

WHY NOT?

Can you give any valid reason for declining to take life policy in THE EQUITABLE?

Thousands of hard working men have struggled and economized to pay for a home, and had it nearly paid for, but death took them off and that mortgage forced the property upon the market and sacrificed it, and so the little all was lost. What a prize in such a case would a Life Policy have been! The more you need money, the more this protection is worth to you. If you, living, find it hard to make both ends meet, how do you think your family are going to do it when you are dead?

"Good as Gold."



Time was when a man had to die to win on an insurance policy, but that day has gone by. The Equitable issues a 5 per cent Fifteen or Twenty-Year Gold Bond to cover the case of those who want to eat their cake and have it, too. You need not die to win—you can mature your policy and collect, for every policy issued is as good as gold. Send us your age and ask for an illustration. We can put you in the way of a good thing.

H. D. NEELY,
Manager for Nebraska,
206-S Bee Bldg., Omaha.

DEAD FOR FIVE YEARS.

W. H. Ray, of Fargo, Starts the Physicians of the World.

Comes to Life Again After Five Years.
Fargo, N. D., March 30.—The most remarkable case ever brought before medical men is that of W. H. Ray, of this city who was supposed to be dead to the world, but who is now sound mentally and as healthy as any man could be. Physicians here claim the case to be most remarkable, and all say it has no parallel.

Mr. Ray suffered for many years with stomach troubles. He suffered greatly from biliousness and habitual constipation. He visited many physicians and spent hundreds of dollars without any beneficial results. As time past he grew weaker and lost so much in weight that his friends hardly knew him. He was slowly dying. In fact, he was then dead to the world and all his friends. At a last resort, he went to a noted New York specialist, who prescribed for him a remedy which is known for its famous cures of all stomach and bowel complaints. This remedy, which is Cascarine, cured Mr. Ray, and he is now a well man, after five years of horrible suffering.

"Cascarine," says Mr. Ray, "is wonderful. It cured me in a short time, when pills and those cheap and nasty tablets made me worse. I am ready at any time to tell anyone about my cure, if they will write me." If you write Mr. Ray inclose stamped envelope for reply.

Cascarine is a laxative and does not grip. It is easy to take and will not injure the most delicate stomach. Cascarine is not a new remedy, but has been prescribed by the most prominent physicians for the past ten years. Cascarine is your very best laxative. Every home should have a bottle near at hand, and every mother and father should see that the children are given no other laxative. Cascarine sells for fifty cents per bottle at all druggists. If your druggist hasn't it tell him to get it for you.



Don't Despair

of ever having a pair of glasses that will fit your sight and your nose properly. We have fitted a number and have never found one that was beyond our ability. We will make the bridge so comfortable you will forget you wear glasses, except for the comfort and aid they render you.

THE H. J. PENFOLD CO.,
Scientific Opticians,
1408 Farnam St., Omaha, Neb.

CALIFORNIA
FIRST CLASS PULLMAN SLEEPERS
DAILY BETWEEN
OMAHA AND SAN FRANCISCO
Without Change

**GREAT
ROCK ISLAND
ROUTE**

All the best scenery of the ROCKY MOUNTAINS and SIERRA NEVADA by Daylight in both directions.
DINING CAR SERVICE THROUGH.
BUFFET LIBRARY CARS.

For full information, reservations and tickets, apply to "Chicago to California" address City Ticket Office, 1325 Farnam St., Omaha, Neb.

HOLE AND CORNER DIPLOMACY

Social Entertainers in the Secret Service of the Old World Capitals.

INFLUENCE OF BACKSTAIRS AMBASSADORS

The Work They Do and How They Do It—As Well as Holders of Public Opinion—Pecuniary Rewards.

Moving in the most brilliant and the most intellectual circles of society in every great city of the world—in Washington as in St. Petersburg, Paris or Vienna—there are a certain number of men and women, foreigners of distinction, plying a strange, unnamed, but very profitable trade. They are the secret, paid agents of their respective governments. Officially, they are not recognized as diplomats by the country they serve, much less by the country in which they live. Yet they are doing diplomats' work—often for more than diplomats' wages. They would indignantly resent the name "spy." Yet in return for their handsome salaries they keep their home governments minutely posted on all the under currents of political movements concerning it in the capitals in which they are established. They represent, in fact, secret, remunerated diplomatic service, plus an elaborate agency of what might be called high-class espionage. They are backstairs ambassadors and drawing room spies.

