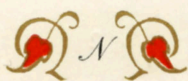






*Biographical Sketch*  
of  
CYRENIUS ADELBERT  
NEWCOMB, JR.



## Just a Word from the Writer—

**T**HE writer of this simple sketch considers it no small honor, after nearly twenty years work in quite a responsible position with Newcomb-Endicott Company, and also a matter of very great pleasure to be able to write out a biographical sketch of the man, who not only bears the name of his much loved and highly honored father, but was himself for many years associated with the business life of the firm, and was elected to the Presidency on the passing of C. A. Newcomb, Sr.

The story will be told in the simplest possible manner, just a simple sketch from life—by one who for years came into closest touch with the real inside business life of the firm and the subject of this sketch.

In this biography the writer will touch lightly on the birth and boyhood of the subject of our sketch, on his education, on his home life and business training, and on his advancement to the presidency of the widely known and much respected firm of Newcomb & Endicott, prominent for nearly sixty years in the business life of our city.

—The Writer.



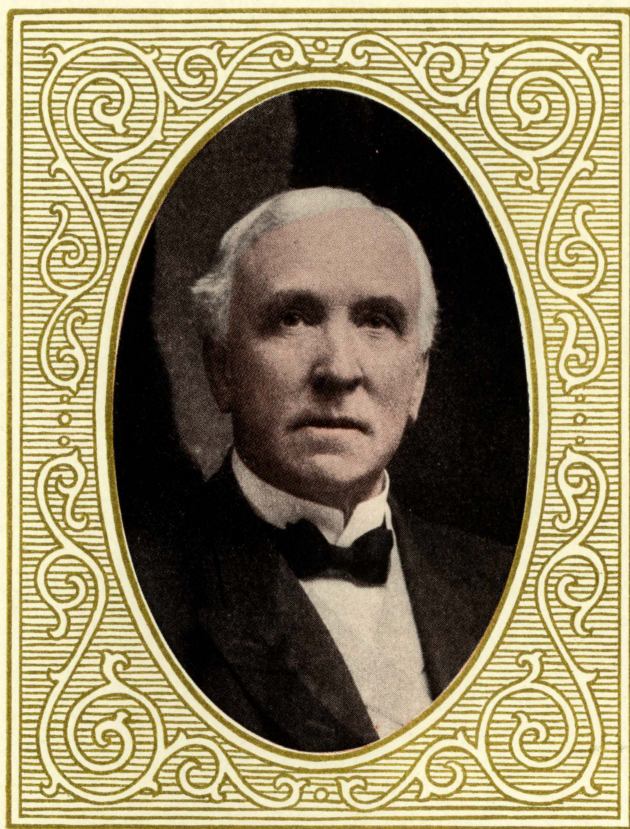
## Prologue—

**B**EFORE entering into the story of the individual whose life sketch will follow these introductory pages, the writer has thought it worth while to outline, in a very few words, the story of the firm over which, for a number of years, the subject of our sketch so successfully presided.

In the year 1868, C. A. Newcomb, Sr., came to Detroit and purchased the stock and good will of J. W. Farrel and Bros. located near the corner of Woodward and Jefferson. Returning to Boston, Mr. Newcomb, through the instrumentality of the firm of C. F. Hovey and Company, was introduced to Mr. Charles Endicott, formerly associated with the firm of Chapman and Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and who accompanied Mr. Newcomb as his associate on his return to Detroit, and the firm of Newcomb & Endicott was formally introduced to the people of our city.

Just one year later the rapid growth of the new concern made necessary much larger quarters, and so the firm moved north to Cadillac Square into what was then the *New Opera House*, and occupied the first floor and basement.



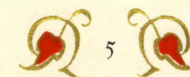


**C**YRENIUS ADELBERT NEWCOMB of the 9th generation of the Newcomb family in America, born in Cortland County, New York, November 10th, 1837. Educated in the common schools of New York state, later attending the Massachusetts Normal School at Bridgewater, Mass. After graduating, he taught school for one winter. Resigning his position as teacher he entered the store of N. H. Skinner and Co. of Taunton as clerk.

After nine years with this company he was made junior partner, giving up this position to found the business of Newcomb and Endicott, Detroit.



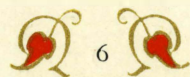
**M**RS. CYRENIUS ADELBERT NEWCOMB (née Mary Eliza Bodge Haskell) born September 12th, 1846, at Hartford, Connecticut. Educated in public schools at Hartford. Married, November 12th, 1867 to Mr. C. A. Newcomb. Mrs. Newcomb traces her ancestry through the Latham family to Digory Priest of the Mayflower. During her lifetime Mrs. Newcomb was very active in charity work. She was for many years on the "Board of Directors" of the "Home for the Friendless" and the "Thompson Home" for Old Ladies.



