeth L. Osborn, 53 years old, was found dead in her home at 7:15 p. m. Sunday by Patrolman Samuel Stinson who broke into the house at 240 Park street after neighbors, alarmed because Mrs. Osborn did not appear during the day, notified the police department. Death was attributed by Coroner O. C. Farmer to epilepsy.

Evidences indicated that Mrs. Osborn had died sometime Friday in the dining room of her home. Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Smith, 385 East Maple avenue, notified Stinson when they could not obtain entrance to the home, and Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Murray of Henrietta street, who had paid regular visits to the Osborn home since she suffered a similar stroke last summer, also notified officials. Dr. C. F. Lawler was summoned and pronounced Mrs. Osborn dead.

Funeral services were held at 1 p. m. Tuesday from the G. Dewey Kimball Funeral Home, the Rev. Robert M. Atkins officiating. Burial was at Milford, beside her husband who died four years ago.

Mrs. Osborn for eight years was active in the social, welfare and educational affairs of the First Methodist Church and since the church groups were consolidated she acted as first vice-president. Mrs. Osborn's interest in civic affairs was largely responsible for the expansion of the activities of the Oakland County Council of Women, being a member of the board of directors from its organization and at one time serving as its vice president. During the existence of the Civic League Mrs. Osborn greatly enhanced its activities and she also was prominent in the activities of the Woman's Literary Club. She was president of the latter organizaton in 1918-19.

Mrs. Osborn lived in Birmingham 19 years, coming here from Green Oak, Mich., her birthplace. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Green, of Brighton; an aunt, Mrs. Hart, of Fowlerville, and a niece, Mrs. Rachel Lowe, of Ann Arbor.

MATTHEWS' WRIT HEARING IS TODAY

Local Attorney To Appear In Fatal Traffic Accident

Charles S. Matthews, Birmingham attorney, was to appear at 2 p. m. today before Judge John J. Maher in the Detroit Traffic Court for a hearing on the writ of habeas corpus upon which he was released Dec. 5, after his arrest following a fatal automobile accident at Woodward avenue and the Seven Mile road.

Matthews was released on $500 bond and police continued their investigation into the accident in which Mrs. Martha Brady, 58 years old, 19360 Canterbury road, was killed. Police report that Mrs. Brady had alighted from a street car when she was struck by an automobile which witnesses later identified as being similar to Matthews'.

Police also reported that Matthews had been involved in an automobile accident on Cass avenue at 6 p. m. and that police of the Bethune station smelled liquor on his breath. He was not intoxicated, however, police said.

Mrs. Brady was housekeeper for Edward Misch, 19360 Canterbury road.

APPOINTED

VERN GRIFFITH

Appointed Monday by James W. Parry, village manager, Mr. Griffith, above, may not assume his position as chief of the Fire Department on Monday. Mr. Griffith resigned as fire captain last June following dissention in the fire department in which he charged Olsen with being unfair.

MAN IS SHOT; WIFE IS HELD

Big Beaver Woman Wounded Husband 3 Times, Police Report

Mrs. Kate Stolpa, 42 years old, is held in the Oakland County Jail at Pontiac today on a charge of assault with intent to murder her husband, Frank, 44 years old, a Wayne County constable, who she is alleged to have shot three times Sunday afternoon in their home at Big Beaver.

Arraigned before Justice William Walker at the Troy Township Hall on Tuesday, Mrs. Stolpa demanded examination which was set for Dec. 18. She is held on $10,000 bail. Stolpa, with two bullet wounds in his head and a third in his right arm, is recovering in the Ohelmacher Hospital, Royal Oak.

Norman C. Orr, Oakland County Prosecutor, reports that divorce proceedings between Stolpa and his wife were instituted last August but withdrawn last October. Mrs. Stolpa told police officers that the shooting was precipitated after a quarrel of several hours duration when her husband picked up a small hand mirror and threatened to strike her with it.

She ran for her husband's .38 caliber revolver and shot him three times, the police say she has admitted. The first two shots grazed Stolpa's scalp and while he wrestled with her the third shot pierced his arm and a fourth went wild, the discharge, however, severely burning Stolpa's hand. Stolpa, although weakened from shock and loss of blood after he had regained possession of the weapon, managed to seize a chair and hurl it through a window, attracting the attention of neighbors who notified Deputy George Forsyth. Forsyth arrested Mrs. Stolpa and confiscated the weapon.

