

# USEFUL GIFTS

**P**EOPLE who decide to give only useful Christmas gifts often have a bunch of surprises waiting for them around the corner.

"Look before you leap," is a useful thing to remember.

Useful presents should be accepted in the spirit in which they are given. Keep the Christmas spirit green. When you get a useful present, do not take it back and exchange it for something you can use.

Keep it; hang on to it. Do not give it away to the poor, for they have troubles enough of their own.

One of the most useful useful gifts—for some people—is a smoking jacket. Once we gave our old Uncle Peters one of those costly nicotine reefers. It had blue satin cuffs and a braided collar. The coat was held together not by buttons but by gold-braid knots. The garment made a hit with Uncle Peters, but not the knots.

For years his smoking jacket had been a flannel undershirt, gracefully decorated with suspenders. Every evening he sat by the stove, smoking a pipe which would have suffocated a steamship stoker. He never told us what he burned in the pipe, and we

never went close enough to investigate.

Christmas day they made him put on the smoking jacket. Life was not the same after that. They told him he mustn't smoke that vulgar, shocking old pipe while wearing the lovely jacket. Everybody thought he was cured of the deadly corncob. He quit smoking the pipe, and instead brought home a bale of cigars.

He made a handsome figure, wearing the braided smoking jacket, and puffing a cigar with a gilt band around it. We left him, smoking happily by the stove. In one hour we returned. Uncle Peters was still consuming cigars. On the floor lay the family cat. It did not raise its head at our footsteps. It would never look up again. The picture frames on the walls had turned green.

Uncle Peters denied that his Flor de Mule Ear segars had killed the cat. He insisted she had rolled over after taking one squint at the smoking jacket.

Useful gifts often have a way of making themselves useful when you least expect it. For instance, we buried the cat in Uncle Peters' smoking jacket!

# CHRISTMAS BELLS

**H**ERE are Christmas bells and bells.

The real Christmas bells ring out only in the morning of the sacred day. The other bells ring from morning until night. After which they jangle through one's dreams.

The Christmas doorbell is a great institution. It is the busiest bell of the lot. All day long the doorbell has pressing engagements. When the doorbell rings on Christmas day, everybody gives heed to its sweet sounds. And everybody rushes to the front door as if the house had caught on fire, and that was the nearest exit. The doorbell has everyone in the family hopping as if they were so many trained ducks.

There are two reasons why the Christmas doorbell is a welcome visitor when it jars upon the ear. In the first place, you know that no bills are going to be presented by the caller at the door. In the second place the doorbell may announce the arrival of a package.

A sawed-off express wagon driver, with a chunky, holly-bound package under his arm, can get more attention on Christmas day than the governor of the state, surrounded by his military staff and preceded by a Chinese or chestra, playing "Tippelaly."

The package the expressman or mail carrier brings, is seized by a

dozen eager hands. It is strange how ready everybody is to help in relieving the deliveryman of his 12-ounce burden. Then the package is conveyed in state to the inspecting department. It is opened with nervous anticipation, and there is great rejoicing when it proves to be a knitted muffler for father from Aunt Jessica. The muffler is as large as a young hammock, and is pinker than pa's cheeks when we all insist that he try it on.

If there is a grown-up daughter in the family, she beats all records getting to the door when the bell rings on Christmas day. If anybody beats her to the knob, it is not her fault, as she slid down the banister and took a flying leap, which was the best she could do without breaking bones. Sis expects the kind of presents which are not found in fireplaces after Santa Claus' visit. She's looking for bouquets of flowers, huge boxes of candy and other tokens of regard. Sometimes, though not very often, the bell ring announces a neatly wrapped wedding ring.

The Christmas telephone bell is an important feature of the Yuletide. It rings Christmas tidings which formerly were sent on decorative cards, which, with their imitation snow, made handy match scratchers.

The Christmas dinner bell—one at a time, please. Don't all rush in at once!

# THE LATE SHOPPER

**T**he late Shopper is a prominent member of the Genus Procrastinatus.

He has his own peculiar way of celebrating Christmas. Often he celebrates it in bed, with a water bag on his chest and the grip of an anxious physician around his wrist. His eyes are closed and his poor, warped brain is worn in a sling.

On the floor beside his bed, torn to shreds and bitten in numerous places, lies his Christmas list. The day before Christmas he sallied forth with this list in his hand and a look of desperate determination on his features.

The Late Shopper is a cheerful giver, withal. He loves giving for its own sake, but he loves it better for the sake of putting it off. Decidedly he is no believer in the "Do-it-now" movement. Nor is he selfish. It is just a habit. It is to be feared that if he were dying of thirst he would put off giving himself a drink.

Philanthropists should find rest sanitariums for Late Christmas Shoppers—th kind that are incurable. Here they could retire and nurse their wounds, incurred in the last toy counter rush.

How fortunate it is that Santa Claus was not born a late shopper. He is always on the job, and gets ready for the holiday season months ahead, we are reliably informed by the nursery books. However, Santa Claus is in constant danger of losing his reputation. There are hundreds of fond Fathers who pose as Santa Claus to their little broods, Papas who sally forth to collect a bagful of toys just when the stores are closing on Christmas eve, and the holly garlands are being taken down, and the manager of the dress goods department is getting ready to announce, "Spring and Summer Styles."

The Late Shoppers we have always with us. As eleventh-hour athletes, they take all the running, jumping and fine-plunging honors. But after the Late Shopper has one good mark to his credit, he puts off giving at all times, and therefore puts off giving a piece of his mind to his wife.