**I**N 1881 another forward movement was made and the firm moved into still larger quarters (two blocks further north on Woodward Avenue) into the five-story and basement cast-iron front building put up expressly for the firm by D. M. Ferry, necessitated by the phenomenal development of the new firm. In this location the firm continued until the business was sold out, adding large spaces and putting up two handsome new buildings as the business grew.

In the year 1896 Mr. Charles Endicott passed away. The senior member, Mr. C. A. Newcomb, Sr., then formed a new partnership consisting of himself, George T. Moody, H. Byron Scott, C. A. Newcomb, Jr., and John Endicott (a nephew of the deceased Charles Endicott). The business was incorporated in March, 1903—capital \$500,000. President, C. A. Newcomb, Sr.; Vice-Presidents, G. T. Moody and H. B. Scott; Secretary, C. A. Newcomb, Jr., Treasurer, John Endicott, and H. R. Newcomb with the above constituted the directorate. Mr. C. A. Newcomb, Sr., continued as head of the firm until the day of his death, March 9, 1915.

On the passing away of Mr. C. A. Newcomb, Sr., Mr. C. A. Newcomb, Jr., son of the late president, was elected president and so continued until the business was sold out February 1, 1927.

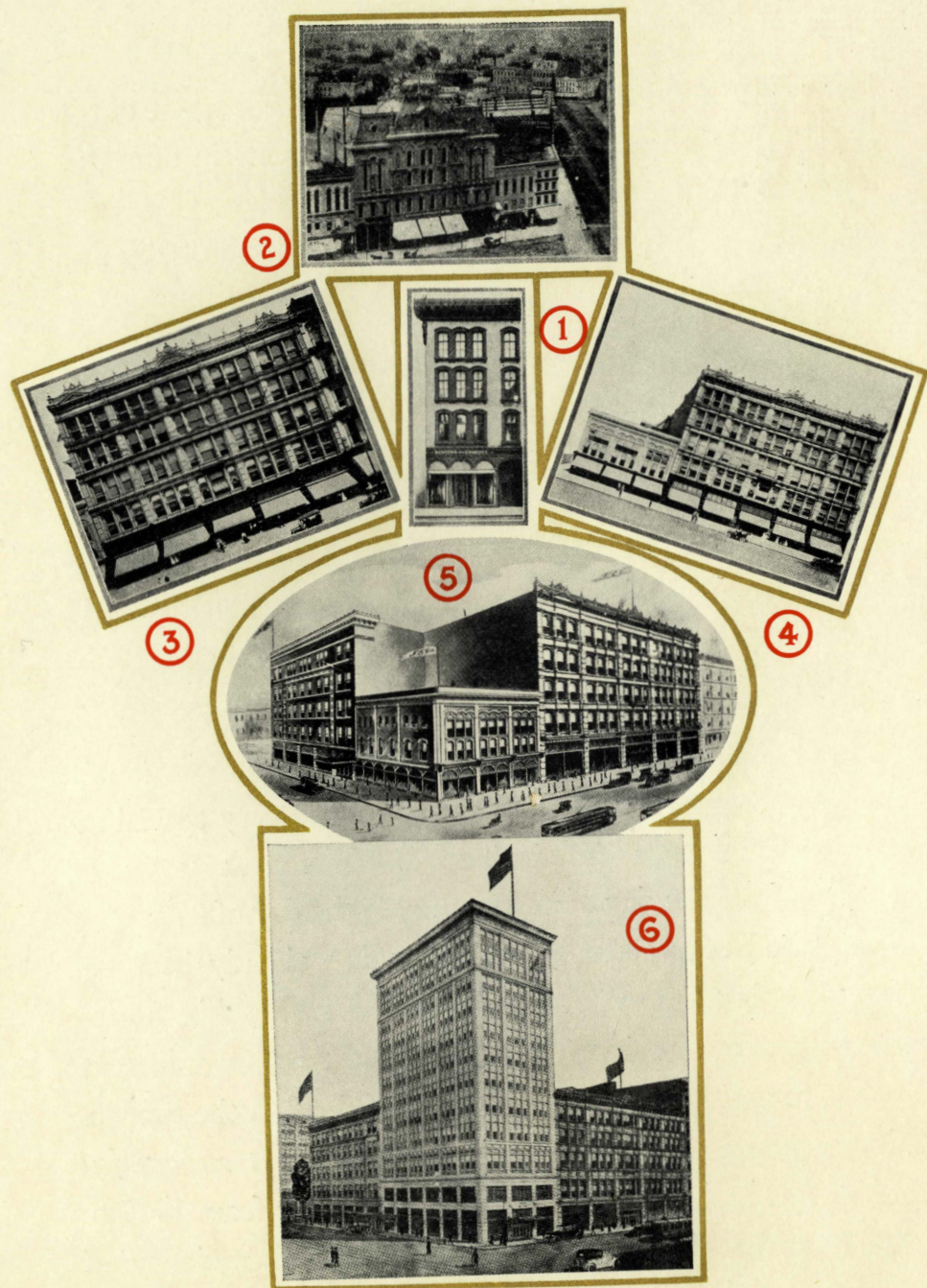


**I**T is worthy of note that during the long life of this firm there were but two Presidents in office, C. A. Newcomb, Sr., and C. A. Newcomb, Jr.—(Father and Son)—and further that the name of the firm never changed.