Manager Appoints Vern Griffith As Olsen's Successor

Commission To Act On Parry's Choice Next Monday; Action Discussed At Private Session

Again the Birmingham Fire Department is the center of heated controversy. William G. Olsen, one of the founders of the organization and for 18 years associated with its activities, has been deposed as chief of the department and Vern Griffith, former captain in the department, has been appointed to succeed him by James W. Parry, village manager. Griffith resigned June 18 last, following an altercation in which he charged Olsen with failure to co-operate with him in departmental affairs.

Olsen was discharged last Friday and on Monday Manager Parry posted the announcement of the selection of Griffith to succeed him, effective Dec. 15. On Tuesday, members of the Village Commission sat in special session in the village planning commission's office and yesterday President Harry Allen sent a letter to Mr. Parry requesting him to submit the appointment of Griffith to the commission for confirmation or rejection.

Opposition Seen

That Griffith's appointment will be vigorously opposed by certain members of the commission is undoubted. In the meantime, William J. Thornton, acting captain, has assumed the duties of former chief Olsen and is directing the activities of both the paid and volunteer units.

On Friday, Mr. Parry announced the retirement of Chief Olsen, explaining that his action was prompted by a plan to reduce expenses in preparation for a lower budget for 1931. By abolishing the volunteer officers, he said, the village would save between $2,000 and $3,000. In addition to Chief Olsen are volunteers Charles Jones and Park Smith, assistant volunteer chief, Thornton, and volunteer secretary, a position also held by Jones.

"We are no longer in a position to justify the expense of volunteer officers," Mr. Parry declared. "We now pay approximately $4,700 for their services. With a full time paid department our costs now amount to approximately $20,000, a year, with $5,000 for part-time men.

Wanted More Time

"I have discussed the situation several times during the past year with Chief Olsen and explained that the action was necessary in order to plan for next year's budget. And when I asked him Friday if he would resign he wanted still further time in which to consider and I told him it would be necessary to announce his retirement," Parry said.

"This thing had been brewing since Dewey back," says former Chief Olsen. "I could say a lot of unpleasant things but it wouldn't do anybody any good. There has been jealousy in the department and I know Griffith wanted to be chief. He's a young

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DISTRIBUTION OF MILK IN SCHOOLS TO BE RESUMED, BOARD INDICATES

Milk distribution in the Birmingham schools may be resumed soon, if the advisory efforts of the Emergency Relief Committee are approved by the School Board at the next meeting, Dec. 22. Sanction of the Board depends on tentative organization of the plan by the Emergency Relief Committee, and entails co-operation and responsiveness on the part of dozens of clubs in the city.

The proposal to serve hot soup at noon to children carrying lunches, in an effort to reach the children of unemployed persons, the original idea presented by the representatives of the Emergency Relief Committee to the School Board in session Monday night—was changed to resumption of the milk distribution plan which proved practical last year.

"Hot soup" would spell "soup kitchens" to some parents and those outside of Birmingham, and such an idea carried out here would be unthinkable, according to the reasoning of Clarence Pilet, Superintendent of schools, just at the point when Board members seemed to favor the "hot soup" idea in general, as being "a good thing if the women wanted to carry it out." Besides, soup means spoons, dishes, crackers, and whatnots and milk bottles require only straws, he pointed out.

BIRMINGHAM HOMES FOR SALE

5-room house on quiet street, modern, large lot, 2-car garage, priced right, $8,000, terms.

Attractive 5-room bungalow, 2 bedrooms, fireplace, screened porch, breakfast room, garage, good location, near Holy Name Church. $9,500. Terms.

Beautiful 7-room home with breakfast room, 4 bedrooms, fireplace, 2-car garage, steam heat. Modern throughout, nearly new, large corner lot. $13,500. Terms.

J. B. HOWARTH & SON
Real Estate and Insurance
1st Nat'l Bank Bldg. Tel. 321
—adv. 34tf

CO-OPERATION ON DRAIN PLAN IS ADVOCATED

Committee Recommends Project Adoption In Report To ommission

SURVEY IS STUDIED

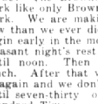
Co-operation with the Oakland County drain commissioner and other district officers in the adoption of a plan for an adequate sewage disposal plant and a system of drainage sewers for the Birmingham area was advocated Monday in a report made to the village commission by the Commissioner-Citizens committee appointed two years ago to study the problem.

