Woman's Realm

Methods of the Social Striver.

How She Secures the Friends Who Serve as Rungs in the Ladder to Success—"Papa" as Matrimonial Agent.

In every social circle there is one woman who has made her way into its midst by reason of her indomitable will, having had a just ambition to make a position for herself superior to that in which she was born.

"The 'climber,'" says a woman who has had special opportunities to watch the ways of these social luminaries, "is born usually in comparative social obscurity, but with the desire for social prestige. At school her ambition is manifest in the friends she chooses, as she is always careful to adapt herself to their views and to conduct herself along the lines of their manners and doings. If her parents are ambitious for her they enter her for some boarding school that has the name of being exclusive, and as money is more or less of a golden key all that can be spared from the home circle is freely given to the daughter, and with the feeling that her financial equality has been established with her schoolmates she can assume a certain amount of independence toward them.

"She gives no invitations save vaguely indefinite ones to visit her some time in her faraway home, which she is more than likely to invest with an atmosphere of romance, but she accepts every invitation given her that might prove advantageous. She ever bears in mind that the friends of friends are frequently stepping stones and never fails to cultivate those she meets, thus extending her list of acquaintances. She avoids the mention of any name that is not known to those she is with at the time, unless it is more prominent than theirs, and her native shrewdness leads her to choose congenial topics of conversation when with her elders and to show great interest in all their pet hobbies. There is no doubt about it, though the climber may be a toady she is a woman of tact and ability and a certain amount of bravery.

"As this promising young person emerges from her studies—and she is frequently kept on at school for special courses for a year or more overtime to gain more friends and secure a firmer footing with those already made—she is taken abroad for the finishing touches, for there is no greater incentive to the money making man to make more money than the possession of one daughter who may in time do him credit socially and, with her force of mind, cleverly bring the family up to the same eminence. By him and by his wife no effort is spared to save and make, so that when the girl is old enough to come out they will be prepared to appear well before her great friends. Probably during her last year at school a new house will be bought in a fashionable locality, a decorator will be consulted as to the proper furnishings, and when abroad a few extras will be bought at exorbitant prices to be placed in the drawing room.

THE CLIMBER'S DEBUT.

"For the coming out a function of great elaborateness is given; the girls asked to receive with the debutante are picked from among the most desirable acquaintances, and in many instances cards are sent to people chosen from the social register at random. As for the best known social lights, however, the fact that they are absolutely unknown to the tea giver does not matter in the least. The cards so politely sent in return are kept uppermost in the card tray for many weeks afterward, and occasionally, as the secretary of a society leader keeps lists of all the cards received for all the teas of the season, a card for a tea at one of these unknown houses is sent in return. It is this that frequently proves the open sesame to the patient waiter for social recognition. It is true that from the moment she crosses the threshold into the crowded rooms until she reluctantly leaves she may not see one familiar face, and the few words she can exchange will not be such as to establish an acquaintance beyond that of the most formal character. The women pouring tea will prove the greatest consolation, for her formal greetings can be lengthened into a chat on the opera, the theatre, the motor show or some non-personal subject, and here a sounding can be made for a mutual acquaintance. Thus the first step steadies into a faint footprint on the social sand.

"From debut to matrimony is the natural order of things, and the parental eye has been preternaturally keen, for the average father, and even the father below the average, no matter how careless as to his own habits and accomplishments, will, when it comes to the future life and happiness of the girl for whom he has slaved, be most critical as to these very points in her prospective husband; and, above all, she must marry 'up' and not down the social ladder. With this aim the father enters politics, not the politics of party, but those of 'reform' movements, for into this political maelstrom promising young men of the better class are drawn, because reform politics absorbs more time and money than the plainer methods and is a luxury that the wealthy man with no business occupation is prone to indulge in.

"But no politics can equal the wire pulling of the ambitious father with his marriageable 'bud.' For her sake he swallows even insult, as the chances are that an apology will follow, and that the 'meek shall inherit the earth' he always bears in mind. The first dinner he gives to his new acquaintances is a stag affair; in fact, several are given this way, and it is quite by accident that the loyal father admits that he has a family. Eventually he effects a meeting at a small family dinner, when some one topic of political import is to be discussed between a chosen few later. What results from this meeting depends entirely on the daughter's demeanor, and, in many cases, firm friendships evolve; occasionally a match is made; but inevitably the way is paved for a sort of salon, to which one by one the 'reformers' drift, enjoying it far more than they would a salon to which only women of their own class in life would come to discuss the happenings in their own world.