During the years 1915 to 1927 the business increased from \$4,420,000 to over \$12,250,000 in volume, and the floor space increased to 287,940 square feet. The buildings occupied a space of 180 feet on Woodward Avenue, 220 on Grand River, and 156 on Farmer Street. The main aisle extended from “Woodward through to Farmer,” and was 12 feet 8 inches wide with fine glass show cases on either side, and was 220 feet long, making a very imposing appearance.

In closing this, all too brief, sketch of the corporation of Newcomb-Endicott Co., the writer invites very special attention to one more interesting fact. The great success of the firm from the day of its founding to the day of its closing—a period of practically 60 years—has already been referred to, but the writer does not think it would be fair to the subject of our sketch, which follows these introductory pages, to omit putting into the story of the firm the tremendously interesting fact, that by far the *most successful years in the history of the firm* were those from 1915 to 1927, under the direct management and Presidency of Cyrenius Adelbert Newcomb, Jr.





For description see page 9.



REFERENCE to page 8 of this short story will show in pictures the continuous development of the firm of Newcomb-Endicott Company. Each picture is numbered.

- No. 1. The original store—1868.
2. Moved to the New Opera House—1869.
3. Moved to the new five-story building especially built for Newcomb-Endicott Company—1881.
4. Showing first extension to this building.
5. Showing second addition fronting on Grand River and extending 156 feet on Farmer.
6. Final addition—the erection of the fine twelve-story building, Woodward at Grand River East.



Seated—Center—C. A. NEWCOMB, SR., President  
 Left—H. BYRON SCOTT, Vice-President Right—GEORGE T. MOODY, Vice-President  
 Standing—Center—JOHN ENDICOTT, Treasurer  
 Left—C. A. NEWCOMB, JR., Secretary Right—HOWARD R. NEWCOMB, Director

And Now—

With these preliminaries out of the way, the writer  
will proceed with a brief story of  
CYRENIUS ADELBERT NEWCOMB, JR.


*President of the*  
NEWCOMB-ENDICOTT COMPANY

*from 1915 to 1927*




MR. CYRENIUS ADELBERT NEWCOMB, JR.

Taken 1929

YRENIUS ADELBERT NEWCOMB, Jr., was born in the City of Detroit on January 14, 1871, in a two-story frame house on Woodward Avenue, just above Charlotte Avenue, where now stands the Hotel Du Nord.

It is perhaps worthy of note, just here, that the Woodward Avenue of the 70's, 80's and 90's and the Woodward Avenue of 1929 present features as different as can well be imagined. In 1871 (the year of the Franco-German war, by the way) Woodward Avenue was becoming an avenue of rare attractiveness and beauty; a perfect forest of fine old trees stretched their leafy boughs across a thoroughfare of very unusual attractiveness. Artistically arranged flower gardens beautified the grounds of many of the handsome residences, which lined the historic avenue on both sides, adding greatly to the wonderful beauty of the principal thoroughfare of our city during these years.

Today our Woodward Avenue is one of the most splendid business avenues on this continent. From the Detroit River to the Grand Boulevard and beyond, it is business, business, business, broken only here and there by historic churches and the fine open spaces where stand our famous Art Institute and Public Library.

HEN the subject of this biography was about three years old the family moved into the beautiful home erected by Mr. C. A. Newcomb, Sr., at 1085 Woodward Avenue. (See page 14.)

This fine family residence occupied a lot 200 feet on Woodward Avenue and was 250 feet in depth. The house was built 60 feet back from the sidewalk.

As the picture shows, the house was built three stories high with a cupola on top. The main hall ran straight through the main portion with connections through the rear and kitchen wings. On the south side of the hall were located the living room and dining room, both rooms measuring about 30 feet long and 20 feet wide; and on the north side of the hall were located the double parlors. All these rooms were finished in black walnut with heavy sliding or folding doors. Later the north parlors were refinished in curly maple. (The large sideboard in the dining room at "Junipers" was made from the walnut that was removed from the north parlors.)

Just a word here regarding the construction of the house itself. The studding, in keeping with the custom of the period, was very high. The first floor about 16 feet, the second 14 feet, and the third 12 feet.



THE BOYHOOD HOME OF C. A. NEWCOMB, JR.

Upper Picture—Interior view of the double parlors. Lower Picture—The home itself, exterior view. For fuller particulars see following pages.