To make clear the nature of this peculiar profession take the case of the original secret service agent. For many years after the Crimean war nihilist refugees were received with open arms in London drawing rooms. English poets like Swinburne, who was then a passionate republican, celebrating nihilist "heroism" in ringing verse. This disposition raged all over England and in the winter palace to consider the situation. The old czar himself taking part in the deliberations of the council of the states. Soon after they arrived in London a Russian lady of great intellectual power and social charm, who brought letters from grand dukes and statements of Russian policy to her the most exclusive doors in England. This was the now famous Mme. Novikoff. She was charged with the task of revolutionizing English opinion toward Russia—and she did it. It is said that Mme. Novikoff had never received a cent for her political work. That may be so. But she it was that created the profession of unofficial diplomacy out of which hundreds of her successors have made fortunes.

Origin of the System.

The system devised by the brilliant Russian rests upon three central facts, the persuasive power of the salon, the immense publicity and influence of the press, and the leverage which has the lecture platform as its fulcrum. The persons charged with this task of course make no mention of any political object in the newcomer's residence in the capital. They are simply ordinary social credentials.

Armed with these documents our unofficial diplomatist lays siege to society. Well dressed, witty, if a man distinguished looking, if a woman beautiful; giving handsome entertainments, figuring at every society function and paying up like a little man when there is a question of some public subscription, our friend gradually gains a sure footing in the social life of the capital. Presently our unofficial ambassador has come to be recognized as an authority upon the affairs of his country. People appeal to him for interesting new facts, for explanations of events taking place there, for personal impressions of public men, statesmen, or of the monarch of his country, whose acts are being perhaps unfavorably commented upon.

Let us suppose that our friend is charged with the social secret service work of Austria. There is, perhaps, a story going the rounds which represents the old emperors as a society cynic in an unpleasant light. Or, perhaps, the journals are blazoning "scare heads" about the iniquitous treatment of Polish villages by the Central Austrian administration. The Austrian ambassador can do little or nothing in such matters; people in society cannot do anything even mention them in his presence. If he should say anything indirectly to defend his sovereign or his government it is necessarily taken as a prejudiced statement. But our unofficial diplomat at the head of the dinner table, in the parlors, or after dinner and wherever he goes unobtrusively takes or makes opportunity to explain matters, the subject being one on which naturally he is especially well informed. He will begin by telling amusing stories about the court balls at Vienna, then pour out gallons of gossip about the ways of the emperor, showing, as if incidentally, the bluff old autocrat's fine nature, his good heart, his popularity with the people. Or, if someone has asked about the treatment of the Poles, he will perhaps describe certain industries that have been committed, but will go on to argue with ingenious appearance of candor and sympathy that the Poles are, after all, a menace to the unity and prosperity of the dual empire, that they are commercially rascals and utterly undeserving of respect. All this talk, brightened with picturesque anecdote and made effective by a winning manner, will set up a current of sympathy for the emperor or for the imperial administration among all who hear it. These will include members of the cabinet, senators, congressmen, judges, political thinkers, writers of books and journalists. The leaven, cleverly introduced, works powerfully, particularly through the press.

Master of the Art.

Mme. Novikoff is one of the most skillful of manipulators of newspaper opinion. Journalists of the serious order, the men who write the important political editorials and pontificate in the monthly reviews, are unfailing at her receptions. They call to get from her what is called in Fleet street the "picture-book strokes" for their articles. And she supplies them so skillfully that often a violent anti-Russian comes away half convinced that the czar is a democrat, that Siberia is a paradise and that the process of being "knoused" is little less uncomfortable than that of taking a Turkish bath. Besides influencing journalists Mme. Novikoff writes herself. Nearly all the papers in England and not a few in America have had her signed articles when ever Russia has been the topic. It is possible to refuse such lively, well informed, novel matter," mutter the editors at their desks. And so they run it into their journals or magazines, labeling it, perhaps, "a point of view." But the point of view is taken from the whole truth by hundreds of readers; public opinion, again, is molded, as clay in the hands of the potter.

