

# WORK WITH BOYS

*A Magazine of Methods*



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in turn and chooseth one to guard the entrance. Medicine Man serveth us continually. He knoweth his Braves. He chooseth Right Hand to serve him. When days are longest and when days are shortest we choose one to write what we do in Wigwam, one to collect small wampum and one to keep the same.

V. They that we older than we, they that be our friends may visit us in our Wigwam. Woman by us is honored. Chivalry by us is shown. Whatever is weak is by us protected.

VI. Measured we were when we join the Wigwam and once a year thereafter—our height, calf of leg, hip, chest, and arm. This by Medicine Man who keepeth the writings and adviseth how to improve. He praiseth what good we do, and alloweth not "what harmeth body, defileth tongue, or doeth ill to mind."

VII. Small wampum pay we all alike according to the need of the Wigwam and the Campfire.

VIII. Deeds of valor do we read in Wigwam and Indian tales of old. Each telleth of brave deeds he knows. A motto have we. This Medicine Man giveth every three moons. We have our war whoop and our battle song. We loyally help Medicine Man in his work and when he speaketh in the Great Tent.

IX. When admitted to the Wigwam we very solemnly vow to be obedient to all its laws and to try to please our Great High Chief in Heaven who ruleth every tribe, World without end. Amen.

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## The Columbia Park Boys, of San Francisco

**By An Intimate Associate.**

In estimating the work of the Columbia Park Boys' Club, of San Francisco, or to be more specific, the work with boys of Major Sidney S. Peixotto, one is confronted by a very unusual condition of affairs. Major Peixotto has built up this wonderful institution entirely with methods disapproved by the average boy worker. The fundamental principles which underlie this work throw down all the hallowed traditions of most other boys' clubs. For instance, Major Peixotto has never allowed the payment of any dues by the boys, but believes in asking the boys to earn what they can for the club by their developed organizations. He believes that imposing the task of self-government on the boys themselves

is unjust and impossible, and maintains that boys should live in an atmosphere where men self-govern, and through experience they learn the art of self-government. A yearly re-arrangement of the boys in their various clubs is made, so as to completely break up all types of gang or clique. No boys are admitted to the club over 12 years of age. The youngest boys must be 9. In this way boys begin when they are children, and through this process the club develops its own seniors. There has never been any junior or senior groups in the club but the older and younger mingle in every department of the club work and live on, the life they have learned when they were children.

A positive disbelief in the adolescent boy bogie is one of the fundamental principles; the boys learn to fully use their play hours when children and keep at it, hammers and tongs, during all the years when boys are supposed to become dormant in their activities. Major Peixotto has made a tremendous fight to break down the "honor among boys" fad—and he has successfully brought the boys to the point of telling on each other when a boy is going the way he should not go.

I mention these facts for the sake of showing how radically different the Columbia Park Boys' Club is from so many other works of this kind. I can add that any investigation of the conditions surrounding this wonderful boy club would prove that there is right in Major Peixotto's contention that most of the methods used in handling boys are all wrong.

To illustrate the wonderful scope of work of the Columbia Park Boys' Club I will cite some of the achievements of the club during the past year or more.

In the summer of 1914, after Major Peixotto's return from his much discussed world's tour with 47 boys, he organized the annual walking trip and took 55 boys, the largest party ever conducted by this club, on the annual hike of 480 miles up the Northern California Coast. The boys covered a territory which had been visited five times before by the club. The summer was a splendid success although the weather was unusually cold for California summertime.

On these annual walking trips the boys give very elaborate evening entertainments and band concerts and the total income of these entertainments for the summer was over \$3,000 and the net proceeds over all expenses \$800.

Immediately after the return of the walking party in July, the work of preparing the bands for the annual championship competition at the State Fair was begun. The Columbia Park Boys' Club sent two bands to the competition. The first band was entered in Class "B," along with the best band of the National Guard and in this competition took second prize of \$200 cash. The second band was entered in the Class "D," or boys' bands under eighteen years of age, and won first prize of \$400. The first band had a membership of 35 and the second 30, a total of 65 boys. Altogether, eighteen bands took part in this competition and the fact that the Columbia Park Boys' Club won these two high prizes shows how well the members undertake this splendid musical work for boys. At the present time, it is the startling story that 132 boys of this club are actually engaged in studying and working on musical instruments.

In October the club gave a military evening at one of the largest skating rinks in the city. The military battalion of the club includes a military band of 72 pieces, drum and bugle corps of 28 and companies A, B and C, each with forty-five uniformed boy soldiers. These companies are commanded by young boy officers, the oldest of whom is 18, and they have all the finish and command of older men in drilling and handling the companies. The band, during the evening, is divided into two parts for display purposes, and both these bands give elaborate marching drills while they are playing. The military drilling of these companies is nothing short of wonderful; long years of traditional work has provided a group of non-commissioned officers that swing the thing with precision. And besides military work, these boys are all taught the fundamentals of the Scouts work, signalling, bandaging, first aid, rope tying and other accomplishments.

Every Christmas Eve the city of San Francisco has been provided with an outdoor concert in the heart of the business district. Famous singers have volunteered to take part in this unique event and last Christmas one of the features of the concert was the singing of Christmas carols by 120 boys of the Columbia Park Boys' Club under the leadership of Major Peixotto. On Christmas Day the Columbia Park Boys' Club was largely represented at the municipal Christmas tree celebration at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition Grounds. The entire club took part in the parade and 20 members of the club were chosen to escort Santa

Claus in his various duties. The boys chosen were all proficient in tumbling and were dressed as imps.

