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of recreation. Let the musician play her prettiest and most entertaining selections; father read the liveliest sallies from the papers, and mother recount the humorous side of the day's proceedings. Of course, there are times when work must be done, and disappointments are unavoidable. Then, let us adapt ourselves to circumstances cheerfully.

As guests, we should always conform to the entertainment provided by the Not that the whole responsihostess. bility of an evening should rest on the shoulders of a hostess; the guest also has a duty in the matter. We should meet cordially the friends who are introduced to us, however little they attract us; and take an interest in any local happenings that are of vital importance to our entertainers. We should show lively appreciation of everything done for our entertainment, even though it may be but a commonplace and dull affair, according to our own estimation; and we should measure our gratefulness to the hostess, not so much by the degree of pleasure she actually gives us as by the amount of effort which she

As for the kinds of amusement, they are many and varied. Especially are the progressive games interesting. They may be carried out with cards, crokinole, dominoes, or any of the table games. They are especially good when the guests are not really known to each other, as it gives all a chance to meet, and thus become acquainted during the game. If such is the custom of the house, end up with an informal dance, or some of the romping games which mix your guests generally, and induce all to be hilarious for the time being.

Among out-of-door sports, we have skating, tabogganing, snow-shoeing, and skeeing, but chief of all is sleigh-riding. On a clear, frosty night, when the moon rises big and round, and the loose snow comes creeping, creeping up over the frozen banks, and sleigh-bells jingle and hearts are light, then, we say, give to the city man his street-car, and the millionaire his auto and artificially-kept roads; as for me, I'll take the beaten track of nature that leads to health, wealth, and happiness.

Perhaps some think the winter evenings too long to spend in our own amusements only. Then, let our labor be the cultivation of the mind rather than the occupation of our hands. Let us read good books, attend good concerts. A literary society is a great benefit to a community, where, by striving to interest others, we must read, think, originate, and express our ideas, and find that we are really the benefited ourselves. Let us conclude then that winter evenings, and especially winter evenings in the country, are very desirable when there are so many ways of spending them.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

Hope's Quiet Hour

God's Preparations;

I go to prepare a place for you.—S. John xiv.: 2.

Our Lord was spending His last evening as a Man among men. Those hours before His agony were very precious, and they were poured out in loving words of comfort and needful warning to His bewildered disciples. Those words are sweet and fragrant as ever, after nearly two thousand years of use. Probably no other words that were ever written have more power to comfort the weary and heavy-laden than this farewell message of the Master to His friends: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

God's preparations are no new thing in our lives. He is our Father, and has always prepared for us, as dear children are prepared for everywhere. Think how a woman prepares dainty garments for her treasure. Think how—a few weeks ago—many thousands of happy parents planned Christmas gifts in advance, according to their means. I remember once hearing a mother talk delightedly about the pleasure her little daughter would take in eating an extra

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