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THE
AMERICAN WOMEN'S
CLUB

46 GROSVENOR STREET
LONDON
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AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB LIMITED

DIRECTORS:

- MRS. CURTIS BROWN.
- MRS. FREDERIC D. HUNTINGTON.
- THE HONOURABLE LADY WARD, C.B.E.
- MRS. BYRON CLARK.
- THE VISCOUNTESS HARCOURT, G.B.E.
- MRS. WILLIAM LINDSEY.

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HONORARY PRESIDENT:

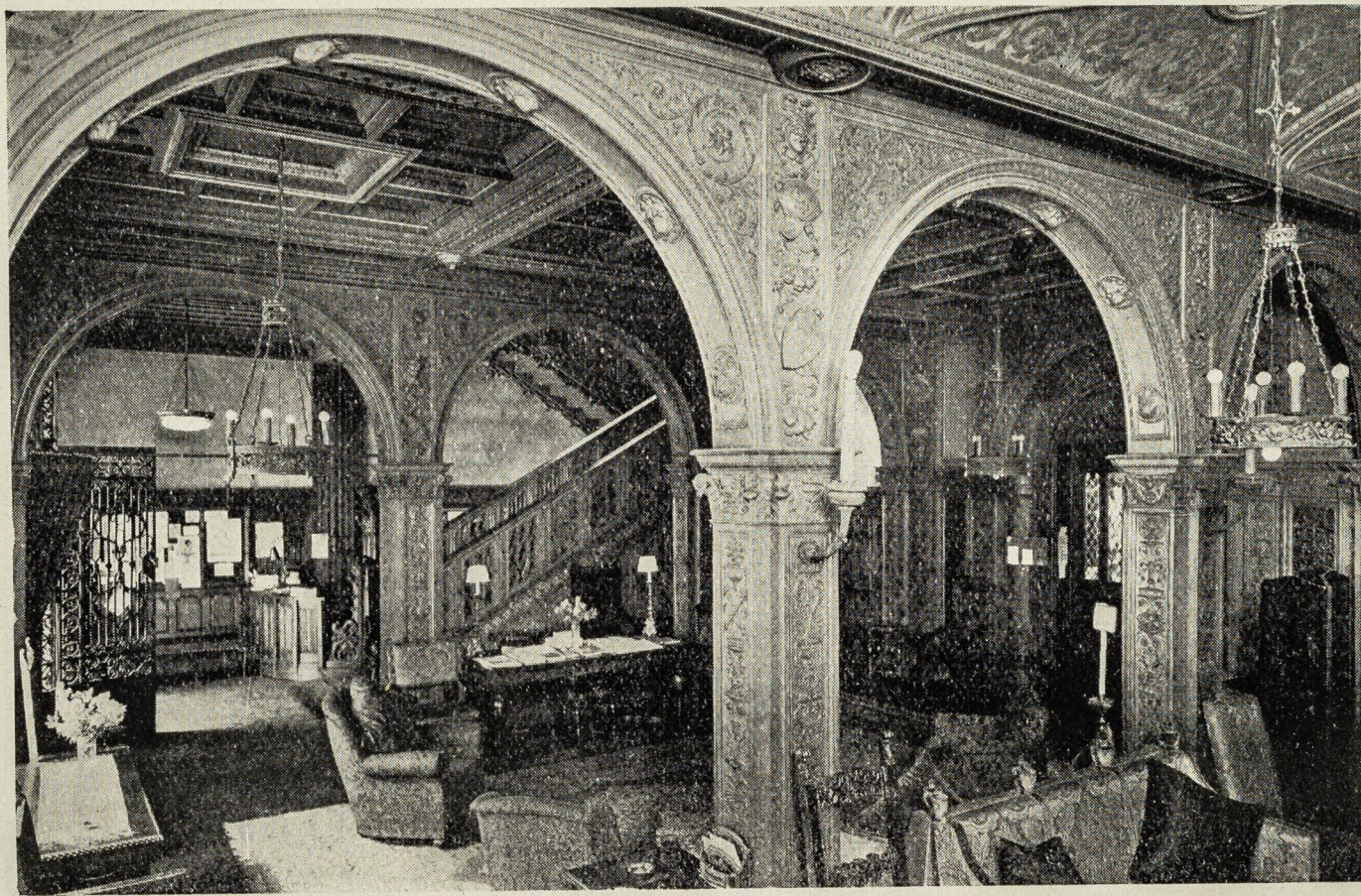
HER EXCELLENCY THE WIFE OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.
MRS. CHARLES G. DAWES.

