

THE HISTORY OF ROTARY IN SHANGHAI

(Continued from last issue. This is the 2nd part of an article taken from a paper read before the Rotary Club of Shanghai by Past President "HAWKS" HAWKINGS)

The Russian School

Nothing in the history of the Club has excited more interest both as a Club and amongst the individual members as that which was started by one of our members, "Rex" King.

Some of you will remember that there was a very large influx of Russians in 1924 and "Rex" King wrote an article for the "Pagoda" which appeared, on July 17th, 1924. This is what it said:

"For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven"

Is it not time that we took up the question of the Russian children on the street—the little mites who stand the whole day long in the broiling sun or the pouring rain trying to sell things that nobody wants, who feed off hawkers trays or not at all, who are subject to the continual insults and jeers of the Chinese coolies. It must be stopped and quickly. Cannot one of our many committees take it up and get busy.

What if our own children were doing this?

How should we feel about it then? Try and imagine it? Day after day, night after night. The pity of it. Wealthy Shanghai. The prestige and influence of Western civilization—can it allow this to continue?

Outside the French Club on the "Glorious" 14th were two little mites trying to sell flags at 12.30 a.m. There were tears in their eyes, eyes that could scarcely keep open, they should have been abed hours before. Possibly no bed to go to, and yet some of these children may have been born and nurtured amid all the luxuries and comforts of life—some may not.

What matters it whether it is somebody else's business or not, whether their parents are to blame or not, whether we are wrong or right, we must get these poor little mites off the streets.

If the committee wants money they have only to say so. Is there one amongst us who dare refuse to help to right this terrible wrong. What is to prevent them getting into touch at once with some of the leading Russians and organizing some means of taking charge of these little martyrs.

We dare not refuse this charge to help these little outcasts in a strange land through no fault of their own.

Why should they suffer? If there is any manhood in us let us stop it and at once. If dollars are wanted they will be forthcoming.

"For inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these, ye did it unto Me—" and if we do it not?

A note appeared in the "Pagoda" which read as follows:—

The Children

Attention is called to "Rex's" article on page 2 with reference to the Russian children. This is a matter that must be taken up seriously. There must be no delay. It has to be attended to right away. It is a chance which the Public Affairs Committee should jump at. The main substance of the article appeared in the N. C. Daily News as a letter although it was originally written for the "Pagoda", but as it was too late for last week's issue the writer felt it imperative to get a move on and "The Pagoda" is not going to let it rest."

Neither the "Pagoda" nor the members of the Club allowed it to rest. Article after article appeared, and some clever cartoons showing Rotarians replete after a heavy tiffin at the Astor House, and a poor half starved inmate of the Russian School existing on \$3.40 a month. Sub-Committees were formed and the whole membership was energized. The complete story would take too long to tell and so I must touch briefly on the outstanding events.

A boarding school was formed to look after as many as could be accommodated, and additional appeals were made to members and through members to the Community. We really took the Russian School to heart.

Here is a typical letter which appeared in the "Pagoda" on March 25, 1926.

Russian School

The Editor, "Pagoda"

Dear "Doug."—

We will appreciate an insertion of this appeal for the Russian School in the next issue of the "Pagoda".

This School, as most Rotarians know, is on Rue Chapsal. At the present time, there are 69 destitute White Russian children attending the school, 47 of whom are boarders and 22 day pupils. However, all 69 children are served three meals a day at the school. The average monthly cost of keeping up this school during 1925 was \$651. At the present time, the cost is running between \$700 and \$800 per

month, due to a larger number of pupils in the school now than during the average month of 1925.

The income of the school is now well under \$600. This amount is not only insufficient to take care of the present expenses but it is most urgent that the school be extended to take care of a small portion of the applications from destitute children whom the school is now unable to accommodate.

