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Our Christmas

Oh, how sweet, how unforgettable it was! Oh, how grateful we all feel but how sorry we are that not all our friends abroad could have been with us! It is therefore our privilege to give them now a short account of what our Christmas celebration has been.

Our club was already pretty crowded at 8 P.M., for every one was eager to miss nothing of the event. First, there was the usual pleasure of meeting friends, pals and acquaintances and then many of us wanted to choose a book from the large display on the book-shelf as a gift for a friend. The rooms were decorated with taste and the green Christmas-tree in one corner all ablaze with candles and golden balls, stars and silver threads, was a constant reminder of the purpose of our gathering. At 9.30 P.M. our President Rolf officially opened the ceremony by welcoming first the large number of members from so many countries and cities and then by calling upon those who had been kind enough to prepare a song, a recitation for the occasion. The ever beautiful words and the tune of «Silent Night, Holy Night» sung together gave at once to our gathering a Christmas atmosphere. This programme was greatly enjoyed by all but it would not have been complete if Rolf had not spoken to us the way he did. He raised the deep significant question of whether we had a right to celebrate Christmas. Such a question, which has already been answered in the negative by thousands of outside people who persist in considering us as human beings of depraved minds, as the scum of humanity and as the very people Christ would reject, must, of course, also be seriously studied in our midst if we want to be sincere and if we wish to celebrate the birth of Jesus in all frankness of heart. But did Christ reject us? No, and thousand times no. We can say this not because we want to indulge in wishful thinking but because of the very Message he has given us through the Scriptures. Indeed, those Scriptures condemn those having intimate intercourse with the same sex and the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans clearly points out the things that, at first glance, might give the impression of condemning us all. The Scriptures, however, speak of vice. We know, however, that our kind is no vice since a human being born that way cannot change anything to his intimate inclination. The Scriptures, therefore, do not condemn us but all those normal people who, satiated with the normal pleasures of their nature, try now to find new sensations in their own sex. This is a difference we should proclaim among all our dear friends with a deep religious urge and who live in fear whilst, as we all know, Christ does not want us to live in bondage but in freedom and peace. The key to our problem is to go to the cradle of Bethlehem and, just as the astrologers did after having found Jesus, to return by another way. Another way! If we have met Christ, we shall all have to take a different direction afterwards, but how much happier we then shall be! The Bible will then afterwards become our daily bread, its words will have meaning, they will shed light on our path and they will be the precious food we shall store in our spiritual barn so as to be able to supply our own needs and the needs of all the many friends that will come to us for advice and help. And then we shall read the same letter by Paul to the Romans with a different spirit, no longer of fear, of guilt, but with a clear conscience for we shall have discovered, with eyes that do see and with ears that do hear, the wonderful first verse of the 8th Chapter in which it is so clearly written: «So there is no condemnation any more for those who are in union with Christ Jesus.» —

When Rolf spoke highly of Him whose birthday we were now celebrating, the whole gathering was in dead silence, every word uttered was being duly meditated and we

could feel that the bread of life that was being given us was performing a new miracle again by taking away our fears and by replacing it by confidence, joy in life and hope in the future. We really did have the conviction that we also had the right to belong to the flock about which Christ spoke, for he said: «there will be one flock and one shepherd», and everybody knows how different the sheep can be. Christ did not say: «there will be one church»! What a world-wide difference! All these words are here again to clothe us with confidence and hope. Oh, what would outsiders have said if they had witnessed our Christmas celebration! They would quickly have changed their minds about us for they would have been stunned to their hearts by seeing that the birth of Christ was being celebrated with the highest respect and the noblest feelings.

Many of us felt tears filling their eyes when Rolf closed the official part of our meeting by reading a most touching poem which is a prayer to Jesus by one of us who can offer Him in sacrifice nothing but toil, tears and a long life of intimate sufferings, loneliness and oppression . .

The lights of the Christmas-tree shed warmth and happiness among us and we felt cheerful again when Santa-Claus arrived in a merry mood in order to divide the rewards to the officials of our club. Then every member also received a lovely gift and the gathering ended up in the early morning after long hours of happy merriment in true friendship.

Our absent comrades in the English speaking world were not forgotten. We know that it will take time for us to find them in a large number but we are sure that if our readers make a special effort to get new members, we shall see our membership-list grow longer as the months pass by. We wish to thank all those who help us in this connection and hope that our combined efforts will bear fruit for the strengthening of our circle.

Reno

The world of the spirit

«The Homosexual in America».

A subjective approach by Donald Webster Cory with an introduction by Dr. Albert Ellis, Greenberg: Publisher, New York, N. Y. (price \$4.00). Reviewed by H. S., New York.

Homosexuality in American literature is generally confined to a novel containing some hint or in some other cases a mood of dormant homoerotic. Alongside with those there have been published numerous novels dealing quite frankly, although rarely in a satisfactory manner, with Homosexuality. In the scientific field, particularly that of Psychiatry, we have no lack of material, pertaining to it. The Kinsey-Report finally, revealing the Sex Behavior in the Human Male, has presented the American public with an abundance of facts, which, one should think, cannot be lightly dismissed.

«The Homosexual in America» is not a book concerned with sex-morals and sex-modes, exclusively. In it is attempted to draw a broad picture of homosexual life as it is lived in America by all who share these inclinations. To the public, whether heterosexual or not, this book is equally enlightening.

Mr. Cory divides his subject matter so as to acquaint the reader with the many aspects of our life and he has a keen sense of the various parallels that exist between