In gymnasium work I doubt if any institution can show such wonderful conditions as this club has to offer at the present time. In display work, pyramid building, tumbling, apparatus work, it can be said with truth that the club can place 100 boys who can show the most remarkably even work in every phase of gymnasium culture.

Last Autumn 35 boys of the Columbia Park Boys' Club gave a vaudeville act at one of the city's theatres. The act opened with a rendition of the overture from the opera "Faust," which was the test piece the boys won the prize with at the championship at the State Fair. This group was costumed in a very attractive gymnasium costume of gray and red with short pants and white slippers. At the finish of the piece the orchestra of the theatre struck up their dance music and six groups of boys, ranging from three to six in each group, gave six different national dances. This was followed by a beautiful singing number by one of the party in which the entire party as a chorus assisted. The boys then built eight pyramids with lightning rapidity and the act finished up with a stirring march, during which the party kept drilling on the stage. I cite this novel method of earning \$400 to help the club along to show what Major Peixotto's idea is of all-around training for boys.

During the recent basketball tournament held under the auspices of the Pacific Athletic Association the club had five basketball teams entered, and although none of these teams this year won any championship honors, for reasons which are too long to explain in this article, the boys have always been looked upon as very aggressive foes in this department of club work. The same applies to all other forms of athletic sport, but the members of the club have so much time taken up in other duties that they cannot concentrate upon athletics as much as institutions which devote all their time to this one branch of activity.

One of the greatest features of the Columbia Park Boys' Club is its dramatics. Year after year at 5 o'clock in the afternoon plays are given in the little club theatre which are made up, costumed and acted out by the boys without any rehearsal or previous knowledge of what they are expected to do. This type of work was created by a race of boys who are used to speaking and

talking naturally, to mimicry of a high order and to adapt themselves quickly to any and all situations.

At the annual Christmas festival of the club, which lasts three nights, one evening is given over to a play competition in which all the various clubs take part. This year seven plays were produced. Competent judges give their services and the honor button and gold medals of the club are presented to the winners of this evening competition. The winning play this year was called "The Captain" and was written almost entirely by one of the boys, and pictured a scene from the life of Napoleon. The judges proclaimed the acting of the part of Napoleon to be a most remarkable characterization for a boy. The second-best was a splendid piece of cowboy acting and was wonderfully well done by the seven members of the cast.

Between the plays, a singing competition was held in which eighteen boys tried for the medals for the three best singers.

During this month of January the tumbling competitions, as they are called in gymnasium, take place. There were five teams of two boys which competed for the tumbling championship and 17 boys entered for singles. The final competitions are held in March and at this time the number entered will be doubled.

The one great thing that I can speak about the Columbia Park Boys' Club is its permanency. It can be said today to be a club conducted entirely by its own members. While Major Peixotto guides it with the same interest and enthusiasm which he has brought to bear for the last twenty years, since its foundation, the work is today entirely in charge of the head worker, Mr. Charles Norton. Mr. Norton has been for 15 years connected with the club and has grown up as one of its members.

Up to the present year the gymnasium has also been in charge of one of the boys who has grown up with the club, but in January Mr. Ed. Burke went to take charge of the finest private gymnasium in the State of California, and his place has been taken by another old club member who has been connected with the club for 15 years.

The band music has been in charge of an elderly German bandmaster for over 10 years, but on the first of the year he has been forced, through age, to retire, and the club teaching work is now in charge of a young man who was a boy himself in the

Columbia Park Boys' Club and is now a member of the Musicians' Union and a successful performer on his instrument.

It is one of the striking features of this club that in all its many branches of activities the entire inspiration comes from the members of the club who are now grown up. It can be said to be unique in this respect.

All that has been written will give some idea of the magnitude of the work carried on by the boys of this club as a result of their devotion to duty, and by their work they enjoy unusual privileges. They are called upon to participate in every great civic function which goes on. They have band concerts given on great occasions and dinners to attend which make their lives extremely useful and extremely broadening. The boys are invited to give entertainments at prisons and reform institutions and in this way they see life as few boys have an opportunity to see it.

The feature above everything else is the demand Major Peixotto makes for beauty everywhere. The club house is a wonderful study in color effect. Every room is most charmingly furnished and every effort is made to keep up the floral decorations. Every room has enlargements of photographs which depict the history and life of the club. There is a museum that is unrivaled in its display of rare and beautiful things gathered in every country by the boys. The club has a collection of flags presented in many countries, that are of great value. The trophy cabinet is filled with all kinds and shapes of cups won in all parts of the world. The open court yard, one hundred and eleven feet square, and surrounded by balconies on which are hundreds of garden boxes with red geraniums, is the playground before the club work begins.

All in all, one can say in conclusion that this Columbia Park Boys' Club is a success, a work that is proving that the American boy, when once aroused to realize his possibilities, will stop at nothing in the line of high achievement.

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## The Problem of the Street Child

While methods differ according to latitude and longitude, and while the problems of England differ from the problems of America, yet boys are boys the whole world over. Hence Americans find a good deal that is familiar in the discussion of England's