

IN WOMAN'S WORLD.

NOTES AND REFLECTIONS.

BEFORE physiologists were written and people did not know they had nerves in their insides, bad temper was bad temper, says the Catholic Citizen, of Milwaukee. Now bad temper is a case of 'nerves.' Before physiologies were written people with bad tempers and disagreeable dispositions had to pay the penalty for their lack of self-control. Nowadays some brethren and many sisters try to get excused from their habitual state of irritability by blaming it on their nerves. Nevertheless, bad temper is still bad temper, and one is prone to regret that physiologies are read by bad tempered people who would otherwise exercise self-control if they did not know they had nerves that they could make the scapegoat.

The sad fact of the case is, that ever since Adam's time, men and women have had need of self-control in living out their lives. Things have to be put up with; conditions have to be endured; disagreeable people have to be met with other disagreeable people with nerves. This is a vale of tears anyway, and there are trials and tribulations in it. The whole philosophy of life consists in seeing how cheerfully we can get along; how pleasantly we can greet our neighbors; even though we have the tooth ache or some other ache; how well we can resolve discord into harmonies; how little our disposition can be affected by nerves and jans and buffets. Bad temper is not a case of nerves, but a case of lack of nerve control; and an unpleasant disposition is not nervousness so much as want of will to be cheerful and energetic and good.

A novel occupation is that of an old English woman, Mrs. Steel, of Lewes, England, who is a gravedigger. She is sexton of the best known church in Lewes, and every one knows her. Until recently she dug all the graves in the Lewes cemetery, but having reached the age of 60 she now contents herself with filling them up and attending to the mounds and flowers. She declares that she'll never give up her placental some one has to dig a grave for her. Furthermore, she says that the cemetery is a fine field for woman, and that the work has made her uncommonly strong and healthy. She is said to handle a spade, shovel and pick in a way that would make the average street hand shudder to contemplate.

The baggage smasher, says the Boston Post, who has had undisputed sway ever since railroads were instituted, is about to receive a sudden and heartrending check. While trunks have been made stronger and stronger to resist the ravages of this class of public servant, the smasher has kept pace and has cultivated the knack of dropping a piece of baggage in the corner so as to split it in halves in a most artistic manner. But his reign is waning. The Boston & Maine railroad, with characteristic progressiveness, has issued an imperative order that baggage masters must exercise great caution in handling trunks and that they must not be thrown from the car door onto the hard platform. Sliding boards will be provided, and now the big trunks will descend to earth gracefully and gently.

The U. S. Government has published what is called an old maid's chart, though old bachelors' chart would be quite as good a name. It is a map, printed in colors, and shows at a glance in just what localities bachelors are thickest, and in what regions spinsters are most dense per square mile. It appears from the old maid's chart and the figures accompanying it that people generally have been greatly mistaken in their notion that there is an enormous surplus of unmarried women in this country. The truth is that no such excess of spinsters exists; in fact, it is quite the other way, the bachelors outnumbering the maidens. At the present moment there are in the United States 2,200,000 more unmarried males than females similarly situated, the exact figures being 5,427,767 bachelors against 3,224,494 spinsters of ages from twenty years up. Thus it is obvious that if girls do not find husbands, it is not for lack of a plentiful supply of the article.

In Western Australia they push the equality of the sexes to a conclusion that would satisfy even Mrs. Lillie Devereux Blake and other very ardent equal rightsers. There the men folk act on the principle that if women demand men's privileges they must take with them men's responsibilities. Accordingly, a bench of magistrates have charged a woman with deserting her husband, and what is more, they have sent her to prison for a month because she steadily refused to contribute to the domestic comfort of her life partner. A philosopher once remarked that human beings should have a care for what they wished, for that thing would surely come to them. The equal rights sisterhood had better take warning from their Australian cousin's plight or they may get more than they desire in the way of equality.

The sweet name of Mary, says the Review, of St. Louis, is still the favorite the world over. Even in America it has taken the place of other Scripture names; while quaint old Puritan names, pet names, and diminutives of which there was an epidemic some twenty years ago no longer find favor. The best beloved name of Mary belongs to one girl in every eight; or, if the forms Mary and Maria, included, to more than one in every six.

God has helped us today it is a certainty that He will help us tomorrow.

HOUSEHOLD NOTES.

MOTHERS run a great risk of giving their children blood poisoning by using needles, or, worse still, pins taken from anywhere to remove splinters from little fingers. A sterilized needle is the proper instrument and the sterilizing can be done by passing the point through an alcohol flame or boiling water and exercising care in avoiding contact between the point and anything but the flesh it is to probe.

Inflamed lids can be eased by bathing them in salt and water at night. Ten grains of borax and two ounces of camphor water is a good remedy also.