LONG, wide, straight stairway led to the second floor hall which matched the first floor hallway.

Two large bedrooms were located on each side of the hall, the rear room on the south side (an extra large room) was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Newcomb. The front room on the south side was the room allotted to Miss Newcomb (the only daughter), and the two north rooms were the guest rooms—(by the way, it may be noted just at this point that in later years C. A. Newcomb, III, was born in the northeast room).

Over the kitchen wing were the boys' rooms and the rooms for the maids. Later the third floor was furnished for the boys.

The location of the Newcomb family residence was practically in the country. All around were stretches of vacant property. Directly across Woodward Avenue was a cow pasture, a fine 20-acre open field. Flanking this open space were half a dozen or more pieces of vacant land. Back of the house, vacant lands extended for miles with only a few detached farm houses here and there.



Photographs  
of  
C. A. NEWCOMB, JR.

- No. 1. His picture when 8 months old.  
No. 2. His picture when 11 years old.  
No. 3. His picture when 13 years old.

**H**ORSES, cows, chickens, were kept, and the children had their chores for Saturday and after school in the yard, gardening, raking the leaves, etc., etc.

This house was occupied by the family until sold in the early 1900's.

From these comfortable home surroundings, C. A. Newcomb, Jr., when about 7 years old, started in the first grade of our public schools—the Willis School on Willis Avenue, then a four-room wooden building, housing only four grades. From this school he went to the Cass School at Second and Grand River, it being the nearest to his home. On completion of the brick Willis School, he returned there for the last half of his eighth grade work. On his graduation from the grammar school he attended the Capitol High School. Thence he went to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, graduating therefrom in 1893 with the degree of "*Bachelor of Science*."

He joined the Psi Upsilon Fraternity where he lived during his Sophomore and Junior year.

Returning to Detroit he entered his father's store, as stock boy, where, after a period of six months, much to his own surprise, he was placed on the regular payroll at a salary of ten dollars per week. Later he was promoted to the receiving room—checking up merchandise, etc., etc., and, when not otherwise engaged, acting as floorman.

**I**N THE spring of 1895 Mr. Newcomb was appointed buyer for the blanket and linen departments, then located on the first floor, and on the death of Charles Endicott in the spring of 1896 was made a partner.

In 1903 the business was incorporated with C. A. Newcomb, Sr., as President, H. Byron Scott and George T. Moody, Vice-Presidents, John Endicott, Treasurer, C. A. Newcomb, Jr., Secretary, and Howard R. Newcomb (a younger son) as a director.

The officers remained the same until March 9, 1915, when Cyrenius Adelbert Newcomb, Sr., passed to his eternal reward. C. A. Newcomb, Jr., was then elected President and the business so continued without change until sold.

