THE GRAND ARMY OF LABOR

Omaha Workingmen Interested in the New Electric Street Lighting Franchise.

COMMENT ON RECENT MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Carson's Description of the Woeful Industrial Condition in the East—Wilson Bill Causing It — A Wideawake Assembly—Labor Notes.

Considerable interest is being manifested in local labor circles regarding the proposition of the new electric light company to furnish light at a much lower rate than is now being paid. It is argued that while electric light is being furnished by private corporations the public should surely have the full benefit of competition and that as the bond is absolutely good which is offered by the new company and its prices more favorable, they should be granted the contract without further delay. The savings on lighting, it is argued, could be spent in public work which would give employment to Omaha's idle working people.

It is also estimated that the putting in operation of the new plant would necessarily give a large number of persons employment. This fact alone leads the laboring people to very strongly favor the granting of the franchise without delay, as there are now so many walking the streets looking for work. A large number of the members of the Omaha Central Labor union were gathered one evening last week at Knights of Labor hall and a discussion of public franchises developed the fact that Mayor Bemis had made many friends among the working people by his timely action upon the famous fifty-year gas franchise, which seemed for a time to have hypnotized a number of the councilmen. The fight made by The Bee was also warmly commended and it was the consensus of opinion that The Bee had done a great thing for the working people and taxpayers in winning the concessions that were granted by the gas company. The savings gained in the gas deal it was thought could now be duplicated in the electric lighting if the council would now do its whole duty by the people and taxpayers, as the members are sworn to do. Several of those present thought that the city council would do its duty by the people, and cited the fact that it had located the market house on Jefferson square at the request of the working people. All were of the opinion that the taxpayers should protest against a contract being awarded to the highest bidder and it was thought that if the people would exhibit the proper interest all would be well.

Wilson Bill Doing It.

James Carson, a prominent labor leader of Philadelphia, was in the city one day last week and gave The Bee reporter an interesting interview upon the present conditions in the manufacturing centers in the east. "Never before in the history of the country," said Mr. Carson, "have conditions been worse than at present. An almost total paralysis of industry has taken place within the last nine months. Mills and factories have closed down or are running only a few hours a day; the mines, as a consequence, are doing little; the carrying trade has fallen off over one-half and hundreds of thousands of working people are idle and almost at starvation's door."

Mr. Carson says that there is a deep-seated feeling in the east that the cause of the hard times is due to the uncertainty existing as to what the democratic majority will do with the tariff question. He says that if an election was to take place tomorrow the democrats would be defeated in every eastern state. Wages have been reduced from one-third to one-half and the labor organizations are seriously contemplating the holding of a gigantic meeting at Washington, D. C., in April to protest against the passage of the Wilson tariff bill. Although times are fearfully hard it is estimated that over 40,000 workingmen would attend the convention. He was of the opinion that whatever the present congress did with the tariff bill the next congress would be overwhelmingly republican and would undo the mischief of the enemies of American labor.

Mr. Carson gave statistics and showed that in the textile industries over 70 per cent of the operatives were idle, and that wages had been reduced over 22 per cent. Many workingmen who were paying for homes or endeavoring to pay off obligations assumed in prosperous times found their source of revenue cut off or greatly reduced and were unable to keep up their payments, causing losses, sacrifices and untold misery. The conditions in the coal regions, which are hard in the best of times, at the present are frightful. Thousands of idle miners are tramping over the country in search of work, while the women and children are facing starvation. The condition of the coke workers was likewise deplorable, fully one-half being out of employment. The steel and iron workers had also felt the effect of the hard times, and wages had been reduced fully one-third. These sweeping reductions had greatly changed the conditions of living in the manufacturing centers; rents had come down from 25 to 50 per cent, and where one family had occupied a house, now two and three crowded into it. Prices of breadstuffs and other articles had come down considerably and the cost of living had been cheapened in general.

Another sign of the hard times was the fact that hundreds of Italians who had saved comfortable sums were leaving the country and returning to their native land, where they find it possible with a few hundred dollars to live in idleness and luxury. The saying that the gates of Castle garden swing inward, not outward, would soon be obsolete, unless the friends of American labor were put on guard at Washington.

"Old 5141."

Knights of Labor assembly No. 5,141 of Omaha was established in the year 1886 and is now one of the strongest mixed assemblies in the city. It holds regular meetings every Friday evening in Knights of Labor hall, and these meetings are always regarded as the most interesting of those of any assembly in the city. Men of nearly all callings of labor belong to "Old 5,141," as it is usually called, and the discussions cover a multitude of subjects.

