

RETROSPECTION.

AT SET OF SUN.

If we sit down at set of sun
 And count the things that we have done
 And, counting, find
 One self-denying act, one word
 That eased the heart of him who heard ;
 One glance most kind,
 That fell like sunshine where it went,
 Then we may count that day well spent.

But if, through all the livelong day,
 We've eased no heart by yea or nay ;
 If through it all
 We've done no thing that we can trace,
 That brought the sunshine to a face ;
 No act, most small,
 That helped some soul, and nothing cost,
 Then count that day as worse than lost.

SILVER WEDDINGS.

QUESTIONS are frequently reaching us regarding silver weddings, and we are happy to furnish the following information concerning them, which has been given us by a recognized authority.

To celebrate twenty-five years of married life, and to call it a "silver wedding," is essentially a German custom, and is followed throughout Germany, both in castle and cottage, from royalty downwards. Few reach fifty years of married life in comparison with those who arrive at twenty-five years, and, even when they do, are hardly equal to celebrating the event in a joyous manner as befits a golden wedding. The infirmities of old age and the sorrows incidental to a long life militate against such rejoicings. Not so with regard to a silver wedding; the bride and bridegroom have presumably but reached the meridian of life, and are capable of taking part in any festivities consequent upon the occasion; but whether silver weddings will ever become popular in general society is very problematical, for many reasons. Royal personages and prominent people can afford to celebrate publicly this interesting epoch of their lives; again, married people of the well-to-do classes, and who lead quiet domestic lives in their own small circles, are pleased thus to remind their friends that they have enjoyed twenty-five years of married life, that they have reached a certain age, and that their sons and daughters are marriageable, or even married; but these are precisely the facts that men and women in general and in fashionable society are not too anxious to impress upon their friends. A husband, as a rule, shrinks from the congratulations that the announcement of his silver wedding would bring upon him, and a wife, still young-looking and in the zenith of her popularity, is loth to confess to the world that she is within a couple of years of fifty; or, if younger, she is still more disinclined to announce that she has been married twenty-five years. And even should her age be chronicled, she still likes to take the benefit of the doubt that few give themselves the trouble to refer to these books of reference on her account, and would infinitely prefer that this important date in her married life should be allowed to glide silently by without general notice from her acquaintances; this is a view of the subject taken by most married ladies with but few exceptions.

When a silver wedding is to be celebrated, invitations are usually issued three weeks previous to the advent in the united names of host and hostess on "At home" cards printed in silver, whether the invitation be to a dinner, dance, or At home. Each guest is expected to send a present in silver, trifling or costly, according to inclination, but silver it must be; and so many pretty, useful and ornamental things are made in silver,

that there is little difficulty in choosing something suitable. These presents should be sent within a week of the silver wedding day, and are arranged on tables in the drawing-room on the day itself, with the names of the donors attached to them. A favorite manner of celebrating a silver wedding is to give a dinner, followed by a reception or a dance, the immediate relatives and most intimate friends being invited to the dinner, and acquaintances to the reception or dance. The dinner table or supper table is decorated with white flowers and silver leaves, the centre-piece being a large wedding-cake decorated with silver and cut at dessert. The bride and bridegroom of twenty-five years standing receive their guests and their congratulations side by side. They open the dance or ball by dancing the first dance together, and together lead the way into the supper-room.

When an afternoon reception is given from four to seven in place of either of the foregoing entertainments, the same etiquette is observed, and husband and wife lead the way into the tea-room, followed by their guests, and the wedding cake is cut by the wife and handed to the company by the servants in attendance. The health of the host and hostess is proposed by some distinguished person present, and duly drunk in champagne. When a silver wedding is celebrated in England by a country gentleman, he usually gives a dinner or dance to his tenants, and also to certain of the villagers, notably the old people, and not unfrequently a dance is given to the domestics the day after the silver wedding, and this brings the silver wedding festivities to a close. It is not usual to send wedding cards on the occasion of a silver wedding, even to the nearest relatives, but it is optional to send wedding cake to them if they can not be present at the silver wedding, but it should not be sent to absent acquaintances.

WOMEN.

THE Comtesse de Paris is an expert rifle-shot.

Miss Wheelock makes a living teaching whist in Minneapolis.

Mrs. M. Thomas is a practical shoemaker living in Camas, I.T.

Mrs. Lynn Linton says that the finest trait in Disraeli's character was the unflinching and grateful constancy with which he stuck to his elderly wife.

According to the Rev. Elizabeth W. Greenwood there are 2,432 physicians and surgeons, 165 ministers and 75 lawyers in the U. S. who are women.

Miss Braddon, who has written fifty novels during her fifty years of life, objects to having her portrait published.

The latest statistics from London show a marked increase in the number of women employed in the different trades.

The Marasi Maraski Society, a Vienna association of artists and art students, has decided to admit women to its membership.

One of the prominent features of Philadelphia social circles is a society of ladies who devote their attention to the study and discussion of literary, artistic and musical themes.

The widow of Admiral Dahlgren, who is a well-known figure in Washington, has iron-gray hair, parted smoothly over a high forehead, and blue eyes which gleam with intelligence.

By the death of the Duke of Manchester, Lady Mandeville, who was the beautiful Miss Yznaga, of New York, is promoted to wear the strawberry leaves, and becomes the second contemporary American duchess in the English peerage.

It is a somewhat curious fact that there are now three Duchesses of Manchester. The second of these, who became Dowager Duchess by the death of the Duke, in Naples, in March, is a remarkable woman. She is the daughter of a Hanoverian nobleman, beautiful, witty, highly accomplished, and an able and astute politician.