

she may not give answer in accordance with the ideas of the "dead past."

Her husband, too, with what careful consideration he must be treated! must always be welcomed home with a cheerful smile, however weary her frame with continued toil, or prostrate the nerve force with unceasing care, or however burdened her heart with untold sorrow; for now as in the long past, every "heart knoweth its own bitterness." Over and above all these, she must rise to meet him with a cheerful greeting, that he may have no cause to apprehend not having found a home where there is one to love and one to love him. It may not be said that he always meets with such a welcome, nor yet that he always should, but such is the theory of those lectures gratuitous.

The home also should not only be cheered with smiles, but made pleasant and attractive to all by means of various decorations skilfully and cunningly wrought. Should she be so unfortunate as to require domestics, she will find in them an additional source of trial to skill and patience, for in these times it is requisite their treatment should be such after the manner of handling eggs.

With such multifarious and pressing demands upon their strength, care, tact and skill, is it surprising that so many unskilful wives and mothers early lay down their weary hands and pass on to the New Jerusalem? Too often bearing with them through their lives, the wearying feeling that their work has been but indifferently performed, because they have not been able to bring the actual up to the high standard of their ideal. And sometimes mayhap, realizing that others, even those for whose well-being the willing use of their hands has been given, and the fervent prayers of their spirits poured forth, have been more cognizant of their few partial failures than of their many noble efforts and fine successes. Poor unappreciated daughters of men, well there is One who seeth in

secret and rewardeth surely, though not always openly.

Here then comes in the query, may it not oft-times be within the easily possible to materially diminish the amount of weary wear by studying convenience in the build and plan of dwelling places? Leaving each to consider the good arrangement that should be, I will mention one evil that should not be, namely, floors not on the same level, causing one or more steps at doors through which it is needful to pass very frequently. Of course the passing over a step or two is not much, but to pass over them myriads of times weekly or daily amounts to a great deal. Let any who are planning to build guard against this evil, but if their dwellings be already constructed with such inconvenience be it understood that the last quarter of the nineteenth century affords architectural skill sufficient to obviate the difficulty. True it may be at some cost, but it were an outlay not only in the interest of mercy, but of economy, for

Human frames "are not flint and flint is rent,

They are not steel and steel is bent."

Aye, and broken too, as constitutions sooner or later surely will be, subjected to such undue wear and tear. Then money may be expended in vain for the restoration of health and strength thus wasted.

There is another respect in which means may be well and wisely expended, that of procuring literature suitable for different portions or the family. It would not be at greater cost than that of the smoke curling up from the burning *weed*, but far more enduring in its beneficial results.

Nor is it enough for a home to be what it should, that the head of the house furnish means to procure reading matter for the benefit of his children; he must give also of himself, of his time, of his sympathy, and of his attention, although to do so he may at times require to relinquish his own