All visitors to 5,141 are invited by the master workman to propose a subject which they would like to hear discussed, and at no time yet has a subject been proposed which some of the members were not able to discuss in an intelligent manner. No. 5,141 is sometimes called the "political assembly," as the subjects discussed are usually of a political nature. However that may be, it is certain that the practice the members have at their regular meetings ably fits them to discuss many subjects that are of great public interest.

From the Labor Field.

Cigarmakers are fighting convict labor in Ohio.

Bath tubs are now made out of aluminum.

The paper hangers are organizing at St. Louis.

Thirty shoe factories are in operation in St. Louis.

Machinists have been cut 10 per cent at Biddeford, Me.

Button workers in Massachusetts average 83 cents a day.

Electrical Workers union No. 3 has an initiation fee of $25.

Toronto bookbinders are asking for an eight-hour work day.

United Mine Workers of America meet at Columbus, O., April 10.

The trades union movement is said to be growing in Toronto.

Pittsburg carpenters are trying to establish an eight-hour day.

The Fall River weavers have joined the National Textile union.

A steel mill is running seven days a week at Hammond, Ind.

Printers of Detroit have declared in favor of government telegraphs.

The brewery firemen of Brooklyn have joined the Knights of Labor.

The strike of the Omaha tailors has been endorsed by the national union.

The strike of the St. Louis beer drivers is to be made a national affair by the Knights of Labor.

Stonecutters at San Antonio have won their demand for an eight-hour day.

Weavers are out on a strike at New Bedford rather than accept a reduction.

The building trades unions in Chicago report a large increase in membership.

Bangor, Me., workers have passed resolutions favoring government telegraphs.

Nebraska Knights of Labor will organize mixed assemblies in the small towns.

The Knights of Labor co-operative laundry at Cleveland has proved to be a success.

Hotel and Restaurant Employes' National alliance will convene at St. Louis April 9.

Pittsburg stone cutters refused to accept a reduction in wages without a reduction of hours.

Sewing machine workers in the factories at Bridgeport have been reduced 10 per cent.

Four thousand union men attended an anti-child labor mass meeting held at Baltimore.

The bakers union at Cardiff has changed the working hours of a week from eighty to sixty-three.

The New Haven Central Labor union held a public mass meeting to discuss "Wages and the Ballot."

Striking brewers at St. Louis have received $2,550 from organized labor to assist them in the fight.

There is considerable talk of locating the general offices of the Knights of Labor in Washington, D. C.

A Fall River girl weaver was fined 45 cents and drew for the week the magnificent sum of 7 cents.

Union Pacific employes will meet the receivers in Omaha the 15th inst to try to arbitrate their differences.

Bricklayers and stone masons at Detroit endorsed a proposed ordinance to exclude aliens from municipal work.

Spinners at Fall River have doubled the dues of the working members, which will be paid to those who are idle.

Union collar and cuff makers of Albany protest against convicts manufacturing their line of goods in the penitentiary.

Buffalo painters are demanding an eight hour work day. In response the bosses say the men must leave their union.

Five thousand dollars has been distributed to the unemployed members by the Spinners union at Fall River, Mass.

Sixty-one union tailors in Omaha have quit work rather than accept a reduction. Only two establishments are involved.

A union of the unemployed has been organized at Louisville. It received its charter free from the Knights of Labor.

Lancaster, Pa., unions want municipal ownership of all public franchises and a minimum wage scale of $1.50 per day of eight hours.

Samuel Gompers is editor of the American Federationist, published by the American Federation of Labor, at 14 Clinton Place, New York city.

Toronto has provided work for 1,500 men at $1.35 a day. On the day that work started over 1,000 men were gathered around the city hall at 6 a. m.

IN THE THEATERS.

"A Pair of Kids," which is to be the attraction at the Fifteenth Street for four nights and Wednesday matinee, commencing with matinee today, is now in its ninth year of success and seems to be as strong a card as ever. Jiles Button, the old down east Yankee with his "well, I'll be darned" and the comic whistle having become familiar to theater-goers from one end of the country to the other. It is related of Patti that at a matinee performance at the Grand opera house, Chicago, she left her box at the end of the first act, explaining to the manager as she passed out that her voice would be ruined for her evening's work at the Auditorium if she remained longer, so irresistibly amusing did this character appear to her. At Coates' opera house, Kansas City, a young man sitting next the aisle in the parquet jumped to his feet and fell headlong in a laughing fit and had to be carried off in an ambulance, and at Ford's theater, Baltimore, several years ago a lady in one of the boxes had a laughing fit and had to be taken to her carriage by friends. The present company is a strong one, including Gilbert Sarony of "Sinbad" and "Ali Baba" fame, John Magee, Henry Winchell and other old-time favorites.