Furthermore, an extension of the present facilities is an urgent matter, not only to take an additional number of children off the streets and put them in school, but to separate the boys and girls who live at the school. Incidentally, several of the children are 12 to 15 years of age. It is proposed that an additional house be rented at a rental of Tls. 40 per month to accommodate 20 additional pupils and use this additional house for girls, at least the older girls. This extension will increase the expense of the school a minimum of \$200 per month. Taking into consideration the present excess of expenditure over income, and the urgently required extension, it will be necessary to increase the income \$350 to \$400 per month. We are not proposing that Rotarians or the Rotary Club contribute all of this amount as we are reasonably sure that further contributions can be obtained from the Russian Confraternity, the French Municipal Council and possibly one or two other sources. Assuming these increased contributions are received, there will still be a shortage of about \$200 per month, and we hope to obtain a good portion of this amount from Rotarians.

In the past, the Rotary Club has done a great deal for the school, and various Rotarians have been monthly subscribers to this very deserving cause, but through members going home, etc., there are very few of us who are now helping, in fact only two are regular subscribers.

Monthly donations will be gratefully accepted by the committee. There is no trouble attached to the payments, as Messrs. Kelly & Walsh kindly send their shroff to those who subscribe and give a receipt for the amounts received. Will any member, wishing to help this charity kindly let one of the undersigned know, either at one of our meetings or by phone, and let their names be put on the roll of monthly subscribers? No amount is too small, and none too large.

For the benefit of those who do not know the details of the school, and as an assurance that their money will not be wasted, we would inform you that these children are kept in food for \$3.25 per head per month. Certainly this does not seem like wasting money, does it?

A few monthly subscribers will give other

children educational advantages and three meagre meals a day, and you will have the satisfaction of supporting one of the finest charitable organizations in Shanghai.

Now then Rotarians, put your hands in your pocket, and then take them out again with something in them.

Are there any objections to following Corny's suggestion of a 20 cent collection every tiffin, and devoting the proceeds to the Russian School?

Yours in Rotary,

Jasper Marsh

Mike Cheek.

This school, however, was only a temporary affair. It soon became evident that a permanent home must be secured, and this Club can be justly proud of its Committee which planned and schemed and at last saw the fruits of its labour. You can see it too—in Frenchtown.

There was the dinner, dance and raffle held at the Majestic at which we made over \$17,760

The French Municipal Authorities were approached and leased a piece of land in perpetuity for \$1.00 per annum.

"Hans" Berents gave his services as Architect, and supervised the building of the school, free of all charge.

The \$17,760 made at the Majestic became the nucleus of the building fund and when the cost was added up it was discovered that \$85,000 was required in all to start the school free of debt.

Then the whole of Shanghai was taken in hand but what put the seal of success on the enterprise was the bright idea of a beauty contest. Twenty-two young lovelies of Shanghai were induced to enter, the prize being a free round trip to Hollywood on a President steamer, presented by the late Harold Dollar, where the successful candidate would be tried for the movies. The original idea was that the public would buy \$1 tickets which would entitle them to a vote, and the holder of the ticket could cast his vote where he pleased. The twenty-two girls who were selling tickets did not take long to discover that they might spend a lot of energy and time selling tickets which might be cast in favour of a competitor. To avoid that kind of competition they sold tickets, and then took them away with them. Some of the girls were willing to, and did buy back the votes for kisses. I have no doubt that some here can testify that the tickets were cheap at the price—not always a Dollar. The final count was to take place at the Canidrome, and as the time approached excitement mounted as the daily reports were made public giving the number of votes the various candidates had

secured to date. Some of the girls well in the running for the prize staged hold-ups and one of our most respected Chinese members—a past President of the Club—had his office invaded by a girl with considerable charm. He generously offered her \$100 but nothing doing! And it was not until he doubled the stake that she left.

As the fateful day drew near it became evident that there were only two girls in the running, and, of course, stories circulated as to who were backing them and to what extent.

Those who were present at the Canidrome are never likely to forget the scene. Huge boards had been erected on which the names of the beauties appeared with their scores, so everyone in the room could watch the progress of the contest.

Midnight was the closing hour. The supporters of the two girls were obtaining votes by fair means or foul, and behind the scenes were those two backers, one prepared to go a long way and the other to the limit. The figures rose higher and higher and closer and closer and Jasper Marsh, Treasurer, and Telly Tellefsen, Secretary, of the fund were kept busy. But strategy won. A blank cheque was secured made out except for the amount and at the stroke of twelve was filled in with a figure which took its owner to the top of the poll.

