January, 1908.

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Health in the Home

By Marion Dallas.

sun's rays now fail to warm the earth, leaving us with shorter days and longer nights, frosty mornings and cool

The question has been asked: Does this change affect our human systems? Assuredly it does. Like passengers on a steamer going across the Pacific Ocean, who must adjust themselves to the changes in climate they encounter, so we find it necessary to give some heed to the change in seasons.

It is commonly thought that all the change necessary is to put on a little more clothing, close down the windows, light the fire, and we are ready for the winter. There are other things which require our attention, if we regard our health, during the winter.

The first thing is air. The problem of securing fresh air is a difficult one, because the cold weather necessarily closes windows and doors. During the summer, the majority of people live out-doors, and have become accustomed to plenty of oxygen. This supply of fresh air must be kept up. No matter about blizzards and low temperatures, fresh air must be had at any cost. To obtain this, first, every member of the household should get out-doors once a day. If business requires out-door exercises, all right. But if not, take a too, increases the amount of poison that good brisk walk and fill the lungs with the kidneys must eliminate. Together

Once more the changing seasons ous air. It has been estimated that one have brought us the New Year. The gas light consumes as much air as seven people. Surely, then, it is important that our homes should be kept supplied with pure fresh air.

> The temperature of the rooms should be carefully looked after. Thermometers should be hung in different parts of the house. The temperature of the sleeping rooms should be about forty or fifty degrees Fahrenheit. In the living rooms the temperature should be allowed to go as high as seventy, but never above eighty.

> The next important thing at this time of the year is the internal use of water. During the summer we use a great deal of water. Perspiration has consumed large quantities of water, and the system has demanded drink. But now, perspiration is practically stopped. Much less water escapes from the system through the skin. materially decreases the amount of thirst, but it does not decrease the amount of poisonous material that must be eliminated from the system.

By means of perspiration most of the uric acid poisoning escapes through the skin, but now more of this poison must find exit through the kidneys. A sudden transferring of the function of the skin to the kidneys endangers these very important organs. In the cold weather we eat more solid food; this,



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fresh air. Those who work in factories | with the fact that the skin renders less or school houses should at least walk one way.

This is not all. The living rooms should be well ventilated. There are ventilators contrived which allow the air to enter the room without a direct draft. But for the benefit of those homes which do not boast of these (and, alas, there are many farm homes where ventilation is never studied), one can be made without much expense. A piece of board fitted to the lower sash, so that the length of the board is exactly the width of the window, will answer very well. The board should be about six inches wide. Raise the window and allow it to rest on the board, so that no draft can come under the window. This will produce an opening between the two window frames, so that the air will be constantly entering the room, but there will be no

In the living room, where families spend most of their time, two such windows should be arranged. In the bedrooms, too, there should be such a window.

Another fact to be kept in mind, that the fire, whether it be a stove or grate, is constantly creating a poisonous gas—carbonic acid gas. If the stove or grate—it makes no difference—is not allowed free draft all the time this poisonous gas is continually escaping into the room. There must be free vent or the air will be poisoned. Don't forget this. Scientists tell us, and common sense proves it, that a house which is well aired is easier to heat than one filled with warm dead air. Let in lots

of sunshine. Artificial light, especially gas or coal oil, creates a certain amount of poison- winter with little or no illness.

than usual assistance, makes it a very critical time for the kidneys, especially the first few weeks of cold weather.

The kidneys ought to be assisted in this crisis. How can we assist them? Simply by drinking plenty of good, pure water Medicines that operate upon the kidneys only do harm. Diuretics in the long run will weaken the kidneys.

A glass of pure water just before each meal is the only medicine in the world that will assist the kidneys. Some people prefer to take cold water; either hot or cold water will assist. Dyspeptics will find hot water more agreeable. A glass at bedtime would not be out of place.

Cold water should also be used every morning. Gargle the throat, and rinse out the mouth. Those who do not take a cold bath every morning should splash the neck and chest with cold water, and for those who already have nasal catarrh, sniffing cold water up the nose will be found useful. This fortifies the system against the action of the cold

Don't imagine these precautions are overdrawn; they are just common prudence, and are absolutely necessary to avoid the many ailments that are directly due to the winter season. It is always dangerous to catch cold. The liability to chronic and fatal disease is greatly lessened if a cold can be avoided.

If people would allow themselves plenty of fresh air for the lungs, pure water for the kidneys, catching cold would almost be a thing of the past. and families who are forever going for the doctors would get through this

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