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENT:

THE WIFE OF THE AMERICAN CONSUL-GENERAL.
MRS. ALBERT HALSTEAD.

OFFICERS AND STANDING CHAIRMEN,
MARCH 1928-1930.

- President* Mrs. CURTIS BROWN.
- First Vice-President* THE HON. LADY WARD, C.B.E.
- Second Vice-President* THE VISCOUNTESS HARCOURT,
G.B.E.
- Third Vice-President* Mrs. EVERSON WINSLOW.
- Fourth Vice-President* THE COUNTESS OF WINCHILSEA
AND NOTTINGHAM.
- Executive Committee* Mrs. HERBERT C. FRENCH.
- Second Member* Mrs. RAY ATHERTON.
- Treasurer* Mrs. ROBERT MOSELEY.
- Recording Secretary* Mrs. A. B. RICHARDSON.
- Asst. Recording Secretary* .. Mrs. FLORA M. SHIPLEY.
- Corresponding Secretary* .. Mrs. JAMES MENNELL.
- Asst. Corresponding Secretary* .. Mrs. FREDERICK RODGERS, JR.
- Reception Committee* Mrs. FRANK SCHWAB.
- Vice-Chairman* Mrs. JOHN BARTON SEYMOUR.
- Library Committee* LADY MERCER.
- House Committee* Mrs. WILLIAM CAWLEY.
- Vice-Chairman* Mrs. WILLIAM COLLYER.
- Study Group* Mrs. MICHAEL SWEENEY.
- Philanthropic Committee* .. Mrs. WILLIAM LINDSEY.
- Maternity Ward Committee*
- Maternity Ward Working Party* .. Mrs. FRANK GALLUP.
- Editor of the Magazine* Miss ELIZABETH CRAIG.
- Children's Entertainment (pro tem.)* Mrs. J. J. DUNNING.
- Historian* Mrs. HERBERT R. WAKEFIELD.



THE ENTRANCE HALL.

THE American Women's Club was founded in 1916, and was an outgrowth of the Society of American Women in London founded in 1899.

Mrs. Curtis Brown was the first President of the new organization, which had its first club house at 41, Hertford Street, Mayfair. It was here that many of the Club's activities came into being; of these, certain ones lapsed at the termination of the War, whilst others have developed into the larger Circles and Groups of to-day. The continual growth both in work and membership made new premises necessary, and in 1923, the lease of the Hertford Street house being terminated, it was decided to move into larger quarters. After many houses had been inspected, the present premises were approved of, and the opening ceremony took place on June 26, 1923.

PURPOSE.

The purpose of the Club is primarily to provide a home-like and interesting centre for Americans resident in England and for those countrywomen who come on visits from America or the Continent, but before and beyond all, the Club hopes to stand for something greater, and these larger aims are best summed up in the words of the President, Mrs. Curtis Brown, in her Annual Report for the year 1926:—

“I feel that this Club, as an American organization, has an especial duty in faithfully representing in all its relationships the true patriotism which is so all-embracing in its scope; not by being self-asserting, for that denotes weakness, but by showing tolerance, liberality of thought and judgment, and gentleness and loving-kindness; for great people are not limited in their patriotism, but have rather the patriotism of all mankind. I am saying these things which you, quite justly, may think do not properly belong in a report, because it is my greatest desire that the Club shall stand always for this larger patriotism; that it shall stand for the great ideas, not the petty ones;

for the generous act, not the grasping one; for the broad comprehensive view-point, not the narrow one. And I would that every person who comes into the Club could feel it and every letter that goes out from the Club should carry it, and every act we do here should bear the *cachet* of a genuine and intelligent idealism, so that we might be a reflector of the highest, most chivalrous traditions of our country; and that is what I should call expressing true patriotism."

