

## DISAGREEABLENESS.

A discussion of disagreeable people should interest us all. What I shall say will be but the "widow's mite," only help a little, if any.

If there are women so deficient in amiability, capability or adaptability, as to be disagreeable they surely are not responsible for nature's organization, therefore should receive aid and encouragement from their more fortunate fellows. Then I would ask what the poor, unfortunate, "disagreeable women" are going to do for a livelihood, and to get a competence for old age? They are certainly obliged to be independent, self-helpful, and lead self-directing lives. They are obliged to put their own hands to the helm, and find out what responsibility, foresight and planning mean. Yet I do not see that "old maids" and long widowhood are any sign of disagreeableness; should say just the contrary, that they were so very agreeable they could find no mate. At all events, if they are, and intend to remain single, and are disagreeable women, they must embrace an active life. It is very rarely that a human being is born without possible power in some one direction. The field which is traversable to women is much more circumscribed than that traversed by men, yet I have read a statement of the number of employments in which women are engaged in the United States is greater than 500. Certainly, out of so many a woman can choose one which, though not wholly to her taste, is better than debasement by indifferent marriage or being dependent and taking the risk of being called disagreeable; for men like independent, self-reliant women, and if one should make a fortune she would be agreeable ever after to men, no matter how disagreeable they had once thought her.

Women can teach as well as men, but must be content with less pay, for men are lions and they will take the lion's share. Women also can sell goods, and ought to monopolize the business, for surely a man is as much out of his sphere in holding up a piece of muslin at arm's length, and expatiating on its merits to a bevy of women, as a woman is in the pulpit or before the mast. Also, the whole land groans under inefficient domestic assistance, and if healthy, well-behaved American girls would be willing to work in kitchens which they do not own, one-half as hard as most women work in kitchens they do own, thousands of doors would fly open to them. Women need not feel disgraced at "going out to service," for everybody in the world who is not a camberer of the ground, is "out at service," and one thing is as honorable as another. The highest plaudit mortal can hope to receive is, "Well done, good and faithful servant." A nobleman ennobles his work. A king among basket-makers is none the less a king.

I do not understand how women can be so enamored of the needle as to work for the mere pittance of 25 cents per day, when they can go into a handsome house in the next street, to make beds, scour knives and iron clothes for four or five dollars a week, besides board and rant.

Women make a mistake in all rushing for the school-house as though that was the only respectable path to independence. I heard a man a short time ago speaking of the high school of his native city. He said that it did more harm than good, for every year a class was graduated, all ladies, they did not want to work, and there were not schools for so many. It was an evil that seemed to be growing worse every year; the implied grievance was, that educated women were a drug in the market; the implied remedy, that girls should be left more uncultivated that they might be turned to common uses.

I may be saying something that the gentlemen readers of the Press will call "disagreeable," so will cease speaking for the present; the subject to be resumed at some future time when the "spirit moves," and with the permission of the editor.—Mrs. E. J. S., in Rural Press.

## GLYCERINE FOR ACIDITY OF THE STOMACH.

A late number of the Boston Journal of Chemistry reprinted from the London Lancet Dr. Ringer's article upon the use of glycerine in flatulence, acidity and pyrosis. Dr. J. A. Lewis, referring to the same article, in a communication to the Louisville Medical News, says:

"I desire to add my testimony to its value, so far as regards acidity and flatulence. For this form of indigestion, so common, and for the relief of which so many persons resort to the daily use of soda, glycerine is a remedial agent of no mean value. I have used it for several months with my patients troubled in this way, and in a majority of cases the results have been gratifying.

I had no knowledge of its use for dyspeptic troubles, and was led to the use of it much in the same way as reported by Mr. Ringer. I knew of its property of preventing fermentation, and especially of its use by druggists in preserving their syrups from acidity. I was led to a trial of it upon this principle, and soon became satisfied of its real value. I have always prescribed it in large doses, never less than two teaspoonfuls to a tablespoonful for an adult, to be taken in a wine glass of water immediately after eating. It does no good after fermentation of the food has taken place in the stomach.

It is not specific, no cure-all, but certainly does afford alleviation, if not a cure, in many of these cases, and is worthy of a place among the remedies in use for this very common ill of the flesh.

