

A BACHELOR'S MUSE.

NO LACK OF SENTIMENTALITY IN A DULL MAN'S REVERIE.

An Estimate of Women That Appears Lucid to the Student of Changing Conditions—A Few Criticisms and Reminders For the Single Man.

However little may be the logic displayed by those who argue against equal rights, it is certain that there is no lack of sentimentality on their side. In "A Bachelor's Reverie" the bachelor laments the fact that woman's work now is whatever she chooses to select and sighs for the old fashioned woman who had no ambitions. Judging from another part of the reverie the old time woman had ambitions, but they were strictly of the domestic order.

Her first ambition was to be a wife, second a mother, third a mother again, fourth again a mother, fifth once more a mother, sixth a mother, seventh a mother, eighth a mother once more, ninth a maternal parent, tenth a parent on the mother's side, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth ditto, ditto, ditto. These numerous but rather monotonous ambitions were cherished, it is to be supposed, in memory of the Emperor Napoleon, who once informed Mme. de Staël that "the finest woman is the one who gives the most children to her country."

This estimate of women, which may be called the Dorking hen estimate, is limited because it is the limitation of a limitation. It is safe to assert that the emperor's famous saying is in greater favor with bachelors of dreamy tendencies than with parents of practical minds. The most enthusiastic mother builds up her hopes on the quality, not the number of her offspring, and the best mothers train their girls for motherhood no more carefully than they train their boys for fatherhood.

"Life approaches its serene and barren stage," continues the dreamer, "when man is forced to meet loveliness in the guise of a competitor." It does seem unfortunate that loveliness should occasionally have to compete, but if her husband does not support her or if she has no husband she must choose between being a competitor with a man or a financial dependent on him. Serene and barren as it may be for man to meet loveliness in the guise of a competitor, it is even more serene to be forced to meet the same loveliness in the guise of half a dozen abled-bodied feminine dependents.

"The young girl," muses the bachelor, "with a mind divided between office and love could never be the embalmed essence of all that is adorable, the inspiration to all high thinking and right doing. If she prefers the other alternative, the fact that she once aspired to office will broaden her interest in affairs, rescue her from the narrow mindedness which is too often the accompaniment of a monotonous domestic routine and keep her thoughts securely above tatting and tattle.

We have no grudge against the embalmed essence of all that is adorable. Accompanied by a large mental grasp, an accurate knowledge of what is being thought and done by the world's best thinkers and workers and a livelier interest in the universe than in one small person inside of it, the embalmed essence would be rather taking. Otherwise it amounts to no more than so much blanc manne.

Just before rousing from his reverie the bachelor points out that several women in the world's history have endeavored to meddle in its affairs and always with deplorable results. It would be easy to give a larger list of women who had been political benefactors, but such an argument is no more worthy of consideration than the argument that because there are hypocrites in the church therefore the church is rotten, or that because there are quack physicians should not be trusted, or that because there is bad money in circulation one should empty one's pocketbook into the fire.

But we are taking the reverie too seriously. Dreams, however fantastic, are always laughed at when the sleeper awakes and by no one so heartily as by the dreamer himself.—Wives and Daughters.

A Punctilious Man.

A card should be turned down at the upper left hand corner when a call is made in person and the recipient is not at home. An amusing case of the punctiliousness with which this rule is observed in Europe is that of an old Spanish gentleman who went to pay his devotions at the shrine of a saint, but discovered that the church was undergoing repairs and that there was no priest officiating at the altar. Unwilling to lose credit for his devout intentions, he drew a visiting card from his pocket, and carefully turning down the corner reverently deposited it on the altar.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Advice to a Would Be Lawyer.

A correspondent asks, "How would you advise a young man of moderate means, desiring to become a lawyer, to proceed?" We would advise him not to proceed. Of course if he shows signs of becoming a good and great lawyer, he might properly borrow money, make his way to the bar and repay the loan as he can. But for most men of moderate circumstances who seek, as you do, "free legal education," our advice is to give up the idea. There are enough poor law yers now. There are too many lawyers for that matter. Very few can do more than earn their salt.—New York Sun.

His Recommendation.

Priscilla—Tell me honestly what qualification has your fiance for a husband? Prunella—Experience. He has been married three times before.—Vogue.

HOW TO AVOID CONSUMPTION.

Conditions That Favor the Growth of the Tubercle Bacillus.