THE STRAIN OF SAVAGERY.

"In every man, no matter how tamed and conventionalized he may seem, and no matter how refined may be his surroundings and entire ancestry, there is a latent strain of savagery; and to this the 'climber' appealed. Such men admire art in every form, and to force one's way up from obscurity appeals to them as 'art' of an order to be admired. If the political career transfers the family to Washington in its course, here are great opportunities. Among the diplomats are titled scions to whom a rich wife would not come amiss; and to marry a title is a matter frequently considered seriously by wealthy American girls, in spite of the many unfortunate alliances.

"Once married and away for the visit to 'his people' means a crucial test and much unhappiness, for rudeness that she might prefer to overlook is commented upon and made the most of by her adopted family and visited upon her by her bridegroom in the life to follow oftener than an American husband would think of doing, although there are even American men who use this particular weapon of abuse freely to discomfort the woman of their choice.

"It is the daily thrusts from envious friends that go furthest toward embittering the existence of the woman who would be socially great, and the only balm for these gnat bites is a social triumph, such as a dinner attended by only the most exclusive of the 'higher up' set, who have probably accepted her after months of steadily refusing similar invitations from the same source, and with the inward resolve 'Well, this once to get rid of her, but never again.' This happens again and again, and the 'climber' is never the wiser; having once accomplished her object she rests content, as with her progress she gains wisdom as to forcing the hand with the social trump.

Her children she sends to a dancing class which only those of the most conservative families attend, and as the mothers appear to watch the children's progress from time to time she also attends, and by judicious praise as to the grace and beauty of the various little ones wins their good will as she could do in no other manner. If she asks to contribute to their pet charities and interests herself in them by personal visiting at the hospital, Settlement house or other places, she scores more toward her ultimate aim than one could deem possible.

"To work one's way up from cottage life to mansion means, above all things, constant subjection of one's own will and unswerving determination to make one's own way, with never a glance backward or down into the past save as useful experience. The way to gain is never through bizarre actions or dress, but through dignity and tact, for the quality of dignity is one that is always admired and that reaps a reward. Often a vulgar, goodhearted woman pushes her way to the fore, but her triumph is shortlived and she soon finds her level in a lower stratum. There is also the sharp tongued woman who, by diligent reading of magazines and weeklies, given to personal records of fact or scandal, feels herself to be on an intimate footing with all so mentioned. She will find her place among them in course of time when another fails simply because she can talk freely of their doings, true or imagined, and comment on them as she deems proper. In this instance an element of fear helps to balance the situation, for men or women will listen to a note of scandal and be influenced by its telling, even though they deny the impeachment, and will take pains to keep on the right side of the spicy minded female lest the time comes when they, too, are exposed to the fire of ridicule or spite.

"How much delight and true enjoyment ever really enters the existence of the woman determined to gain social honors can only be surmised, but the game must be worth the candle to them or they would not persevere."

Miss Johnson, with members of the Young Men's Christian League, at Panama.

A PANAMA MISSIONARY.

Work of Miss Rose Johnson Among Men and Boys on the Isthmus.

Two years ago Miss Rose Johnson, an English deaconess and missionary, stopped at Panama on her way to Peru. She took a room in one of the low parts of the city, and there she learned, among other things, something about the condition of the young unattached men and boys who were employed in the digging of the canal. Sitting at her window one night, she saw two American boys on the point of entering a low resort. She went out and spoke to them and one of them asked:

"What's a fellow to do in this God forsaken country? There's nowhere to go. There isn't a white woman to speak to."

Miss Johnson asked them to go with her and have some coffee and cake, and it was touching, she says, to see how gladly they accepted her invitation. Miss Johnson concluded that Panama needed her more than Peru, and in Panama she remained until a few weeks ago, when she was obliged to come to the United States for a short rest.

