

would endeavor to obtain one that should be exempt from all manner of trouble and affliction. But it is a question whether we should be really happy if nothing ever disturbed our repose and well-being. Should we really be happy if we were in this world to enjoy uninterrupted prosperity? I cannot think we should. Constant prosperity would soon become insipid and disgust would convert our felicity into absolute misery. On the contrary, the evils we sometimes experience enhance the value of our blessings, as colors are relieved by the contrast of shades. If there were no winter should we be so sensibly affected by the pleasures of spring? Without illness could we justly appreciate the value of health, or the sweets of repose without toil and labor? And could we know to their fullest extent the peace and consolation of a good conscience if we had never experienced the trials of temptation or the pangs of remorse. The greater obstacles there are in the way of our happiness the greater is our joy when we have surmounted them.

MINNIE MAY.

Minnie May regrets that the subject for the prize essay, "On How to Spend Sunday," brought such a poor response from our readers, none of the essays coming up to the standard for publication. A prize of \$2.00 is offered for the best essay on "What is Economy." All communications to be in our office by the 15th of April.

MINNIE MAY.

Answers to Inquiries.

What is the meaning of the popular slang phrases, "to eat crow"; "to talk crow"?—JENNIE BROWN.

"To eat crow" is the same as to eat humble-pie—that is to have to retract or to be put to shame. "To talk crow" is the opposite of "to talk turkey," and means to talk to another's disadvantage. Its origin comes from a story of a white man who went to hunt with an Indian on condition that the game should be divided between them. There was a brace of wild turkeys and one of crows, and the white man counted "there's a crow for you and a turkey for me, and another crow for you," and to which the Indian remonstrated "you talk all turkey for you and all crow for me."

Have had an old ring bequeathed to me from a friend. It has Mispah engraved on it; what is its meaning?—J. D.

The word may be found in the Bible, and its meaning is "the Lord dwell between thee and me, when we are absent one from the other."

Can you tell me what will cure chilblains?—J. S.

Try raw onions sliced and bound upon the sore spots, or tincture of iodine applied with a feather; oil of peppermint well rubbed in is also said to give relief.

Will it do to divide hydrangea bulbs? Ought the young bulbs to be always taken off amaryllis and calla bulbs?—NETTIE.

If the roots of the hydrangea support two or more roots attached to each, there is no reason why it may not be done, and the propagation of the plant be thus effected. When repotting bulbs any bulblets may be removed.

My skin is very greasy; could you tell me what would take away the greasy appearance, and what is the cause?—MARY K.

If your skin is greasy take care of your digestion; careful diet will do much towards removing the greasy appearance. Bathing the face in hot water every night will do wonders for the complexion. Never use cosmetics; a little borax or ammonia put in the water in which you wash your face will tend to make it look less greasy.

Wedding Anniversaries.

Wedding anniversaries, whether they be tin, crystal, china, silver or golden, may properly take the form of receptions. They may be elaborate, or simple, according to the choice of the givers. Our mothers would lift their hands in amazement if they were to see the tables prepared for large companies in these days, for two reasons, the beautiful and delicate appointments of the service, and the few kinds of edibles. Possibly there may be danger of too much expense in the former, while there cannot be too careful attention paid to its details. Use the best china, the most brightly polished silver and glass, and the finest table linen you have. Be content with your own, if not so fine. Have the few kinds of food the best of their kinds, the decorations simple but effective; a loose bunch of flowers of a simple variety, as carnation pinks, being preferred to a bouquet.

The more careful your preparation before the evening, the more certain your success on the evening. If your invitations have received the proper response, you will know the number of guests for which to prepare.

In regard to invitations, if one does not wish the expense or formality of engraved ones they may be written upon small note paper once folded, and enclosed in two envelopes, something after this form:—

1882.

Mr. and Mrs. John Brown
request the pleasure
of your company at the
Tenth Anniversary
of their marriage,
Tuesday evening, March sixth,
at eight o'clock,
at their residence,
1200 Fifth Avenue South,
Minneapolis.

1892.

It is considered good taste to place the words, "No Presents," at the foot of the invitation.

