

7. Woman's Sphere.

By One of the Sex.

The Art of Sociability.

We have reams of paper covered with directions as to the proper behavior when we rise up and when we sit down, when we eat, when we sleep, when we marry, and even when we die; that is, our friends are told just how to do after we are dead, and there is a strict code of behavior well understood, if unwritten, pertaining to the manners and dress of people at funerals.

You all know the delightful person who bears everywhere the reputation of being sociable. "We all like Mrs. Popular, she is so sociable." No one calls her pretty, nor intellectual, nor do they even mention the fact that she is good; that she it might even be said is sociable seems in some indefinable way to circumscribe every good and admirable quality.

These people who are sociable, however, deserve a little closer study than their friends and acquaintances give them; they are a class in and of themselves, and what has earned them their reputation is worth knowing. At a first glance one might suppose selfishness and sociability were non compatible, but the truth is some of the most sociable people are intensely selfish. Sociable people are always talkative people, whether their talk be sense or nonsense. A certain affectionateness is a part of sociability, but the greatest point in the quality is a love of approbation. If thou art anxious for the good opinion of thy friend, thou wilt hide in a measure thine own selfishness and tickle and please thy friend by a chatty remark or an interested ear turned to his words; if, however, thou art cold to public opinion thou canst never be sociable.

The Sensible Person.

If sociable people are agreeable friends, the most comfortable of all persons to talk with, associate with, and live with, is the sensible person. I have in my mind a middle-aged woman who is the most delightful companion imaginable. She is sociable too, but ah! that is not her greatest charm. She is so sensible. She never takes offense at trifles, rarely at really unkind acts or words. She isn't offended if her next door neighbor has a party and forgets to invite her, nor does she sulk if all her intimates are bidden to the feast while she remains at home. If her children choose to spend more time with others than they do with her, she knows they have a good and sufficient reason therefor, as she gives them the credit of being as sensible as she is. If some rare occurrence should wound her, she buries it deep in her own heart, awaiting an explanation, and if the explanation comes no one needs to go down on their knees in the dust to make reparation. A word is sufficient. She enjoys things quite as well as other people, but if one thing fails her, she can easily turn to another. What a dreadful thing it is to have intimate friendships with sensitive people! You must always call them sensitive people! If you were to call a spade a spade to them nothing less than a spasm or an enemy would be the result. Your words must be

watched, your actions guarded, aye even your very looks must be turned in the proper direction. If I were a man, living in the olden days of this Church, I should fervently pray to the Lord to deliver me from getting a sensitive wife or wives. I know a family in which are a number of wives, and although obliged to pass through the separations and trials of recent years, yet they are the happiest family on earth. They, generous souls, attribute their cheerful content to the nobility and wisdom of the head of the house; but I, who am an unprejudiced on-looker, feel that much of their happiness is due to the fact that they are one and all eminently sensible. Can eminently sensible people ever be eminently selfish?

The Ordinance of the Sacrament.

When our fathers and mothers left the old Szeetarian creeds, with their Sunday religions, long faces, and solemn restrictions, they were so enjoyed to find that our Father loved cheerfulness and happiness that they inclined to the other extreme and made their meetings together a sort of social reunion. Now this may be well enough before the services begin, but there can be no greater insult offered to a choir which is singing, or to a man who is praying or preaching, than to whisper and shuffle while the service is proceeding. If it is insulting to speaker or singer to whisper, what name would we bestow upon the actions of those who pay little or no attention to the solemn and sacred ordinances of the sacrament. Imagine, if you can, a kneeling group of Israelites before the altar whereon the priest was offering sacrifice, whispering and smiling, chatting and nodding to each other! Think of a group of our good Saints gathered in front of the cross whereon our beloved Savior was hanging in His death agony, bobbing and bowing, whispering and laughing in careless indifference to the awful scene! Do you think our God can be mocked? Think of it, ye mothers who allow your children to run and to play in Sabbath School during this solemn ordinance! Think of it, ye women whose thoughts float lightly and whose careless noise disturbs the sacred spirit of the House of God! Think of it, ye fathers, who handle with careless, abstracted fingers the tokens of that mangled form! Are we not silly children running to and fro in our Savior's presence?

FROM OUR EXCHANGES.

Some Christmas Presents.

A PAIR OF KNITTED SLIPPERS.

Materials—Two skeins of midnight yarn, any shade desired; bone hook, medium size; one pair of lamb's wool soles, one yard of ribbon, one-half yard elastic.

Make a chain of fifteen stitches.

First row.—One double chain in each of the first seven stitches; in the next or centre stitch work three double chains, all into one stitch; one double stitch in each of the seven loops. To do double chain, insert hook in stitch, draw yarn through, then through both stitches on hook. Turn and repeat second row until you have thirty ridges or six double rows, counting two rows to a ridge.

Now begin the side of the slipper. Work eighteen double stitches back and forth without any increase. Work

fifteen rows, or until the strip is long enough to reach to back of heel. Break off and work the other side to match. Sew together at the heel. Sew to the sole and finish with a row of holes round the top of slipper, with shell edge. Place a pretty bow on the instep. Run the elastic round the top of the slipper so they will sit snugly to the foot.

A LAUNDRY SLATE.

Procure a small transparent slate, remove the pictures from it, and have a piece of stiff paper cut to fit the frame; on the paper can be written or printed in fancy lettering the names of articles of apparel belonging to a gentleman. The frame of the slate may be gilded or painted with some of the many pretty colors of enamel paint now in use, and decorated with a fine spray of flowers; forget-me-nots are pretty. At the top, the words "washee! washee" or "wash and be clean," may be placed. Remove the back from the slate, and place the paper under the glass, then fasten the back on, which also should be painted. At each end of the top corners place a little screw and ring, such as are used in window shades, and through these rings run a narrow ribbon, putting it through the double, with the bow and ends in the centre. On the right side of the frame a tiny lead pencil corresponding in color may be attached to a narrow ribbon. This little article, though quite inexpensive, will be found very useful to a gentleman sending his clothing to the laundry. By placing the figure at the side of each article, no difficulty will be found in remembering how many are sent.

FOUR-IN-HAND SCARF.

Materials, 1½ ounces crochet silk and a No. 2 crochet hook.

First row: chain forty.

Second row: Turn and counting back, do 3 d. c. in fourth stitch of chain, do 4 d. c. in eighth stitch, and continue to end of chain, leaving three stitches between the shells. There should be ten shells.

Third row: Turn chain 3, do 3 d. c. in space between first 2 d. c. of last shell in second row, and 4 d. c. between first two in next and remaining shells.

Fourth and continuous rows same as third. Make this part of the work sixteen inches long.

Then, after turning, chain 3, do, 4 d. c. in space between first 2 d. c. of second shell in last row; do this in each row until there are but three shells.

Make this part of the work eighteen inches long then turn, chain 3, do, 3 d. c. between first 2 d. c. of first shell in preceding row, also 4 d. c. between last 2 d. c. in same shell; do this in each row until there are eight shells. Make this part of the work four inches long. Line neckband with No. 3 ribbon.

BERTHA WALLACE.

Housekeeping.

THE YOUNG HOUSEWIFE.

If the fat in the frying-kettle is hot before you are ready for it, put in a dry crust of bread. It will not burn as long as it has something to do, only when it is left idle.

It is convenient to have an iron-holder attached by a long string to the band of the apron when cooking; it saves burnt fingers or scorched aprons and is always at hand.