Her work began in one room, to which the boys went by invitation to read, write or talk over their troubles with their hostess. Spanish classes were also started, and the boys became much interested. Within three months the room had grown too small, and a house was taken, with provision for lodging and meals. This place was called the Young Men's Christian Association, but as this organization was founding its own clubhouses down the line objection was raised to the use of the name and that of the Young Men's Christian League was adopted.

The quarters now occupied are two houses in the centre of the city. A large sitting and reception room, where the Stars and Stripes commingle peacefully with the folds of the Union Jack, is always open. A square table in the centre and comfortable chairs, a library, periodicals and newspapers, a piano and some good prints and photographs on the walls, complete the simple furnishings. And, above all, Miss Johnson herself is always there to give a kindly welcome, to advise or help to sew on a button or darn a pair of socks. The best of good comradeship exists between herself and "her boys."

This room is also used as a luncheon room for the vegetarians, as many find it necessary to avoid flesh foods in the tropics. The general dining room is upstairs. The sleeping rooms upstairs, opening on a veranda, are large and airy, and are furnished simply, but comfortably. Everything about the house is clean and attractive, and Miss Johnson makes a round of personal inspection every morning.

Sometimes when she inspects the kitchen on Saturday night, after the servants have gone to bed, she finds it not as clean as she would like to have it. Then she tucks up her skirts and scrubs it out herself.

The house is conducted on the co-operative system, and is by no means a money making institution. The directress pays her board as well as the rest. Regular roomers and boarders pay $43.50 in gold a month. Table board is $23.50. Single meals, 30 cents for breakfast and 50 cents for dinner. Fruit is supplied in abundance, as well as vegetables, and ice cream appears on the menu with satisfactory frequency.

On Sunday there are usually a number of extra guests, and the principal meal of the day is served at noon. The Sunday night cold supper, when no servants are present, is the favorite meal of the week. Quite an extensive retinue of servants is kept, besides an efficient English woman as housekeeper.

In addition to this special work for young men Miss Johnson has many other interests in the canal zone. Sometimes stranded women are taken to her and she cares for them at the home until assistance comes. Shortly after her arrival in Panama she saved a young American boy from throwing himself off the sea wall in a paroxysm of despair and discouragement at having lost his money through drink and gambling. She persuaded him to go home. She has a Spanish class for women and a Sunday school which is attended by about eighteen American children. This is the only Sunday school in the canal zone, but Miss Johnson hopes to open others as soon as she returns. She has been holding Sunday evening services at Ancon, and in fact she has found so much to do in Panama that it was only her urgent need of rest after a serious illness that induced her to take a vacation. "Congratulate me on my return," she said to a friend who had felicitated her on her coming holiday. "That is what I look forward to, my 'homecoming' to my boys."

Miss Johnson is a tall, slight, delicate looking woman, with snow white hair. She is a person of independent means and has done missionary work in Egypt, Germany and Austria. Including the unwritten tongues of these tribes, she has, it is said, a working knowledge of seventeen languages. Miss Johnson is an ordained deaconess, and has taken courses in domestic science and nursing. She can also make a very neat pair of shoes, having learned shoemaking as a trade when she was eighteen. Before going to Panama she was engaged in rescue work among women, and had many thrilling experiences in rescuing white slaves in many different parts of the world.

TO MAKE NATURE STUDY EASY.

New York Section of American Society Formed to Aid Teachers.

A New York section of the American Nature Study Society was organized at Teachers College yesterday morning, with Dr. H. A. Kelly, of the Ethical Culture School, as temporary chairman and an executive committee including Gustave Straubenmüller, assistant superintendent of public schools; Professor F. L. Holtz, of the Brooklyn Training School; Herbert G. Parsons, secretary of the International Children's School Farm League; Mrs. Howard Van Sinderen and Mrs. Alice Northrop, the last named being the secretary of the committee.

The immediate purpose of the organization is to find some way of helping the teachers in the elementary schools with their nature teaching. The speakers agreed at yesterday's meeting that the present syllabus contained a lot of dead wood and that the most urgent need of the nature study teachers was to have it revised. The syllabus demands, it is said, a great deal of work that is not practicable in New York, and the new society intends to approach the proper authorities with a view to having this changed. An effort will then be made to find a way of supplying materials for nature study without expense to the teacher.