At that time the drain commissioner suggested a survey of the district. An exhaustive study was made and the report was filled with the committee which has finished its review of the problem and offers its approval. The report of the committee endorses the plan as a comprehensive program for a sewer development that will adequately provide not only for the village but for other districts in the surrounding townships. The plan also provides for cost distribution arrangement that is basicly sound, economical and constructive, the committee reports.

The committee is composed of Harry Allen, J. J. Martindale, David H. Ladd, W. W. Henry, Lawrence Thomas, E. H. Tillotson and Walter Connelly.

At the special session of the Village Commission Tuesday night the project was discussed at some length but no definite action was taken, Harry Allen, President of the Village, reports. It was thought, however, that additional study of the cost of the proposed system should be given before the commission give the project its official sanction.

SANTA TELLS CHILDREN TO BE UNSELFISH



SANTA CLAUS PALACE
Iceberg Square
North Pole
Dec. 7, 1930

Dear Children:

What a busy week this is going to be! The Brownies and I will work like only Brownies and I can work. We are making more toys now than we ever did before. We begin early in the morning after a pleasant night's rest and we work until noon. Then we have our lunch. After that we start right in again and we don't have dinner until seven-thirty o'clock Arctic Standard Time.

Reports I have been receiving from the little birds this year are not very encouraging. It isn't so much that there are many naughty little boys and girls. No, for while it makes me feel sad to learn that some little kiddies are disobedient, untruthful, naughty and mean, I am sadder still because I'm told there are so many little children this year whose daddies have been out of work. So many little children, too, haven't enough clothes to keep them warm, and are actually hungry a good part of the time.

And then when I get all of your letters at night and read that each one of you wants a lot of toys and some do not even say "Please"

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GOOD PRINTING
done quickly, well, and at a very reasonable cost at The Eccentric office.
—Adv. 27tf*

OUSTED

WILLIAM G. OLSEN

One of the founders of the Birmingham Fire Department and its chief for more than a decade, Mr. Olsen, above, yesterday said he had been "fired" by James W. Parry, village manager. Mr. Olsen was with the fire department for 18 years.

MUSIC APPEAL IS SHELVED

Petition To Permit Children To Attend Concerts Laid On Table

Sanction of the music appreciation plans of the Thursday Musicale, involving the excusing of 400 selected Birmingham children for the time necessary to go by bus to Detroit, hear the famous Detroit Symphony school concerts, and return, was shelved by the School Board Monday night for later discussion and consideration when the matter was presented by representatives of the Thursday Musicale.

Chartering a 40-passenger $18 bus for the trip each time, and paying the balance in excess of 50c a round trip for each fare, was promised by the Thursday Musicale for the remaining free symphony school concerts this season if the School Board approves the project and offers cooperation in the matter of excusing pupils at 2 p. m. on the concert days.

In Detroit, preparation is made by the school children a month ahead of concerts, and they are ready to sing a "memory-song" with the symphony orchestra on the eventful day. Different pupils are chosen each time by music instructors for the privilege of attending the symphony concerts, and these representative school children from all parts of the city journey to Orchestra Hall.

Music teachers go in advance to Miss Edith Rhett's educational music classes to study the music to be given on the symphony school concert programs; then the teachers train pupils in the appreciation of the numbers. Programs are broadcast over the radio for all school children, but a certain quota are chosen to attend each concert in person.

"FESTIVAL OF GIFTS" TO BE HELD AT CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK

Hundreds of children from Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills are expected to participate again this year in the "Festival of Gifts" at Christ Church Cranbrook. The picturesque service, which begins at 4:30 p. m. Sunday has become an annual Yuletide ceremony at Cranbrook.

Beginning with a program of seasonal hymns played on the carillon by William Hall Miner, the service continues with a prologue, processional hymn, confession, prayer and a Christmas litany, specially composed for the service.

Children in the costumes of the Holy Family and the Three Wise Men form the center of a moving pageant. A colorful tableau is presented at the manger, constructed in the church. The choir in procession carries old-fashioned lanterns throwing candle light and fantastic shadows in the dimly-lighted church. The congregation follows the choir, bringing their gifts to the manger. Following the singing of the Gloria In Excelsis, the blessing is given and the service is ended.

Gifts presented at the service are donated to the poor.

