

could not be found in any other land than this Empire of the Rising Sun, where one of the chief characteristics of the people is a deep aversion for what is sad or sorrowful. Death may be coming, yes, coming to-morrow; and the store of rice may be low and work hard to get. Nevertheless, they laugh and joke, determined to forget care as long as they can; and then, if trouble comes, "shikata ga nai," "there is no help for it." Life may be short, like one of their own *matsuri*, but they will make the most of both while they last.

A few days later, if we pass along these streets, now so gay and crowded, what a change will we behold! The booths and stalls, with their gay decorations of flags and evergreens, will have been removed; the wrestlers and puppet men will have departed to display

their performances at other feasts and to other crowds; and the throng of light-hearted women and children, of busy salesmen and of mumbling priests will have disappeared as though they had never been. We will see in their place a train of carts, heavily laden, passing slowly along; a scattered group of women washing rice at the well, and a score of dirty, half-naked children playing in the gutter. All that will then remain to remind us of the brilliant scene which we have just beheld will be a few lanterns swinging dismally from the deserted doorways, a quantity of straw heaped in the middle of the silent street, and a few fluttering papers and broken torches scattered about in the mud.

FRANCES STEVENSON.

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TEA-TABLE GOSSIP.

The long, dreamy Summer days have come and with them to many the annual season of idling by the sea or in the country. There are many busy persons, of course, who can spare neither time nor money for even a brief Summer outing, but there are many others who go without this needed period of rest simply because they do not know how to procure it at a small or even a reasonable outlay. Many hundreds of young women who are compelled to depend on their own exertions for a livelihood and who look upon a week or two out of town as something to be dreamed of but never to be experienced, are unaware that there are now numerous wholly refined "Homes," under the management of various city organizations, in which any respectable woman may pass a brief vacation by paying an almost nominal rate of board. The idea of these "Homes" originated with the Working Girls' Club, of New York, who purchased and furnished a house at the sea-side, where deserving working girls can obtain comfortable lodgings during the Summer for three dollars a week. That woman is almost criminally foolish who declares she would rather stay at home forever than go to a cheap place where she would meet "all sorts and conditions" of women. Such a feeling of false pride should never be allowed to stand in the way of preserving one's health; and, besides, a party of acquaintances could go together to such a "cheap place," and if the other guests seemed not exactly desirable, the members of the party could be as exclusive in one another's society as though they were at the most costly of hotels or boarding-houses. While I do not imagine any of my girls will have to obtain their outing in this way, you may have some humble acquaintances or protégés who would be glad to learn of these "Homes."

Grace is to spend a month or so at one of the large country hotels, and as this will be her first experience at such a caravansary, she has asked me a few questions which I think will prove of general interest. Soap is not furnished in the rooms of a hotel any more than tooth-brushes, and if a guest neglects to bring a suitable supply, it may be procured of the chambermaid, but must be paid for. The matter of "tipping" the servants at a hotel should receive due consideration. Whether women are more careful than men in their expenditure of money is an open question, but it is a well known fact that they are a great deal less liberal in bestowing this extra remuneration than are members of the sterner sex. Any extra service at any time or place should certainly be paid for. The bell-boy who runs errands for you and heats your curling-irons should be remunerated, and the maid who attends to your room should receive a small sum when you take your departure. But the indiscriminate feeling of waiters is much to be deplored, for the custom has become so general that one feels almost compelled to yield to it, although on many occasions it is a positive burden. At most of the sea-side hotels those of the waiters, porters, etc., who have performed even the slightest service for you stand conveniently at hand to receive any gratuities that may be forthcoming as you depart, but there is no need to reward any but those who really deserve it.

A decidedly convenient toilet accessory for the use of travellers is a book of "soap-leaves." The book is covered with chamois-skin or celluloid, and one leaf is just sufficient to wash the hands. The carrying of a cake of soap, which must generally be packed away in a wet and untidy condition, may thus be avoided.

The hammock may be made a much more comfortable resting-place by the use of a long, narrow pillow, say fifteen by twenty-one inches in size. Very effective is a pillow covered with plain yellow awning-cloth and trimmed at the ends with yellow cord and tassels; and an equally artistic effect may be produced with red Turkey calico and red cord and tassels.

The Summer sun now lies in wait for careless womankind, ready

to inflict freckles, tan and sunburn as a sort of offset to the good health he bestows. But these ills, while they cannot always be avoided, can still be greatly lessened by knowing just how to treat them. Freckles indicate an excess of iron in the blood, and finely powdered nitre (salt petre) is usually an effective remedy for them. Dip the finger in water and then in the powder and apply to the freckles, repeating the operation at brief intervals until the spots disappear.

Acid is also a well known enemy of freckles. Lemon-juice frequently applied will aid materially in driving them away. A lemon should always find a place on my lady's dressing-table, for its uses are many and important. Rubbed on the finger-tips it quickly removes all grime; and there is nothing better to clear the complexion than lemon-juice generously applied.

Still another remedy for freckles is made by placing two tablespoonfuls of grated horseradish in a cupful of sour milk, allowing the mixture to stand twelve hours and then straining off the liquid, with which the freckles should be frequently moistened.

If the face is tanned, wash it every night and morning in butter-milk, and then rinse well in clear water. Besides tending to remove the discoloration of the skin, the oily particles in the butter-milk prove very soothing in case the sun has irritated the cuticle. Before setting out for a row or sail or for a long tramp in the country it is well to give the hands and face a very thin coating of almond oil to prevent sunburn. The oil should not be used lavishly, and a little powder may be applied to the face over the oil, with good results.

Women are to be congratulated, my dears, that the prevalence of physical culture has brought white faces into disfavor. It is no longer thought desirable to look "pale and interesting," so there is no excuse for the use of whitening washes. It is claimed that the majority of women live, move and have their being solely for the admiration of the opposite sex; and while most of us would indignantly deny the truth of this rather sweeping statement, it must be admitted that such a standard would be a healthy one to aim at. Men do not, as a rule, admire women with dead-white complexions and hour-glass waists, but rather those who rejoice in the soundness of their health and who can hold their own with their masculine friends in a ten-mile walk or any other recreation requiring strength and endurance. The women who to-day are making their influence felt in the world are those who quicken their minds and souls by exercising their muscles. The poor foolish women who still continue to whiten their faces and paint their cheeks remind me of the obstinate soldier who declared every man in the ranks to be out of step but himself. These unwise women are out of step with the age. But a harmless powder is woman's true friend in Summer.

Catharine would like to know what amusement she can propose for a rainy evening that must be spent indoors. A cobweb-party will be just the thing. The amusement caused by this party will fully recompense one for the work required in its preparation. The cobwebs are made by unwinding spools of silk, cord or thread in every conceivable portion of the house, from the garret to the cellar, on the chandeliers, *bric-à-brac* and legs of chairs. Upon the arrival of the guests, each person is duly presented with an empty spool; and the object is to find the cobwebs and rewind the thread, silk or cord without tangling or breaking it. At the end of each web a prize is attached, usually of a ridiculous character. Sometimes in place of having a prize at the end of each web a gift is presented to the one who first unwinds his or her web; and a booby prize is given to the laggard who brings up the rear. The cords should be frequently crossed to increase the confusion.

E. S. W.