

When the girl of today votes—for of course she will vote—although the girl of today may not be in her twenties then, she will have no time to waste on the pin hung ornaments which cover her walls, ready to be knocked down by any unsuspecting male relative who does not give them elbow room when he passes. When one considers the amount of time spent needlessly upon this foolish fashion of overdoing the decorative, one can but wonder what the next era will bring forth.

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It has been wisely suggested that among the additions to this school, we add a new department, namely, that of domestic economy. If the young ladies could receive scientific instruction in that very useful and important school of learning, where they could learn the chemistry of cookery, it seems that it would not be time thrown away, and would aid just as materially in training the student to be a careful observer as other departments of science. The young ladies have such a department in connection with one of the Iowa colleges, and the class in cookery is said to be the most largely attended of any one class in school.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The University now has four literary societies with accommodations for but two. Two societies are thus placed at a disadvantage. One is quartered in the chapel where the wilderness of empty seats is, to say the least, discouraging; another is camping in a recitation room. These societies with permanent halls are capable of doing much good work. The literary society may be regarded as the oratorical laboratory, and as such has as much right to a permanent room for practical work as any other department of the University.

The republican tariff bill has passed the senate. The bill is so thoroughly saturated with the protection doctrine that it ought to satisfy the most exacting monopolists. It reduces the tariff on pearls and increases it on wool. It puts attar of roses on the free list and leaves the tax on salt. The bill provides that a bounty of one cent a pound shall be paid on all sugar produced in the United States. It is hard to understand why the farmers of Nebraska, who raise profitable crops of corn and hogs shall pay a tax to the farmers of Louisiana, who choose to raise an unprofitable crop.

The Ford immigration bill which was lately introduced in the lower house of congress provides for the exclusion of anarchists and socialists from the United States. As all thinking men are anarchists to the extent that they would like to overthrow some existing laws, and many are socialists inasmuch as they have some plan, high protection, free trade, or perhaps prohibition which they think would be a panacea for some or all political and social evils, it would be interesting to know just where the line is to be drawn. Michael Davitt says that private property in land is robbery. Ivan Tolstoi, the great Russian religious and political thinker is as radical as some who have been hung in this country. Should the gates be barred to such men? It is a step backward for the United States to shut men out because their political economy is not of the orthodox brand.

Mr. Inspector Bonfield of Chicago has been sat upon in a very scientific manner. For some time the gentleman has considered it his duty and privilege to dictate to the citizens of that city what their belief should be on some disputed

points of political economy. The rights of public meeting and free speech were denied to a large part of the community. An organization calling itself the Arbeiter Bund hired a hall and attempted to hold a meeting. Bonfield interfered, claiming that in his opinion the organization was composed of anarchists who took this method of propagating their peculiar doctrines. The Bund appealed to the court for protection and a decision has just been rendered. The opinion was written by Judge Tuley of the circuit court, who says that he is "astounded" that the police should claim the power to declare men guilty of that which is not a crime under our law and then punish them for it, thus taking the place of both legislature and court. The decision was against the police at every point. It is to be hoped that the inspector will realize that anarchy in office causes disorder and creates crime instead of preventing them.

The last election was perhaps the most corrupt in the history of the republic. Another contest of the kind and such terms as "fat," and "blocks of five" will have a permanent place in our language. This corruption was made possible by our present system of voting. It is possible for a man to buy votes and be absolutely certain that he gets the goods. Voters are bribed and intimidated, and the party with the greatest number of two dollar bills has the best chance to win the election. What is known as the Australian ballot system has been entirely successful in curing these evils in Australia and Great Britain. This plan provides that the tickets shall be printed and distributed by the state. No one but the election judges and a challenger from each party is allowed within the polling place. The voters enter one at a time and each receives an officially stamped ticket from the judge of election. This ticket contains the names of all the candidates for the different offices. The voter retires to a private booth and prepares his ballot, placing a cross opposite the name of the men of his choice. After depositing his vote he must leave the polling place. This would render the ballot absolutely secret and prevent bribery. For, as no man could tell how another had voted, the vote buyer would have only the sellers word in return for his money and little would be risked on this security. This system has been tried in Great Britain and is a success. The character of the Irish delegation in parliament shows this, for, if the voters could be bought or bulldozed, the landlords would see to it that Parnell and his supporters were defeated. Massachusetts has already adopted this plan. A bill has been introduced in the New York legislature that is as good as the one Governor Hill vetoed a year ago, and enough votes are pledged to pass it. The scheme is favored by both republicans and democrats in Indiana, Illinois and Minnesota. The fact that it is opposed by the Hill and Dana democrats in New York and Dudley republicans in Indiana should give it much strength. This system will not solve any of the great political problems, but it will make a solution possible by making our elections a full and intelligent expression of the popular will instead of a contest in fat-frying and bribe giving.

"PIE, CANIS PIE."

Dark night,
Wild ki-yi,
Bright light,
Gun on high.

Sharp crack!
Knocked stiff
On his back
Scientif.