**DANGER IN THE SLEEPING-ROOM.**—In fighting that terrible enemy, sewer gas, it will not do to depend on the plumber. In sleeping-rooms the syphonage of the trap is the opening of the gate of death; and yet, strange to say, thousands of people hear nightly this death-rattle in their rooms, and do not know what it means. Now, if one can't have effective plumbing, the next best thing is to know what to do about it. As syphonage implies the breaking of the water-seal that acts as a barrier against the free admission of sewer gas, it is, first of all, important to know what traps are defective. When one hears a low, gurgling sound in the wash-basin, the time for action has come. Any noise beneath the wash-basin, at any hour of the day or night, when the water is not turned on, means death. The gurgling sound is caused by a draft of air down the escape-pipe, which breaks the water-seal. Of course the services of the best plumber should be had at once; but in the meantime fight the enemy. First turn on water and fill the trap. Then put in the plug, fill the basin half full of water, and with wax or soap seal up the overflow holes. Lower a window and let in the outer air. Until the sound of syphonage ceases, and you are absolutely certain that the trap can be relied on, stand guard over it. Keep the overflow holes sealed and the plug in, no matter at what risk of flooding lower rooms, in case some one is thoughtless enough to leave water turned on. If every family would act on these hints we would have less diphtheria.

**WASHINGTON PUDDING.**—Put a teaspoon of seeded raisins into the flour sieve, throw over them a pint of flour and add half a teaspoonful of salt, the same quantity of ground cinnamon, and a quarter of a teaspoon of ground cloves. Sift the flour and spices from the raisins and make a batter with a cupful of sweet milk, a cup of molasses and one egg. Add a cupful of chopped suet (sprinkle with flour while chopping), half a teaspoonful of soda dissolved in a tablespoonful of hot water, and last of all the floured raisins. Steam in a buttered mold two and a half hours and serve with a nice pudding sauce. Mix two teaspoons of corn starch and two cups sugar well together. Add the juice of a lemon and half the grated peel, half a cup of butter and a cup of boiling water. Stir and boil for five minutes.

## A NEW THEORY OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SUN.

Some recent studies of solar spectra in connection with sun spots and other features of the sun's envelope have led Mr. Charles S. Hastings, of the Johns Hopkins University, to form a somewhat novel theory of the sun's constitution and the conditions producing the more notable phenomena familiar to solar students.

Mr. Hastings finds, contrary to the received opinion, that the spectra of the center and the outer edge of the sun's disk are not precisely alike, though the differences are so minute as to escape all but the most perfect instruments and all methods which do not place them in close juxtaposition. Certain of the Fraunhofer lines, thickest and darkest in the spectrum, notably those of hydrogen, magnesium and sodium, which appear with a bass on either side in the spectrum of the center of the solar disk, are sharp and distinct in the spectrum of the limb. Certain very fine lines are stronger at the limb, while other very fine lines are stronger at the center. The ordinarily accepted theory of the solar constitution and the origin of the Fraunhofer lines fails to explain these phenomena.

The probable reasons for this failure Mr. Hastings discusses at considerable length in the January issue of the American Journal of Science, and then proceeds to frame a theory of the sun's constitution, which, he thinks, will satisfactorily explain all the observed phenomena, and which may be briefly summarized as follows:

His theory differs from that of Faye chiefly in localizing the phenomena of precipitation instead of regarding it as proper to all portions of the photosphere, and in supposing the precipitation confined to one or two elements. He attributes the granular appearance of the solar surface to ascending currents directed generally from the center of the sun. About these currents are necessarily currents in an opposite direction, which serve to maintain a general equilibrium in the distribution of mass. The ascending currents start from a level where the temperature is probably above the vaporizing temperature of every substance. As they move upward the vapors are cooled, mainly by expansion, until a certain element (probably the carbon group) is precipitated. This precipitation, restricted from the nature of the action, forms the granules. The precipitated material rapidly cools, on account of its great radiating power, and forms a fog or smoke, which settles through the spaces between the granules till revolvated below. It is this smoke which produces the general absorption at the sun's limb, and the "rice grain" structure of the photosphere. The reasons for supposing the precipitated element to be of the carbon group (carbon or silicon) is simply that no other substances present the properties indicated by the cloud masses of the photosphere. It is pretty clear that the substance has a boiling point above that of iron, for iron vapor at a lower temperature exists in its immediate neighborhood. The element is not a rare one, and its molecular weight cannot be great, for though precipitated below the upper natural limit of its vapor there are few elements found in abundance above it, and those in general of low vapor density. It is possible that the light coming from the sun is radiated from solid or liquid particles of carbon just at the point of vaporization; but Mr. Hastings is rather inclined to suspect that the photospheric material is silicon. There is also good reason to suppose he thinks, that carbon is precipitated at a higher level, possibly along with the less common element boron.

The clouds of carbon or other smoke would naturally be drifted into spaces of downward flowing currents, thus forming sun spots, the characteristics of which are readily accounted for by the necessary behavior of smoke clouds sinking into regions of higher temperature. This explanation of sun spots and their allied phenomena is certainly plausible, and we shall look with interest for what other students of the sun shall have to say about it.