THE ACTIVITIES

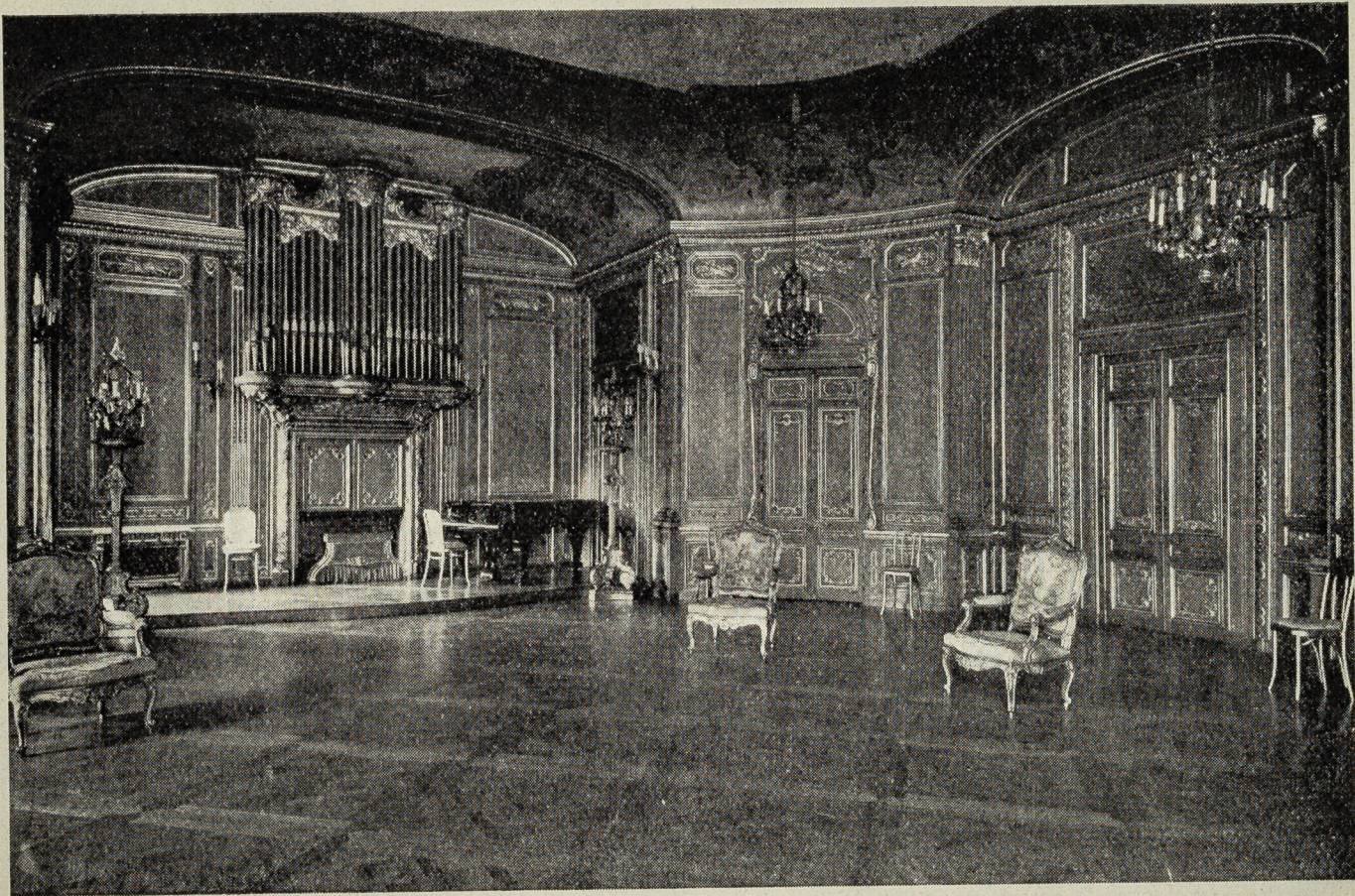
The activities are numerous and varied, comprising interests of a social, educational, and philanthropic nature.

MATERNITY WARD COMMITTEE.

The most considerable philanthropic enterprise is the maintenance of 52 beds in the maternity ward, known as the Washington Ward of the Royal Free Hospital in London for the use of women of all nationalities, and it also maintains an infants' ward of 18 beds. In connection with this, a work party is held weekly at the Club from October to May, to make these garments. About 700 are made in the season, much of the work being done at home. Entertainments are given every year for the purpose of collecting funds for the materials.