"The Idea," which is the name of Hallen & Hart's latest compound of jollity, will hold forth at the Boyd for four nights, beginning tonight. "The Idea" was introduced here for the first time last season and proved an attractive acquaintance. The elastic nature of the pieces which Hallen & Hart present will admit of the infusion of almost anything new without discord or hurt, so long as it is distinctly entertaining. These popular comedians realize their advantage in this respect, and with natural cleverness, good taste and tireless energy they are constantly bringing forward and weaving together happily the light ingredients which go to make up a snappy entertainment.

They have the good judgment to group around themselves for the purpose of entertainment only clever people, and generally the very best in their particular specialties. The singing quality of their performances has been universally good, and at times conspicuous to the degree of excellence. That this agreeable feature is none the less manifest this season may be inferred from the following names, which are rated high among professional singers: J. Aldrich Libbey of "After the Ball" and "Two Little Girls in Blue" fame comes first. He is said to have several new ballads which are predicted to reach as wide a popular favor. One with sensitive nerves may honestly express the hope that this prophesy may prove false. Marguerite LaMar, late prima donna at the Manhattan opera house, New York, is the principal feminine vocalist. Among the other important members of the company are Larry Dooly, Charles B. Lawler, Al Wilson, Fanny Bloodgood, Carry De Mar and a couple of young misses, Edith Murray and Jennie Grovini, who have a dance which caught the crowd immensely in New York.

Hallen & Hart themselves have a new grist of humorous songs and parodies. An anvil chorus, a typewriter specialty and a Spanish gavotte will show the girls of the company in stunning garb and figure. Fresh fun, lively music, graceful dance and stimulating song are always met with in the Hallen & Hart shows. It is said this will be the last chance to see "The Idea" in Omaha, as they have in preparation a new musical venture for next season.

"The White Squadron," the big naval drama, comes to the Fifteenth Street theater for four nights and Wednesday matinee, commencing next Sunday matinee. The author of "The White Squadron" is Mr. James W. Harkins, jr., who has won a well earned reputation both as a playwright and actor. His selection of a theme for a drama was a timely one, for of the many features of a government there is none, perhaps, in which the people are greater interested than the navy. And while Mr. Harkins causes the American navy to stand forth in his play in bold relief, he has not neglected to give a graphic representation of the armed cruisers of other countries. In fact, he brings them together in congress assembled, as it were, in a grand united effort to rid the Brazilian country of its nefarious brigands. In the representation of the piece a large number of supernumeraries are used to represent soldiers, monks and brigands. One of the atrocities inflicted on his subjects by Romanico, in the play, is the making of a Moorish slave, son of a former king, a companion to an ox. They appear on the stage yoked together.

The company selected by Mr. Pearson for the presentation of "The White Squadron" is made up of thoroughly competent and high class artists. Mr. W. A. Whitecar, well known in this city as a handsome and capable actor, will impersonate the leading role of Victor Staunton. Miss Laura Almosnino plays the role of Pope Staunton, Elmer Grandin will be seen in his original part of Santos, a Moorish slave. Other members are Frederick Lulian, John T. Burke, Robert Neil, J. Edwin Leonard, George F. Hall, Edwin Jerome, F. J. Lalor, J. J. Coleman, George F. White, B. G. Martin, William Vestal, J. W. Harmon, Miss Gail Forest, Miss Tessie Deagle, Mrs. E. M. Post.

The performances of "La Belle Russe" by Mabel Eaton and her own company at Boyd's on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of this week will be a dramatic event of more than usual moment, partly from the fact that Miss Eaton is an Omaha girl, with a wide circle of friends and acquaintances here, but in a much greater degree from the fact that she has developed into an actress of great ability, and therefore the event will doubtless be both an artistic and social success.

The play offered is one of the foremost of emotional dramas and comes direct from New York city with a strong supporting company and as complete an equipment as the metropolis affords.

Miss Eaton's wardrobe is said to be one of the most elegant and expensive collections of feminine costumes with which any American actress has ever had the artistic inspiration and the commercial daring to dress a role.

"Ten Nights in a Barroom," which appears at the Fifteenth Street theater three nights and St. Patrick's day matinee, commencing March 15, will receive an enthusiastic welcome. The company which plays "Ten Nights in a Barrooom" here is made up of carefully selected artists, and each one has made a study of his part. The "Ten Nights in a Barroom" has a moral, which is often found lacking in pieces now produced. This piece has had a longer run than any play which has ever been produced by any company on the American stage.

George H. Primrose and William H. West still retain the great title of the merry monarchs of burnt cork minstrelsy, and their reputation is world-wide. Their appearance at Boyd's theater on Sunday and Monday evenings of next week will be welcomed by the theater-going people. The program is made up of new and interesting novelties, and the music and jokes are of the latest pattern. Mr. George H. Primrose has given much time to the designing of the first part, which, by the way, has never been thought of, and he has invested more money in scenery and costumes than in any other two seasons. The company is made up of artists in their various parts, and a first class performance of minstrelsy will be given.

