

RANDOM NOTES

For Busy Households.

Under the heading of "Home Thoughts" a correspondent in the New York Evening Post, expresses some very significant views concerning the ways in which matters in houses of mourning should be conducted. While much that he (or she) states is decidedly true and exact, yet there are omissions of a very important class to which we will refer, after giving our readers a few extracts from the article. It thus commences:

"How would I best like to be remembered? In what way would I desire that my memory should be kept green?" But very rarely is this a matter of speculation, and yet more rarely of direction, and when death enters the door the first effort of all who are bereaved is to show zealously that they are sorry, without any further thought. And in many cases the home is plunged into a gloomy isolation which deprives it of all its natural charm.

"Many widows see with alarm the quick reaction of the young hearts of their children, and find in every spontaneous revival of happiness among them a sign that the head and father is forgotten. Out of this comes an artificial form of life and an unreal conduct of family affairs which, like unreal things, is inherently without value.

"Every sorrowing mother in the world has felt an indignant fear arise in her heart that the one out of eight is forgotten, because a jolly brother and bright girl sister are ready to laugh again and feel the old spirit of rhythm moving their young feet. But we may not turn the course of life out of its deep groove because one human heart has fled from earth; the stir of the pulse, the joy of youth and strength are happily made to surmount the waves of sorrow as surely as a swimmer comes rejoicing out of the strong surf, and this does not mean distasteful or heartlessness.

"There can be no more beautiful and vital way of honoring the dead than by making others happier for their dear sakes, and the selfishness which yields to the demand of personal loneliness and grief, by losing interest in everything outside its own narrow limits, can neither make a memory strong and faithful in the world whence the man has departed, nor kindle new desire that he were once again alive."

"Especially do I believe it is a wholesome custom to make the birthdays of the dead as in their lives, days of honor and quiet cheerfulness in which the young should keep the remembrance of those whom they have lost, as among the sources of their happiness and pride."

"Friends too, have claims not to be ignored. Grief must have time to take its long breath of sustaining oxygen in its own lonely place a part before it can come down into the world's path again; but it becomes simply an exaggerated form of selfishness when it wounds and sets aside those who have made brighter years delightful and are ready to do what in their lies to cheer those of present gloom."

"The joyfulness of childhood, the eager interests of youth, the ambitions and hopes of manhood have each their rightful places in every home, and they are doubly orphaned who find that grief for the loss of one parent has made the other ignore their claims and neglect to share their lives. Many a time the loss of one child has been made the unreasonable cause of its sisters and brothers, and, indeed, the life of the whole family has been sacrificed to emphasize the affection felt for one taken out of its encircling arms."

These extracts constitute about the half of the article, but they express the thoughts of the writer. They contain very fine sentiments and perfectly reasonable advice. With what is thus advanced we have no dispute, but we feel that there is a great lack of something that appeals more strongly to the Catholic mind. We possess—we of the olden church—a system or mode of remembering the dead, which not only serves to preserve green the recollection of the departed, but is a practical utility to the one of whose loss we mourn. Moreover, we attain the two-fold object of benefiting the dead and of encouraging the living. Our hope is in a union heretofore, and faith in the communion of saints, our association with those gone before us—through the means of prayer—all enable us to perpetuate the memory of the dead in a manner that is neither calculated to engender neglect, nor yet to produce unnatural and useless misery for the survivors. It is this lack that we notice in all the article, otherwise admirable from a mere human standpoint.

FARMERS' COLUMN.

POULTRY FEEDING.—Without wishing to load our column with all that Mr. Gilbert had to say concerning minor points of poultry raising we cannot allow the information that he gave the Committee concerning the feeding of hens, to pass unnoticed. This is certainly one of the most important phases of the question. In answer to questions made by the various gentlemen mentioned in the report the expert gave the following instructive replies:

Q. What to feed and how to feed it.

By Mr. McGregor:

Q. Have you anything to say for the general information of the farmers as to the feeding and care of fowl along the usual lines. Have you got any hints to throw out before leaving the subject?

A. Yes, sir; our experimental work has proved that two rations per day will do much better than three.

By Mr. McNeill:

Q. Winter or summer?

A. Winter or summer, particularly in the former season, when the fowls are artificially housed and fed.

By Mr. McGregor:

Q. You go in for mixed foods?

A. Yes, but to take the place of the noon ration vegetables must be kept before the fowls all the time, as well as grit and oyster shells. These points have been described in my reports at length. We want to use in the morning as much of the farm waste as possible in shape of mash, and that is a matter of some importance to farmers. If you have plenty of vegetables, grit and oyster shells before the hens all the time our experience so far shows that they will do more egg-laying than if fed with grain at noon. It is necessary to their well-being that laying stock should eat a quantity of green food. It is also an important factor in winter egg production. Grit and bone are important factors also. The fowls would not likely eat so heartily of green food and grit if they are fed on grain at noon. The afternoon ration should be fed early and thrown into the litter on the floor, so as to induce the hens to scratch for it. It is also a good plan after feeding the morning ration to throw a few handfuls of grains into the pens, so as to excite the fowl to scratch for it and so get the necessary exercise. There are three important factors in the winter feeding of fowls, viz: Meat in some shape or form, green stuff and exercise.

