

DOORS AJAR.

Sometimes in our busy round we pass a door ajar, and an involuntary glance reveals to us something beyond the narrow limit of vision, a faint suggestion of tangible reality within.

A picture of rare beauty may brighten the dark line which fades to a mere shadow, as a bit of warm coloring, or a flower, may suggest pleasant occupants for pleasant rooms, or, peering through even a mere crevice of light, a dull, heavy background intimates the character of the occupants as we catch a glimpse of the houses our neighbors live in.

If curiosity stopped with involuntary glimpses at the doorway of social and domestic life, over which no intruder should pass, and the sanctity of life's inner temple was cherished as it sacredly should be, the occupation of chronic tattlers would be entirely gone. But unfortunately it does not, and well-intentioned and sensitive people are in a degree left at the mercy of the social counter irritants.

I can scarcely imagine how one can find time to investigate their neighbor's affairs continually, and sit in judgment the rest of the time, if there is a spare moment left after the daily round of gossip.

What can be more vexing to large souls than to encounter some old gossiping crone and listen as they say, "Why, didn't you know that Mr. and Mrs. Alton had an awful time of it living together? They say his wife has a terrible temper, and that he is a consummate villain and has broken her heart." "Well, let them say," you reply; but the domestic buzzard keeps flopping around, and lights on another dead subject, and picks the very bones out of the skeleton they imagine they had dragged from the closet.

Having counted the wires in the anatomy of that household, they proceed to hunt down the first object in their way. "Who is that, and where did they come from, and what do they do for a living, and who was their grandfather," rushes out of their gaping furnace so rapidly they have to take breath to fire up again. Some persons are disposed to feed these tattling-mongers on sugar-plums, to make them say sweet things, but it's like casting pearls before swine—they will of course devour the plums, and turning to your next-door neighbor they drag you and all you possess over the burning coal of cruel criticism.

A door ajar means to them an open crater out of which the smoke of family feuds and social smudge is issuing, and they can manufacture lava enough to submerge a city out of their prolific imagination, and yet with all their fertility of sense, remain utterly unconscious of the stray streaks of sunshine and mingled odors of rare flowers which issue from the same door ajar. It may be an evidence of a great mind to be extremely inquisitive; but when you meet a person who piles up questions by the cord about everything and everybody this side of the moon before you can collect your senses to answer, reflect calmly, and go cautiously, for your time is coming, and you may be the next victim dished up for the edification of your dear 500 friends, to say nothing of the enemies who lie in wait for your soul and body when the gossip-mongers cast you out to the tender mercies of a cold world. —*Bessie Beech, in Truth.*

WARTS.—If they give you no special inconvenience, let them alone. But if it is of essential importance to get rid of them, purchase half an ounce of muriatic acid, put it in a broad-bottomed vial, so that it will not easily turn over; take a stick as large as a knitting-needle, dip it into the acid, and touch the top of the wart with whatever of the acid adheres to the stick; then, with the end of the stick, rub the acid into the top of the wart, without allowing the acid to touch the well skin. Do this night and morning, and a safe, painless, and effectual cure is the result.

TO SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Teachers of common schools often are at their wit's ends to keep their pupils interested in their various branches of study. In my experience I have found no difficulty for the first half of the term, but after that it is a hard matter, and the only real successful method I can recommend from actual trial, is giving small prizes. If you are receiving a reasonable remuneration for your services, you will not object to expending two or three dollars in this way. Announce to your pupils your intention of rewarding those who prove themselves most diligent, those having the greatest number of perfect recitations, by giving them a small reward of merit. This year I have given my school notice of the prizes they may expect.

I have some scholars who are almost men and women, and to this class I give a gold dollar to the most diligent pupil. I made this announcement only last week, and I already see a marked change in the recitations. This interest will continue to increase until the whole school will be under the impression that perhaps this may be the last chance they will ever get to compete for a prize and consequently, there will be more improvement in my school during the last four weeks of the term, than in any previous six.