PHILANTHROPIC COMMITTEE.

There is also a special Philanthropic Committee which cares for stranded or destitute American women not eligible for the American Relief Association. In December this Committee gives an Annual Toy Tea, which has become one of the most delightful entertainments of the year. There are a Christmas tree and other delights, and the children who attend bring toys, which later are sent to the children in English hospitals. This committee is



THE BALL ROOM AND MUSIC ROOM.

also planning to resume work it did formerly in connection with the North Islington Welfare Centre.

STUDY GROUP.

On the intellectual side of Club activities is the Study Group, which is composed of different circles, each under its own chairman, although all are under the Chairman of the entire Group.

CURRENT EVENTS CIRCLE.

This meets once a fortnight during the winter, and each member is assigned a country or topic on which she is to report at each meeting. Occasionally special lecturers are invited to speak on some subject of particular interest.

ARCHITECTURE CIRCLE.

The members of this circle arrange lectures on architecture and archæology given at the different places of interest. There have been several series: on the City churches, on the Halls of the City Companies, on Hampton Court and other palaces.

ART CIRCLE.

This is for the study of different styles and periods of painting, often arranged to coincide with special exhibitions in London. The lectures are given by the members themselves, who are rich in talent and knowledge.

OTHER CIRCLES.

At different times there have been a Mothers' Circle, a Public Speaking Class, a Drama Circle, and a French Class. These vary from year to year, but there are always several to choose from.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

Although originally under the Study Group, this now is independent, with a Chairman and Vice-Chairman

of its own. It meets monthly during the winter, and ends the season either with a Joint Debate with another society from an English Club, or else arranges for well-known people to take part in a Debate.

THE CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

This is a very important activity of the Club. A committee of 30 members is in charge of it. There are over 2,000 books, some of them donated, and others bought by the Committee, so that the latest literature is always placed on the shelves. Different ladies come most faithfully each morning from 11 to 1 and each afternoon from 2 to 5 o'clock to give out and receive books. It is run on the most business-like lines, and the subscription is only 4s. a year, or 1s. to transient visitors.

MAGAZINE.

Another interest is the Club Magazine, which gives a programme of coming events and a review of past ones, and to which members are encouraged to send articles on varied subjects of interest. In connection with this, an Advertisers' Tea takes place every autumn, and is greatly enjoyed.

PROGRAMME.

During the winter months there are weekly lectures on different topics—literary, artistic, musical, and social—given by speakers of note; and the Club has also held several series of concerts by eminent musicians. There is generally a Christmas and a Midsummer Ball, and Americans of prominence are entertained at dinners, luncheons, and receptions. Also during the winter there is a Children's Cinema once a month, with a special tea after it, and with games and dancing sometimes as well.

THE CLUB HOUSE

THE Club House is in the heart of Mayfair, and furnishes the setting for many of the activities of the American Colony in London.

