

Keeping Fit:-

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The Mecca of "New" Negroes

MANY things have happened recently in Harlem which point to continuous progress on the part of the Negro. In literature, art and community interests, Negro cultural development has progressed to such a degree that "Survey Graphic," a metropolitan white magazine, devoted a whole issue to Harlem — calling it the "Mecca of the New Negro." Roland Hayes fills Town Hall and Carnegie Hall with a mixed audience of white and colored people, who, while listening to his matchless tones, forget their racial and social prejudices, and in contentment sit side by side. Paul Robeson appears as an actor in the serious drama and is lauded by the critics as an actor of merit. A dinner was given recently to prize winners in a literary contest, at which white critics, whom "everybody" knew, sat side by side and commended young Negro writers whom "nobody" knew.

The Northeastern Life Insurance Company recently was licensed to write insurance in the State of New Jersey, largely through the financial backing of broad minded business and professional Negro men of Harlem. Negroes financed the project to the extent of \$100,000.

At the New York Public Library in Harlem recently was established a department of books on Negro Art, Literature and Culture; both Negroes and white assembled at its dedication. A Harlem Negro recently gave five hundred dollars to Opportunity Magazine for prizes in its next year's literary contest. This, as "Opportunity" states, is the seal of a new hope and confidence on the part of Negroes which the past has lacked dismally. Now comes the drive for subscriptions on the part of Negroes of Harlem in the \$7,000,000 campaign to build the new Presbyterian Columbia Center Hospital. Dr. Louis T. Wright, a young Negro surgeon, heads a team of Negro business and professional men to solicit funds for this gigantic medical center. This team has raised over \$15,000 as the Negroes' contribution to this institution.

This is something new for Negroes. They are using foresight. They know this medical center can contribute much to their health, happiness and efficiency, and they are willing to pay for it, and thus they become an active and progressive integral part of New York City's population.

A delegation of Negro citizens appeared before Mayor Hylan last week and in choice words and convincing arguments asked for Negro physicians in Harlem Hospital. This delegation proved to the Mayor that this was the Negro's right in this district because of his numbers, taxes and political importance. On this particular point of Negro physicians in Harlem Hospital the Negro citizens are determined to "fire" politics with this issue. The Negroes now are extensive property owners in Harlem; they contribute much in votes and money to New York City and therefore are determined to have hospital benefits and privileges which they are entitled to. Harlem is surely the Mecca for "new" Negroes.