

THE ROCKING CHAIR.

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As an indispensable cog in the smooth running of domestic wheels, has any one sufficiently considered the Rocking Chair. First as to its genesis

When the Pilgrim fathers and mothers came to the Western hemisphere, their primal discovery was, of necessity chores. And, "it must follow as the night the day," the initial invention of the embryo nation of patentees, was the Rocking Chair.

This distinctly American word, chore, as shown by its derivation from the Saxon *cyrran*, to turn, to return, is intimately connected with our subject, so intimately in fact that it is impossible to discriminate the intertwining filaments; but where the chore ends, there the chair begins. Like Israel of old, in retrospect of pleasures all unparticipated in, upon which they had been forced to turn the back, the Pilgrims kept thinking how many were left in the Old Country comfortably taking their ease, while the scanty crew of the Mayflower did the work of a whole continent.

Then the spirit of emulation rose up within them and said, "I will make me a seat and it shall come to pass, that for every time the princes and nobles of the old land lean back upon their thrones in pride and leisure, my cunningly devised chair shall make me to lean back yet seven times, whence I can survey all this great and goodly land. So shall my contrivance outdo their arrogance."

Whereupon sprang into being one of the most potent influences of modern times. For upon the slightest reflection we must concede that as a motor the Rocking Chair stands unparalleled.

In common with most other forces its influence is dualistic. Also it may be remarked that in a passive direction, this influence is generally beneficial, while the reverse is true of its active operation. For example:—

What better vehicle exists for the

removal of mental worry and nervous irritability? The patient simply sits and rocks to become gradually and surely soothed.

But the disorder is by no means annihilated,—merely transferred, as any one occupying the room at the time can testify. On the same principle that there can be no upheaval of the earth's crust without a corresponding depression.

With each successive wave of the rocking-chair just so much nervous force is thrown off, not to wander and perish in the air but to be absorbed and accumulate in other persons present. A proof of the conservation of energy. There is nothing like personal observation to demonstrate the facts of science.

Try for your self how long you can watch a person steadily rocking without becoming conscious of a growing energy within you, an impelling force toward some kind of action and that *not* of a beneficent nature; unless your "nerves are brass or hammered steel."

On the other hand, noting the ratio of rockers to the other chairs in a room and supposing them all occupied proportionately, what a dissipation of energy may ensue! For the germs of energy may never reproduce like effects in different bodies nor equal force when divided.

The steam which is powerful to move a locomotive may scarcely stir a leaf upon release from the funnel.

And so our propositions seem to clash. Otherwise there were no room for argument. A subject that vibrates with interest and inclines equally to opposite points of the compass requires a suspended judgement. We shall defer a contemplation of its good points until a grouping of its evil tendencies shall afford them a background and throw them in relief. When we reflect on the vast amount of good intentions, noble purposes and valuable information which have been simply rocked away, we may