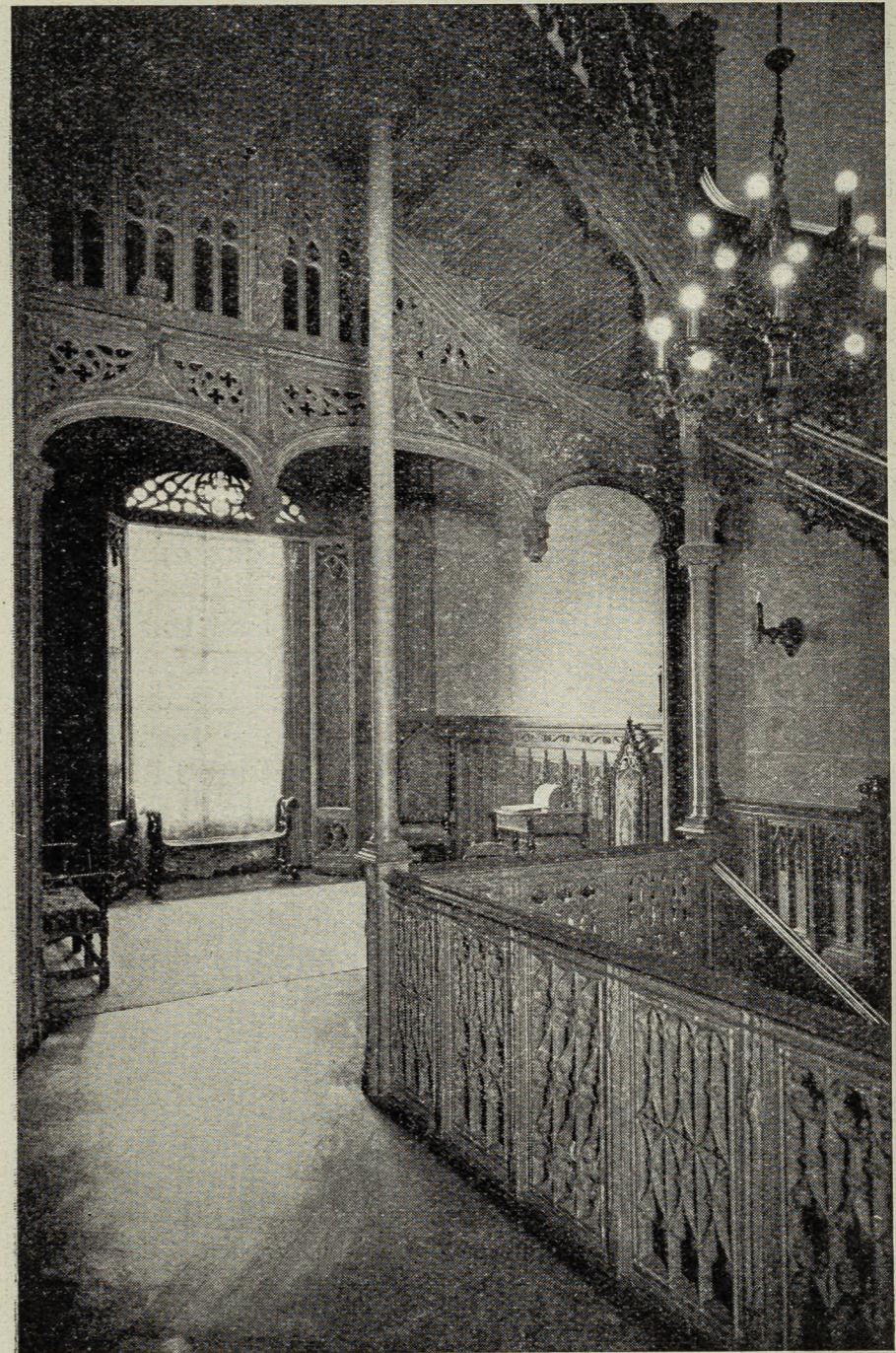
Leaving the Florentine façade and entrance behind, you enter the Club Lounge but you might well imagine yourself entering a Venetian palace. The stone walls are panelled to half their height in a light oak. Arches are used to divide the room. Both the panels of the wall and the pilasters of the arches are decorated with light and airy sculpture, which were designed by M. Madeline for the former owner.

Two staircases lead to the Ball Room floor. On the right is a broad oak staircase, the general plan of which was inspired by the Scala Ducale of the Doge's Palace. The staircase on the left is a free transcription of that at St. Maclou at Rouen, made up of delicate openwork and graceful carving enriched by blue and red colourings.

The Ball Room floor consists of the Gothic Landing, the Ball Room, and the Italian Room. The Ball Room is truly magnificent. It is in the form of a double ellipse in the Regence style, and was constructed on the lines of the *cour d'appel* at Rennes. The walls are panelled, and the beautiful ceiling is painted with allegorical subjects by the pupils of the sculptor Antonin Mercié. At the western end is a two-manual pipe organ. There is a Musicians' Gallery approached by a secret stairway. This is the scene of Club musicals, balls, receptions, teas, and lectures.

Opening off the Gothic Landing is the Italian Room, one of the most beautiful rooms in the Club. The chief attraction is the ceiling, which is of the fifteenth century, and in a state of excellent preservation. It was brought directly from Orvieto, and in it are the coat-of-arms of the family to whom the ceiling formerly belonged. It was doubtless executed by the famous hand which ornamented the frescoes by Luca Signorelli *in situ* at Orvieto.

The doors in this room were originally taken from the



THE GOTHIC STAIRCASE.