OUT WEST.

Captain Jack Crawford.

I sing of a country remarkably fair,
Out west,
Where fragrance from flowers is borne on the air,
Out west,
Where the sun ever sprinkles its beautiful light,
Where mosquitoes are too sympathetic to bite,
And the men never stay at their clubs half the night,
Out west.

There's health in the kiss of the murmuring breeze,
Out west,
There's joy in the songs of the birds in the trees,
Out west,
There's melody sweet in the mountain quail's call,
Far up in the shade of the pine trees tall,
And death claims the man who sings "After the Ball,"
Out west.

The girls are the prettiest creatures on earth,
Out west,
Their beauty is distanced alone by their worth,
Out west,
The birds sit in wonder to hear their sweet song,
Their gait is elastic, their muscles are strong,
And they wear their shoe heels back where they belong,
Out west.

The red men are not of the museum kind,
Out west,
The cowboys are not exhibition inclined,
Out west,
There are no localities christened as "slums,"
The statesmen don't fight for political plums,
And unemployed workmen are never called "bums,"
Out west.

No nickels the church basket finds on its trips,
Out west,
The Christians come down with their red and blue chips,
Out west,
The dudes wear their pants in the tops of their boots,
They never indulge in gay lah-de-dah suits,
Their jewelry is of the pattern that shoots,
Out west.

There are sixteen full ounces in every pound,
Out west,
No chicory can in the coffee be found,
Out west,
No clothing store fakers with "fire-damaged" stock,
Try to rope in the suckers from out on the walk,
The milk when assayed shows no trace of chalk,
Out west.

When a home is all riven with martial strife,
Out west,
A man never seeks for divorce from his wife,
Out west,
He flies to Chicago with speed of a dart,
The guillotine soon cuts the fetters apart,
And he seeks a new darling to patch up his heart,
Out west.

For husbands young widows do not advertise,
Out west,
A new one is ready when t'other one dies,
Out west,
And maidens who fear that as maids they'll grow gray,
Should fly to that beautiful land right away—
Proposals would fly at them 'steen times a day,
Out west.

CONNUBIALITIES.

Clairette—What are you going to give me, papa, when I get married? Harpagon—My consent, Clairette.

The buttons on the wedding dress of a millionaire's daughter, recently married, were made of jewels, and cost $100 each.

One of the coming swell weddings in New York will be that of Miss Edith Kip and Mr. Richard McCreary. The knot will be tied in Grace church, April 18.

"Why was their engagement broken off? Did they quarrel?" "No; that was the trouble. They were both so amiable they got tired of each other."

Old Bachelor—Do you expect to marry, or do you prefer to keep your liberty, Miss Van Sand? Miss Van Sand—What a funny question. I intend to do both.

Miss Louise H. Morris, the far-famed beauty and society belle of Baltimore, will be married to Frederick Gebhard, the equally famous club and society man of New York, on Wednesday, the 14th inst.

Husband (late at dinner)—There's one thing I must say, Maria, when Jane was alive, if I were late she had things kept hot for me. Wife (sarcastically)—That's probably what she's doing now, John.

"Mr. Muchcoin seems very attentive to Miss Jingle; does she know anything of him?" "No, but she will probably will have very little of his society after they leave here." "So it is no love affair?" "Dear me, no; she is going to marry him."

If Yankee ingenuity can devise some legal provision by which American girls can marry a foreign title without taking the man who goes with it, the recruits to the ranks of our native aristocracy will increase in a geometrical progression from the time of its adoption until the titles are exhausted or the spirit of American manhood has kicked the whole thing over.

"Miggs is going deucedly slow in his courtship of Miss Airess. I suppose, though, he wants to be sure of his ground before he proposes." "Humph! If the inquiries he has been making of late about the real estate she owns are any indication I take it he wants to be sure of hers."

Stub Ends of Thought.

Detroit Free Press: With Cupid salary is no object.

Cynicism is one of the shadows which experience casts.

The heart is no philosopher.

An ounce of a woman's intuition is better than a pound of her reason.

We always better ourselves by forgetting ourselves.

What a flower enjoys it gives to the world in color and perfume.

What a girl thinks, a woman would like to do.

Melody is the soul of music as harmony is its body.

Give some people an ell and they'll take all the rest of the alphabet.

DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve cures ulcers.
DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve cures piles.

VISITORS IN THE SICK ROOM

Certain Persons Ought Never Be Permitted to See the Patient.

BUSY BODIES WHOSE TALK IS TORTURE

A Call of Inquiry at the Door in Most Cases the Wisest and Ten Minutes Should Limit Your Time at the Bedside—Feminine Frills and Fashions.