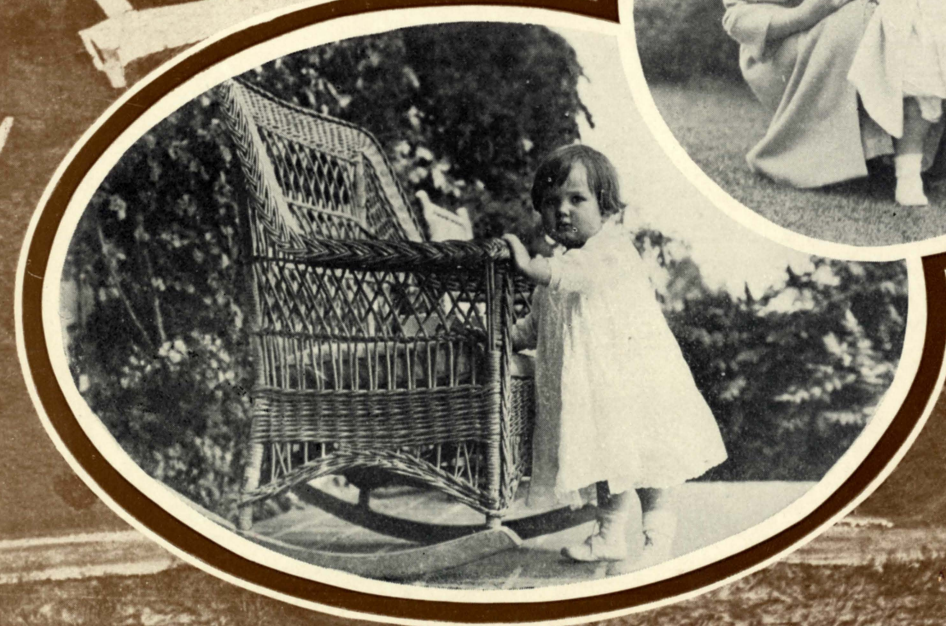
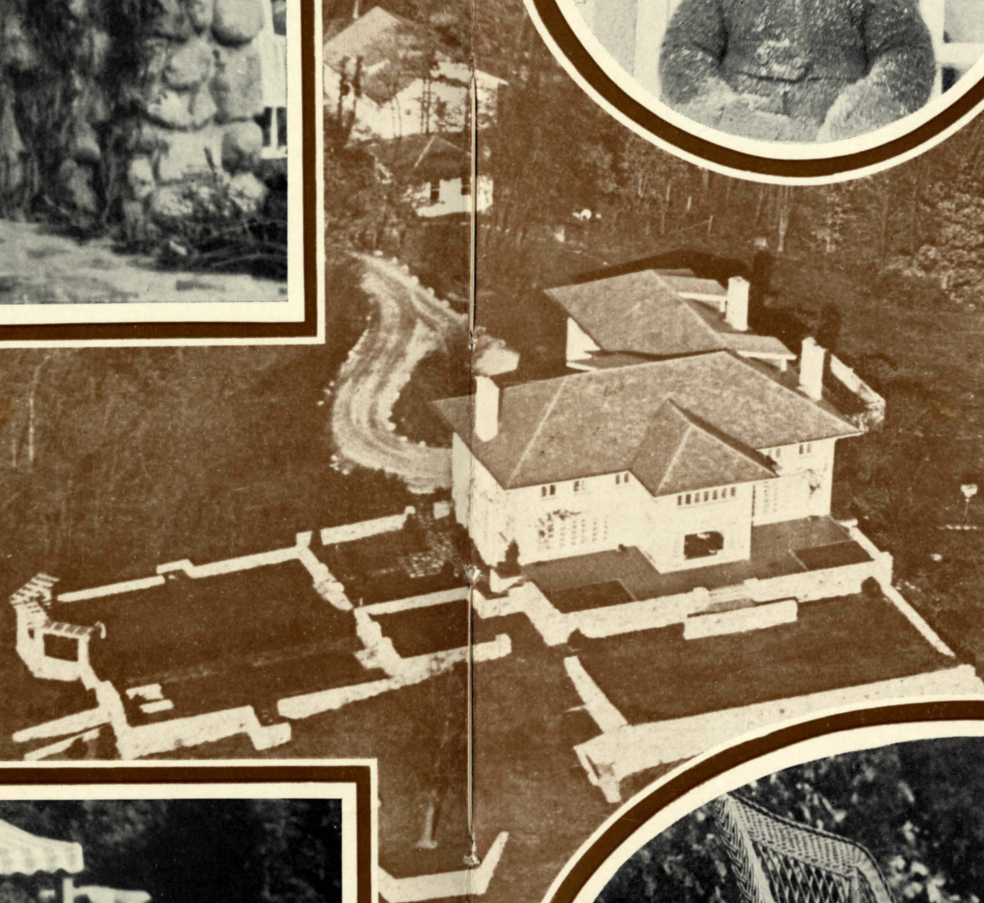
These business details out of the way, we must go back to the private life and story of Cyrenius Adelbert Newcomb, Jr.

On December 16, 1896, the subject of our biographical sketch was married to Miss Kellie, daughter of Ronald Scott Kellie, late of this city, and granddaughter of John Smith Jenness who came to Michigan via the Erie Canal and across Lake Erie—there were no railroads in those days—to Detroit, removing to Almont, Michigan, where he established an excellent business, selling out to good advantage to Henry Stephens and settling finally in Detroit about 1870.



### Portraits of

Cyrenius Adelbert Newcomb, Jr., and Mrs. Cyrenius Adelbert Newcomb, Jr., (née Brownie Jenness Kellie) at the time of their marriage.





*The home of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Newcomb, Jr., 164 Putnam Ave., from 1898 to 1910, where Alice and Jenness were born.*

**A**FTER their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Newcomb, Jr., made their home in the Verona Apartment Building on West Ferry Avenue, remaining there until the marriage of Miss Newcomb, sister of C. A. Newcomb, Jr., when the young couple moved to the home of Mr. C. A. Newcomb, Sr., remaining there for about a year. In the early fall of 1898 Mr. Newcomb purchased a residence at 164 Putnam Avenue, remaining in this convenient city home until 1910, when he sold this property.

**H**E THEN moved into the Addison Apartments, where he remained for just one year, thence to an apartment on Rowena Street, where the family remained until August, 1917.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Newcomb, Jr., as follows: Cyrenius Adelbert Newcomb, III, Dec. 26, 1897; Alice Sedgwick Newcomb, Oct. 24, 1900; John Jenness Newcomb, Jan. 23, 1903. The two older ones are married and have families of their own.

Mr. C. A. Newcomb, Jr., has been and is much interested in the club life of our city.

He has for many years been a member of the Detroit Boat Club, of which he was a director for eight years and president for two years.