The American Nature Study Society was organized in Chicago on January 2 in connection with the meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Science. It already has branches all over the country and nearly one thousand members. The New York section has about seventy-five members. The official organ is "The Nature Study Review," edited by Professor M. A. Bigelow, of Teachers College.

A HYENA AS A PET.

"Grouchy" as a Baby, He Grows Up Gentle and Affectionate.

A full-grown hyena is certainly an unusual pet, but Ebby (short for Ebis, Prince of Darkness) is an exceptional hyena. So, at least, says his mistress, Miss Rose Boughton Leigh, of Brownsover, Rugby, England, and others who have seen him testify that he is very different in appearance from the mangy looking scavenger known as Hyæna striata in a wild state.

Ebby is now about seven years old, and his known history began on April 20, 1900, when he was brought to Miss Leigh from Smyrna, a little helpless, frightened, snapping baby. On that same day he came near ending his career, for, being taken for a walk in a garden fronting the sea, he wandered too near the edge of the quay and fell with a splash into the water. His mistress sprang after him in her usual clothing and brought him safely ashore, after which he was warmed up in a Turkish bath. Shortly afterward he was taken to England.

Ebby's mistress admits that his temper was none of the best in those early days. But as he grew older and gained confidence in the strange creatures around him his manners improved. Now he never loses his temper. He is the best of friends with the dogs, and even when in their daily romps they forget that it is play and go for him savagely he never attempts to retaliate, while his thick hide and heavy coat saves him from being much hurt himself. He is devoted to his mistress, and greets her by rolling over at her feet and begging with little whines of delight to be petted. With strangers he is nervous and suspicious, and might bite them out of fear, so care is taken to prevent any such occurrence.

Ebby's gastronomic tastes are extremely dainty. His daily meal is a mixture of scraps—bones, puddings, fruit, pastry, dog biscuits and eggs, with perhaps a fowl's or a rabbit's head. He picks out the sweet things first, ripe fruit especially, and feeds slowly and daintily. One day when a summer garden party had been spoiled by rain, and a large residue of melted ice cream was the result, Ebby disposed of it all and then brought the dish for more.

The English climate seems to agree with Ebby, and he has developed a splendid coat with a heavy mane quite a foot long.

AN UNCOMMON PET.

Miss Rose Boughton Leigh's tame hyena.

DROPPING HIM A HINT.

A recent graduate from Harvard was given a confidential clerkship in the office of the president of a huge railway system. The young aspirant was not told at what hour he should report; so the first morning he appeared in the office of his chief at 9 o'clock. He found the president hard at work. Nothing was said of the clerk's tardiness. On the second attempt the clerk presented himself at 8:30, only to find that the president was there ahead of him, working hard. The third day the young man went in at 8 o'clock, with the same result. That night as he went home the clerk took counsel with himself and determined to be ahead of the boss the next morning. Accordingly, he arrived at the office at 7:30 the fourth day; but there was the chief working away as if he had not left the office at all. As the clerk entered the president looked at him with a quizzical air.

"Young man," said he, "what use do you make of your forenoons?"—Tit-Bits.

Notes of Clubs and Charities.

The seventh annual meeting of the Stony Wold Sanatorium Corporation will be held on Wednesday afternoon, January 22, at 3 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. Frederic B. Jennings, No. 86 Park avenue, near 39th street. The officers of the society are Mrs. James Edward Newcomb, president; Mrs. George F. Shrady, honorary vice-president; Mrs. Anson R. Flower, Mrs. Ogden Codman, Mrs. Sylvan Pier and Mrs. Edward S. Harkness, vice-presidents; Mrs. John Caldwell Coleman, recording secretary; Mrs. Nelson Macy, corresponding secretary; Edgar L. Marston, treasurer, No. 24 Broad street, and Mrs. Herbert L. Satterlee, assistant treasurer.

Beginning to-morrow and continuing all this week the Handicraft School of Greenwich House, at Nos. 26 and 28 Jones street, will have an exhibition and sale at the home of Miss Carroll, No. 582 Fifth avenue. Many interesting and serviceable articles have been prepared for the sale, such as washable rugs, hangings, sofa pillows, etc., suitable for country cottages, yachts, camps and houseboats. There will also be a lot of small articles, such as collars and ties, in Irish crochet.