If a sore appears on the head and there is reason to think it is a ringworm lose no time in attending to it, for it is contagious. Keep combs, brushes and towels entirely separate and allow nobody to even try on your hats. Three or four times a day apply a salve made of equal parts of antimony, borax and sulphur. Rub it in with a clean linen cloth, which should be replaced when it becomes soiled and burned instantly. It would be wise to cut away the hair so that the sore would not be irritated by combing, and to wear a cap to prevent contagion from spreading. Do not touch with a finger that has the skin broken and do not neglect to take a blood purifier.

The change in temperature during the first days of the week turns one's thoughts to the winter outfit. A writer in the Home Journal deals with the subject of renovating furs in the following manner:—

Furs become very much soiled and need renovation as much as any other part of a woman's wardrobe, but among the many directions given for drying and renovating one seldom finds anything regarding furs. Furriers keep all such trade secrets strictly, but occasionally there is a leakage, and I am able to send you the result of one. Dark furs, as seal, mink and black marten, are cleaned with fine cedar or mahogany sawdust, which is kept in stock by furriers. The garment is ripped free from the lining and the fur laid on a table with the hair up; then the sawdust is rubbed in the hair and neither strength nor sawdust spared during the process. When finished, shake the fur lightly over the table and save the sawdust that drops out. Then put upon the table one or two feather pillows in their usual muslin slips, and upon these lay the furs, hair down this time, and beat thoroughly with a switch until the sawdust is out and the fur as clean as a pin; keep moving the pillows, as the fur must have a soft support while beaten.

White furs are cleaned with white cornmeal applied as the sawdust is on the darker varieties. If white furs are only a little soiled they may be cleaned with magnesia in small cubes that is well rubbed in and then thoroughly dusted out.

If any grease gets on a piece of fur it may be removed with gasoline applied on a piece of cotton batting; rub gently and renew the gasoline and cotton frequently, remembering that the former is explosive. Pitch, paint, tar and oil stains are thus treated, and if they obstinately refuse to disappear, try benzine, oil of turpentine or spirits of ether, but try such things away from the light of either lamp or fire, with windows open.

To make a fine toilet soap take two pounds of pure best tallow, one pound of sal soda, one-half pound of salt, one ounce of gum camphor, one ounce of borax, one-half pint of glycerine, four quarts of water. Boil slowly for one hour, stirring frequently with a flat stick. Set off the fire until, boil up again, add one-half pound of granulated sugar and one pound of fine oatmeal. Boil twenty minutes longer and perfume with a fragrant oil, according to preference.

The continued increase, remarks an authority on domestic matters, in the number of young women who have left various schools of domestic science after courses varying in length and thoroughness, is beginning to have an influence upon the domestic service problem. There is even a well-founded hope in the minds of many housekeepers that while waiting for the millennium of relief to come with a rush, it has begun, very slowly and without blast of trumpets, to dawn. It is possible and common now to find young women students at these schools willing to undertake the conduct of an average household for about the wages of a fair cook. Such a student will do all the planning of meals, buying of supplies, and the cooking, needing only an assistant for the dish-washing and plain work of the kitchen.

The Dublin Freeman remarks:—They have their superstitions in England. As might be expected they take a commercial or quasi-commercial turn. In Lancashire the seventh son of a seventh son is supposed to be a doctor by birth. A certain Mr. Talbot, seventh son of a seventh son, claimed not merely the title of doctor, but the right to travel free on the railway. This second claim practically enforced brought him into a police court in London, where superstition in its practical form is at a discount with the alternative of seven days or the seventh son.

WHIMS OF FASHION.

FEMALE loveliness never appears to so good advantage as when set off by simplicity of dress, says a writer in the Catholic Witness of Detroit. No artist ever decks his angels with towering feathers and gaudy jewellery; and our dear human angels—if they would only make good their title to that name—should carefully avoid ornaments which properly belong to Indian squaws and African princesses. These tinseleries may serve to give effect on the stage, or on the ball-room floor, but in daily life there is no substitute for the charm of simplicity. A vulgar taste is not to be disguised by gold and diamonds. The absence of a true taste and refinement of delicacy cannot be compensated for by the possession of the most princely fortune. Through dress the mind may be read as through the delicate tissue the lettered page. A modest woman will dress modestly; a really refined and intellectual woman will bear the marks of careful selection and faultless taste.

Lace is being used to a great extent this season—far greater than has been the fashion for a number of years. All sorts of materials will be trimmed with it. Many waists and jackets are made entirely of lace, the heavier kinds, such as guipure and Irish point.