What are womanly instincts? Are they alike in all women? Do all women want to sit at home by the fire? Is every woman satisfied to limit her life to the nursery and kitchen? asks June Croly in a recent address to Sorosis. The habits of one generation are the instincts of the next, and is not this staying-at-home instinct in this generation the result of the habits of the women of the past? Before the patriarchial age there was a matriarchal age, when the women attended to all the retail business of life. We read in proverbs how the woman, after she had gathered her maids together and set them at their spinning, went forth and considered the fields and purchased them. And because of her good judgement she was accounted a crown of glory to her husband. It was a woman who organized the first squadron of ships and sent them out on a mercantile venture. The reason of this was because the men were all warriors, and the woman controlled all social, domestic and mercantile life. There are today large numbers of women in controlling positions in the business world. One woman there is who is known on paper as J. Brown, and controls large home and foreign interests. A gentleman who had occasion to meet J. Brown in a business way after having known the individual for many years on business paper, found that J. Brown was a very small woman at the head of a very large establishment, where the only men employed were the porters. A gentleman who lectured to a commercial class of young men recently warned them to look out for the women, for they had come to stay.

Rubies are now the most expensive kind of jewel and a very wealthy man said the other day that he was going to buy his wife a set of rubies, as he wanted some investment for his money and was sick of land. His wife seemed immensely pleased with the idea, says a writer in the New York Tribune, for nothing is more exquisite than fine rubies surrounded with pure white diamonds. In respect of jewels men are as extravagant as women. A cigarette case recently made to order for a wealthy clubman was of oxidized steel and studded with diamonds of the first water. The cost of this toy was $800; and yet men laugh at women who have diamonds inserted in the lace of their fans, where they are certainly more appropriate than in cigarette cases!

Nor does this extravagance stop at trifles that can be carried on the person of the sterner sex. There is a well known young London "exquisite" who is the happy possessor of a shaggy Irish terrier, called Tim, and around the little animal's bristly neck is a gold collar with his unaristocratic appellation done in red enamel and diamonds and the young man's crest and monogram similarly executed. It is quite possible for a woman to wear too many diamonds. There are, it is true, stately dowager duchesses and magnificent marchionesses to the manor born who adorn, rather than are adorned, by the costly jewels they wear; but, on the other hand, there are faces pretty enough, but lacking that essential quality of high breeding and refinement without which a splendidly jewelled woman becomes a mere background for an ostentatious display, her beauty being in a measure obliterated by her jewels.

Once upon a time there lived a woman, and the woman was lonely, so she cried to the gods: "Oh, I am very lonely. Give me some one to comfort me." And the gods heard and were sorry for the woman, says an eye-witness writing in the New York Recorder. And they took a beautiful human soul, perfect in evry part, and clothed it in the garments of a man and brought it to the woman.

When the woman heard them coming she was very glad, for she said: "Now, I shall be no longer lonely. Now there will be one to keep me company." But when she saw the soul, she gave a great cry, and fell down as one dead. And when she had a little recovered, she shrieked: "Oh, take it away! I cannot bear it! It wears an old-fashioned coat, and, behold, I see a spot of grease upon it."

Then the gods were wroth with the woman and took the soul away and left her lonely. So the woman sat and lamented.

Time passed.

"Oh, ye gods!" cried the woman once again, "I am very lonely. Give me someone to comfort me."

Then the gods had compassion on the woman, and they took a block of wood and carved out of it a beautiful human form, and dressed it in the latest fashion and gave it an eye-glass and a flower for its buttonhole, and brought it to the woman.

When the woman saw it she rejoiced greatly, and she opened her arms and took it and kissed it and fondled it and was comforted. And the woman called the figure a man, and she thought it was alive.

A woman of the world almost invariably can effect the most rapid changes of toilet, for it is a part of her creed to dress quickly and appropriately for any function. The rustic beauty may require an hour or so in which to dress for a ball, may linger over her Sunday dressing until she is late for church, and may keep the other members of the family waiting whenever she is to appear in public, says a writer on the New York Tribune; milady, on the contrary, serene in the consciousness of being perfectly attired for every occasion, considers fifteen minutes to be an ample allowance for the most elaborate toilet, and, if needs be, can be literally "ready in five minutes." It is really a mark of good form, did the tardy ones but know it, and indicates a familiarity with the usages of the world to be able to dress with rapidity and at the same time well.

Young people should be taught that it is not only selfish, but bad form, to keep people waiting—for it is unhappily true that we are so constituted that it would trouble us more to commit any social solecism than to feel our conscience accuse us of any want of consideration to others. Some people seem to have a constitutional inability to be ready on time, and they go through life, causing more discomfort and exciting more irritability than a little. They are placidly selfish and aggravatingly self-satisfied, while their victims fret and fume and lose their tempers, exciting in the cause of it all only a sort of surprised pity that they should "show so little self-control."

