

male angels is therein obvious. At the back of a well, apparently balanced on his stomach and with a suspicion of whiskers, holding a lily delicately in two fingers, is a poor awkward gentleman angel, while Mary, who kneels at the well, is too embarrassed to look at him.

The Ladies' Home Journal has many recipes for making useful and pretty presents, which will doubtless be tried by many loving women in an attempt to make the pocketbook, the necessities of the season and their own desires coincide.

It is rather curious to note that the December issue of The Cosmopolitan contains one article having to do with Spain, another with India, another with Japan, another with Cuba, another with Jamaica, another with England, another with Rome and still another with France. This is a pretty wide range.

It is fashionable in certain literary centres to speak or write slightly of the value of the magazines. Nevertheless they are the people's library. They have decreased the bookseller's market, but they pay fairly good prices to hundreds of writers whose reputations would be circumscribed indeed if it were not for the magazines. Their monthly reappearance is like the arrival of a friend who has been visiting other friends and most interesting places and will tell all about it for the asking. The other magazines, McClures and Lippincotts, are not yet received.

A Kansas legislator, who says he knows more about the difficulties of the question because he was once an usher in a theatre, has drawn up a high hat bill which he hopes the legislature this winter will see fit to pass. It divides the theatre into two parts by a line of the same material as the equator and the north pole, drawn from the center of the stage through the center of the house. Mr. Cardwell is sure that he has solved a problem which has baffled newspapers, legislators and theatre managers for many years. If the bill is passed one side of the Kansas City theatres will be filled with waving plumes and specimens of the taxidermist's art, and the other will be decorated with bald knobs and artistic coiffures. For, of course, no woman will take the hatless side unless her hair be carefully arranged. On the high hat side there can be no grumbling about the hat in front, for everyone whose view is blocked by a hat in front can be assured that here is permitting her neighbor in the next rear seat only glimpses of the stage. So as action and reaction are equal there will be peace and repose in the sections occupied by those who, wearing fine specimens on their own heads, prefer the study of ornithology to that of the drama. It is supposed that not many men will wish to sit on the high hat side, which will be occupied almost entirely by women, who, from one reason or another, cannot take off their hats. "A lady," Mr. Cardwell says, "may be visiting in the city or shopping from some suburban town and may not have the time or may lack a place in which to dress her hair, or she may have decided to visit the theatre too late for elaborate tonsorial preparation, and again," Mr. Cardwell says, "there are ladies who do not appear well bareheaded, but who are considered handsome and pretty with a hat on." Any one of these reasons has a particular force in the mind of a woman who is fond of the drama, but for those accustomed to admiration, who go to the theatre to be looked at, the momentary views of the stage they get between the foliage of

flowers and the preening of handsome shoulders are quite satisfactory. The separation of the sexes which will ensue will not be without compensation to the women, as, for instance, in the withdrawal of the unique American tobacco spitter, found nowhere else in the world. If he choose to sit in the high hat section, theatre managers will certainly insist that he refrain from making the locality assigned the women obnoxious. Mr. Cardwell is quite serious about the bill and thinks it will not be killed in committee nor turned aside as a joke by the country members.

Society leaders in Philadelphia have come to the conclusion that fashionable men and women need more sleep. For the purpose of discussing ways of inducing society to go early and come away before sunrise, Mrs. John Cadwalader, Mrs. Alexander J. Cassatt, Mrs. Charles E. Dana, Mrs. George W. C. Drexel, Mrs. Alexander Van Rensselaer and others met at the home of Mrs. C. C. Harrison a few weeks ago. As these are the richest and bluest blooded of the Philadelphia smart set, which is limited by the most rigidly exclusive rules in use in this country, their efforts are quite apt to be successful, at least in a measure. The plan is to have dances begin at nine, whereas they now begin at twelve and last till daylight. The reformed functions are to end not later than two. The absence of dancing men from the parties as well as the complaints of the men who did come, in regard to the lateness of the arrival and departure of guests have been the immediate occasion of this attempt. Many of the scions of old Philadelphia families have to work for a living and the physical impossibility of rendering valuable service after a night of revelry has thinned the ranks of dancing men to a few of the youngest men of leisure. Under these circumstances the feminine element was so largely in predominance that evening functions had all the aspect of an afternoon tea. Something has to be done and that quickly or this generation will see the disappearance of the young man eligible and industrious from the functions of Philadelphia society.