The successful girl got her trip to Hollywood and the required amount was obtained for the school fund.

We wrote to the Rotary Club of Los Angeles asking them if they would be kind enough to meet the steamer and look after our protege, and their cable was right on the spot. Just one word "SURE".

A board of Trustees of the School was formed and it was only right and proper that "Rex" King should be its first President. When he left Shanghai for England in November 1925 our President, Sam Wolfe, was elected and has held the position ever since. Hans Berents is also a Trustee and Telly Tellefsen has been its Secretary for the past ten years and a number of Rotarians still take an interest in the School and give it financial assistance.

The Accounts for the "School for Russian Children, Building Fund" show the following income:—

Rotary Club—Ball	\$17,760
Rotary Club—Donations	\$ 541
Movie Queen Contest	\$32,814
Caisse des Oeuvres	\$ 4,000
Sun Life Insurance	\$ 885
Proceeds of various "drives", Donations and Subscriptions	\$29,000
Cost of Building and Furnishings etc.	<u>\$85,000</u>

As will be seen from the following, which appeared in the Pagoda, the Club at a time was very ambitious.

"Annual Convention at Shanghai Hurrah for Shanghai

The fellows over there are all prepared up over their plans to invite the International Convention to Shanghai in 1927. And they mean business. They have every man of the club working on this, and are calling on all their former members now in the U.S.A. to aid them. Among these is our own Ted Doremus, who is a past President of the Shanghai Club. They are stressing the great opportunity of getting the East and West acquainted, and are snapping their fingers at Kipling's famous "And Never the Twain Shall Meet." Perhaps they may not secure the convention, but they are going to put Shanghai on the Rotary map and will at least prove to the world that they are a bunch of live wires and not afraid to tackle a big job. Success to 'em, b'gosh!" (From Bulletin of Seattle Club).

London or Shanghai

From the last number of the "London Rotarian" just to hand, we note with interest that a meeting of the Council held on October 30th it was decided "to invite Rotary International to hold the Convention for 1927 in London". This is a serious competitor for our own club's bid for the 1927 convention, London is numerically more than twice our strength and if Rotary International of the British Isles is behind the London Club, Shanghai will need to work harder than ever if our proposal is to go through with headquarters.

The following extract from the Rotary Club of Calcutta's Organ "The Chaka" serves to show that our visitors on Round the World Tours, are doing their bit on our behalf, although in this instance, Rotarian Johnson appears to have cut down our proposal for an International Convention to one embracing clubs between Japan and India only!

International Convention in Shanghai (Pagoda, Feb. 9, 1928)

Sandy Gordon proposed that Rotary International should be written to in regard to the Convention, explaining that Shanghai Rotary was not in a position to make an offer now as conditions were so uncertain, but that it was hoped this might be possible in two or three years' time. Upon Lu Jee offering to mention it in his report this course was agreed upon.

Dr. Way Sung New's Orthopedic Hospital

In 1928 and 1929 a great deal of interest was taken in this hospital founded by the late Rotarian Doctor Way Sung New with a gift of \$10,000 from a thankful patient.

It was never actually made a major object although many meetings were held to discuss the matter and Committees formed to consider it. It was eventually decided that as the hospital depended on one man, "Doc." New, for its continuity, and his health was not good, the Club would not be justified in donating any large sum to it.

Whenever possible collections and fines were steered towards it and a number of Rotarians subscribed regularly and for some years once a year a usual Thursday meeting was given up and held on a Saturday at the hospital on Siccawei Road.

On the death of "Doc." New the hospital was transferred to Hangchow and now forms part of the Church Missionary Hospital there.

Chow and Rotary Punch

A story in itself would be the hunt for chow. Judging from the reports, about the only place the Club did not try was Del Monte—probably because it was a bit too far.