LET US SAVE YOU MONEY BY HAVING YOUR ASHES HAULED AWAY AT 5c A BUSHEL. PHONE 171. GENERAL TRUCKING. —Adv. 35

BLOOMFIELD WOODS
Home among trees; open evenings. Beautiful new 4 B. R. Price $20,000. Terms.
JOS. F. POPE
280 N. Woodward Phone 1847
—Adv. 21tf

PRINTING PROBLEMS
are ironed out to your satisfaction, Folks, when you bring them to The Eccentric's printing department. If you call us at 12, 12, or 18, we'll be glad to send a salesman to see you, too. —Adv. 37tf

Bookkeeper Up For Sentence

Joseph Borden Newman, 34 years old, was to appear today before Judge Frank L. Covert in the Oakland Circuit Court for sentence on a charge of embezzling $3,000 from The Birmingham Eccentric where he was employed as bookkeeper.

Newman yesterday pleaded guilty to the charge and a plea of clemency was entered by his employer, George R. Averill, publisher of The Eccentric, Norman C. Orr, Oakland County Prosecutor, and James M. Butler, probation officer. Judge Covert remanded Newman to jail for sentence today.

Partial restitution has been made, Mr. Averill told the court, and he is convinced Newman will make every effort to make complete restitution if given the opportunity, he added.

VILLAGE TO AID IN TREE PLAN

Will Assist Merchants In Decorating Streets For Christmas

In addition to the regular Municipal Christmas Tree which will be lighted on the lawn in front of the Municipal Building, the village this year also plans to aid in the decoration program for the business district in co-operation with the committee on municipal decoration and the American Legion.

At the regular meeting of the commission Monday night, James W. Parry, village manager, announced that 125 trees had been obtained by the Legion which would be sold to the merchants to make their store fronts more attractive. The trees will be set up by men now in the ranks of the unemployed, it was announced.

Plans for the decoration of the intersection of Maple and Woodward avenues will be extensive, Mr. Parry said. The commission expressed its approval. The committee in charge of the decorating program is composed of Raymond Peck, Phil Williams, Leon R. Mix and Frank J. Mulholland.

GLEE CLUB MEN SING FOR CHARITY

University Of Michigan Group Sponsored By Lions Club Monday

Glee Club men from the University of Michigan will donate services for a charity-fund concert, sponsored by the Lions Club, Monday night at the Community House, and a capacity audience is expected.

These same glee club members will tour the world next spring, and Birmingham is particularly fortunate in gaining their free services at this time as they have never before appeared here, and their appearance in concert outside of Ann Arbor before their annual spring tour is unprecedented.

Dr. Weir Burkman, an alumnus

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GOODFELLOWS SELL PAPERS ON SATURDAY

Annual Drive For Village Charity Fund Enlists Businessmen

FIREMEN, POLICE AID

On Birmingham street-corners, in Birmingham stores and residential neighborhoods next Saturday, Dec. 13, newsboys will shout the cry of "Extra! Goodfellows Edition!" These newsboys will not be the little fellows to whom we have grown accustomed, but members of the fire and police departments and men prominent in the civic and business life of the community. The proceeds from the sale of papers will be donated to charity and their slogan will be, "You Can Be A Goodfellow."

The annual drive for funds for Christmas charity this year has been augmented by the addition of business men to the group of "newsboys." At a meeting held last week it was decided to join the ranks of the Metropolitan club, whose members compose the ranks of the police, and fire departments, with those of the average business man.

Will Get Corners

Plans for the sale of the papers, which have been donated by The Eccentric and The Detroit Free Press, include the assignment of 33 firemen of the regular and volunteer departments, 17 police men and more than two score businessmen including village officials and merchants, to street-corners and special districts where they will sell their papers.

In addition, more than 75 merchants in the village have offered to give 10 per cent of their sales made on that day to the Goodfellows' Fund. Headquarters of the organization have been established in a store at the corner of Maple avenue and Pierce street, from which papers will be distributed to the "newsboys." City Clerk Phil Williams has asked by the Goodfellows to make as many of their cash purchases of Christmas gifts in Birmingham stores on that day as possible. Such action will greatly aid the funds taken in from the sale of newspapers.

The streets will be decorated, with Yuletide greens and holly and mistletoe leading through the village from 9 a. m. until after sundown will be asked to purchase papers. The decoration on the streets and store windows will be done by the merchants and the American Legion will supply more than 125 Christmas trees to the decoration plan.