Palazzo of a great family in Italy from which had sprung a Pope, as the papal arms are very conspicuously carved. They are a very beautiful example of fifteenth-century work, and are considered extremely fine by connoisseurs of this period.

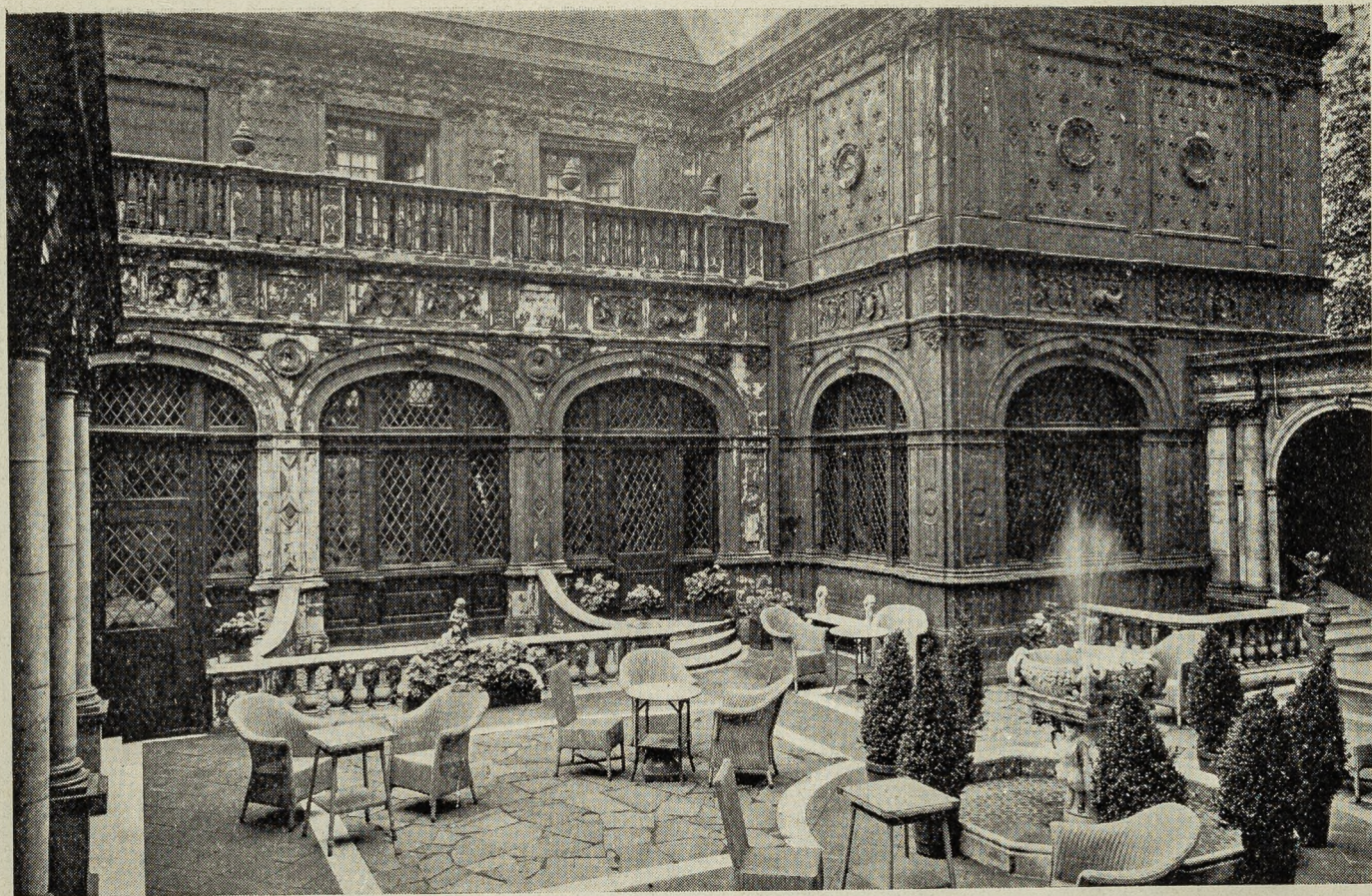
The building above the Ball Room floor provides 23 bedrooms for Members and guests.