Palace Hotel
Astor House
Cafe Parisian
Ladow's Tavern
Majestic
Cathay—Jacobean Room
Carlton Cafe
New Carlton Cafe
Metropole

There were chow troubles in those days. Listen to this:

'A planked steak is hard to bear, but a plank steak especially a hard-wood one such as we had last week, is about the limit. What was the matter with the punch, too, and why did the supply run short?'

This punch was a concoction known as "Rotary Punch" which was served at Rotary tiffins. In Bulletin No. 43 we get this:—

"Last week Lawyer Fleming (called "Bill") Complained that the punch made him ill.

"The colour—pale pink,

"The taste—like red ink,

"The aroma—like nothing on earth,

"Have given my innards a chill;

"Every hour I must swallow a pill.

"So never for lunch

"Drink Rotary punch

"Unless you're insured right from birth".'

Poetry

Judging by the number of verses which appeared during the first eight or ten years of "The Pagoda", I think the Editors must have subscribed to a number of publications and cribbed extensively. They were a curious

mixture of sentiment and fun. Here is a sample.

Unfortunately the author's name is not given.

Ode to a Kicker

I was a kicker
When I was on earth
I started to kick
On the day of my birth
I kicked if my panties
Were pinned on too tight
I kicked at the darkness
I kicked at the light
I never was satisfied
Could always find blame
And the older I grew
The worse I became.
I kicked until kicking
Became part of my life
If you don't believe it
Just call up my wife.
I kicked without rhyme
Without reason or sense
I kicked at the income
I kicked at expense
Till somehow or other
Though I was a dub
At last I got into
The Rotary Club.
But that did not help me
As much as you'd think
I kicked till I drove
Half the Club to strong drink.
What was Rotary to me?
It was only a name
And I went right along
With my kick just the same.
I kicked at the members
I kicked at the meals
I kicked at the prices
And called them all steals.
At blue-ribbon kicking
My light was not hid
I kicked hard against
Everything that they did
And no matter how busy
The rest of them got
Do you think I would help them?
Well I should say not!
I kicked on the programs
I kicked on the Hotel
I kicked myself sick
And never got well.
Still I kept right on kicking
Till I got out of breath
And left thus alone
Kicked myself right to death.
So here now I lie
And my friends all have said
He has kicked his last kick
Thank God, he is dead.

The "Big Brother" Movement

In 1920 Hal Norman, who later became President of the Club and was Editor of the "Pagoda", pointed out in an article that Rotary Clubs in America and other parts of the world were doing a lot for under-privileged boys. He felt that in Shanghai there was not the same kind of opportunity because all foreign boys had their homes here and parents to look after them and appeared to be well circumstanced, but he thought the energies which could have been put into a piece of work of that sort could be directed into another channel. He referred to the large number of young men arriving in Shanghai to join firms who, outside of their office acquaintances, knew very few if anyone else. He suggested that each Rotarian should seek out and become acquainted with one of them and act as a Big Brother to him.

On October 7th, 1920, the whole matter was brought before the Club by him in the following manner:—

"Before speaking about our proposed "Big Brother" activities, I should like, very briefly, to refresh your memories regarding the work carried out among boys by Rotary Clubs in America and England, and to emphasize the importance in which this branch of work is held by the International Association of Rotary Clubs.

Albert S. Adams, last President of the I. A. of R. C., says, "Boys Work is the most appealing work, the work with the greatest possibilities ever undertaken by Rotary; the work that carries on year after year, and the work that gives a challenge to the best that is in us of brain and heart."

I think that the same may be said of the "Big Brother" work that we hope to undertake in Shanghai.

Redemptive and Creative

There are two kinds of Boys Work—the Redemptive and the Creative. As regards the actual work undertaken, some of the most important branches of this are in connection with physical development, juvenile delinquency, public health including social hygiene, vocational guidance and education, nationalization, legislation and law enforcement, civic co-operation, publicity, etc. Existing organizations are helped, so far as may be needed and is possible, to be of use to boys, as there is need both for rendering such assistance and for initiating new work.

Probably you will all agree with the statements I have made recently in the Pagoda that there is little scope for us to get to work among the foreign boys of Shanghai.

