

to their homes out on Long Island or across the East River to New York or elsewhere.

It was a pretty sight indeed to see the cheery room and fresh drapery, not to mention the bright faces of the young Friends who entered with zest into their pleasant office of waiting upon the guests. H.

ORDERING LIFE.

(Continued from 7th Number.)

"But you surely do not mean to say that it is possible to lay out a plan of life as you would that of a house you meant to build?" exclaimed a "young Friend" on meeting the first instalment of this article. "Why, such a thing would be quite impracticable. So much depends upon circumstances over which we have no control, and every day something happens to upset some plan or other." Yet though there is always possibility of accident, though our masons may fall ill, our carpenters strike or quit work at the most inopportune moment, and notwithstanding the fact that storms may level our walls or earthquakes overthrow them, we do not consider the building of a house impracticable, nor do we cease drawing plans and building after them. To be sure we allow "circumstances over which we have no control" to modify our ambition. We neither build unsubstantial structures in cyclone regions nor glass walls where hail storms abound. We design our house with regard not only to comfort, elegance and convenience, but also having in mind site, locality, exposure, etc., and always with due regard to the length of our pocket-book. "All are architects of fate." Longfellow may have used the word architects instead of builders for the sake of the measure or metre of the verse; but there seems to me a depth of meaning in the line as it stands, embodying the spirit of the poem and sounding the keynote of its inspiration. As architects, we do not simply lay one day upon another, but we design our own lives—mark out our destinies—lay out the lines by which we mean to build. We are practical in our designing when guided by the admonitions of prudence and the wisdom of experience, undertaking no more than we may reasonably expect

to accomplish, and guarding so far as possible against hindrances, interferences or accidents. We aspire not to pinnacles of fame and fortune, which lie beyond the measure of our strength, but are content to order life in accordance with the talents, or faculties, entrusted us. Having exercised a cautious and intelligent self-examination, gauging and testing the possibilities which lie within ourselves, and measuring the field for their development, why, as "architects of fate," may we not find the drawing up of a plan of life, and the building by its lines quite as practical as to leave this important matter to "chance?" Assuredly the exercise of principles of order, which we find so necessary to success in our employments, would in this infinitely greater enterprise be immeasurably to our advantage.

Working thus systematically to a definite end, should we not accomplish more, build with better, higher, nobler purpose each day's measure of our plan, feeling within ourselves a growing enthusiasm, and encouraged by the appreciable result of our efforts?

But now comes the sternly practical question: "How are we to set about this systematic ordering of life?" and fain would I leave its answering to wiser pens than mine. While the lines of each and every individual plan may converge to one grand central point, and while there may even be marked similarity in the outlines of our charts, the filling in of details, the management of lines by which we reach the end toward which we aim, must be determined by individual acquirements and circumstances. Consequently, this article can attempt nothing further than a few general suggestions, which are given in obedience to a new rendering of the motto on our title page: "Give—each according to thy measure—of that which thou hast," and in the hope that somewhere these general suggestions may obtain individual application. Have I an aim in life? Is that aim, or object of my existence, the worthiest to which I can devote the time and talents entrusted me? Have I chosen it practically or theoretically? As the first step towards ordering life, let us be honest with ourselves in answering these questions. Next let us make a careful and accurate inventory of ourselves