

ing industries. More electricity means more lamps and apparatus for its consumption, more cables, more generators, and more transformers, which proves without a doubt that by judicious and widespread advertisement the labour market is improved and unemployment materially assisted.

SPEAKING at the dinner in Hyde Park Hotel, in aid of the Girton College building fund, Mr. Stanley Baldwin gave an account of his first encounter with a Girton girl.

"My first acquaintance with a Girton girl," he said, "was rather of an alarming nature. It was when I was 17. I was very shy, and knew nothing of women. I met her at a dance, and she told me that men had no natural modesty. I had never thought about the subject before, but I felt instinctively that they had." In more serious vein he added later on: "For centuries we men have moulded the world, and we can see now what we have made of it. We welcome the work that educated women can do."

IT is the very young with fair hair who can really successfully wear black. Jet for evening wear is going to be all the vogue; and nothing is more distinguished than a fine Russian mesh covered with sparkling, jet beads. If any of you ever contemplate bringing a jet beaded frock out from England, be very careful what happens to it during the tropics. I had one brought out, and the heat was so intense it took all the brightness off the beads in patches. Next time I'll see it comes in the refrigerator!

JEWELLERY made by hand from sheet pewter will delight the artistic woman. Very effective buckles for hat-bands or belts can be made from the unpolished beaten pewter, and when set with semi-precious stones such as lapis-lazuli, cornelian or agate the effect is very smart. Coal brooches, in which are encrusted square or rounded amethysts, are being worn at the neck on soft grey or black frocks. A novel New Year gift would be a set of jewelled pewter toilet table accessories, or for single presents a candlestick or blotter of painted wood ornamented with beaten pewter would be most attractive.

FASHIONS in furs are ever-changing. At present the fashion is for snow-white ermine—rather beyond the purse of the average woman. There's no denying that ermine coats cut in simple and graceful lines are more than attractive for those who can afford them. However, American women are all in favour of pale grey broad tail lamb with large collars and cuffs of dark mink. This attire is also more within the means of millionaires' banking accounts.

Prize Poem Competition

DURING the past fortnight entries for the prize poem competition were not as numerous as usual, this no doubt being attributable to multifarious and happy activities of the season just past. No poem was received that, in our judgment, merited the award of a prize, but we published several of the contributions sent in which, for one reason or another, are interesting and attractive.

"Wild Rose"—We hope you found your poem on the last page of the issue of December 26, under a title which we thought in keeping with its charming character.

"The Sick Room"—A great improvement on the last verses sent in. We may be able to publish some day.

"Night to Morning"—A somewhat hackneyed theme treated with insight and skill by a contributor from the wild West Coast.

"Nostalgia" appeals by virtue of awareness of the gentle sentiment enveloping "the everydayness of this workday world," and aptly enumerates beloved household gods:—

*"Through curtains undrawn I descry, blue and red,
The comfortable company of untidy books;
The dresser beyond, and straining I see
Its friendly confusion, odd cups on the hooks . . ."*

Home, sweet home, in fact, which we all love, humble or haughty.

"Bashleu"—The poem you mention was not mislaid, but lack of space precluded publication, although 'twas an excellent effort. "The Little Girl" poem is not so successful, its sentiment being a trifle obvious.

"Francesca"—Too vituperative for our quiet column.

"Bathsheba"—Your voluminous effort contains echo after echo of poems that have had their day and ceased to be. Better half a dozen verses where originality lies than words, words, and yet again words, culled from well known sources.

"John-o'-Dreams"—Fascinating phrasing, but unsuitable.

IN the shop windows during our festive season were to be seen amusing little dogs to add to the gaiety of the bathroom. There was one sitting up in front of his kennel begging. Both he and the kennel were of coloured rubber sponge and their duty was to hold the toothbrush. Quite nearby, in the same shop, was a cat—a very beautiful one—sitting up and looking very superior with his head held high because he had a pink bow on. His duty was to provide sweet verbena scented salts for my lady's bath.

NOW that hot weather is coming to stay (we hope) nobody will feel like eating roasts of beef at the end of a long day, so the following recipe for fish in jelly may be useful: Cook any white fish, using only just enough water to cover, and flavour with a few peppercorns and lemon juice. When ready lift out the fish and strain the liquid. Measure this, season to taste, adding a little white wine or sherry, and dissolve in it an ounce of gelatine to each pint. Remove any skin from the fish, lift it carefully from the bone and arrange neatly in a china mould. Garnish with slices of hard-boiled egg, cucumber or tomato, pour the jelly over and leave to set. Turn out and serve with mayonnaise salad.

—ALISON.

The Emancipation of Women

A Lively Discussion

AT a recent meeting of the After-Dinner Club in London various writers, famous and otherwise, embarked upon a discussion of that everlasting problem—should women be allowed to do as they please?

Rosita Forbes, who has never suffered from any noticeable lack of freedom herself, declared that if women knew what they wanted to do, they should be allowed to do it. The trouble was that no woman could ever be depended on to want the same thing for two months at a time.

Male opinion, as represented by such speakers as Beverley Nichols and Michael Arlen, seemed to agree unanimously that women had too many privileges. "Too many for their own happiness," quoted the author of "The Green Hat." "You can have too much of freedom, because nobody wants to keep you captive." With which cryptic saying we shall have to content ourselves for the time being.

Attractive Party Dishes

IT is fashionable nowadays to be as unconventional as possible, especially at "breakfast-supper" parties after a ball. The correct thing is to have kippers, sausages, mushrooms (when in season), ham and eggs, and creamed fish. This certainly is a change from very sweet dishes, which tend to make one feel heavy, while these are more exhilarating.

The Present Depression

A Brighter Outlook Needed

WHY is it that in all our business activities we cannot cultivate a cheerful tone instead of a pessimistic one? Christian Scientists have certainly proved there is everything in the Right Thought. Then, why make matters worse at the present time by talking about slumps and depression?

People do not hesitate to spend money on picture theatres, for they are crowded nightly, and they are certainly a luxury at their present prices. Every one seems to be sending mental wireless messages that they "must not spend money"—"all this unemployment"—"it will be worse this year"—"the lowest price wool has brought for thirty years."

Why create the thought of depression? Everything has a tendency to adjust itself, therefore what one loses on the swings one gets back on the roundabouts. New Zealand has had such exceptionally prosperous years that now because things are below par everybody cries out and makes a fuss.

There are many people in New Zealand who have steady incomes, either private or business. Then why make those people frightened to spend by all this poverty talk? If this depressing talk ceased, people who have regular incomes would spend, and gradually adjustments would be made. Think prosperity—practise prosperity—act prosperity, and the result will be prosperity.

A Present-day Problem


Are Homes Disappearing?

THE big question of to-day is this: Are we losing touch with our homes? Are they becoming too mechanical?

Everything at present is being done to simplify work and bring housekeeping up to date by the latest modern devices. Will this in time tend to make our homes a place to sleep in an electrically cleaned room, in an electrically warmed bed, waking up to get in an electrically heated bath, arriving at breakfast to eat an electrically cooked meal, while warming ourselves by an electrically heated fire? Will this system of running our homes by machinery make us mechanically minded, and tend to make us lose the cosy home feeling? Certainly not.

It may make us lazy, as no effort whatsoever will be needed to run our homes; all we have to do to obtain our wishes is to press a button. Men will fuss for a little, as they hate change, but a good housewife will always make a home attractive, whether it is hand or machine made.

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