There may be opportunities for us, however, and therefore I would propose that, as in America they have a "Big Brother" sub-committee in connection with their Boys Work, we in Shanghai should have a "Boys Work" sub-committee in connection with the central committee for our "Big Brother" movement. As we become more experienced in our work, and as our organization moves towards perfection, it may be that the "small boy department" of our main activities will develop, and that our club may be instrumental in working extensively for the welfare of not only the foreign boys of Shanghai but the Chinese as well.

And now we come to the main issue—the "Big Brother" movement. How are we to get to work?

To be able to answer this question we must examine the needs of the new, or the comparatively new, arrival in Shanghai. Once those needs are clear to us we shall be able to see, however dimly at first, how we may be of use to him:

Three types of Men

There are, I think, three principal types among the young men who arrive as strangers in our city:

- (a) The man who comes out here on contract;
- (b) The man who is transferred, or who comes on his own account, from another port;
- (c) The ambitious youngster who comes out "on spec."

While there are many firms who properly look after their employees' comfort both in and out of the office—all honour to them!—on the other hand, one regrets to say that many are too prone to look upon their young men as mere machines, the monthly cheque being regarded as the only lubrication needed to make the wheels go round. Here, then, is one activity for the committee—that is, to KEEP IN TOUCH WITH EMPLOYERS, not only those who are members of this club, but outside the club as well; so closely in touch, that it will be difficult for any young man to arrive in Shanghai without his name becoming known prior to his arrival by the committee-man responsible for keeping the Register of New Arrivals. To make this register as complete as possible, regular visits to hotels will be necessary, as well as the provision of sources of information at some of the large boarding houses.

When a young man arrives in Shanghai He Wants a Home and all that word entails. In ninety-five cases out of a hundred, he will

be a youngster who has heretofore led a clean life, who has looked upon Sunday as something more than a day on which one merely rests from the labours of the week, more than a day to be devoted entirely to self-gratification. He will be a young man who is interested in clean sport and recreation—the fact that he has come to reside in a “wet” country will probably not interest him at all. In other words, he will want to lead, so far as he can, the life to which he has been used at home. He will want the pleasant companionship of those who think as he does. He will miss his mother and his sisters, and he will pine for the free and easy association with the other sex to which he has been accustomed. Bars, gambling for high stakes (how astonished he will be to find the business of the port held up twice every year, for three days at a time, to permit of everyone having a little flutter), saturday night jags, visits to the “trenches” and places even lower in the scale will not appeal to him, and *it is up to us to see that they never do.*

Providing A Home

In an attempt to ensure this, the committee will take care of the new arrival, when necessary, first by meeting him at the jetty, and, secondly, by Providing Him with a Home. In order to do this, a Register of Homes will be kept.

This Register of Homes, if thoroughly and conscientiously done, would, in itself, be an achievement of which we might well be proud. Its preparation will involve a considerable expenditure of time and trouble, and to keep it up-to-date will be no easy task. Much spade work will be necessary but the results will be well worth the labour. While it will be the actual work of the committee to compile it, members of the club, one and all, should “do their bit” by affording the committee all assistance within their power. Our register—which, needless to say, will be a private book and accessible to the committee only—will contain all particulars regarding homes—homes in the real sense of the word, homes willing to accept as paying guests (which must mean members of the family circle) young men recommended by the “Big Brothers” Committee of the Shanghai Rotary Club.

The importance of this branch of our work cannot be overstated, for if we have real homes in which to instal our young friends, we shall have solved a great part of our difficulties. Unless a youngster has really vicious proclivities, a “home from home” will go far in helping to keep him straight.

We shall have to deal with young men of varying religious beliefs—Catholics, Episcopalians, Church of England, Baptists, Jews and

Christian Scientists, and the homes that we have to offer must be classified accordingly.”

This was followed by the appointment of the following Committee which appeared in the Rotary Pagoda of October 14th, 1920.

“Bob, George, Joe and Tommy offer their services. First Meeting held last night.

The Shanghai Rotary Club’s “Big Brother” Committee is at last an accomplished fact, and a sigh of relief ascends to the high heavens!