Q. Do you feed the meat raw or cooked?

A. I prefer to cook it.

Q. Is your mash mixed with warm water?

A. Yes.

Q. How often is it fed?

A. Three times a week for the mash, and cut bone in the same proportion other mornings.

Q. One pound of mash?

A. Yes.

Q. But you spoke about green cut bone?

A. Yes, in the proportion of one pound to fifteen hens.

Q. In place of the mash?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you use any clover?

A. Yes, sometimes in the mash, but lawn clippings are better.

Q. And you keep vegetables before the fowls all the time?

A. Yes, and we try to keep them in exercise by scattering a few handfuls of grain in the litter on the floor. Our object is to keep the fowls in exercise from morning till they go to roost. The idea is to make the hens fill their crops gradually and in the natural way. Such treatment and food prevent various habits, such as eating the egg and feather picking.

By Mr. Sproule:

Q. But where you give blaugh or turnips you cannot keep it before them all the time without warmth to keep them from freezing?

A. If your hen-house is properly built, as nearly all poultry breeders build now, the animal warmth of the fowls will give them quite enough heat.

By Mr. McMillan:

Q. Do you hang cabbage up?

A. Yes, from two and a half to three feet in the case of heavy breeds. With light breeds two and a half feet from the floor.

By Mr. Bell, Picton:

Q. You mean that the lower end of the cabbage is three feet from the floor?

A. Yes. It is hung up by the stalk. That is one way of exercising the layers and a good one, too. Sometimes we hang up a piece of tough meat, which I am sorry to say, is not very hard to get here.

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Consul-General Frank H. Mason, at Berlin, in a report to the State Department, mentions an interesting invention of an artificial light which, he says, more nearly approaches sunlight than any light hitherto in use.

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A.O.H.—DIVISION No. 2.
Meets in lower vestry of St. Gabriel New Church corner Centre and Laurier streets, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month, at 8 p.m. President, Michael Lynam; Recording Secretary, Thomas Donohue; Financial Secretary, John T. Kelly; Treasurer, J. J. Cavanagh; Delegates to St. Patrick's League, J. J. CAVANAGH, D. S. McGAHEE, and J. CAVANAGH.

A.O.H.—DIVISION No. 3.
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A.O.H.—DIVISION No. 9.
President, H. J. Hummel 28 Visitation street; Rec. Secretary, W. J. Clarke, 25 Lombard av. St. Catherine, 30 who with all communications should be addressed to Secretary, M. T. Doyle, 194 Baltimore street; Treasurer, A. J. Hanley, 794 Palace street; Chairman of Standing Committee, K. Diamond; Marshal, J. J. Tynan. Division meets on the second and fourth Friday of every month, in the York Chambers, 244 St. Catherine street, at 8 p.m.

G.M.B.A. of Canada, Branch 26
(ORGANIZED, 13th November, 1883.)
Branch 26 meets at St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander Street, on every Monday of each month. The regular meetings for the transaction of business are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, at 8 p.m.
Applicants for membership or any one desiring information regarding the Branch may communicate with the following officers:
D. J. McNeill, President, 152 St. Philip street; John A. Kennedy, Treasurer, 32 St. Philip street; Robert Warren, Financial Secretary, 28 Brunswick street; P. J. McDonagh, Recording Secretary, 82a Visitation street.

Young Irishmen's L. & B. Association.
Organized, April 1874. Incorporated, Dec. 1875.
Regular monthly meeting held in hall, 10 Dupre street, first Wednesday of every month at 8 o'clock, P.M. Committee of Management meets every second and fourth Wednesday of each month. President, E. H. HALEY; Secretary, M. J. POWER; all communications to be addressed to the Hall. Delegates to St. Patrick's League: W. J. Hinchey, D. Gallery, Jas. McMahon.

St. Ann's Young Men's Society
Organized 1885.
Meets in its hall, 157 Ottawa Street, on the first Sunday of each month, at 2:30 P.M. Spiritual Adviser, REV. B. STRUBBE, C.S.S.R.; President, JOHN WILSON; Secretary, J. J. McNeill. Delegates to St. Patrick's League: J. Whitty, D. J. O'Neill and M. Casey.

Catholic Order of Foresters
St. Patrick's Court, No. 95, C.O.F.
Meets in St. Ann's Hall, 157 Ottawa street every first and third Monday, at 8 p.m. Chief Ranger, James F. Fogarty; Recording Secretary, Alex. Patterson, 197 Ottawa street.

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