Then there is the lecture platform, a potent pupil. China is getting some lecture work done in the United States just at this moment, when she badly needs it. Dr. Wu Ting Fang is not trotting about from Washington to New York and Chicago and everywhere else that an audience can be found without a strong dash of Celestial galle. Perhaps if Dr. Wu had been multiplied all over Europe with his eloquent defense of Confucianism and of China's claim to respect the United States would not have proved almost the only friend his country has had in this momentous epoch

of her history. It is true that the Chinese spellbinder is the official diplomat of the "Flowery Kingdom" and that he is paid ahead in peace once more and to digest slowly a few European notions, no doubt the Dr. Wu of a future day will remain in peaceful dignity at Washington while an unrecognized subordinate does the lightning lecture tour business.

Turkey's Corps.

Turkey, the China of the near east, has already got to that stage. Her official envoys to Europe and America remain sublimely unconscious when the streets of Constantinople or of Erzeroum are puddled with Armenian blood. But the Yildim Kiosk has good Christians in its service who do all the explaining and palliation that is needed. The English, who, with the Germans, have been the only friends the red sultan has in Europe, are kept constantly up to the mark by Sir Ashurst's lectures. His numerous articles in magazines and newspapers, his speeches in the English House of Commons are a mine of philo-Turkism. The United States' by the way, swarms with Turkish secret service agents of all kinds and of all shades of opinion. The last report of the New York labor bureau devotes a limited space to a description of an experiment in putting convicts to doing road work in Onondaga county, New York. The result shows that the road-making about the reduction of the mile as when the work is done by contract. The New York labor bureau has also reported the success of this experiment and pointing out that it could be widely applied in the state if the law were honestly enforced, seems to have a predilection for allowing convicts to supply the needs of state institutions.

TABLE AND KITCHEN.

Practical Suggestions About Food and the Preparations of It.

DAILY MEALS.
Breakfast: Baked Apples, Creamed Eggs with Hot Sauce, Creamed Sweet Potatoes, Rolls, Coffee.
Lunch: Minced Chicken on Toast, Plain Boiled Rice, Stewed Fruit, Water.
Dinner: Hot Veal Soup, Escalloped Potatoes, Cold Slaw, Pop-Overs, Lemon Sauce.

TUESDAY BREAKFAST.
Fruit, Cream, Beef Sausage, Brown Sauce, Corn Muffins, Coffee.
Lunch: Sliced Cold Veal, Oyster Catsup, Orange Omelet.
Dinner: Roast Beef, Brown Sauce, White Potatoes, Browned Creamed Carrots, Sphinch, Lettuce with French Dressing, Apricot Tart, Coffee.

WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST.
Fruit, Cream, Cereal, Milk, Baked Potatoes, Cold Veal, Coffee.
Lunch: Fried Oysters, Cabbage Salad, Wafers, Cheese.
Dinner: Celery Soup, Broiled Shad, Creamed Potatoes, Asparagus on Toast, Carrot and String Beans, Tapioca Custard, Coffee.

CARD PARTY LUNCHEONS.

Suggestions Regarding Decorations.

A card party is one of the most popular forms of entertainment given by those who have social aspirations, and the hostess who does not consider herself "up to date" in every little point of etiquette that regulates social gatherings generally feels herself secure in resorting to this mode of entertaining and discharging her social obligations, as very little effort is required on the part of the hostess to entertain her guests.

Like the informal 5 o'clock tea, all traces of formality are to be carefully concealed and the guests made to feel perfectly at home.

In order to successfully convey this impression to the guests the hostess must, in the first place, avoid overcrowding, especially if her rooms are small.

Card parties are appropriate for all hours, morning, afternoon and evening, and admit of a great variety of arrangement, allowing the entertainer to elaborate as much as she may desire or to observe the greatest simplicity, so long as the comfort of the guest and good taste is not sacrificed to display.

The first and most essential point to be observed is in the selection of the guests, as the success of the party depends on the perfect harmony of spirit.