That our ancestors regarded dress with much respect we judge from old journals and letters. Here is a description printed in Harper's Bazar of a girl's first ball dress, taken from a letter written in 1838, by a young woman of 15 to her maiden aunt: "I went to the ball on the 22d and enjoyed myself very much; I did not take any cold. We had beautiful music and an excellent supper; at least it looked nice, but I did not eat anything. I was afraid if I did I might be sick. Perhaps you would like to know how I was dressed. I bought me a bishop's-lawn dress at 70 cents a yard (it was a very nice piece), and got Miss Almira Bradley to make it. She made it Grecian bodist and leg-of-mutton sleeves plaited down. She said that ruffled sleeves were entirely out of fashion. I had a piece of pink gauze ribbon tied in a bow at the bottom of the plaits, and a piece of the same tied around my waist and tied in a bow at the point. I had a pink Donna Maria scarf with a tassel at each end fastened on the left shoulder with a very small bouquet. I had a new pair of white kid and a new pair of French slippers, and a lace underhandkerchief trimmed with a narrow lace edging. I wore a thin flannel petticoat and a thick one, with another cambric muslin one over that. I had on a pair of worsted stockings and silk ones over them. I had my hair curled at the barber's; I had to sit still two hours to have it done. I went to the ball at 7 o'clock and got home at 2. Miss Sarah Hildreth was the belle; she looked very beautiful; she had on a satin dress with a figured blond over that and a black mantilla. Her blond dress was so long that it dragged seven or eight inches."

There are certain persons who ought to be by legal or some other enactment barred out of a sickroom. They come at the most inopportune moment, bustle in with a sort of hurrah, taking it for granted that their presence will be cheering and beneficial to the patient. They are breezy and bright, but unspeakably trying and exasperating. They have somewhere or other heard that one must always be cheerful under such circumstances, says the New York Ledger, and, following out this idea, they are noisy to boisterousness, and frequently absolutely maddening to the sufferer as well as to the attendants. Most of these people are very nearly destitute of the commodity known as nerves. Never having suffered any very serious ailment in their lives they are incapable of appreciating the tortures endured by sensitive organizations. They laugh and chatter and possibly pat the patient on the head or shoulder and flutter around like fussy mother-hens.

When they leave it is not infrequently the case that the doctor has to be sent for, and finds the patient in a state of complete nervous prostration or in a condition bordering on hysteria.

There are a few simple rules that should always be observed in visiting the sick. First, and most important: Never go unless there is excellent reason for doing so. It is often quite enough to make a call of inquiry at the door. Do not ask to see the sick person unless the intimacy distinctly warrants it, and even then be very reluctant to accept such an invitation. Nine times out of ten what an invalid wants is quiet and rest and to be judiciously and kindly let alone. More people have been visited into their graves than statistics have ever recorded.

If one must avoid noise and confusion, it is equally important not to swing clear over to the other extreme and be so mysterious, sly and silent that the sick person is instantly thrown into apprehension by your manner, and at once draws the conclusion that the case must be necessarily a very grave one to warrant such unusual conduct.

If you are to see the invalid, some one will open the door, when you should walk in quietly and in a gentle tone exchange the compliments of the day, and express a hope that your visit will not be wearisome and that all is going well. Having done so, if there is any matter of mutual interest it is not amiss to speak of it. If you both belong to some society and there has been any special action or marked success in any branch of its work, it may furnish material for pleasant thoughts after your departure. Do not remain over ten minutes unless specially asked to do so, and even that time is too long if there are any symptoms of nervousness or weariness. Above all, do not talk of disagreeable things or relate any of the misfortunes or mishaps that have befallen any member of the community. A sick room is cloudy enough without bringing in shadows from the outside. Studiously avoid recommending medicines unless there is a most excellent reason for doing so. If a physician is employed it is a discourtesy to him to urge other remedies upon the patient.

These are a few of the rules to be observed in visiting the sick. It might be said, in the words of an eminent physician of the last generation: "Amend these by staying away altogether," for, as a rule, visiting in the sick room is productive only of evil.

By all means make calls of inquiry, but never think it incumbent upon you to entertain sick people unless they are well advanced in convalescence and your presence is earnestly desired.

Ex-officio, as it were, Mrs. Cleveland is "the first lady" of the land, and by the same token Mrs. Stevenson ought to be the second, says the New York Sun.