At the annual meeting of Auxiliary No. 1 of Stony Wold Sanatorium at the home of Mrs. Charles Gilmore Kerley, No. 132 West 81st street, last Monday afternoon, the following officers were elected: Chairman, Mrs. Charles Gilmore Kerley; Mrs. Frederick Hasbrouck, honorary chairman; Miss Inez Le Fevre, recording secretary; Miss E. Inslee, corresponding secretary; Mrs. C. Albert Jacob, treasurer; Mrs. R. T. Dawes, Mrs. William A. Simonson, executive committee; Mrs. M. Washington Larendon, Mrs. Williston H. Benedict, Mrs. Annie Battin, Mrs. Amedee Spadone, vice-chairmen.

The speakers at the meeting were Dr. Wilson Mali Smith, Dr. S. Josephine Baker on "Municipal Control of Tuberculosis," and Mrs. James E. Newcomb. The auxiliary is supporting two patients at the sanatorium.

The National Society of New England Women will give a luncheon, bridge and euchre party at the Hotel Empire to-morrow. Mrs. Charles Gilmore Kerley, the president of the society, will preside at the luncheon at 12:30 o'clock. The proceeds will be devoted to the philanthropic work of the society. Tickets are one dollar, and may be obtained from Mrs. Frank Churchill, No. 144 East 89th street.

The society will celebrate its thirteenth birthday on Friday, January 24, from 3 to 6 o'clock. Mrs. Kerley will be assisted by some of the former presidents and guests from the colonies.

The Ladies' Auxiliary Society of the Yorkville Dispensary and Hospital for Women and Children, at Nos. 246 and 248 East 82d street, is busy with preparations for a bazaar and valentine tea to be given at Duryea's, No. 200 West 72d street, on February 13. The members of the auxiliary are determined to double their last year's success in appreciation of the promptness with which the board of directors have adopted their suggestion to limit the admission of patients to the hospital to women and children only.

The president, Miss Henriette Strauss, will head the list of the reception committee, which consists of the following members: Mrs. I. Burgheim, A. Herman, A. Stern, S. Cohen, L. Gompert, F. M. Maguire, J. Foster and S. Davis, and the Misses J. B. Sutherland and Ross. The refreshment committee will be composed of Mrs. L. C. A. Volkman, William H. Davidow, M. Cisin and Miss P. Lehman. Contributions for the bazaar are being received constantly by Mrs. H. B. Sheffield, S. Uhlfelder, S. Floersheimer and S. Shiff, the bazaar committee.

The members are beginning to realize that to maintain two additional large free children's wards is no trifling expense, and calls for incessant hustling for funds.

The members of the Settlement Council of the Woman's Auxiliary of the New York City Baptist Mission Society announce that they are "at home" Thursday afternoons, from 3 till 5 o'clock, at the Settlement, No. 319 East 125th street. Though this Settlement is under the auspices of the Baptist Mission, it is non-sectarian. Classes of many kinds are carried on for the women and children of the neighborhood, for whom the Settlement is meant to be a general home centre. The chairman of the Settlement council is Mrs. Frank Littlefield.

Mrs. Fiske, Mr. Arliss and Mr. Mason will appear in a one-act comedy at the Lyric Theatre on Friday afternoon, January 24, at 3 o'clock, for the benefit of St. Andrew's Convalescent Hospital for Women and Girls. There will also be a monologue by Miss Beatrice Herford. Immediately after the performance tea will be served on the stage. Tickets may be obtained of Miss Shippen, No. 301 Lexington avenue. All the artists are contributing their services.

The junior committee of the Harlem Young Women's Christian Association gave a concert last evening at the Waldorf-Astoria. The proceeds will be used in the junior work among the tenement children of the upper West Side.

PURE FOOD COMMITTEE.

New Jersey has joined the movement for pure food. The tocsin was sounded at the food convention of the Consumers' League, held at Cranford, N. J., December 3. In consequence of that convention a permanent committee has been formed, which committee will work for clean milk for New Jersey folk, and better conditions in all places in the state where food is manufactured, stored, or sold. The committee will also endeavor to convince the state legislators of the need of a law to provide for the inspection of slaughterhouses.