If a person inhales the spores of the bacillus of tubercle, he will become affected with consumption, provided the layer of cells which lines his air passage is in the right condition. Certain persons seem predisposed to consumption. It used to be supposed that the disease was hereditary because such a large proportion of cases occurred in certain families. We now know that the disease cannot be produced without the presence of specific bacillus, and that this bacillus very rarely passes from mother to child.

Many cases of supposed inherited consumption are really due to infected houses, bedding and other articles, for the spores retain their vitality for years, but probably the blood and tissues of some persons are more favorable to the growth of the bacillus than others, and the susceptibility thus produced may no doubt be inherited. Moreover, this special susceptibility can be artificially produced. This is effected by rebreathing air which has recently been in the lungs of a man. It requires some time to produce this result, but the experience of armies, where the soldiers are kept in unventilated barracks, leaves little room to doubt that long continued breathing of foul air produces a condition in the lungs that is specially favorable to the growth of the tubercle bacillus.

Anything that produces a chronic irritation and congestion of the lungs and air passages tends to lower the vitality of the lining cell layer and to make it a better soil for the growth of the germ. Hence those occupations which bring numbers of people together in ill ventilated rooms and which produce dusts are especially liable to induce tuberculosis, while those which are carried on chiefly in the open air are more free from danger from this disease. The death rate from consumption among farmers and fishermen is less than one-fourth that from the same cause among file cutters, potters and printers, and less than half that of the workers in cotton and woolen mills. The high death rate among printers is almost exclusively due to consumption. The habitual criminal class is also specially liable to this disease, and there are few jails or penitentiaries that are not infected with it.

It is very satisfactory to note that the death rate from consumption has decreased in this country within the last 10 years, as shown by statistics of different states and cities. In Philadelphia the death rate from this cause was, in 1870, 3.42; in 1880, 3.17, and in 1890, 2.64 per 1,000, and probably this is due to increase in the popular belief in the contagiousness of the disease and to the increasing tendency on the part of physicians to urge special measures of prevention in all cases which they attend.

To the man who has lost near relatives—parent, uncle or brother—by consumption the practical question of interest is, "What can I do to keep myself and my children free from it?" The avoidance of infected houses and rooms, the living as much in the open air as possible, and the securing of abundant ventilation for the offices, workrooms, and especially for the sleeping rooms which must be occupied, are the most important measures.

How to Make Copal Varnish.

One pound of copal, three quarters of a pound of rosin and a quart of linseed oil dissolved over a slow fire. Boil 15 minutes, add 2 ounces of sugar of lead and boil the same time slowly. Thin with spirits of turpentine.

How Newspaper Editorials Came to Be Called "Leaders."

When the editor of a newspaper sends his copy to the printer, directions are frequently added in reference to the style of type he wishes to be used, as "brevier," "brevier lead" (pronounced led), "bongeois," "bongeois lead," etc., the addition, "lead," denoting that the writing is to be set up in type of the size indicated, with strips of lead between the lines to keep them wider apart than usual. The editor's comments on passing events being always "headed," are called in the printing office "leaders," which was formerly pronounced "leders." The term "leading article" arose from a misapprehension of the original word.

How to Deodorize Onion Kettles.

Onion or other odors can be removed from cooking kettles by dissolving a spoonful of pearl ash or saleratus in water and washing them with it.

How to Cover an Umbrella.

An old umbrella frame can often be covered with black sateen at a trifling expense and will answer for the children to carry to school or for an extra umbrella on many occasions. Take two yards of best black sateen and use one section of the cover of the old one for a pattern. Cut the new cloth a seam smaller than the old one, as it will stretch, and it needs to be very tight. Cut as many sections as the old one had, sew them together and hem the edge, and your cover is ready to try on.

Slip it on the frame and tack it, and if it is not perfectly tight all over remove and take larger seams in the loose places.

How to Shave.

Rub the lather well with the hand to soften the beard, dip the razor in warm water and hold nearly flat, giving a gliding or circular motion.

How to Take Care of a Sponge.

Once a week drop the sponge into water in which a large lump of soda has been dissolved, afterward boiling it for 30 minutes, when it should be rinsed in cold water and given a sun bath until entirely dry. Always rinse all soapy suds from your sponge, then throw it into the sponge basket, which should be hung just outside the bathroom window. A sponge thus cared for will never be slimy, sour or musty.

How to Stop Cracks in a Plute.

Pack with good beeswax in which has been melted and mixed one-sixth of rosin. Apply, when cooled, with the finger.

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