In one particular direction, however, the wife of the vice president is second to none. She has grown young during the past year with a disregard of old Father Time which savors of impertinence. At the inauguration last March Mrs. Stevenson sat in the second row of the senate gallery, directly behind Mrs. Cleveland, and the contrast between the two women was almost startling. Mrs. Stevenson looked painfully older than Mrs. Cleveland and palpably older than she wanted to look. Her face was powdered to the whiteness of chalk and her raiment was rich, rare, and regardless—regardless alike of cost and of what the fashion books call "suitable for middle-aged ladies." Altogether, she wasn't quite up to the mark which most of the spectators had set for the second lady of the land.

That was a year ago. Ten days ago the Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution met in Washington. At the first meeting a lady, who occupied a large chair in the center of the platform, rose and read an address of welcome. She was not only elegantly dressed, but well dressed. She seemed young, handsome, and thoroughly mistress of herself and the situation. She did not even remotely suggest the stout, overdressed, bepowdered woman who sat, a year ago, in the shadow of Mrs. Cleveland's fair youth.

"Who is that?" asked the newspaper woman of her neighbor.

"Mrs. Stevenson," was the reply.

It certainly was, and the second lady of this young country seems to be perfectly in harmony with the prevailing spirit of youth. How she has cheated time for a twelvemonth!

Speaking of Mrs. Stevenson and the Daughters, as they call themselves in conversation, one is reminded of a funny thing which happened that first morning.

The wife of the vice president has evidently never opened the covers of her husbaud's authorities on parliamentary order. But she was not blind to her own defects, so she supplied them quite easily by engaging as adviser a mild-mannered man who, nevertheless, knew all about overruling and quashing and laying on the table. This man sat at Mrs. Stevenson's elbow, told her what to do next in all cases, and scuttled a number of ships in the shape of resolutions offered by adventurous Daughters.

The first little incident of this sort was when a motion was offered by a distinguished looking woman from the Mount Vernon chapter. Mrs. Stevenson was standing at the time, and, without waiting for any discussion, asked the yeas and nays, and got them, too, before the little man or any one else had a chance to draw a long breath. Immediately there was a storm of opposition. Then the mild parliamentarian whispered something to Mrs. Stevenson. She pounded in a lady-like manner with her pretty gavel and said:

"The question before the congress, ladies, is the resolution. We can do one of two things with it. We can either—we can either what?" she blandly and frankly asked, turning to the blushing parliamentarian.

It was so openly done that it brought down the house. Mrs. Stevenson laughed, the little man laughed, everybody laughed, and order was not restored for several minutes. Then they laid the resolution on the table and went gayly on about their business.

Mrs. Stevenson, however, cannot be credited with introducing the professional masculine parliamentarian into feminine bodies. Mrs. Potter Palmer had her legal henchman, who held the ball and unrolled the red tape for the president of the board of lady managers for the World's fair. He was always at her elbow during the meetings of the board. But it is a question whether his red tape or Mrs. Palmer's tact was of greater value in the sometimes much troubled sessions of the gentle and ungentle lady managers.

A San Francisco paper furnishes some information to the effect that the red hunting costume adopted by the English ladies last fall is about to be introduced in San Francisco and New York by prominent society women. Ladies are reported to be wildly enthusiastic over this festive change from sombre black to bright red, and these gay "riding habits are being made in large numbers." In cut and style they are like the regulation costume except that there is no cutaway for a white shirt front, the jacket being buttoned straight up to the neck and finished with a high collar. The San Francisco lady who will soon appear in this brilliant habit is to have a red silk hat, red chamois skin gloves, and red morocco shoes.

It is possible that the costume to be adopted by the New York ladies may turn out to be a modest shade of garnet, which, with black hat and gloves, would be very genteel. But the California woman's method of dress is to exaggerate every style. If red is reputed fashionable she promptly appears in bright scarlet, with all the little accessories that will make it more prominent, rather than softened. A good looking woman looks her best in the well-fitted conventional habit, but how this new inovation of color will affect her appearance on horseback cannot be described until she is seen in all her gorgeousness.

The first election of a woman to the office of mayor within the limits of the British empire has taken place. Mrs. Yates, the lady in question, was elected by the ratepayers of Onehunga, New Zealand, and has been duly installed. Mrs. Yates seems to have taken up the duties of her office with sublime confidence in her abilities to discharge them well. The retiring mayor, Dr. Esson, presented her with the gavel, and asked her to bear in mind the motto on the back of her official chair, "Be just and fear not." Mrs. Yates told him she did not need to be reminded of the motto, as she had already carried it into effect in her life.

In the Laos states, between Siam and Tonquin, dwells a very easy going Chinese prince. Otto Ehlers, the German traveler, has a good deal to say about this eminent ruler. He leaves the chief cares of state to his wife. He takes interest in cooking. It is a pity Brillat Savarian could not have lived to visit him. He has had his throne removed into the royal kitchen, so that he can receive visitors while he watches the preparation of his meals. His subjects are content with his administration. They especially admire the democratic spirit manifested in the choice of a throne room. The dynasty, however, does not promise to be a long one.