But the girl who is wearing an old gown and wishes to give it an up-to-date air can do much if she will secure a number of short lengths and adorn her gown with them. A pretty way is to use lace instead of a necktie bunching it about the throat and tying it in a loose sailor's knot in front, with ends spread out over the gown.

Another way is to take the lace from the left shoulder and let it fall loosely to the belt on the right side, where it is tucked under a bow.

These are but a couple of suggestions. The average girl, with a little practice, will get many ideas for adorning her gown. The best way is to pin on the lace with fancy pins and ribbon bows.

Black gowns of thin material have been a fad of the summer and black gowns will be a distinct fashion of the fall and winter. There are no fewer than a dozen varieties in distinctly new black materials in the ever popular and always graceful wool and silk mixtures. Crepons, jacquards, velvet bayaderes, corded poplin, and maitelasses are the most effective and dressy, but nothing could make up more stylishly than the plain black poplin grounds with serpentine braided effect or that with a woven tuck. Black woollen armures with wavy and apparently braided lines, in bayadera or horizontal effects, are desirable and durable. A notable feature about this season's materials is that, while warm, they are lighter in weight than ever before, which is well, since the frounce age and long skirts are upon us.

Fancy waists for the coming season are more elaborate than ever, both as to material and make. Fashions may come and go, but fashions may come and go, but it is safe to say that the women will never willingly give up the fancy waist. And why should they? It is becoming and affords them endless variety in their wardrobe. Silk is the favorite material, although rich, fancy velvets, soft, clinging crepes and tucked and puffed satins are also fashionable.

The three-quarter coat, with a skirt that falls just easily above the dress-skirt, says the Fashion authority of the New York Post, is a very graceful garment on a tall, well formed woman. It is oftener, however, more unbecoming than the reverse to the majority, and a coat or blouse bodice that is slashed adapts itself better to figure exigence than the straight edge, which has either too much waifiness in the skirt part for elegance, or otherwise being too tight, as is often the case with coats cut with an arched hip or waist taper. Bodices shaped with points or long slender tabs give length to the figure, and a needful and graceful spring, and avoid extremes.

Go where the shopper may, tweed and chevrons, both smooth and shaggy, and of almost every conceivable color, thickness, and quality, meet the eye. For utility costumes these materials are in as great demand as ever, and with good reason, for they are at once natty in effect, useful and stylish in pattern, and have the additional advantage of requiring but little trimming. Notwithstanding the rage for elaborate decoration, there is no radical change this season in the style of making the tailor gown, and good taste is still shown in the construction of both skirt and bodice. In the first place, elaborate effects would be out of place on a tailor gown designed for any sort of practical wear, and then there are certain limitations due to the weight of the fabrics composing them, even supposing that trimmings were allowable.

For elderly women are some new shawl-shaped capes almost as long as the shawl proper, formed very much like the newest fur capes. These are made variously of corded plain silk, plain satin, or brocade, and are trimmed with a deep graduated ruffe of the same, or with rather wide lace. These capes add greatly to the beauty and effect of a black costume, and although only silk lined, have considerable warmth, without being heavy. These wraps have not yet been generally displayed in the shops, but leading modistes are making them up, after designs obtained from importers of French patterns, or from models they have themselves brought from the other side.

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HAPPENINGS IN TEMPERANCE CIRCLES.

A Protestant minister, in recently discussing the question of Prohibition, at Kingston, said:—

To get at the question properly, the best way is to conceive of the difficulties lying before men in voting for the prohibition of the liquor traffic. The first great difficulty seems to be that regarding revenue. Why should direct taxation frighten people? Look at the difference between direct and indirect taxation. What is it? Why, simply this, that indirect taxation people know what they pay, and in indirect taxation they do not. Taxes by the indirect method are raised by customs duties, etc., but very few people realize it, and therefore do not complain.

But this direct taxation talk is all nonsense. There will be no such thing imposed upon the people. Sir Wilfrid Laurier says there will be no need of direct taxation, that the Finance Minister will make up the revenue, got by the liquor traffic, in another way. Liquor men say there will be nine millions loss in revenue, but it will really be only five millions. But hear what Gladstone has to say about revenue: "The question of revenue must never stand in the way of moral reform." And again he says: "Give me a sober people, and I will raise the revenue." Whatever the revenue, there is something more important than money, and we should look above such a base thing.

But consider what the country gets from the liquor men. A revenue of seven millions is got, and it returns the country gives the liquor men forty millions. Now what have they given the country in return for the thirty-three millions. Simply this—poverty, crime, and lunacy. Is that a good financial investment by this fair Dominion? Is that the way the country is to grow and expand? The liquor men are like the leech, they

suck 40 drops of blood from us, and in return we get seven drops with which to grow fat. The liquor sellers are unproductive of anything that is good.

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