

sixteen and boys from eighteen may be seen going about together at concerts, socials and skating rinks; and some people may see no harm in this. They are so young and so innocent why shouldn't they be happy? Yes, but learning other considerations out of view, who pays for all this amusement? Even a social or the cheapest concert costs twenty-five cents—fifty cents for two. If the distance is great or the night stormy it seems mean not to take a sleigh; then sometimes the refreshments are extra, sometimes the entertainment costs fifty or seventy-five cents a ticket. How fast the money flies! Where does it come from? Four or five dollars a week won't go far towards defraying the expenses attendant on paying attentions to a Montreal girl of the period. How much salary have these young men of twenty, or thereabouts? Are their parents rich? and if they are do they approve of their sons spending time and money so profitlessly? Perhaps it is the fact of my being the mother of boys only that leads me to consider this subject with regard to its effect on the young men who act as escorts to these pleasure loving young damsels. Alas! I know of some young men of respectable families, good position, and fair prospects, who have been led into extravagance through a desire to stand well with the young girls of their acquaintance. These young men have finally pilfered from their employers, been dismissed from their situations and only escaped public disgrace through the influence of their families. It is the parents who allow their daughters to go about in this way who are to blame for all the sorrow, or disgrace that may follow. We must not blame young girls for loving company and amusement and when their parents do not provide it at home or take their girls out themselves, it is not strange that they should gladly accept the escort of any young man who offers his attentions. Girls have but little knowledge of the value of money and, unless they have wise mothers to instruct them, it is natural that they should consider a young man mean or otherwise according to the amount that he expends; and what will a very young man not do rather than appear mean in the eyes of his Angelina Jane of the moment? She may be some-body else's Angelina Jane next week, if Augustus does not succeed in making things sufficiently lively for her; and then how poor Gus's young heart will ache, and how heavily the green-eyed monster will sit upon his soul; until he resolves to console himself in the society of Evelina Ann, who will perhaps prove to have a still greater craving for amusement and larger capacity for candies and ice-cream. Poor Augustus! How many of these flirtations must he go through? How much money will they cost him? How many heart-aches will they leave him, and how much benefit will he derive from them? Let us leave these questions to be answered by those who advocate the custom.

Meanwhile, let us say a few words to the young girls who have entered on this career of pleasure-seeking which is to be paid for by young men who were strangers to them a few months ago, and who will possibly be strangers to them again in another few months; for these foolish flirtations generally end in a quarrel, and the young lady forgets all the pleasure she has enjoyed at the young man's expense, and sometimes even forgets to return the presents she has received. But let us hope few are capable of such meanness; and let us beg that those who are only thoughtless will give the subject a few moments' consideration. Remember that a young man's purse is not usually very long, and even if it were, it is not in good taste, nor according to the usages of good society, for a lady to allow herself to be placed under money obligations to a gentleman. That the subject is getting serious from this point of view, we may feel assured by the many cartoons in our comic papers showing the devices to which young men resort in the endeavour to distract the attention of their fair companions from the places of refreshment which they may be passing; while a foot-note informs us as to the amount in the young man's pocket and the probable capacity of the ladies' appetites. Sometimes the matter is more serious than a joke, as when, for instance, last summer in New York a young man, who was escorting two ladies from the theatre, invited them to partake of supper in a fashionable restaurant, the girls foolishly ordered a sumptuous repast of the most expensive dishes, and we may judge of the young man's feelings when a bill of seventeen dollars was brought, to him, all the cash he had in the world being the eleven dollars and fifty cents then in his pocket. To be sure he was a cowardly fellow, for after sitting for a few moments in agony, he rose suddenly and rushed away, leaving the young ladies to settle the bill. Fortunately they were the daughters of a rich man, but not having over five dollars between them, they were exposed to grave suspicions, and an unenviable amount of notoriety; and must have gone through a pretty bad quarter of an hour before their father could be communicated with and arrive to release them from their disagreeable dilemma.