FASHION NOTES.

Very narrow bands of mink or fox fur with frills of rich lace are favored for reception gowns.

Tight fitting jackets of sealskin or Persian lamb, that come to the waist are fashionable for wear in mild weather.

Round waists made of vertical rows of insertion or open work mohair braids, under which a contrasting color is laid, are stylish.

Bayadere stripes, except in fabrics used for frocks to be worn on informal occasions, are more chic than the perpendicular stripes.

There are almost as many different conjectures as to the growing and decreasing size of the sleeve as there are styles of sleeves.

A ruche trimming of black satin two inches wide bordered with narrow bands of fur and plaited in triple box plaits is a novelty.

Point de Venise retains its popularity. The creamy yellow lace is now shown in deep Van Dyke points, which are very effective upon corsage.

New skirts are admirably shaped. They escape the ground, fit smoothly across the front and hips and have two double box plaits at the back.

Gowns that are not round in the neck or en pompadour, disclosing the throat and neck, are becomingly finished with a soft fold of black velvet ribbon.

Some of the inexpensive woolen goods are prettily woven mixtures of tints so carefully blended that one is left in pleasing uncertainty as to the actual colors.

Velvet dresses are even in greater favor than they were last year for afternoon wear, especially at weddings and receptions, though cloth continues to hold its own.

Old-fashioned grass cloth is revived again. It is finer and more sheer than that of the old days. It comes in ecru with fine white stripes, and is cool and dainty for shirt waists.

Silks are to be worn more than ever, these soft ones with pretty designs of bright colors on pale tinted grounds. There is, too, a new India silk on which water will leave no trace.

The "bow bonnet" is said to be the latest style for evening wear. Wide moire ribbon that has been wired forms this simple affair, which has no frame or band for a foundation.

The popular crepons come in wool, silk and cotton, and are more beautiful than those of any preceding season. They are in every conceivable color and combination of colors

In London the latest wedding present for the bride is a cigarette case. It may be silver or gold ornamented with rare gems, but the fact that it is for cigarettes need not be disguised.

Braids, which are rarely ever quite out of style, have taken on a more attractive form this season, and are now beaded and spangled and striped with moire, like more pretentious trimmings.

The newly designed black garnitures are very striking. They consist of very elegant appliques for the skirt, corsage and sleeves, and for panels and inserted pieces to be laid over Vandyke points.

Long narrow paste buckles are worn encircling half the figure at the waist, and holding the velvet crush collar at the throat or fastening the band of velvet that finishes the short puffed elbow sleeve.

Light, soft shades are more fashionable for spring wear than the pronounced hues of winter; silvery green rather than the yellow shades, and magenta with a pink cast instead of the unbecoming purple.

There is a decided tendency toward wearing cloaks very long, whether they be of fur, cloth or fancy materials. The fact that this adds to the apparent height does not prevent very tall women from adopting it.

FEMININE GOSSIP.

Among female Moors birthday celebrations are unknown. A Moorish woman considers it a point of honor to be absolutely ignorant of her age.

Ladies of Grand Junction, Colo., have organized the Mesa Political and Social Science club and they now meet once a week to discuss political economy and civil government.

Miss Wilkinson, a landscape gardener of the Metropolitan Public Gardens association of London, England, is now engaged in laying out St. Mary's park, Woolwich and Victoria Park cemetery.

Princess Colonna says it is not true that Mr. Mackay paid $1,000,000 of her worthless husband's debts, although he spent large sums at different times in that direction. She goes to California to get a divorce.

In Holland a woman is a secondary consideration—and a poor consideration at that. No Dutch gentleman when walking on the pavement will move out of his way for a lady. The latter turns out invariably, however muddy or dangerous the street.

Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson affirms that she writes only when she wishes to earn money to spend foolishly, and that she prefers her Samoan flower garden to the pursuit of literature. She is said to be a beautiful woman and possessed of great charm.

Chicago now has a woman engineer, who has successfully passed the ordeal of a rigid examination. A contemporary says she was not let off easily, either, because she was a woman; in fact, the writer says, her examination was, if anything, a little more severe than usual.

Miss Rose Elizabeth Cleveland, the sister of the president, is now reluctantly visiting the white house for the first long stay since her brother came into the presidency the second time. Miss Cleveland abominates public life and tries to escape from it in every way.

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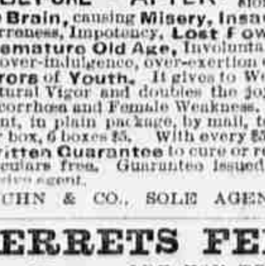

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