

# CHIT-CHAT.

## From Day to Day.

This world at best is but a hash of pleasure and of pain;  
Some days are bright and sunny, and some all  
slashed with rain,  
And that's just how it ought to be, for when the  
clouds roll by  
We'll know just how to 'prelate the bright and  
smiling sky.  
So learn to take it as it comes, and don't sweat at  
the pores  
Because the Lord's opinion don't coincide with  
yours;  
But always keep rememberin' when cares your  
path enshroud,  
That God has lots of sunshine to spill behind the  
cloud.

—James Whitcomb Riley.

## Plain Hands.

**I**F a plea for plain hands could be written in letters of gold it could not attract too much attention. Why will sensible women, who show refined good taste in many other ways, make jewellery shops of their hands? When the wearer's husband is in the business, it is even worse, for then the custom has a dash of "shop" about it. Some women hide the pretty curves of their hands with six or eight large rings crowded on two fingers. Where one is so fortunate as to own a handsome collection, the wearing of one or two at a time has a touch of novelty and modesty. But it is truly refreshing to see a young lady with shapely hands, or even ordinary ones, given good care, which are conspicuous for the absence of showy adornments.

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## Duties of a Housekeeper.

AN intelligent woman, who has made a study of household economics, and who understands all about gathering up the fragments, that nothing be lost, says that no table is so expensive as the one to which little thought and less personal oversight is given. A servant seldom has either time or inclination to make the remnants which are left into those tempting little dishes which are so useful in relieving the monotony of steak, roast and chop; and, further, that if a "penny saved is a penny earned," a housekeeper can well afford the time which a daily inspection of her cupboards demands, and the thought which must be given to converting what she finds there into palatable dishes. At the end of the year she will see a reduction in her grocer's and her butcher's bills which will be worth saving.

## When Nursing:

Don't read out to a sick person unless you are quite sure that your doing so is desired. Suggest it if you like, but do not press it. When you do, do not select the most dismal parts of a newspaper, such as an account of the latest murder or railway accident, but keep to the bright side of things.

Don't retail all the bad news you hear to the sick person. During the long, weary hours of illness the mind is apt to dwell on what has been heard, and the account of Mrs. A's operation and Mr. B's funeral are not lively subjects for meditation.

Don't talk about the patient before him. Tell the doctor all you have to say downstairs before he sees the patient. In any case, don't talk to anyone just outside his door. The indistinct sounds are most irritating, and he is sure to fancy he is being discussed, even if such is not the case.

Don't let visitors come and see the patient unless you are sure that he likes it, and that the doctor thinks it is good for him. People differ about these matters. Some like to be left alone, and visitors only annoy them, while others get dull if they do not see their friends.

Don't argue with a patient, and never oblige him to decide things for himself. Make the decision, and, if he does not like it, alter it, if you can do so without flatly disobeying the doctor's orders.

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## Japanese Domestic Simplicity.

THE Japanese housewife does not have the care of an elaborately-arranged bedroom on her mind. When night comes, the bedding is brought out from the closet, where it has been put away during the day. One or two large, thick futons, or cushions, are spread directly on the mats of the bedrooms, and coverings, which look like enormous kimonos, or clothes, are spread over them. Every traveller has told of the pillow made of a wooden box with a little cylindrical cushion on the top, but this kind of pillow has gone out of fashion. Softer cylindrical pillows, made by stuffing a cloth bag with husks of buckwheat, are now more commonly used. In the summer, it is necessary to have mosquito nets, which generally inclose the whole room. The thought of the toy-like rooms, with floors covered with matting, and few places for lodgment of dust, seems delightful to a burdened housewife of the western hemisphere, though we would all feel seriously embarrassed by the sliding paper-covered partitions that seem to take away all sense of privacy in a Japanese house.