

"THE MANNERLESS SEX."

The September number of the North American Review contains a short and sharp arraignment of "the mannerless sex"—the writer considers it necessary to say that he means "the weaker sex"—by Oscar Fay Adams. The arraignment is of the kind that signifies the most and is the hardest to answer, for it is a statement of facts. Four varieties of rudeness are charged to women in their intercourse with the world at large. These are: "First, the indifference with which a woman will contemplate the fact that the convenience of others has been sacrificed to her caprice. Very observable in young women. Second, the needless delay a woman often causes in making her appearance when visitors have called upon her. Most commonly noticed among women who are no longer classed as girls. Third, the unwillingness of a woman to wait for another to finish speaking before beginning to speak herself. Characteristic of nearly all women. Fourth, woman's failure to recognize the importance of an engagement. Most commonly noticed among women who have the fewest social duties." The total indifference to the rights of others shown very often by women at a railroad ticket-office, is given in illustration of one of these counts. How many persons are there who ever bought a railroad ticket who have not seen this feminine trait? A line of men is in waiting, when up rushes a woman to the ticket-seller, deposits her money, with cool unconsciousness of the contemptuous and impatient looks of the men (who, perhaps, have no time to spare before catching a train), and asks for a ticket to Blanktown. "At the post-office or at any other place where the invariable rule is 'first come, first served,' woman endeavors to reverse this rule in her own favor, and, failing to secure this reversal at times, she sets down the fact to man's lack of gallantry." It is true enough that there are plenty of men who have the same hoggish disposition, but they are never quite so exasperating as are women. But the writer considers woman as at her worst when she is shopping. "Then her hand is raised against every woman who crosses her path. From the moment she pushes the swinging doors of the first retail shop she enters, and lets them fly back into the face of the woman behind her, till she reaches her home again, she has laid herself open at every turn to the charge of bad manners. She has in her progress made tired clerks spend hours in taking down goods simply for her amusement, when she has not the smallest intention of purchasing from them. She has made audible comments upon "the stupidity and slowness of the shop girls." She has swept off from loaded shop counters with her draperies more than one easily-damaged article, which she has scorned to pick up and replace. She has jostled against other women and met their indignant looks with a stony, not to say insolent, stare."

Mr. Adams does not attempt to discov-

er the reason why so many women—perhaps enough of them to say the average woman—exhibit such indifference to the rights and feelings of others. If some one would undertake this task, his effort would no doubt be appreciated by the masculine portion of the race at least. While not attempting it ourselves, we venture to throw out the suggestion that the deference shown to women by men has much to do with it. In this country especially women are overwhelmed with delicate attentions. It is not strange that they come to expect indulgence in everything they wish. It is not strange that they look upon the world and the lesser animals (including men) in it as created to minister to their pleasure and whims. Again, women labor under the disadvantage, as regards ethical culture, of doing little real business. Contact with others on the Rialto has a wonderful influence in rubbing out conceits and unkind manners. Men understand that it pays to be considerate of the feelings of those with whom they talk and trade. Let us acknowledge that some good comes out of the selfish game of greed.

English Ivy.

The use of English ivies for the purpose of decorating living-rooms is more extensive every year and cannot be too highly commended. Being very strong, they will live through any treatment; but study their peculiarities, and manifest willingness to gratify them, and they will grow without stint. Most houses are too hot for them, as indeed they are for their owners. Neither plants nor people should have the temperature over 65° Fahrenheit. Take care not to enfeeble your ivies by excessive watering or undue heat, and you will see they will not seem to mind whether the sun shines on them or not, or in what position or direction you train them. In deed, so much will they do themselves to render a room charming, that we would rather have an unlimited number of them to draw upon than anything else in nature or art.

Do you wish the ugly plain doors that shut off your tiny entry from your parlor, to be arched or curved, like those in the drawing-rooms of your richer neighbor? Buy a couple of brackets, such as lamps for the burning of kerosene are sometimes placed in, and screw them in the sides of the door. Put in each a plant of English ivy, the longer the better; then train the plants over the top against the sides, indeed any way your fancy dictates. You need not buy the beautiful but costly pots the flower dealer will advise, common glazed ones will answer every purpose, for, by placing in each two or three sprays of Coliseum ivy, in a month's time no vestige of the pot itself can be discerned through their thick screen.

The English ivy growing over the walls of a building, instead of promoting dampness, as most persons would suppose, is said to be a remedy for it, and it is men-

tioned as a fact that in a certain room where damp had prevailed for a length of time the affected parts inside had become dry when ivy had grown up to cover the opposite exterior side. The close overhanging pendant leaves prevent the rain or moisture from penetrating to the wall. Beauty and utility in this case go hand in hand.—Journal of Horticulture.

Rose Management.

A very successful rose grower sends to a friend the following account of his style of managing the rose. The friend says his plants are one mass of bloom from November till late spring. His method is as follows:

"You ask me how I manage my roses to have bloom in early spring. I prefer two year old plants, but use good strong one year old ones, if compelled to do so. I plant my roses out in the garden in the spring and don't allow them to bloom during the summer. About the last week in August or the first of September, take them up with all the soil that will hang to them, pot and place in a very shady place for about two weeks out of doors, watering and sprinkling all the time. I now expose them to the sun, until the foliage falls off. All this time they will be making new roots and the tops will be at rest. When the leaves have fallen, prune them. Cut back the young growth a little and then cut out the center. Place them in the greenhouse. I would place the plants in the middle of the house, but if they are on the benches over the pipes, put two inches or more of sand under the pots. Do not attempt to force them too much, but give all the air possible in the daytime. Great care should be taken not to sour the soil, syringe often. Soil is very important. If it be possible, get a lot of sods from the cow pasture, three or four inches thick, put them in a heap and add to them as one to four of cow and horse manure; turn this compost over three or four times during the summer, breaking up the sod each time. I never screen my soil for roses, nor do I use drainage in the bottom of my pots, but simply the old fibrous roots that I find in the soil at the time of potting. Turn out all your roses as early in the spring as possible, prune off the long roots, and follow directions as above given, and I will ensure you abundance of flowers from November until March. I prefer to have my roses too dry rather than too wet."—Gardener Monthly.

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