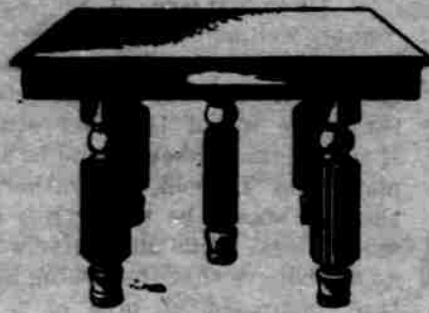
The custom, which obtains in all large cities of the world, of beginning functions after midnight is unwholesome and drives the professional or commercial young man from society and he amuses himself less innocently than in what is called "refined society," though it is not always a misnomer. Even in this small western city we dawdle into receptions and cotillions anywhere between nine and ten and pay for it next day with exhaustion.

There is a popular idea, frequently expressed by people who are content to take information second hand, that the county government is economical and, as compared to the city government, incorruptible. On examination these statements are not borne out by the facts in the case. First as to the majority of the city council. It is composed of men of character, conscience and ability. Some of them have at times been extravagant and are not sufficiently impressed with the necessity of lowering the tax rate and of making the annual expenses correspond with the income. But it has in notable instances broken away from the bosom. Mr. Thompson was opposed, and his opposition exists in the form of a personal letter to at least one councilman, to the establishment of the Mockett well on A street. But the well was tested, found to be full of good water, it was connected with the city mains and a per-

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manent water station established there in the face of an opposition which induced the mayor to order the well plugged, that the test might fail to show signs of abundant water, and induced the mayor to order the engineer, who reported in favor of the well, discharged. Then Mr. Thompson failed to induce the council to vote for his pumping proposition. In a summary of what the city owes the present council, it must not be forgotten that it stood firm in the presence of blandishments and promises which have been effectual with other councils. To be sure there are members of this council who are recognized as tools of Mr. Thompson but the majority are free men who could not be induced to ratify another contract for electric lights, such as the city made with the gas company three years ago. Now as to the county commissioners. The reports of their meetings are not published in the papers. An examination of their administration of county affairs does not indicate that it is conducted with unusual economy or purity. It is doubtful, to say the best, what the result would be if Mr. Thompson were to make the three county commissioners a proposition, with the usual decorations, to award him a profitable five or six year contract. Three men are easier to convince than fourteen, and although the latter may consume valuable time in bickering about the needs of seven wards, since the present council began its deliberations there has been no well founded accusation of corruption made against it. Taking these things into consideration together with the fact that a new lighting contract is to be drawn up in two years, there is strong reason for believing two things, the first is that

the Thompson influence has been baffled by eight votes in this council, the second is a suspicion that the newspaper agitation for a smaller and more "compact" and "unanimous" council has been encouraged by Mr. Thompson, who is looking forward to the expiration of the present lighting contract.

There is, by no means, an unanimity of opinion in regard to reducing the number of councilmen. The dread of ring control, which menaces every city in this country, and the experience of cities entirely controlled by a ring should give us pause before we adopt a form of municipal government which would make it easier for the ring to get control of the city and simplify discipline by the local Croker in command. The water problem is solving itself. In a few years the prospects are that far from having a deficit in that department, it will be a source of profit. With the city lighting in control of the city the annual deficit will begin to be reduced. There is no reason to suppose that the composition of the council will be changed in quality before the next council is elected. The taxpayers have been disciplined too severely the last three years to countenance any measure which would increase the dangers of ring rule. There are doubtless changes which can be made in the charter of benefit but the more we contemplate the seclusion of the county commissioners, the more uncertain the benefits of such a change become. It is urged that the city can afford to hire three men of supernatural intelligence, well, there are the three county commissioners. It is doubtful if they could earn a thousand dollars a year by their own un-