The members who volunteered for service and who now form the personnel of the Committee are as follows:—

- R. T. Bryan, Jnr. (Bob)
Fleming, Davies & Bryan
- J. Eichwald (Joe)
The Koster Company
- G. A. Fitch (George)
The Chinese Y.M.C.A.
- T. M. Knight (Tommy)
Du Pont Export Co.”

“Although the Committee, including the chairman (Hal Norman) numbers five, it is highly probable that the number will have to be added to in the near future. Subsequently, when the work is organized, sub-committees will have to be appointed.

The first committee meeting was held last night, the proceedings being lengthy. A rough plan of campaign was mapped out, and all arrangements made for Bob, George, Joe, Tommy and Hal to take their coats off—and keep them off!—and start in on the spadework. It’s luck for them that it’s cooler. Further particulars will be given at the next closed meeting on the 28th inst.”

On October 21st, 1920, the following Notice appeared:

“Fill in that Form”

“A letter has been sent this week to every member of the Club by the “Big Brothers” Committee, requesting assistance in connection with the compilation of the Register of Homes.

The co-operation of every Rotarian is earnestly requested, and members are asked to fill in and return the printed form attached to the letter which was sent out. Until the Register of Homes has made some headway, there is very little that the Committee can do towards commencing the necessary activities. A meeting of the Committee will take place tomorrow so—fill in that form.”

The Editor of the Pagoda who was sponsoring the “Big Brother” Movement attempted to keep interest maintained by publishing the following on November 4th, 1920:

B. B. Committee

"It is satisfactory to be able to state that a start has at last been made in compiling the Register of Homes in connection with the "Big Brother" movement. There are still far too few names on the list, however, and Rotarians are again urged to assist the Committee by supplying data.

Several names were sent, in response to the appeal in the Community Church leaflet, and it is hoped to reap a rich harvest from the letters and forms sent out to the members of the American Woman's Club through the kind instrumentality of Mrs. Lobingier.

A circular letter has been sent out to all Rotarian employers regarding new arrivals, and their co-operation in the work of the Committee is earnestly desired. A letter to non-Rotarian employers will be sent out as soon as we have sufficient homes on our list."

Apparently not much enthusiasm was engendered and a despairing last effort was made on November 18th, 1920:

"B. B." Committee

"Local firms call upon the Committee for Assistance for New Arrivals."

"A meeting of the "Big Brothers" Committee was held on Monday last at the American Club, when reports of progress made were submitted and future plans discussed.

As the net result of all the efforts made, there are still only ten homes on the register. Until more homes are secured, it is not thought advisable to circularize firms unconnected with the Rotary Club, for in view of the limited extent of the accomodation at present available, the Committee can only take care of men coming out to firms with which Rotarians are connected. Rotarian employers have already notified the Committee of six coming arrivals and three recent arrivals. Temporary accomodation has also been found (although it was not at all within the scope of the Committee's activities) for a business connection (and the business connection's wife) of another Rotarian.

As it is not desired that the extent of the Committee's work should be confined merely to finding homes for new arrivals, plans are being made to get into touch with various organizations with which young men are connected, in order to discover what assistance, if any, can be rendered. With the same end in view, the Committee is also getting into touch with the local Boy Scouts' Council."

As no further reference is made in any other "Pagoda" about this matter we can only assume that the scheme was found to be impracticable.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS & NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Originally the Board of Directors consisted of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors, seven in all, but this was later increased to nine. Nomination Day in the early years of the club was an informal affair. In 1920, for instance, out of a membership of 37 there were 23 nominations, all from the floor. In February 1925 an amendment to the Bye-Laws was proposed the object being, so say the records, "to improve upon the present somewhat promiscuous method that has prevailed."

The Amendment was duly passed and is now "Article 1—Election of Directors and Officers—Sec. 1" of the present Bye-Laws, and provides for the appointment of a Nominating Committee.

The first Nominating Committee was appointed early March 1926 and comprised Tom Britton, Corney Holgate, Lu Jee, Cy Nieh and Frank Myers. The first three later became Presidents of the club.

