

The Formal "Call."

Whatever may betide, men have good cause to rejoice that they bear no part in that crowning bore of all bores known as the "formal call." That is a feminine institution. It is an invention of the sex, and the sex groans under its yoke. Man smokes his Durham in beatific peace, while the wife and daughters pay tribute to the formal call. He hears the sottovoce prayer that parties will be out, and that the matter can be dispatched with a card. He quietly notes the sigh of relief when the exhausted women return after hours of social distress. He observes the tax of dress incident to the affair, the bad temper it invokes, and the hypocrisy and total absence of any equivalent in the way of pleasure for all this slavish adherence to custom, and then dimly realizes the miraculous felicity of his own escape from such thralldom, and it may take comfort in the thought that the whole business falls totally on those who have made him pay the piper for countless other freaks and whims of fashion and caprice. The elasticity of conscience with which the gentle creatures endeavor to mitigate the infliction of the formal call by convenient fibs, furnishes the masculine monster some amusing food for study, and it may be doubted whether he would budge an inch to abolish the formal call. It is diamond cut diamond; women annoying women. In such a transaction the wise man holds aloof and lets the dainty beligerents masquerading as friends manage the hollow and artificial show as suits themselves. It is not often that he has an opportunity of keeping out of a game in which women array their wits against one another instead of against the common tyrant, man. He is at liberty to be judiciously silent and hear the fair prattlers discuss each other in a style utterly unlike the fancy pictures of novelists and poets, and if he doesn't get some wholesome delight amidst he is hopelessly stupid.—*Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.*

A CHURCH SAYS: "Let any one who has an attack of lockjaw take a small quantity of turpentine, warm it and pour it on the wound, no matter where the wound is, and relief will follow in less than a minute. Nothing better can be applied to a severe cut or bruise cold turpentine; it will give certain relief almost instantly. Turpentine is a sovereign remedy for croup. Saturate a piece of flannel with it and place flannel on the throat and chest, an every case three or four drops on a l of sugar may be taken inwardly."

DR. EBRAUD, of Nimes, states that he has for many years treated all his cases of sciatic and neuralgic pains with an improvised apparatus, consisting merely of a flat iron and vinegar, two things that will be found in every house. The iron is heated until sufficiently hot to vaporize the vinegar, and is then covered with some woolen fabric, which is moistened with vinegar, and the apparatus is applied at once to the painful spot. The application may be repeated two or three times a day. Dr. Ebraud states that, as a rule, the pain disappears in twenty-four hours, and recovery ensues at once.

SALT IN DIPHTHERIA.—In a paper read at the Medical Society of Victoria, Australia, Dr. Day stated that, having for many years regarded diphtheria, in its early stage, as a purely local affection, characterized by a marked tendency to take on putrefactive decomposition, he has trusted most to the free and constant application of antiseptics, and, when their employment has been adopted from the first, and been combined with judicious alimentation, he has seldom seen blood-poisoning ensue. In consequence of the great power which salt possesses in preventing the pre-ferative decomposition of meat and other organic matter, Dr. Day has often prescribed for diphtheritic patients living far away from medical aid the frequent use of a gargle composed of a teaspoonful or more of salt dissolved in a tumbler of water, giving children who cannot gargle a teaspoonful or two to drink occasionally. Adults to use the gargle as a purgative or preventive, three or four times a day.

ONE of the very best efforts that humane societies have ever made is that of inducing horse owners to do away with the blind bridle. There are cases where, perhaps, blinds are useful, but usually they are useless, and not only that, but their tendency is to hurt the eyes. They are a great impediment to the free sight of the horse, whose eyes are so set that it looks rather sideways instead of directly in front. With a blind on, therefore, the animal has no free range of vision. In addition to this, if the blinds press against or strike the eye, the latter will most likely be damaged. Under all the circumstances the practice of putting blinds upon our bridles is about as foolish as checking up a horse's head until the only thing that it can see is the sun and sky. Some may think that blinds look well, but even that is doubtful. We are of the opinion that a blind bridle looks just as well on a horse as anything that can be put on its head. In our towns and cities where humane societies have an opportunity to create public sentiment in regard to the matter, many of our most stylish turnouts have no blinds on the bridles.—*Western Rural.*

EGG TOAST.—Beat four eggs, yolk and whites together, thoroughly; put two table-spoonfuls of butter into a saucepan and melt slowly; then pour in the eggs and beat without boiling over a slow fire, stirring constantly; add a little salt, and when hot spread on slices of nicely-browned toast, and serve at once.

SITTING in a station the other day I had a little sermon preached in the way I like, and I'll report it for your benefit, because it taught one of the lessons that we all should learn, and taught it in such a simple, natural way that no one could forget it:

"It was a bleak, snowy day, the train was late, the ladies' room dark and smoky, and the dozen women, old and young, who sat waiting patiently, all looked cross, low-spirited, or stupid. I felt all three, and thought, as I looked around, that my fellow beings were a very unamiable, uninteresting set.

"Just then a forlorn old woman, shaking with palsy, came in with a basket of ware and went about, mutely offering them to the sitters. Nobody bought anything, and the poor old soul stood blinking at the door a minute, as if reluctant to go into the bitter storm again. She turned, presently, and poked about the room, as if trying to find something, and then a pale lady in black, who lay as if asleep on a sofa, opened her eyes and saw the old woman, and instantly asked, in a kind tone, 'Have you lost anything, ma'am?

"No, dear; I'm looking for the heating place to warm me 'fore I goes out again. My eyes is poor, and I don't seem to find the furnace nowhere's.'

"Here it is," and the lady led her to the radiator, placed a chair, and showed her how to warm her feet.

"Well, now, ain't that nice?" said the old woman spreading her ragged mittens to dry.

"Thanky, dear; this is proper comfortable, ain't it? I'm almost

frozen to-day, being lame and wimby,

and not selling much makes me down-hearted."

The lady smiled, went to the counter, bought a cup of tea and some kind of food, carried it herself to the old woman, and said, as respectfully and kindly as if the poor woman had been dressed in silk and fur: "Won't you have a cup of tea? It's very comforting a day like this."

"Sakes alive! do they give tea at this depot?" cried the old woman in a tone of innocent surprise that made a smile go round the room, touching the gloomiest face like a streak of sunshine. "Well, now, this is just lovely," added the old lady, sipping away with a relish. "This does warm the cockles of my heart."

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