Every one in the state who lives by food is invited to help on the good work by joining the committee. Dues are $1. Alice Lakey, Cranford, N. J., is chairman of the committee.

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GLEANINGS.

The latest recipe for pleasing that supposedly capricious individual man is to vary one's charms. The woman who has worn toques and tailor mades for some time should change to large hats and pelerines. Her husband, who has grown so accustomed to her customary appearance that he fails to notice her at all, will unconsciously be attracted and pleased by the novelty.

Probably every woman who has ever given the subject of her personal appearance a thought has been perplexed by conflicting advice as to the treatment of those annoying blemishes known as blackheads. It is certainly annoying to be told by one oracle that the wretched things should be squeezed out and by another that this is the worst possible thing to do. The way in which the spots are removed, says an authority, is less important than the treatment of the skin afterward. To press them out and do nothing more is a very bad plan, for then the relaxed pores are left gaping and quickly fill up again. After the accumulated contents of the choked tubes are removed an astringent should be applied perseveringly to close the pores. It should be remembered, too, that skins are different, and in some cases it may be necessary to consult a specialist.

The woman who wants to assume an ultra-feminine role should not fail to provide herself with a tea apron. These little accessories give the wearer a wonderfully domestic air. Although very frivolous little affairs, much beruffled and embroidered, these aprons afford considerable and not unnecessary protection to the dress.

Men performing hard manual labor have a natural taste for sweets, as they supply a great amount of muscular energy, says "What to Eat." They are equally beneficial to persons exposed to severe cold. In the lumber camps and mines of Canada and the colder sections of the United States workmen consume large quantities of sugar in the form of molasses. Tea and coffee are often sweetened with molasses, and in some places it is added to almost every article of food. The same is more or less true in the logging districts of the South, where molasses and rice, mixed together, have become almost a staple diet.

Sarah Bernhardt says some pleasant things about the Boston woman in her "Memories of My Life." She was struck by the "harmony and softness of their gestures," and the Bostonian race seemed to her "the most refined and mysterious of all American races. The women adore music, the theatre, literature, painting and poetry," she writes. "They know everything and understand everything, are chaste and reserved and neither laugh nor talk very loudly."

There is considerable excitement in Paris over the appearance of a couple of popular actors in brown evening clothes. The idea has been taken up by the theatrical paper "Comœdia," which is now crying, "A bas l'habit noir!" "Let us keep black for funerals and official ceremonies," it advises. If these reformers have their way smart young men will probably be blossoming out in bottle green and crushed strawberry and Mark Twain in his simple white will have to hide his diminished head before such splendid creatures.

IN A RAILWAY STATION.

It was easy in the lax time of waiting at the Grand Central Station for the leisurely coming of a way train to enter into conversation with a cordial neighbor, a middle aged, shrewd, yet refined faced, woman, who ventured a remark about being glad her day's shopping was over; she was evidently from the far-away suburbs.

"Don't you like to watch people?" she questioned, with delightful unexpectedness. "I do. And I always make up my mind what they are. That man who has just come in is a minister; he doesn't dress especially like it, hasn't one of those collars on wrong side, either; but I know he is a minister by his face and the cut of his side whiskers. Do you see those two women? I am sure they are club women, they look so in earnest. There is a married couple opposite us whom I have been noticing. She has the say of things. Can't you always tell when you see a man and his wife together which one rules? Oh, here's my train! Goodby!"

THE TRIBUNE PATTERN.

Long, loose enveloping wraps are the characteristic ones of the season and are so graceful and charming that it is to be hoped that their vogue will be a long one. This model is simplicity itself, yet takes the most beautiful lines and folds. It can be left open, as illustrated, or drawn closely about the figure as occasion demands. In the illustration banana colored broadcloth is trimmed with bands of soutache and of lace applique, but while the color and material are both fashionable, wraps of this sort are made from a great many different things. Cloth and velvet are, perhaps, the best materials for the purpose, but there are also soft supple satins that are used, while favorite colors include all the pastel tints in addition to the yellow, which may fairly be said to head the list, white and a few such darker tones as medium blue, sherry wine and the like. Trimming appropriately can be any banding that may be liked, but lace and embroidered appliques are especially favored.

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