Returning to the ground floor, the Dining Room, opening off the Lounge, is a panelled room entirely Renaissance in character. A greater portion of one end of the room is occupied by a beautiful Louis XII stone chimney-piece, and at the opposite end, a fountain. The frieze of this room consists of a series of small oil paintings of Renaissance heads, and the ceiling is adapted from that at the Château de Blois, dark beams alternating with decorated panels.

The windows of the Dining-Room lead to an Italian Garden with a fountain in the centre, which came from the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence, and along either side of the garden are loggias connecting the front of the building with the Library. The façade of the Library is a copy of the Hôtel de Ville at Beaugency, and adds greatly to the charm of the old-world garden.

The Library is in Italian Renaissance style, in chestnut wood, handsomely carved and lightened with touches of gilt. A large open fireplace occupies one end of the room, with a splendid mantelpiece in chestnut wood, reaching to the ceiling with beautiful spiral columns profusely carved. This is one of the finest bits of carving in the Club House. Perhaps the most attractive feature of this room is the charming little stairway leading to the gallery which runs along two sides of the room. This is a favourite room of the members, as it is sufficiently remote from the main Lounge to be restful for quiet reading or tea, and it is at the same time a joy to the eye.

Opening off the Library is a small Louis XIV room reserved for bridge.



THE GARDEN.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Club is open to American women who come within the scope of the following conditions:—

ELIGIBILITY.—No person shall be eligible for membership unless father or mother of such person was of American birth and an American citizen, or unless the candidate for membership, if of foreign parentage, was born in America and lived there until the age of 21. This rule does not apply to Honorary Members. Wives of American men may be Associate Members. All women citizens of the United States are eligible for Associate Membership.

A Candidate must be proposed and seconded by two members of the Club who know her personally, and both proposers and seconders must write letters of endorsement, in the first person, to the Membership Committee, giving personal information regarding the candidate. Until this information is at hand, the name proposed cannot be considered by the Committee.

DUES

Members residing more than 50 miles from London will be considered as Country Members. Members living out of the British Isles will be considered as Non-Resident Members. Non-Resident Members may reside in London or vicinity three months in each year, after which time they must transfer to Town Membership and pay Town Dues.

Life Membership	£100 0 0
	<i>Entrance Fee.</i>
Town Membership	£5 5 0
Country Membership	£3 3 0
Non-Resident	£3 3 0
Junior Membership	£2 2 0
	<i>Annual Dues.</i>
Town Membership	£7 7 0
Country Membership	£4 4 0
Non-Resident	£3 3 0
Junior Membership	£2 2 0

(Connections of members between the ages of 17 and 22.

In applying Junior Members are asked to give date of birth.)

Students Membership £1 1 0 for six months.
Renewal, £1 1 0 for same period..

(Open to American Students, Artists, and Musicians.)

Visiting Membership £1 1 0 a month.

(This membership is open to women who come with satisfactory credentials from American clubs.)

COURTESY CARDS.—Members have the privilege of giving to visiting American friends Courtesy Cards which are available for two weeks, and this can be extended by paying a visiting Membership of £1 1s. (\$5) a month, or part of a month.

All kinds of membership carry residential privileges, and the charges for rooms and meals are given below.

ROOMS

Single—	Winter.	Summer.
With Bath ..	from £2 0 0 ..	from £2 2 0
Without Bath ..	„ 0 10 6 ..	„ 0 12 6
Double—		
With Bath ..	from £2 2 0 ..	from £2 10 0
Without Bath ..	„ 1 0 0 ..	„ 1 5 0
	Summer prices in force from April 1st.	Winter prices in force from November 1st.

These prices are now reduced.

MEALS

Breakfast from 2/-.
Luncheon, Table d'Hôte 4/-, and also à la Carte.
Tea from 1/6.
Dinner, Table d'Hôte, 5/6 for Members.
6/6 for Guest.
Meals served in rooms, 1/- extra.

THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB COOKERY BOOK

The Club has published the American Women's Club Cookery Book compiled and edited by Mrs. Plogsted, a London member. It is a collection of 1,200 recipes intended for the American housewife living in England, giving her directions for all the typical American dishes adapted to the conditions governing cooking in this country. Copies can be obtained from the Secretary for 10s. 6d. plus 6d. postage if to be sent in England and 7d. if sent abroad.

