

Burns Night

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required to follow every line of his thoughts. He dignifies labour. He ennobles honest poverty. He clothes the thoughts of the humblest in the most beautiful raiment. His songs will remain his greatest source of power. They are tender as the early blossom and fragrant as the full-blown flower. Laughter ripples over their surface and tears below them. A thousand years are in their substance. They are the emblems of a nation's soul. The late Professor Nichol compresses the much that may be said of these songs into these striking words: "There is the vehemence of battle—the wail of woe—the march of veterans—'red war shod'—the smiles of greeting—the tears of parting friends—the gurgle of brown burns—the roar of the wind through the pines—the rustle of the barley rigs. All Scotland is in his verse."

Let who will make her laws. Burns has made the songs which her emigrants recall by the long wash of New Zealand seas—in which mothers lull their infants—which return through open casements unto dying ears. They are the links—the watchwords—the Masonic symbols of the Scottish race.

Baby Garments

A BABY'S layette is a simpler affair nowadays than it was. The tiny garments are not so elaborate, though every bit as pretty. Silk cloaks, for example, have been replaced by carrying shawls. The old colours are being adhered to strictly, "pink for a girl, blue for a boy." Peach colour is being widely used, especially for trimming the cot and for the addition of bows to woolly bonnets or jackets. Some delightful samples of little knitted jackets I saw the other day were in palest primrose shades and were meant to be worn over white and parchment robes. The small booties were to match, and had tiny satin bows as trimming. On the newest booties, chickens, ducks, or kittens, are embroidered in bright colours, with red and orange felt for beaks and eyes. Some of the little coats have the same quaint figures set around their hems. These animal motifs make an instant appeal to a baby.

Making Bath Salts

HERE is a simple method of making your own bath salts. Put the required amount of carbonate of soda crystals into an enamel basin, add a few drops of sandalwood oil, and stir with a wooden spoon. Then add your perfume—almost one teaspoonful to a pound of crystals—and re-stir. Oil of rose, geranium, verbena, or violets can be used. To colour the bath salts, add very strong tea which has been allowed to stand for some time. This makes the salts a deep cream, and, as it is not a dye, it is harmless, and will not come off in the water. Coffee or cochineal can also be used if a pinkish tint is preferred.

HEARTBURN
Indigestion Acidity & all Stomach Disorders
SPECIALLY RELIEVED BY
PEPTOS
THE GREAT PAW-PAW
REMEDY
GET IT AT ALL CHEMISTS

Friendship

*I FEEL thankful for a friend like you,
One that is understanding, fine and true;
Ready with cheerful word and helpful deed,
The same e'en in prosperity or need.*

*You are the kind of friend one needs to-day,
When times are bad, and all the croakers say
It will be worse! You take a calm, sane view,
Quite certain that your country will pull through!*

*You have a smile, whatever may betide,
That overcomes the barrier of my pride.
Your ready sympathy is freely given,
And closer bonds of unity are riven.*

*What better comfort for this troubled year?
Faith in a friend who's steadfast and sincere.*

—“THUR.”

Mechanical Ability in Women

FOR four years a group of scientific investigators at an American University have been working out experiments which prove that men and boys do not excel women and girls in mechanical ability, reports the Women's Engineering Society. Social pressure frequently prevents girls from taking up professions hitherto considered “masculine,” but there is no doubt that women are just as capable as men when it comes to jobs needing a high degree of mechanical skill and knowledge.

A Famous Novelist

THOSE who enjoy reading the light and very modern novels of Berta Ruck will be interested to hear how they are produced. Miss Ruck never “worries” her stories, and they are all based upon the roughest and sketchiest of scenarios. “I believe in letting my characters take care of themselves directly they have learned to walk,” she said to an interviewer. Nor does Miss Ruck smoke while she is writing, or at any other time for that matter. She is just off to Berlin by aeroplane to get some night club scenes for her next book.

