

with a pompous strut, or a mincing gait, or some style or other. We are naturally little inclined in favour of such persons; indeed, we have usually to make an effort not to be decidedly prejudiced against them. Secondly, there are those who pay too little attention to their movements, who do not seem to be sufficiently alive to the responsibility attaching to the possessors of so noble a structure as the human frame, and who do not give themselves the trouble to exert the powers of the various mechanism with which they are charged.

They slouch, or dawdle along in a listless manner. Instinct tells us rightly to beware of such persons with the conduct of affairs, or with any office of responsibility. We feel that the lack of energy manifested in the guidance of their limbs is, too probably, a sure sign of character which unfits them for the duties of life; and we know that such are not usually successful in their calling. Thirdly, there are those who show, by the precision and precision of their step, and by the regularity in the succession of their movements, that the step is made, that they are conscious of the dignity of their species, of the responsibility attendant on that dignity, and of respect due to themselves. Such men, we are likely to pursue their avocations energetically, and methodically, as well as with punctuality. Many points of character peep out in the way men walk. Our poet tells us that in the way we may read

"rascals in the motions of his back,
and scoundrels in the supple sliding knee."

There is a halting, shuffling, undecided gait; a third walks in a bold, determined, straightforward, erect and independent manner. There is a cautious, parimousious step, as if afraid of shoe leather, or afraid to trust the ground; he has, however, probably trusted the ground with considerable investments. Some make long pretentious strides; others make quick, insignificant steps. Some, again, are hurried, fussy, noisy; while others glide in a quiet, shrinking, unpretending—it is a timid manner.—*The Human Foot.*

SOUTHERN PLANTER'S HOME.—It is quite a suburb, near the second Bayou; a great less road, ankle deep in white dust, lies along it, fringed by those loathsome open drains which are the curse of New Orleans and the chief causes of the yellow fever. In this road the children roll and scramble, and pigs rout about. Before Mr. Quackenboss's house is a row of huge magnolia trees, at this covered with tufts of pink and scarlet flower-like contract beautifully with the small green leaves. My hospitable friend opened a wicket gate, and we pass up a walk and enter the cool verandah'd house. Mrs. Quackenboss and the little Quackenboss are on a visit to Cuba, so we are alone.

My friend claps his hands and a negro boy appears, receives an order, and returns in a few minutes with two bottles of German wine, a bowl of sparkling ice, a box of cigars, and some tumblers. My friend gave a sigh of satisfaction, took up with an air of reflection a feather fan of Mrs. B's that lay on the table, spat three times at a special knot on the floor, and throwing his feet over the back of a very high chair, began to open the conversation on the subject of the cotton supplies of England,—*Dickens's "All the Year Round"*

EXISTENCE.—It is an unquestionable fact that those who are equally acquainted with, and equally capable of appreciating and enjoying both, do give a most marked preference to the manner of existence which employs their higher faculties. Few human creatures would consent to be changed into any other animals for a promise of the fullest allowance of a beast's pleasures; no intelligent human being would consent to be a fool, no instructed person would be an ignoramus, no person of feeling and conscience would be selfish and base, even though they should be persuaded that the fool, the dunce, or the rascal is better satisfied with his lot than they are with theirs. They would not resign what they possess more than he for the most complete satisfaction of all the desires which they have in common with him. If they ever fancy they would, it is only in cases of unhappiness so extreme, that to escape from it they would exchange their lot or almost any other, however desirable in their own eyes. A being of higher faculties requires more to make him happy, is capable of more acute suffering, and certainly accessible to it at more points than one of an inferior type; but in spite of these liabilities, he can never really wish to sink into what he feels to be a lower grade of existence.—*"Utilitarianism" in Fraser's Magazine.*

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—INFLUENCE OF THE SEASONS ON THE HUMAN SYSTEM.—Dr. Edward Smith, F. R. S., delivered, at the meeting of the British Association at Manchester, a lecture upon this subject. The observations he made were to show the variation of the vital action in the human system, and his two principal inquiries referred, the one to the respiratory functions, and the other to the elimination of nitrogen. In reference to respiration, the amount of carbonic acid evolved varied from day to day, with the cycle of the seasons. He had found that there was a definite variation in the amount of vital action proceeding within the body at the different periods of the year, and this showed a well marked course. Thus, at the beginning of June a fall commenced, and this continued and progressively increased through June, July and August, until the commencement of September, when the lowest point was attained. After this period, in October an upward tendency was manifested, and it continued