He is a life member of the University Club, which club had its beginning over Tom Swan's Saloon, and later in an old church on Griswold Street, then in the old Walker Homestead, northeast corner Fort and Shelby Streets, and since about 1900 located in the John Newberry home on Jefferson Avenue, which is now owned by the club. Mr. Newcomb was secretary of this club for three years.

Mr. Newcomb is also a member of the Orchard Lake Country Club.

**M**R. NEWCOMB is also a member of the "Old Club" of Sainte Claire Flats and of the Bloomfield Hills Country Club, of which he was a director for 7½ years and president for two years, retiring in 1927.

Mr. Newcomb is also a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants. His membership in this, perhaps most coveted of all societies in America, comes to the Newcomb side of the family through *Governor Bradford* and on the mother's side through *Digory Priest*.

Mr. Newcomb during his business career was also associated with various outside companies. He was a director of the "Michigan Railway Supply Company." When this company sold their brake beam business to the "American Brake Beam Company of Chicago, Ill.," he became a director thereof, retiring when this company sold out.

In 1899 he was one of the organizers and a director of the "Peninsular Portland Cement Company" of Jackson, Mich. Later he sold his interests in this company, at the same time resigning his directorate.

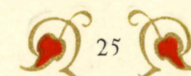
In 1915 he succeeded his father as director of the "Anderson Electric Car Company" (this city), and when the name of this company was changed to the "Towson Body Company" he continued as director until the company was sold to the "Murray Body Corporation."



**I**N JANUARY, 1915, Mr. Newcomb was elected to the board of the "German American Bank"; two years later he was made a Vice-President and continued as such until the bank was sold to the "Griswold National Bank" in February, 1927, when he sold his interests and resigned as Vice-President and director.

During the fourteen years that Mr. Newcomb was connected with this bank he was continuously a member of the executive committee. In 1917 the name of the "*German American Bank*" was changed to the "*First State Bank of Detroit*."

It is perhaps worthy of note that during all the years of their married life, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Newcomb, Jr., and family always made their home as near as possible to the home of C. A. Newcomb, Sr., not only because of the great filial affection existing between Father and Son, but also in order that the younger generation might remain in constant touch with the older, the father not only of C. A. Newcomb, Jr., but also the founder of a successful business known from coast to coast for splendid integrity and uprightness in all business transactions, whether large or small.





**M**RS. C. A. NEWCOMB, Jr. (née Brownie Jenness Kellie) was born March 23rd, 1874, in Detroit. Mrs. Newcomb attended the "*Liggett School*," from which she graduated, and where she was a recognized leader in class activities.

**I**N THE year 1915-'16, Mr. C. A. Newcomb, Jr., now President of the Newcomb Endicott Company, purchased 150 acres of vacant land in Bloomfield Hills; this property or estate is now widely known as "Junipers." Here, Mr. Newcomb built for himself the home now occupied by himself and family. This residence is situated on a commanding eminence, with magnificent prospects of fine woods, hills and dales to the north, south, east and west.

The 150 acres is made up largely of woods and water, about 60 to 70 acres of woods and a string of lakes stretching across the entire estate greatly enhances the charm and beauty of "Junipers."

No public hunting or fishing is permitted, and birds receive an almost paternal care. These winged creatures are very numerous and are increasing in numbers and variety, owing doubtless to the protection given them.

On pages 32, 33, 36 and 37 will be found many photographic pictures of "Junipers" with inserts illustrating the happy home life of Mr. C. A. Newcomb, Jr., and family. On page 40 "Junipers" is shown in its beautiful winter garb.



"Junipers"—Beautiful for situation and rarely attractive surroundings.



Photographic Views of "Junipers" and its pleasing out-of-door attractiveness.

**A**S HAS already been intimated in these pages, Mr. Newcomb is fond of the great out-of-doors. Sailing, fishing and hunting are perhaps his favorite sports.