Teachers, you in the meantime must not forget that there is a great responsibility resting on you (I mean the class of teachers who are employed in the rural districts). Farmers give their children into your charge and the future career of the child is very often formed by the impressions received in the first few years of school life. Therefore, be very careful and get the child started in the right course, after which it will take care of itself. —*Teacher, in Rural New Yorker.*

TEA IN 1690.—In a volume on herbs entitled "Isagoge Phytologica," bearing date 1690, we find the following on tea: "Thee.—It groweth in Japonica and China. It is moderately hot and binding. The herbe is most wholesome, preserving in perfect health until very old age. It makes the body active and lusty; it cures the slow headache and heaviness thereof; lippitude, distillations and difficulty of breathing; weakness of the ventricle; pains of the bowels; lassitude and prevents sleepiness; a draught of the decoction being taken, and without trouble a whole night may be spent in study without hurt to the body. That of Japonica is the best, which the natives powder on a marble stone, and mix it warm with water, but those of China boile the plant with a little salt and sugar in some convenient liquor, which afterwards they drink warme." According to this authority, tea possessed virtues which modern learned ones deny it. That it had the reputation of preserving people in perfect health is perhaps due to the fact that the Chinese were innocent of the arts of adulteration 200 years ago. —*Home and Colonial Mail.*

HARDENING SMALL TOOLS.—It is said that the engravers and watchmakers of Germany harden their tools in sealing wax. The tool is heated to whiteness and plunged into the wax, withdrawn after an instant and plunged in again, the process being repeated until the steel is too cold to enter the wax. The steel is said to become, after this process, almost as hard as the diamond, and when touched with a little oil or turpentine the tools are excellent for engraving, and also for piercing the hardest metals.

BURRS IN WOOL.—To destroy burrs in wool M. Rene Leblance recommends, first, that the wool be thoroughly dried before it is freed from the grease; second, that the wool be pressed between heavy rollers, so that the burrs are crushed, and, third, that the wool be then treated in the usual way.

HOME LIFE A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.—One hundred years ago not a pound of coal or a cubic foot of illuminating gas had been burned in the country. No iron stoves were used and no contrivances for economizing heat were employed until Dr. Franklin invented the iron-framed fireplace which still bears his name. All the cooking and warming in town as well as in the country, were done by the aid of a fire kindled on the brick hearth or in the brick ovens. Pine knots or tallow candles furnished the light for the long winter nights, and sanded floors supplied the place of rugs and carpets. The water used for household purposes was drawn from deep wells by the creaking sweep. No form of pump was used in this country, so far as we can learn, until after the commencement of the present century. There were no friction matches in those early days, by the aid of which a fire could be easily kindled, and if the fire went out upon the hearth over night, and the tinder was damp, so that the spark would not catch, the alternative remained of wading through the snow a mile or so to borrow a brand from a neighbor. Only one room in any house was warm, unless some member of the family was ill; in all the rest the temperature was at zero during many nights in winter. The men and women of a hundred years ago undressed and went to their beds in a temperature colder than that of our barns and woodsheds, and they never complained.

SHADED STREETS PROMOTIVE OF HEALTH.—All medical writers agree that shaded streets are an essential element to public health; that trees absorb miasma, purify the atmosphere, create currents of air, and produce a refreshing coolness. A tree is never at rest, even in a dead calm. It is always fluttering its foliage, and stirring up the stagnant atmosphere around it. A special fund ought to be granted the department of highways for the planting of trees on all new and principal streets of the city. —*Philadelphia Press.*

DETECTION OF STARCH IN MILK.—The adulteration of milk by starch can be readily detected by the following method: Add a few drops acetic acid to a small quantity of the suspected milk; boil the milk, and after it has cooled filter the whey. If there is any starch in the milk, a single drop of iodine solution will give a blue tint to the whey. This process is so delicate that it will show the presence of a milligram of starch in a cubic centimeter of whey (1 grain of starch in 2-16 fluid-ounces of whey).

FROZEN MEDICINES.—Dr. Edwin Andrew, of New York, finds that many drugs can be given with superior advantage by first freezing them. Anti-septic, astringent, anti-emetic and nauseous medicines come under this heading, and can be combined with ice without difficulty. An especially good feature of this plan is in its affording a possibility of the stomach's retaining medicines which it would reject when given in ordinary ways.

THE FIRST SIGN OF CONSUMPTION.—It is not as extensively known as it ought to be, that, in the large majority of cases, consumption begins with a slight cough in the morning on getting up. After a while it is perceived at night on going to bed; next there is an occasional "coughing spell" some time during the night; by this time there is a difficulty of breathing on any slightly unusual exercise, or in ascending a hill.

CAUSE OF SNEEZING.—Sneezing is occasioned by a clogging up of the capillaries in the nasal membrane, and a partial obstruction of the nasal passages; in which case a sense of irritation is produced which results in sneezing. This is a sort of crisis which tends to restore the function of the excretory vessels, by relieving them of the congestion.

To REMOVE blood spots from woollen goods of tender colors, it is proposed to rub them with the inner side of a crust of bread.