The nature of the game should determine the number of guests. It is better to have a quietness should be invited to make up the requisite number of players, for unless all the guests have practically the same knowledge of the game to be played it will greatly lessen the enjoyment of the affair.

If your social obligations include a large number of acquaintances it is advisable to give a series of card parties, as you would small teas. This allows you to vary the game to suit the different tastes or preferences of your friends and also gives you the opportunity of bringing together those who are most congenial. The most successful hostess is she who gives small card parties and makes a careful selection of kindred spirits.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

London has 4,800 drapers. Krupp has 46,674 employees. Japan has 2,000,000 workmen. Porto Rico boasts a labor paper. St. Louis claims 65,000 unionists. There are 50,000 brotherhood painters. San Francisco has 15,000 Chinese domestics. The printers of Montana are urging the passage by the legislature of a bill to provide for the time being for the suspension of seven charters were granted by the International Typographical union for the month of February and the charters were suspended.

The contract for the uniforms for the Philadelphia fire department was awarded to a clothing firm that could attach a union label to the suits.

Four thousand Chicago metal workers, makers of architectural and structural iron material, are preparing to demand a nine-hour day on May 1.

Nearly 14 per cent of the total number of wage-earners in Minnesota are women, according to the report of the state labor department.

A new cotton spinning machine enables two men to spin 4,000 pounds daily under the old system they could turn out less than a hundredth part in the same amount of time.

Carroll D. Wright, the federal labor commissioner, has concluded that the conclusion that the employers' liability law of the various states are practically worthless as a means of protection to injured workmen.

The union carpenters of St. Paul have signed an agreement with the masters' guilds that the latter will not be allowed to work on a building under contract to come to the United States to work on a building. The Japanese were refused admission on the ground that they were paupers.

The union carpenters of the Chicago Building Trades council the boiler-makers have been making great headway in their work that has always been done by the bridge-men. At the last meeting of the

iron workers it was proposed to adopt vigorous methods to stop the infringement on their trade.

Of 24 cities in which the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America had strikes during the year 1900 they were defeated in only six of them. In seventeen of the said cities compromise was effected, leaving 13 cities in which the strikers won their point. The strike in 11 cities was of the eight-hour system, in eighty-five to obtain nine hours and in sixteen for the enforcement of the eight-hour day.

The United States labor commissioner sets forth some very interesting facts. Added by machinery he says, 450,000 men turn out a product which would require the labor of nearly 4,000,000 men if produced by hand. In America the advantage derived from machinery is about twice as great as in Europe, so that the actual population of the United States is equal in productive power to 150,000,000 Europeans. With labor-saving machinery one generation of men can do the work of four or five generations of hand workers.

In 1900 there were constructed in Chicago, buildings to the value of \$2,000,000. This was during all of the labor troubles, when conditions were such that they would not warrant the careful investor proceeding with much work. The conditions now in the East are such that the reduction of the cost of material lead persons qualified to judge to predict that buildings to the value of \$2,000,000 will be constructed this year.

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The form of invitation may be an engraved and printed invitation if the affair is formal, or simply an announcement for a small party of intimate friends, which is written on plain white note paper.

The hostess may use her card with day, date and hour and noting in lower left-hand corner "cards," "whist," etc.

The surroundings add much to the pleasure of the players, but it must be remembered that all else but the cards are merely accessories to the game and must hold a secondary place to purpose of meeting. Avoid elaboration in decorations; depend more on the novel and artistic arrangement, pleasing the eye and senses more by their suggestiveness than by richness and profusion. The pleasure and comfort of the guests depend greatly on the light and atmosphere. Therefore do not have the decorations interfere with the lighting of your rooms or allow the rooms to become overheated or the atmosphere to become oppressive from too great a profusion of strongly-scented flowers; an enthusiastic card player desires to keep his mind clear and alert.

If the hostess desires to add music to the other attractions of the entertainment it makes a pleasant feature, but is only desirable before the play begins or during the intermissions. Instead of indicating by bells the different moves in the game, a very good imitation of chimes may be given on the arrangement of tables.

In arranging the tables avoid crowding them so as to interfere with the free movement of the guests.

