

....The Home Department....

Home Song.

Now thrust my thimble in its case,
And store the spools away,
And lay the muslin rolls in place,
My task is done, today,
For, like the workman's evening bell,
A sound has met my ears,
The gate click by the street doth tell
Papa has come, my dears.

Bear off the toy-box from the floor
For yonder chair make room,
And up, and out! unbar the door,
And breathe his welcome home.
For 'tis the twilight hour of joy,
When home's best pleasures rally,
And I will clasp my darling boy,
While papa romps with Allie.

There, take the hat and gloves and bring
The slippers warm and soft,
While baby's tossed, with cooling laugh,
In those loved arms aloft.
And let each nook some comfort yield,
Each heart with love be warm,
For him whose firm, strong hands
shall shield
The household gods from harm.

—Selected.

November.

Thoreau called November "the twilight of the year." It is the borderland—the halting place of nature; the last trace of summer is gone; winter is not yet ready to fill her place. All nature seems asleep; she has carefully tucked her children away in their cool brown beds, away under the brown mosses; and the falling leaflets are softly drawing a brown coverlid over their sleep.

But there is a beauty, if only one have eyes to see it; and music, if one have ears to hear. The sunsets are unrivaled in brilliancy, the sky is so clear and blue, the stars glitter in the night sky—so wonderfully bright, as the grand constellations sweep upward over the heavens. The soft rustle of the falling leaflets; the soft silken stir in the fading foliage; the low, restful sigh of the fitful wind as it heaps the leaflets over the sleeping earth, or carries them, in little, eddying whirrs, along the forest paths. The soft "fluff, fluff," as we tread over the earth's carpeting; the saucy chatter of the squirrel, the challenge of the jay, and the hoarse caw! caw! of the flying crow.

Now and then there will come a day of such tender beauty—warm, soft and soothing. So restful, so full of content. While the "gray days," when earth and sky seem blent in Quaker coloring—so still! so hushed! as tho' everything were listening—listening.

To a healthy, heartsome nature, there is no melancholy in all this. The "slumber month" is so full of praise; so full of thanksgiving! God never meant that there should be a melancholy day, or month. And there is not, save to one who has a "headache" in his heart.

"As to the Guest."

Now that the holiday season is at hand, there will be more or less visiting between friends and acquaintances, and it should not be forgotten that the charm of the occasion depends as fully upon the behavior of the guest as upon the hospitality of the hostess. There are certain duties binding upon each, the observance of which will determine, in no small degree, the enjoyment of both.

Do not make "surprise" visits, if it can be avoided. Surprises are not always pleasant, and the coming of an unexpected guest may occur at a very inopportune moment, causing annoying

perplexities which will sadly mar the enjoyment of all concerned. Your hostess should be asked to set the date of your visit to suit her convenience, telling her about what time you will be free to accept her invitation, and also, the probable length of your stay; thus enabling her to arrange her own plans with reference to your entertainment.

Be punctual as to the day set for your arrival, and do not insist that your hostess "put herself to no trouble" on your account. No matter how welcome you may be, extra work is inevitable, but you can make it as little as possible by attention to neatness of your personal belongings, care of the room and its furnishings, orderliness and punctuality to all meals, and careful conforming to the habits of the house.

Enter heartily into all plans for your entertainment, showing appreciation of kindly intentions, and by your manner assuring your hostess that you are enjoying the visit, and at all times tacitly make her preferences your own.

Try to be "on call" whenever wanted, quietly effacing yourself on the least suspicion that your presence interferes with the perfect freedom of the family. It must be a very delightful person indeed who is "never in the way," and there are times, every day, when your absence for an hour or two would be a positive relief to your hostess. A tactful person will find many excuses for absenting herself—room to care for, wardrobe to overhaul, letters to write, magazine or newspaper to look over—and your hostess, relieved of the nervous tension of entertaining, will enjoy your presence afresh, on your reappearance.

If disagreeable happenings of a domestic nature, or family "jars" should occur, do not show that you know it; keep your eyes closed to everything your hostess would not wish you to see; and under no circumstances allow yourself to speak of it there, or elsewhere.

It is unwise, as well as unkind, to indulge in adverse remarks about happenings in the home, the hospitality of which you have just enjoyed.

In many households, where there are several of the family to assist, your room will often be preferable to your company, about the housework, and a lady, while keeping herself on the alert for any little offices of kindness, will go quietly about caring for her room, straightening up any slight disorder in the way of sprawling newspapers, tumbled music, scattered books, making her little services as unobtrusive as possible.

When your visit is ended, say goodbye, with thanks for the hospitality enjoyed, and as soon as possible after reaching your home, send a letter, acknowledging your indebtedness for the pleasure the visit has afforded you, and expressing gratitude for all the social courtesies you received at the hands of your friend and her family.

Christmas Thoughts.

It is none too early to plan for your Christmas kindnesses. In arranging your givings, do not strain after the impossible, but give according to your means and ability. Try to have your gifts serve some purpose—to amuse; to entertain; to instruct; to fill some need; supply some want; something to serve, in the way of cheering, brightening, comfort and encouraging. Let them be as beautiful as you may, but do not make them burdensome because of their uselessness, or unfitness for the recipient.