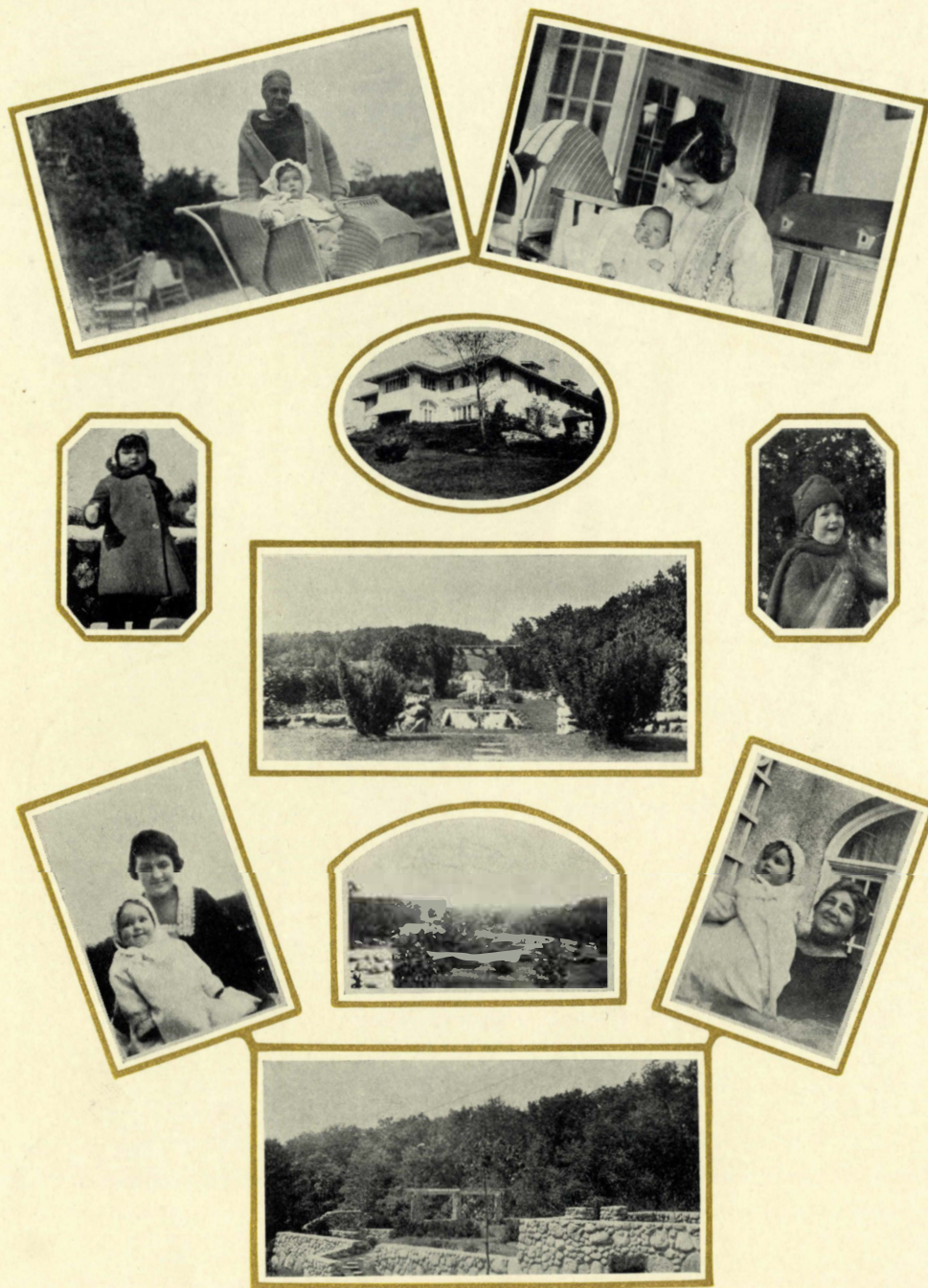
The lakes on his own estate are small, comparatively, too small indeed for the sailboat, but Orchard Lake is near, and here it is that pleasure is found in the sailboat. If, however, the lakes on his estate are too small for the sailboat, these lakes are well stocked with a fine variety of fish, and great pleasure is to be had in manipulating the hook and line.

Then Mr. Newcomb also finds time to study nature and as far as possible protect the animal and bird life on his estate.