As to dress, the original wedding garments, or any costume suitable for an evening company may be worn. In entertaining, forget yourself and have but the one object, to make your guests at home. The host and hostess, being the honored ones, can do little in this respect, and it is well to ask several friends to have this in mind for them. A prominent place should be taken by them, assisted by friends, if desired, to receive the congratulations of guests.

It is thought by many to be better taste, for a tin, china, or crystal wedding to be a reception, without a programme of exercises. Even silver and golden weddings are more generally receptions for congratulations than evenings with literary programmes, the reminiscences being between guests with each other, and with host and hostess, rather than in formal speeches.

Music, readings either original or selected, may be given at informal intervals during the evening.

To my mind a second ceremony, even at a golden wedding, is a mockery, and it is certainly wholly out of taste for anything short of a golden wedding.

In receiving guests at the door and directing to guest rooms, a boy of ten or twelve in the hall below, and two girls of the same age above, are good assistants. The children of the house, or children of friends, usually think it a pleasure to render such services. A waiting maid in the ladies' room is a help, but not a necessity, especially in small villages and towns, where such maids are not usually provided. If pins, button-hooks for gloves and shoes, brushes, combs and hand-mirrors are provided, the guests can do without a maid.

If the dining-room is a large one, there may be a long table in the centre, with small tables sufficiently removed for waiters to serve from that table, the menu being placed upon it, taking care not to overload the table, as additional supplies should be ready in the pantry. The small tables, seating two, four, or even six guests, should be supplied with the requisite number of spoons and forks needed, as well as the napkins, also with a creamer and sugar-bowl.

At each end of the long table may be seated a relative, or intimate friend of the hostess to serve the tea, coffee or chocolate.

Sandwiches, salads, cheese sticks, olives, cakes, ice cream, and salted almonds, or salted peanuts as a substitute, are sufficient; and a less variety would be perfectly proper. Bonbons may take the place of cakes and ice creams.

If the dining-room is not large enough to have several tables, the long table, with chairs placed against the wall, will suffice, and the guests be served from the table, plates and napkins first being provided. As it is not expected that the guests be served simultaneously, it is a good way to have two friends who will quietly suggest when guests are to enter the dining-room and in what order. A ribbon may be placed across the door to signify that the tables are filled, and dropped when there is room for others.

Our Library Table.

THE HEALTH JOURNAL,

published at Ottawa, is a useful and necessary publication, and particularly when, as at present, public attention is called to a better condition of sanitary precautions, as the spread of contagious diseases is on the increase.

THE HOUSEWIFE.

An old favorite with every housekeeper, and quite up to the mark in the January number. Published at New York; 50 cents per year.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING.

The January number of this excellent magazine is a small library in itself. Published at Springfield, Mass., for \$2.40 per year.

TABLE TALK,

a bright little magazine published in Philadelphia, is one of the most perfect of publications, and indispensable to those wishing to become perfect housekeepers.

THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.

From first to last a magazine especially adapted for home reading and improvement. Published in Philadelphia for \$1 per year.

THE HOME MAKER

for January is all that it claims to be. New York; \$2.40 per year.

THE COSMOPOLITAN

is, as usual, beautifully illustrated, and contains the usual amount of useful reading matter. New York; \$3 per year.

THE DELINEATOR,

published in Toronto, embraces everything required in the line of fashions, fancy work, crocheting, knitting, lace-making, etc., and must be a boon to wearied mothers, as it tells exactly how to dress their children.

Recipes.

APPLE PUDDING.

Make a nice biscuit crust; roll thin and line a mould; fill with sliced apples and a few slices of lemon, or whatever flavor is preferred. Cover the top and steam three hours. Serve with sweet sauce.

PUFFS.

Beat to a cream one quarter pound of sugar with the same quantity of butter; add four ounces of bread crumbs, a tablespoon of flour, four well beaten eggs, and a little vanilla or lemon extract; mix well and add one half cup of milk and a teaspoonful of baking powder. Steam in cups two hours. Serve with cream.

COOKED HATS.

Roll out some nice light pastry as thin as possible; cut into squares and put a teaspoon of jam in the centre of each; wet the edges and double across, making the shape of a three-cocked hat; ornament the edges with a stamp, and brush over with white of egg. The squares should be about three inches across.