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The Wedding Gift

WEDDINGS may be said to claim all seasons for their own. Yet, the month of June shows that it is the favorite time of the year for bridal scenes. In the cities one might almost know the first day of the opening summer by the white-ribboned cabs and the stretch of awning in front of the churches. The "June bride" has come to be regarded as the bonniest bride of all, and the very fairest roses of the year belong to her.

The days are disappearing for the public mention of presents as "numerous and costly"; but the display of wedding gifts is one of the most interesting features of such events. The cynics have uttered many jests over the insincerity and sham of the wedding gift, insinuating that it is purely a social "debt" which most of us pay with an inward grudge. We would be slow to admit this; yet too often the wedding gift is chosen without sufficient regard for the bride's taste and circumstances. This indifference shows that the giver is without the ideal friend's tact and remembrance. A bride who had received many costly gifts turned from them to a comparatively trivial present, saying: "This is just what I wanted—and she has even remembered my favorite color."

It is the little touch of personal regard or consideration which makes the final appeal to the one who is favored. The dainty piece of china, with a note of friendly wishes, the dish of silver, chosen with a discriminating care, mean far more than the most imposing gifts. The wedding guests should be friends, not mere acquaintances, and each gift should bear some hint of the giver's individuality. Then, in the coming years, it will recall the early friendship, with a fragrance as of "rosemary for remembrance."

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Montreal's Infant Death-Rate

IT is generally admitted that Canada is in need of a larger population. We have an immense Dominion in area, with hundreds of "vast, empty spaces," waiting for the households which are to turn them into farms, villages and towns. We need more immigrants and our government is doing its best to attract the right class of settlers.

It is strange, then, to read that Canada's largest city, Montreal, has an infant death rate amongst the highest in the world. Dr. Louis Laberge of the Medical Health Office of Montreal, stated recently to a reporter that the rate of infant mortality in Montreal is higher than in any other city of any civilized country, and that two thousand five hundred lives might be saved in that city annually, were the proper care taken. Thus, there are thousands of helpless infants whose lives go out through ignorance, neglect and infamous conditions. The philosopher may reflect that it is better such lives should be cut off than that they should come to maturity in vice and misery. Such conditions, however, are a confession of failure in civilization, and until our metropolis awakes to realize the serious nature of this problem we need not be so insistent on the necessity for newcomers.

"We talk of bringing the best that Europe can give into this country, and the government spends large sums of money to do it," said Dr. Laberge, "and yet they do nothing to build up a nation of strong and home-born Canadians. They give grants to the Anti-Tuberculosis people, and these societies deserved such grants, too. But why cannot something be done to save the lives of our very, very young children? Montreal is one of the worst

spots in Canada. There is no doubt of that. It may be one of the worst on the continent, I have not the figures. If the people would only realize the awful havoc that is annually wrought they would rise up and demand that these helpless infants be given a fighting chance.

"We have a commission for the conservation of our natural resources, but we have no commission for the conservation of our greatest force, a strong, healthy, well-built people."

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Banishing the Fly

WHEN scientific authorities set out to investigate health conditions in New Orleans and to banish the deadly little mosquito which carried the poison, there were many who doubted and sneered. However, the scientists worked and searched and finally the scourge of yellow fever departed.

Now the campaign against a pest has been turned in the direction of the house-fly, and those who have regarded this small creature as a necessary evil are being convinced of its threatening nature. No evil is necessary—even though it be as small as the house-fly. Its presence means dirt and bad house-keeping, and, the sooner we recognize the fact, the healthier and daintier the home surroundings will become. "Fly specks" will be considered a veritable mark of the beast and the family meals will not be disturbed by the presence of this buzzing nuisance. Absolute cleanliness must be observed if it is to be kept at a safe distance. Screens on windows and doors are essential, and it is better to pay their price than to endeavor to meet the expenses of doctor and nurse. Flies in the summer mean typhoid in the autumn, and then we are wise too late.

Health and beauty alike demand that our homes be destitute of the house fly. Both for the sake of appearances and the sake of sanitation it must be sent to join the carrier of yellow fever.

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The Girl Graduate

THE month of June is not altogether, or exclusively, the month of the bride. The graduation exercises seem more important to the college girl than even the marriage ceremony, and her gown for the event is quite as carefully planned as the more elaborate wedding garb. "Leaving school" is such a conclusive step to the girl, while the older woman knows that graduation merely means entering the larger school. It has been said so often that "school days are the happiest of all," that we have almost come to accept the statement as fact. Certainly, the school-girl or the college student in this land of opportunity has a life of happy endeavor with no worries beyond those which belong to the assigned essay or the next recitation, and you will not see a pleasanter sight than the graduating groups which brighten the closing days of June.

A great change has taken place in the education of woman during the last quarter of a century. She has entered the universities, devoted herself seriously to degrees in arts and has come creditably through the ordeal. The question as to co-education is by no means settled, but the Canadian girl, if she desires it, may have quite as thorough training as her brother receives. Yet there is no danger to the home in all this academic ambition on the part of woman. The domestic sphere will always possess overwhelming attractions for the majority of women.