Canadian girls may not be so extravagant in their demands, but perhaps considering the small amounts their juvenile escorts can afford to spend, they are just as apt to bring these poor boys into trouble, unless warned by older and wiser counsels. Subscribers to the SPECTATOR being of the higher classes are not likely to favour such a vulgar fashion; but I trust they will draw the attention of others to it, and that in future we shall more often see very young girls accompanied by their parents when at public places. Indeed if the very young girls could be persuaded to stay at home, and study their lessons for a

year or two longer before going into society it would be an advantage both to themselves and their friends, and especially to the very young men whose heads they are now turning, and who also might be better employed in pursuing some course of study which would prove of advantage to them in future years.

### DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

We have, this week, a letter from a lady who has held a high position in Montreal for many years, and who has been a liberal supporter of our charitable institutions. This lady has a great deal of executive ability, and thoroughly understands the working of large establishments, therefore her views are worthy of serious consideration. She gives us her name and address, together with those of several other ladies of good position who are interested in this subject, and willing to join in any movement which may lead to the better education of all classes in domestic economy. Our correspondent says:—"The starting of a regular training school would be a more serious undertaking than you seem to imagine, and would require the co-operation of a few wealthy citizens, ladies or gentlemen, who would be willing to take stock in the enterprise. About \$1,000 should be subscribed before attempting to open the school. I have no doubt it would eventually prove self-supporting, and even probably a source of profit to the shareholders, besides doing an immense amount of good to all connected with it. My idea would be to make it a school of Domestic Economy, which would combine training in cooking, general household management, sewing in all its branches, and a home for nurses training in the hospitals." This lady's views may seem rather broad to begin with, but it is quite possible that they should be carried out in one establishment. At first there probably would not be many resident pupils. The young girls attending the sewing classes would generally come and go every day. The demonstration classes for ladies and young girls would soon become fashionable here, as they have elsewhere. These classes would also pay well. There might be short courses of training in cooking and general housework for girls from the country. Farmers' daughters, who are generally fairly educated and intelligent, would gladly give a few weeks service and pay something besides for the training and instruction which would at once place them in command of higher wages. A country girl after even six weeks training in a cooking school would, probably, know more than after years of service with mistresses, who have neither time nor patience, even if they have the necessary knowledge to impart. As to trained nurses, we all know the necessity for them, and we should be more likely to get a better class of young women to study the profession, if we had a proper home for them, where they could be made comfortable and happy during their course of training. We believe many girls would gladly embrace this profession, were it not that dread of being obliged to live in the hospital. We have not as yet consulted our local doctors as to the terms on which nurses in training would be admitted to the hospitals, but we know that the medical faculty would make all possible concessions to induce a higher class of women to undertake the necessary training for this most important profession.

In New York trained nurses receive \$20 a week for their services, and are eagerly sought for. About a week ago a young girl from one of the Western States, who is attending a New York academy, was taken dangerously ill. Her teacher, who happens to be a Canadian young lady of brilliant attainments who was educated in Montreal, at first undertook to nurse her pupil, but the doctors ordered a trained nurse to be procured. On sending to the nurses' training school it was found that not one was to be had and that the names of forty applicants awaited those who might first be disengaged.

Here is a noble and lucrative employment for poor gentlewomen who are now trying to eke out a miserable existence by poorly paid fancy work or the hard drudgery of plain sewing. We know that an intelligent nurse would be better paid and more highly respected among our American neighbours than she might be by our would-be aristocratic population; nevertheless sickness and death are great levellers, and she who can ease pain or ward off danger will soon find herself regarded with respect, gratitude, and even love. Let us pray that Montreal may soon be blessed with intelligent, well-trained nurses. Alas! one beautiful little boy lies under the snow of Mount Royal who might be here to brighten our home to-day had he been watched over by a skilful nurse instead of an ignorant though loving mother. We must all live for others as well as for ourselves; and the rich man who refuses his aid towards the support of a training-school for nurses and cooks to-day may feel his need of the one or the other to-morrow. We are strangely dependent on one another for help and comfort, from the highest to the lowest; and sometimes when he have only endeavoured to help others we have found that we ourselves have gained great benefit.

If all those who are interested in this enterprise would send in their names together with any suggestions they can make, we might have the subject fully discussed and be ready to make a beginning next autumn, when people have returned to the city and country girls come in to take situations. This enterprise, if fairly started, might tend greatly to the happiness and prosperity of many hard-working women who now live lives of penury and drudgery, and at the same time would certainly tend to the prosperity of our city and the comfort of many citizens.