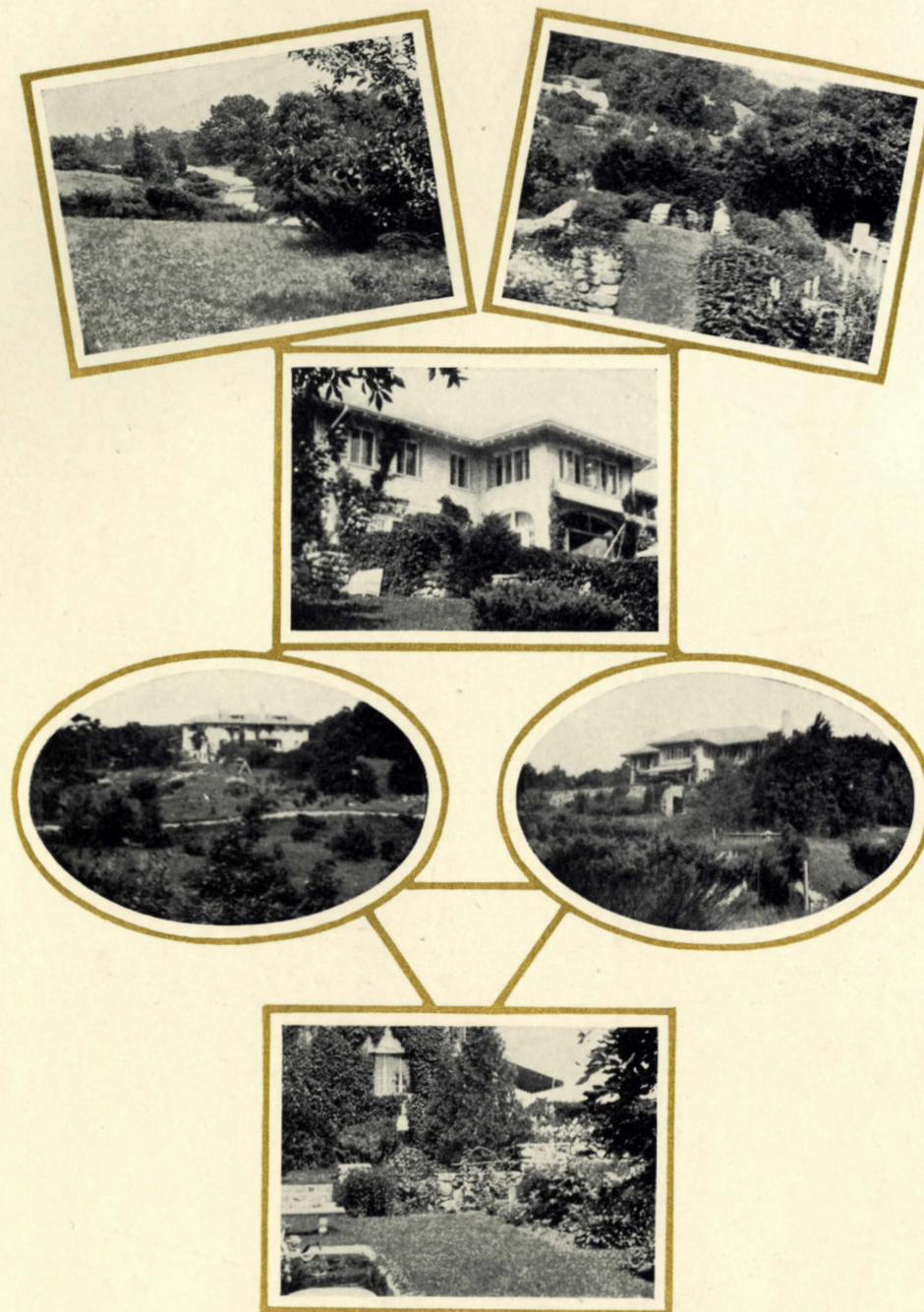
We have already said that Mr. Newcomb's home is built on a quite commanding eminence—about 100 feet above the water level of the lakes; and surrounding this attractive home Mr. Newcomb has had constructed a number of terraces, stairways and roadways, thus adding greatly to the picturesqueness of the scene and at the same time enabling Mr. Newcomb to beautify these terraces with an abundance of flowers.



Mrs. Warren Scripps Booth (née Alice Sedgewick Newcomb) and her three children, Barbara Alice, Marjorie Jean and Sally.



"Junipers," its home life and surroundings.



Photographic views of "Junipers" and its surroundings.



"Junipers" in the winter time.

**A** STUDY of the different photographic scenes of "Junipers," its home and surroundings, will readily suggest to the readers of this simple biography that surely nature intended that, in such rarely beautiful surroundings, just such a home should be built. In a word, here you have the *Home Beautiful*, beautiful in itself and beautiful for situation. Here nature seems to have exerted herself to the utmost, and the finished picture a veritable glimpse of the Paradise of God. A pleasant place to live in and a pleasant place to "lay me doon and dee" as the Scottish poet sings.

Just a word about the interior. It is fitted up with every modern convenience and furnished in keeping with the combined cultured taste and refinement of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Newcomb, Jr., the delightful host and hostess of this charming and restful home bearing the name of "Junipers."

In closing, may we for a moment invite your attention to page 36 of this biography—what a tribute to receive from the employees of the store; picture if you can the joy and pleasure of Mr. Newcomb when this *priceless treasure* was handed to him by his employees, and picture if you can the joy of bringing to his home this wonderful tribute. Money could not buy this treasure.

THE END

**B**E IT RESOLVED that we extend our sincere thanks to the Directors of the Newcomb--Endicott Company for their kindly consideration of our welfare in giving to us, for rest and recreation, the Saturdays during July and August, with full pay, in addition to our regular vacations.

**B**E IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we pledge ourselves, as one harmonious family, to strive by every means in our power to be true to the traditions of our Institution and in order that our Customers may know our feelings, be it ordered that a copy of these resolutions be published at our expense in The Detroit News, The Detroit Free Press, and The Detroit Times, on Sunday August 9, 1925. . . .

**B**E IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that these resolutions be suitably engrossed and given to our honored President **MR. C. H. NEWCOMB, JR.** as a slight token of our appreciation.

*The* EMPLOYEES of . . .  
NEWCOMB-ENDICOTT COMPANY