The system then was that nine Directors were elected and at their first meeting they elected the President and Vice-President by ballot, and the Secretary and Treasurer usually by arrangement.

On 4th March 1926, Sec. 2 of Article 1 was formulated covering, first, the election of a President, then a Vice-President followed by seven Directors, the same system as is now in force.

In 1928 Past President Burgess of the Rotary Club of Bradford, England, on a visit to Shanghai, told us that in his club the immediate Past President was included on the Board ensuring that his knowledge and experience were not lost to the club. This club introduced the same system in 1929, "Gem" Marden being the first immediate Past President to serve.

It will be remembered that there was some discussion this year covering the rights of the Nominating Committee to do other than merely advise the names of the nine members nominated by them. It is, therefore, interesting to read the report of the first Nominating Committee published on March 11, 1926. It reads:—

"In determining the list of nominees for the incoming Board of Directors, your Committee has considered and applied the following principles:—

1. New Blood (Men other than former Directors or Officers).
2. Numerical division according to nationalities.

3. Men to fill major offices.
4. Program Committee material.
5. Continuity links.
6. Classification value of individuals.
7. Individual background and personality.
8. Probability of willingness to serve, if elected.

The members had their own ideas, however, and there were other nominations, which, unfortunately, are not given in the "Pagoda," but three of them were elected to the Board including Judge Allman who was elected President.

The Committee for 1928 addressed the following to the Secretary and it was published in the "Pagoda" of March 15th, 1928.

Like all Nominating Committees that one selected this year thinks it has chosen just those 9 members of the club best fitted to guide its destinies through the 1928/9 year.

Modesty forbade our nominating all 5 of the members who, being held in such high esteem by the Board of Directors, were placed on the Nominating Committee. Carlo Bos has, however, so much which proclaimed him just the man that, much against his strenuous opposition, he was placed amongst the nominees.

We bore in mind that amongst the nine must be a suitable President, Vice President, Hon. Treasurer and perhaps Hon. Secretary. You will easily find their names amongst the nine.

The tradition of the club has been for fair representation along National lines and you will find that there are members of no less than 6 different nationalities; American, British, Chinese, French, Italian and Japanese.

Old and wise heads in Rotary were needed as ballast, and you will find 4 who are now serving on your Board. We also needed new directors from amongst the older members and also some from amongst the more energetic but perhaps newer members. These you will also find.

We realize that we are only 5 out of about 80 members and that the other 75 each has his own ideas on this subject. We shall not be the least offended if the other 75 members nominate from the floor another 9 members for the new directorate. Having experienced so great a difficulty in selecting these 9 from amongst the talent in the club we should not be greatly surprised if the nominations numbered 80, provided of course nominations were not closed before!

Again the members had other ideas and there were nine nominations from the floor, four of whom were elected.

That was the year Gem Marden was elected President and during his year of office a report of the Nominating Committee appeared, along similar lines to those I have read out, but finishing thus:—

"In determining the nomination of a representative body of nine men for the new Board, we have taken into account that, in addition to the said nine men, the immediate Past President (Gem Marden) will be ex-officio a member of the new Board. We also had in mind that both our Secretary and Treasurer can be taken on the Board as ex-officio members, and it was our thought that probably the present incumbents of these two offices might consent to carry on in offices hard to fill and on which so much of the organization of the Club depends."

Gem apparently approved of these sentiments for this report appears in the "Pagoda" of March 28th, 1929. "The members of the Club had apparently not come to the meeting last Thursday prepared to propose any further names for the new Board of Directors as, in the one minute allowed them by Gem Marden, one name alone was proposed." Another name appears as well who must have been nominated from the floor at an earlier meeting but neither was elected to the Board.

The Club has, rightly, always been jealous of its rights and lobbying has been frowned upon. I could only find one reference to it; it covered the report of the election of officers for the year 1927, when there were 20 nominations.

The report reads:—

"After the usual preliminaries "A.R." Hager raised the question of supporting the Balloting Committee's recommendations; however, he was politely told to sit down."