For a four-hand game tables at least twenty-four inches square are used. When space is limited the round table can be used and a pleasing effect is given by alternating the round and square tables, but the plain square is preferred, unless some novel idea is to be carried out in the arrangements that require fancy-shaped tables—for example, a "Valentine" or "good luck" party.

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The Luncheon.

As the card playing is the prominent feature, light lunches are generally preferred, especially when the lunch precedes the game.

If the card party is given in the morning the breakfast or lunch follows it; if in the afternoon or evening the luncheon may either precede or follow the game. Cocktails, bouillon, sandwiches, salads, croquettes, coffee, cocoa, fruits, iced nuts, olives, creams, ices and candies are generally served.

The ices and cakes may be molded and colored for special occasions to carry out a color scheme or design.

Punch, lemonade or grape juice may be passed around to the guests during the play and is very acceptable. The glasses should not be placed on the tables if their surface is uncovered. To prevent this, have the waiter or maid wait and relieve the guest of the empty glass.

At present the Dutch luncheon is very popular. This admits of many pleasing and novel features. Delft designs may be used on the invitation cards and counters; an orange ribbon fastened to a tiny wooden shoe can be used for a tally card and tiny pretzels slipped on the ribbon to score, the favors, of course, to be in keeping and the luncheon to consist of Dutch dishes.

Dutch Canapes. Olives, Assorted German Sausages, (Sliced thin and served on Delft platters.) Dutch Potato Salad (hot), Rye Bread, Pretzels, Schmierkase, Pumpernickel, Switzer, Kolatschen, Coffee.

Post-Easter Luncheon. This card luncheon may be made very attractive. Easter lilies and appropriate spring flowers may be used for designs and decorations. One dainty device for scoring is a tiny nest attached to pale green and white ribbons or whatever fresh, spring-like colors are used for scoring.

Oyster Cocktail. Egg Croquettes, Cream Sauce, Olives, Salted Nuts, Peas, Cheese Eggs in Nests of Lettuce Leaves, Vanilla Ice Cream with Orange Ice, White and Gold Cake, Coffee.

Cook's Imperial Extra Dry Champagne has no superior.

A large yearly increase in its sales says so.

Letters on a Flag.

"The Pan-American flag," says the Buffalo Commercial, "bears the significant word 'Pax' (Peace) and the date 1901. It was borne in upon the exposition officials this week that the average man is not a Latin scholar and that 'Pax' is no better than Greek to him. When the sample flag, built according to specifications, was brought to the purchasing agent he remarked with surprise that the word was dissected as follows: 'P. A. X.'"

"Why have you separated the letters?" he asked.

"Why," said the flagman, "the letters mean 'Pan-American Exposition,' and the periods are all right."

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guests. If she has any artistic ability she can employ it in this line; if not, she must depend on suggestions from those who supply her with these accessories to the game. There are many young women artists who make a specialty of carrying out novel ideas for card entertainments and their services relieve the busy society woman of all anxiety on this score. In giving prizes of course the aim must be to select suitable gifts, but prizes should never be ostentatious.

As the card playing is the prominent feature, light lunches are generally preferred, especially when the lunch precedes the game.

If the card party is given in the morning the breakfast or lunch follows it; if in the afternoon or evening the luncheon may either precede or follow the game. Cocktails, bouillon, sandwiches, salads, croquettes, coffee, cocoa, fruits, iced nuts, olives, creams, ices and candies are generally served.

The ices and cakes may be molded and colored for special occasions to carry out a color scheme or design.

Punch, lemonade or grape juice may be passed around to the guests during the play and is very acceptable. The glasses should not be placed on the tables if their surface is uncovered. To prevent this, have the waiter or maid wait and relieve the guest of the empty glass.

At present the Dutch luncheon is very popular. This admits of many pleasing and novel features. Delft designs may be used on the invitation cards and counters; an orange ribbon fastened to a tiny wooden shoe can be used for a tally card and tiny pretzels slipped on the ribbon to score, the favors, of course, to be in keeping and the luncheon to consist of Dutch dishes.

Dutch Canapes. Olives, Assorted German Sausages, (