A Humorous Incident

NEAR Chequers, in Buckinghamshire, the country residence of England's Prime Ministers, there stands a small hotel run by the Society of Friends (commonly known as Quakers). There are two sets of charges, according to whether the “guest” is a “friend” or not. According to the “Daily Mail,” an amusing incident took place during an informal meeting of Cabinet Ministers held at Chequers. It appeared that there was not room for all the members to stay the night at the Prime Minister's residence, so one distinguished Minister, who was accompanied by his wife, decided to put up at the Jordan's Hostel, of which he had heard interesting reports. On their arrival late that night they asked for a room, and were at once asked by the good lady in charge: “Are you Friends?” “No,” replied the Minister in some confusion; “married.”

Some Novel Ideas

HERE are some useful household tips that I have recently tried: To remove fruit stains made on pudding cloths, put an eggshell in the water in which the cloths are scalded. When washing green vegetables we all add salt to help clean them, but I wonder if any have ever tried using vinegar instead. Try it, for it removes the dirt very quickly and also improves the flavour.

Never throw old felt hats away, but try to find time to make children's slippers out of them. Do it this way.

It is said that proper feeding would remove 80 per cent. of the illnesses in the country in a year.

Unpick a child's old slipper and place it flat on the hat, then cut out two soles and two uppers, allowing for turnings. Then stitch up the back of the uppers to form the heels. Next stitch the soles on and turn inside out. Slip soles in and finish with button and buttonhole.

Another novelty that is sure to be popular are picture-frames of looking-glass. They are not quite one inch wide, and have a centre of looking-glass, with a tiny beading of wood at each side, so that firelight or lamp-light reflected in the glass makes a most artistic effect.

A Subtle Compliment

IT is a curious fact (says a writer in a London paper) that the average man never notices a woman's dress until it is nearly worn out, and then he begins to like it and to ask her to wear it. Is not that a subtler compliment to the woman than the artful man's praise of a dress as a piece of artistry? It means, does it not, something like this: “What you wear, considered as material of a certain cut and colour, has no significance for me. Only in so far as it becomes part of your personality does it please. A new frock is your dressmaker's; an old frock is you, and therefore I like it, though it is falling into rags.”

The Art of Listening

Appreciated by Men

THE woman or girl who is welcome everywhere is not the one who is a brilliant conversationalist, but the one who is a good listener. Especially is this so where men are concerned. Phyllis, the witty talker, will keep her companion amused with a clever resume of the day's happenings, of her own reactions toward these events, with perhaps a spicy bit of gossip or scandal to finish off.

The man listens and laughs at the right places, and the girl feels that she has been a success.

“Wireless hasn't yet produced a loud speaker that beats a self-made man.”

But the man notes with a feeling of real pleasure that the next name on his programme is Margaret. He doesn't know exactly why he is pleased, but then men are not analysts. So, encouraged by his new companion, he begins to talk, and it is not long before he is telling her all about that last round of golf when he nearly got a hole in one—about his new rooms which he is sharing with a friend—about his prospects of a move up in the office during the New Year week, and so on. Margaret listens and murmurs sympathetically over the almost-in-one hole (omitting to mention the fact that she did that same hole in one herself at the week-end), and the result is that the man goes off thinking he has never met such a delightful girl, and vowing to see more of her in the future. He will never notice that she has not spoken much—in fact, he may quite possibly think she is a brilliant conversationalist, for, as I have said before, men are no analysts.

Hand-Embroidered Evening Dresses

THE return to favour of hand-embroidered materials is giving employment to thousands of expert needlewomen. In one department of a big London fashion house, over fifty per cent. of the material for evening dresses was adorned in this way. One especially beautiful frock of heavy parchment-coloured silk georgette had a design of cobwebs embroidered in silk on the surface, the colours toning

“All men are born equal, but some prove unequal to anything else.”

and shading into each other in a wonderful manner. When the material on view appears particularly fragile, pieces of the silk are often displayed showing how it reacts to various methods of washing and cleaning, and how it retains the fastness of the colouring.

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