

The Family Circle.

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LAWSON & JONES, - Publishers & Proprietors.

Our Magazine continues to grow in favor, and not being limited to any class or district, the verdict comes from the households of every Province of the Dominion, as well as many of the States of the Union, that *no fireside reading is complete without the FAMILY CIRCLE.*

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PERIODICALS, ETC.

Electra is indeed an interesting and valuable magazine, and must be growing in public favor. This bright and entertaining monthly is conducted entirely by ladies, and is a credit to all connected with it. Its editors are Annie E. Wilson and Isabella M. Leyburn, the latter of whom publishes the magazine, and will be happy to receive subscriptions to it at 743 Fourth Avenue, Louisville, Ky. \$2 a year.

CIRCLE CHAT.

CHOICE OF OCCUPATION.

With the advance of civilization and ever growing population of the world, the contention in business circles, and competition in skill and every progressive art, becomes keener. The choice of an occupation, therefore, from which to reap that upon which comfort, to a great extent, rests, is becoming every day a more and more important matter.

Grave errors are made by many parents, by reason of ambition and pride, while some few others, through a lack of appreciation of their children's capacities, or a stubborn idea as to what "pays best," fall into an equally wrong course in the direction of their offspring to the following of a pursuit which, all through life, should harmonize with one's mental and physical capacity and inclination.

With the world's progress occupations change, both with regard to their nature and their remuneration. The pursuit of farming has been extolled by writers who know no more about the labor of ploughing or harvesting than they do about "growing up with the country;" and making a living by one's "head," without what they are pleased to call "hard work," is to many a quite possible consumption of comfort, who know nothing of the toils and struggles of the speculator, merchant and professional man. Amid the keen competition in business and the enormous multitude that cannot hope to earn a livelihood, by reason of their numbers, in the genteel professions, work of the muscles is now, as a rule, fully as well, if not better remunerated, than brain work, and fairly skilled mechanics and average farmers are rapidly becoming a more independent people than the ordinary physicians and barristers. It is constantly urged that there is room at the "top of the ladder," and there undoubtedly is; but be sure that your son has the depth of character required and a strong inclination toward a profession, before you advise, or, as in some cases, command him to adopt this or that.

As a rule, if a boy will be more than an average success in any position, marked manifestations of his inclination towards this will early present themselves, and parents should, therefore, study well their sons' tastes and ambitions. Let parents beware of taking too much upon themselves in this matter; and yet let them pay good heed not to slight it. A father should instruct his son in the requirements, as to education and physical development, so far as he is able, of the different occupations, and then let the boy assume as much responsibility as he will in the matter, the importance to himself of which he should have been previously taught to appreciate.

There are enough in the world for all occupations and as civilization progresses the concentration of one's energies to one special limited branch seems to be demanded for success.

Could we only see each individual following a pursuit to which his ability, tastes and development perfectly adapted him, we would hear much less of the enormous amount of ill-health resulting from mental depression, and fewer people would try to convince us that their occupation is the most difficult and worst remunerated in the world.

SOME REFORMS.

With the usual conservatism of the public in accepting reforms, the day when people believed that drugs were the most important effect in relieving the sick, is passing away, and whatever composes, pleases or stimulates, to healthy action, the mind, in conversation, in actions and in all surroundings is becoming known to the world as the greatest specific, sometimes aided by 'medicines,' for all complaints.

The superstitions of our religion are rapidly giving place to more rational views. Cause and effect and the laws of nature in their punishments and rewards are becoming better understood, and every day, we believe, the world is becoming more surely aware that what a man sows, that shall he also reap, and good works are the outcome.

The unperturbed instincts of a morally well developed person may often be a good guide to a right mode of living—The unperturbed senses and appetites of a physically well developed person may often be a good guide to their proper care and nourishment; but it is wise for people to keep conversant, through good periodical literature, with the newest and most advanced ideas of leading minds upon the necessities and wholesome luxuries of living, and proper moral restriction. Every new theory or method in life need not necessarily be adopted, but grave and just reflection should be the means of causing us to adopt every true reform.