In your plannings, remember the lonely and the friendless. Oftener than

not, you will find them among well-fed, well-clothed, well-conditioned persons; money, or anything that money will buy, will not stay the heart-hunger, or longing for companionship as will a kind word or act of social courtesy.

Remember the poor in purse with delicate tact, for poverty is often very proud and sensitive.

Do not forget the aged and neglected; there is nothing so grateful for kindly notice as unregarded age.

If your purse is empty, do not think that Christmas brings to you no opportunity. To your absent friend, send a loving message of remembrance, if only a few words on a postal card. To those about you, give cordial greetings, and kindly words. You cannot measure the good this touch of sympathy may do your friend.

"A smile, a word, a touch,
And each so quickly given!

Yet they may win

A soul from sin,

And smooth the way to heaven.

A word may soften pains keen'est
smart,

A touch may lead us from sin apart.

How easily given!"

Nowhere have we any record that our Lord gave material gifts. He gave only himself. A healing touch; a tender tone; a loving admonition; a sorrowful rebuke; a look; a tear; and in all these he gave us evidence of his great love and compassionate sympathy—just himself.

Give goodly gifts if you can; but remember that oftentimes the best and sweetest gifts are those that one can command "Without money and without price."

Women as Navy Nurses.

Surgeon General Rixey, of the navy, says "that women are the superior of men for the work of nursing, there can be no question, and the objection that they are not compatible with military conditions can scarcely apply to institutions of the character of our large naval hospitals."

Women in Federal Service.

About one-third of all the employes in the government department at Washington are women. Their salaries range from \$660 to over \$2,500 per annum. Last year of the 3,083 applicants for government positions, 2,476 passed the examination, and 444 were appointed. The most popular examination for women is that for stenographers and typewriters. The men applicants for these positions predominate; yet the average passing was larger on the women's side. Many of the lower officials refuse to have male stenographers in their offices.

Although the records show that the women applicants have much greater ability than the men, yet men are in the majority appointed. A thousand reasons are urged why men should have the preference, although hardly one woman in fifty but is either the sole support of a family, or one of its main props.

The government employe works just as hard as her sister outside, and, once having obtained a position, she has to work to keep it. A young woman was last year made chief of one of the divisions in the postoffice department because she knew more about the work of that particular division than any other employe.

Miss Thora Stejneger, a Norwegian woman, has charge of the classification of all animals received by the Smithsonian institute, and she examines and labels them with unerring skill.

The way of obtaining government positions is tedious and long, but under the methods employed by the civil service commission, it is open to all.

There are a great many elderly ladies employed in the treasury department. Some are in the 70's; one or two have reached the 80's. They have

I Will Cure You of Rheumatism

Else No Money is Wanted.

After 2,000 experiments, I have learned how to cure Rheumatism. Not to turn bony joints into flesh again; that is impossible. But I can cure the disease always, at any stage, and forever.

I ask for no money. Simply write me a postal and I will send you an order on your nearest druggist for six bottles Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure, for every druggist keeps it. Use it for a month and, if it succeeds, the cost is only \$5.50. If it fails, I will pay the druggist myself.

I have no samples, because any medicine that can affect Rheumatism quickly must be drugged to the verge of danger. I use no such drugs, and it is folly to take them. You must get the disease out of the blood.

My remedy does that, even in the most difficult obstinate cases. No matter how impossible this seems to you, I know it and take the risk. I have cured tens of thousands of cases in this way, and my records show that 39 out of 40 who get six bottles pay gladly. I have learned that people in general are honest with a physician who cures them. That is all I ask. If I fail I don't expect a penny from you.

Simply write me a postal card or a letter. I will send you my book about Rheumatism, and an order for the medicine. Take it for a month, as it won't harm you anyway. If it fails, it is free, and I leave the decision with you. Address Dr. Shoop, Box 515, Racine, Wis.

Mild cases, not chronic, are often cured by one or two bottles. At all druggists.

worked for years in this department, and are wonderfully expert in their duties. Their salaries overlap the \$100 per month mark. It is doubtful if any man could be found to do the work at any salary.

In cases where exactitude to the verge of finickiness is required, women are better clerks than men. The tabulating machines, requiring unending patience and the most skillful exactness of touch, are all run by women.

Useful Items.

To prevent the escape of feathers from pillows and beds, turn the new ticks wrong side out and thoroughly cover the surface with starch, working it in with the hand until smooth.

To remove varnish from a piece of furniture requiring revarnishing, rub it over with a cloth saturated with equal parts of gasoline and kerosene. This penetrates the pores of the wood and will cut the most confirmed kind of surface.

A damp cloth should be never be used in dusting highly polished furniture. The best materials are soft worn silk, partly worn silk flannel, and a fine quality of cheese-cloth. For ordinary dusting there is nothing better than old flour sacks. Do not use a brush nor a whisk broom, as the dust rises only to settle back on the furniture, or on something else.

Pennyroyal will drive away ants as well as flies and mosquitoes, but it is better to kill them. Cover a plate with lard or drippings and set it where the ants are thickest. When the plate is covered with the busy pests, brush them off into the stove, or dip the plate in hot water.

Squeaking shoes may be successfully