PAST PRESIDENTS' JEWEL

It was not until four Presidents had passed through the chair that someone thought of a Past Presidents' Jewel. I expect the idea originated because of one of the many firms in the U.S.A. who advertised Rotary Buttons and regalia in the "Rotarian."

In the "Pagoda" of August 10th, 1922 there appeared this report.

PAST PRESIDENTS

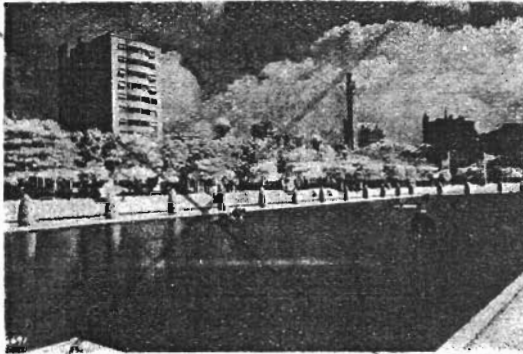
1919-1920	"Doc" Petit
1920	"Walt" Johnson
1920-1921	"Ted" Doremus
1921-1922	"Hal" Norman

(Continued on page 28)

RIO, SITE OF R.I.'S 31st ANNUAL CONVENTION

RIO de Janeiro, the capital of Brazil, second largest city in South America, will be host to the 31st annual convention of Rotary International, from June 9 to 15, 1940. The Rotary Club of Rio de Janeiro and the 58 Rotary clubs and 2,000 Rotarians of Brazil regard it a great honor and privilege to have the opportunity to serve as hosts to representatives of Rotary clubs of the world, and are determined to make the 1940 convention a great success.

In this beautiful city of a beautiful country, across the Pacific, the Atlantic, and the Mediterranean; by land, by sea, and by air, Rotarians will gather for the crowning event of a year of Rotary progress and achievement. Rotarians of almost every nationality and political and religious belief, from three-score countries, will meet in Rio as friends, to take part in the business and recreation of Rotary's first convention on the Continent of South America and to enjoy in unusual measure Rotary fellowship and inspiration. The Rio convention will be another adventure in international fellowship and understanding.



Another view of Praça Paris in Rio de Janeiro.

It is with particular pleasure that I issue this, the Official Call for the 31st annual convention of Rotary International, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 9, 10 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, 1940.

According to its membership, each Rotary club is entitled to one or more official voting delegates. As a Rotarian is expected to attend meetings of his club, so clubs are expected to be represented at the annual convention. Article VI of the By-Laws of Rotary International gives full information as to the rights and responsibilities of a club with reference to the annual convention, delegates, alternates, proxies, credentials, registration fees, etc.

I not only invite but urge all Rotarians and their ladies to accept the cordial invitation of the Rotarians of Rio de Janeiro to come to Rio de Janeiro next June to help make the 1940 convention the most successful in the history of Rotary International.

Issued this first day of October, 1939, A.D. at Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

WALTER D. HEAD,
President, Rotary International

THE HISTORY OF ROTARY IN SHANGHAI

(Continued from page 18)

A very pleasant ceremony was performed by President "H. B." Lane at last week's meeting when he presented "Doc" and "Ted" with the Past President's Medal. "Walt" and "Hal" are in other corners of the globe, the first in San Francisco and the second in London and their medals are being sent to them. The Gold Medal is suspended from a bar on which are the words, "Past President" and the year of office. The medal itself bears the Shanghai Rotary emblem in the centre of the obverse, showing the Rotary Wheel, the Pagoda and the words Rotary Club of Shanghai. They are real beauties and we are proud to have them worn by such fine men as our Past Presidents. We love them all for they have done much for our Club. We are

soon to lose "Ted" for he returns to his home country but it is a great privilege to have "Doc" still serving the Club, as he has these past years carrying on the office of Secretary with all its arduous work."

The jewels were made in America and six were ordered. When these were exhausted Messrs. Boyes Bassett of Shanghai made replicas from one of the originals.

PRESIDENT'S JEWEL

The President's Jewel was presented by the Raven group of members, whose names are engraved on the back. They are:—

F. J. Raven
Tom Britton
Hugo Sandor
Browine Brown

(To be Continued in the next issue)