Johnson, Treasurer

Patrolman Harry Johnson has been chosen treasurer of the Goodfellow Fund. In addition to the police and firemen who will sell papers, the following Birmingham men have offered to sell papers on the street on "Goodfellow Day": Charles Randall, L. W. Vandenburg, Thomas Cobb, Harry Allen, S. O. Wylie Bell, Frank Mulholland, George R. Averill, T. W. Miner, L. J. Bergman, C. Newendorf, A. Forbes, W. M. Dixon, L. S. Coles, Dr. George Raynale, Dr. J. H. Gordon, G. J. Arnold, Joseph Pope, Walter Connelly, See Jay Bird, Phil Williams, John Lawson, R. C. Moulthrop, Maurice Lowman, Robert R. Allen, Dr. Fred L. Tucker, Charles Huston.

Capt. William Thornton, who is making arrangements for the assignment of "newsboys," expects to add many more to the present list.

PLUMBING PERMIT COSTS SCHOOL $122

The largest permit for plumbing construction in the history of Bloomfield Hills was filed with the village clerk, William Story last week. The permit cost the new Kingswood School at Cranbrook $122.25, and is for pipe installations, etc.

FOR QUICK SALE—MEMBERSHIP BIRMINGHAM GOLF CLUB $115.00. BOX 260, BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC. —Adv. 35

FURNITURE STORAGE
244 Brownell Phone 7024-54
—Adv. 26tf

News of Your Neighbors

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Coulson and son, Milton, Jr., will spend the Christmas holidays with Mrs. Coulson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Martin in Fort Smith, Ark., returning to their home on Madison avenue about the middle of January.

Mrs. L. H. Saunders of Linden Road has as her guest Mrs. Claude Shoop of Indianapolis.

Mrs. Eva Lawson of Minneapolis is visiting with her sister, Mrs. Fred W. J. Sabom on Puritan Road.

Dr. and Mrs. Carleton Fox and young son, James, spent the week-end on a trip through Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and Chicago, returning to their home in time for Mrs. Fox's Tuesday French class at the Community House. French is attracting the interest of many of Birmingham's younger women just now.

A venison dinner was given by Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Donovan at their residence, "Valhalla" on Woodward avenue, Saturday evening for 12 guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wernecken of Wing Lake have as their guest Mrs. Wernecken's sister, Mrs. Earl E. Devlin.

(Continued on Page 5)

Holly wreaths made of real holly. Phone Earl Smith, B'ham 59. 35

Trunks sent to and from Detroit Railway station. Special Rates. SHAW BROS. GARAGE. 136 Brownell —Adv. 26tf

Calendar of Coming Events

Today — Thursday Musicale meets at 10 a. m. in the Community House. Women's Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church meets at the home of Mrs. C. G. Parks, 555 Merrill St., 2 p. m.; Baptist Church Women's Union meeting; Methodist Church annual meeting; Blue Lodge Masonic installation; Minstrel to be given by the Sr. Washington group at the Baldwin High School auditorium; Club for Household Employees meets.

Tomorrow—Second Poor Richards Dance at the Community House; Bennaville Methodist church bazaar; Flint-Northern vs. Baldwin High School debate.

Saturday, Dec. 13— Village Players present three plays and two sketches at the Community House; DeMolay conclave in Highland Park; Goodfellows paper sale.

Monday, Dec. 15—8:15, Glee Club of the University of Michigan, at the Community House under auspices of the Lions Club; Rotary Club luncheon meeting; Community Arts meeting, 348 Bates St., for those interested in crafts, design, and life drawing.

Tuesday, Dec. 16—International Relations classes; Oakland County Council of Women meet at the Community House 10 a. m. to study Child-Caring Agencies of Oakland County; Exchange Club luncheon meeting; St. Margaret's Guild meeting; Women's Literary Club meeting; DeMolay installation.

Wednesday, Dec. 17—American Legion and Women's Auxiliary party at Bloomfield Park; Bus-

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HUMAN SERVICES YOU WILL FIND IN BIRMINGHAM—

Books . . .

What can take the place of a good book—especially when there are long winter nights ahead, and your mind hungers for the intimacy of life as it is found upon this great earth? Birmingham contains, in its library, in book stores, and its homes, many fine volumes. Really, you don't have to leave Birmingham to buy, or borrow, anything you wish in books.

(Nothing can take the place of the neighborly relation of "friendly merchandising," especially in a community like Birmingham and vicinity.)