**The Worst Kicker.**  
It is the man who kicks the most about his Christmas cigars who gives the fewest of them to the janitor.

The Christmas that is emptiest of self is fullest of the Christ spirit.

# Temperance

Conducted by the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

## ALCOHOL AND ATHLETICS.

Prof. Irving Fisher of Yale university has issued a pamphlet in which he gives the result of his investigations of the liquor problem. Concerning alcohol and athletics he says:

"In studying the conditions of health and efficiency during the last ten years, the conditions which enable an athlete, for instance, to be at his best, I have had occasion to examine the conflicting popular ideas concerning alcohol. I began the study quite willing to be convinced that alcoholic beverages have some virtue. But I have ended in the conviction that they have none, and I have found that this conclusion is almost universally reached by those who have examined the facts. These facts demonstrate that a man who takes alcohol, in even a moderate degree, is harming himself physically, mentally, morally and economically.

"That alcohol increases fatigue is now commonly recognized by athletes. Alcohol gives no increase of muscular power. It is not what we can properly call a stimulant, but a depressant. It is apparently a stimulant, because it puts to sleep the nerves that indicate fatigue, so that the person thinks himself relieved of fatigue. What it does is to make one unconscious of his fatigue. Various kinds of tests and exercises have proved that alcohol is a decided hindrance to muscular or athletic power."

## ALCOHOL CAUSE OF WAR.

Dr. Charles Gilbert Davis, eminent physician, psychologist and scientist of Chicago, says the great world war is but the logical outcome of "generations of alcoholic saturation, with the resultant deterioration of the human race and degeneration of the human mind."

"I have taken a kennel of Great Danes," says the doctor, "magnificent animals, and given them just a teaspoonful of alcoholic beverage daily, mixed with their foods, and then bred them, and carried on the experiment for five or six generations, until the Great Danes had dwindled physically to small size, and their even dispositions had changed until the product has been snarling, whining, fighting curs. How much more so this must be with humans extended over thirty or forty generations. The parallel may not be pleasant, but it is a nice one, and that is what has occurred in Europe."

## JOHN BARLEYCORN UNPOPULAR.

"Insurance people have come to the definite conclusion that booze and insurance mix about as well as oil and water," remarked Edward A. Woods, president of the National Life Underwriters' association. "In other words," said Mr. Woods, "a drinking man is a mighty poor risk. Cold figures have proved to us positively that the drinking man—even the moderate drinker—has less than half as much chance to live out the life of his policy as the teetotaler. The mortality of the teetotalers between the ages of thirty-five and fifty years, when men are of the most use to society, is only 56 per cent of the average mortality. Not even the war has been the subject of as much consideration among insurance men as has the liquor question."

## ALCOHOL CAUSES INSANITY.

Alcoholism, propagated by every nation, licensed by the state, is second only to war as a cause of insanity. Not only does it lead directly to mental disease, but it indirectly predisposes to mental and physical deterioration through heredity. Children of alcoholic parents are notoriously liable to be epileptic, imbecile or insane.—William Brady, M. D., Chicago.

## SEVERAL ISSUES.

There are several other issues in the hearts of the people that tower above all others and are bound to be written into some party platform two years hence. One of these questions is that of national Prohibition. You might as well try to sweep back the tides of the ocean as to stop or delay the progress of the Prohibition movement.—Governor Carlson of Colorado.

## WHITENING.

California, South Dakota, Vermont, Montana and Nebraska and the territory of Alaska have already launched prohibition campaigns which will culminate in wet and dry elections in 1916, and state-wide prohibition bills have been introduced in Utah, New York, Delaware, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Texas, Wyoming, Michigan and Indiana.

Now is eternity. The life already begun on earth is to be continued in heaven and never to end. The great journey has already begun.



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## A Good Plan.

"We should strive to turn our troubles into successes."

"That's what. I know an actor who did that. When people threw vegetables he caught 'em on a fork and made it the hit of the performance."

## An Improved Quinine, Does not Cause Nervousness nor Ringing in Head

The happy combination of laxatives in LAX-ATIVE BROMO QUININE makes the Quinine in this form have a far better effect than the ordinary Quinine, and it can be taken by anyone without affecting the head. Remember to call for the full name, Laxative Bromo Quinine. Look for signature of E. W. Groves, 25c.

## The Cause.

"How did you lose your hair?"  
"Worry! I was in constant fear that I was going to lose it."

Always proud to show white clothes. Red Cross Ball Blue does make them white. All grocers. Adv.

You may break, you may shatter the old hen if you will, but the landlady serves it as spring chicken still.

## A Real Test.

"When a young man proposes you should always be careful and test his love," continued the chaperon.

"But I go one better, auntie," twittered the pretty Bayswater girl. "Do you see this tiny bottle?"

"Yes. Does it contain perfume?"  
"No; it contains acid. I test the engagement ring."—From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

## Wasted Effort.

"Father," said the small boy, "what is a pterodactyl?"

"There isn't any such thing now, my son."

"Then what's the use of having to learn to spell it?"

Always keep Hanford's Balsam on hand for accidents. It's good insurance. Adv.

Information Wanted.  
"Will you have some of the sugar cured ham?" asked the landlady.  
"What was it cured of?" asked the new boarder suspiciously.

Grand Prize, Panama-Pacific Exposition, San Francisco, 1915  
Grand Prize, Panama-California Exposition, San Diego, 1915

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