

The Home Circle

THE MEN'S CORNER

BY A. R. PARKHURST, JR.

Ware of Stock Tipsters

Three more days to Christmas, and with this glad festival safely passed thousands of men will breathe easier, take stock of their depleted treasuries, and look about them for places of safekeeping in the hope that it will soon sprout, grow and bear fruit. This should not be content from now on. There is a distinct better feeling prevailing in commercial and industrial centres, due entirely to the movement in the money market and the stimulation of business by those mills, factories and foundries that shut down temporarily when money was held at prohibitive prices by those individuals and institutions that were hoarding it.

Stock brokers report that the volume of business transacted in small stocks is unprecedented, all of which goes to show that trading has been indulged in by those who sought investments, rather than by those of a speculative bent.

A glance at the stock lists today will disclose advances in prices of standard stocks within the past few weeks which had been their advantage of by in-bull when they were at the low ebb, would have netted them profits far above their fondest dreams. Many of these opportunities still exist and there are a number of good things to be plucked from the stocks still going begging for patronage.

As to the wise, however, and none other than that Napoleon of finance, J. Pierpont Morgan, need be quoted in this respect: "Beware of stock tipsters." It is obvious to all that Mr. Morgan had more than his money when he made this remark. Mr. Morgan has spent millions of dollars in the past few years advertising his stock-tipping bureau. Mr. Morgan, according to those who profess to know every move made in the world of stock speculation, has made hundreds of thousands of dollars over and above his advertising, yet strange to say, he has followed a course as regards his own transactions in direct contradiction to the advice he was selling at so much per.

The tone of business is so much improved that merchants in general do not hesitate to accept opportunities not in evidence at this time last year, and that evidence of prosperity is in sight which will require far more than a Wall Street carry to retard.

THE LITERARY MAN.

A glance at the current magazines indicates that man, more man is fast crowding his sister for honors as a contributor of light literature. A few years ago it was woman who held this field most successfully against all comers. The title pages of nearly every short story bore a woman's name, and man was left out in the cold. In looking through the Christmas magazines this year and, in fact, going back a few months, it can readily be seen that men are in the majority as authors of short stories—alive at last to the advantages and profit arising from this field of labor. Publishers of magazines are ever alert to the advantages of exploiting some heretofore unknown author in whom they believe they see latent signs of budding genius, and to this end every bit of manuscript finding its way to the publishers' desks is carefully scanned. Writers of good, snappy stories are more in demand than ever before, so sharp is the competition between rival publishers. It is a lucrative calling and one that necessarily leads to higher and broader fields, and that this fact is recognized is evident by the number of names to be found among the lists of authors in the late periodicals.

THE SMELL SUFFICIENT.

(Puck.)

Mrs. Casey—I don't know what we'll put in little Patsy's stocking! Mike, he writes a letter to 'Sanny Claus axin' for a pair of antymobile, no less.

Mr. Casey—Shure, we'll drop a few drops iv gassoline in it, and Pll bet he'll be thankful he didn't git 't rist iv th' machine.

A FEW OF THE BEST.

(Montreal Star.)

"Speaking of horses," said the English tourist, "what particular breed do you consider the best in this country?"

"Oh, we have so many to choose from it would be difficult to name the best," replied the Canadian. "Among others, we have the saw horse, the clothes horse, and the political dark horse."

Game Birds Disappearing

Sportsmen may be surprised to learn that unless the Department of Agriculture bestirs itself very shortly the game bird in this country will soon be extinct. So rapidly has the deficit grown that for several years past our National Farmer has been importing numbers of the feathered tribe to restock our preserves. During the present year 5,000 English partridges and nearly 10,000 English pheasants were imported, and the Department of Agriculture has been endeavoring to check the wholesale slaughter of game birds in those states that have failed to enact and enforce laws looking toward their protection.

Congress will doubtless be asked to take some steps toward checking the wholesale slaughter of game birds in those states that have failed to enact and enforce laws looking toward their protection.

THE BEST KIND.

(London Opinion.)

"I hope you are fond of all your relations. Which do you like best?"

"Dead ones."

Green is the Rage.

Green is the predominating shade in the more fashionable haberdasheries at present, and greens of every shade are there to be found. Especially popular are greens for shirts and neckwear, and yet these tints are by no means confined to this department of man's wardrobe. Green stockings are shown in a bewildering combination of tints, and again underwear of the most delicate silken fibre is made up in greens, soft soft and delicate and again so glaring as to dazzle the eyes of all who behold it. Pajamas, too, are seen in the verdant hues, and altogether the winter runs to green where man's fancy is concerned.

Some of the shirts are very attractive and delicate. All, more or less, run to a tiny pin stripe or some figure daintily interwoven and barely discernible. The scarfs of this shade are a trifle more pronounced and are shown in the louder patterns. So distinct is the rage for greens that several well-known New York men have been seen on Fifth avenue of late wearing patent leather boots with green kid tops.

In the fierce lexicon of murder the point is to prove the accused sufficiently insane to escape electrocution, but not so mentally deranged as to deserve incarceration.

Building the Home by Contract versus Day Labor.

BY CHAS. S. SEDGWICK.

The question of how to build a home is one of the most common inquiries that is brought before the architect for his opinion.

1. The average business man outside of the building trade knows little or nothing regarding building and how it should be done.

2. Although he may be acquainted with material dealers, he cannot buy materials to advantage, and between the buying, the delivery and the using there will be an unavoidable waste.

3. Concentration of work in the hands of one man results in economy of time, economy of materials and economy in outlay.

4. Subdividing of contracts always results in greater outlay.

It will be seen from these few propositions that I am in favor of letting work by contract, first, last and always, and notwithstanding what anyone might say to the contrary, I know that it is strictly in the interest of the owner to place the work under contract in the hands of a reliable man. In giving this advice I am assuming that the contractors are reliable, competent to estimate quantities and values, men of character and of integrity in purpose. There are many so-called contractors that will not come under this head. Of such we are not writing.

In a long and extended experience with building contractors, such as I would con-

Exquisite Gowns for Evening Wear

BY DOROTHY DALE.

The ball and dinner gowns of the present season are very delightful as to material, but it is in the coloring and design that most of the distinction of the models lies. The new gowns shown for the gay holiday season are many of them rather daring as to color combination, but so cleverly are the shades used that the effect is exquisite. It takes an artist in dress to design such gowns, but the French and American women are as clever as the French as to color, and with the imported models as guides, can design lovely costumes for evening wear.

In selecting tones, any materials for such dresses should all be selected under gas or electric light, which often changes in a marked degree the coloring of the various materials. Both of the styles shown are high-busted, short-waisted and fitted. The new imported gowns, with the Empire models are made with the waist several inches higher than formerly, the skirts fitting very closely over the hips, and the frog and trailing, but it must be admitted that such models are only advisable for slender, graceful figures, and must even then be made by a very experienced gown-maker to be successful. However, this makes no difference; therefore, of new outlines is fashionable; therefore, of new outlines is fashionable; therefore, of new outlines is fashionable.

Some Homemade Novelties That Make Acceptable Gifts.

The illustration shows several Christmas novelties that will be easy to make, and can be copied without much expenditure.

The little rose case pictured, with little doll's face in the center, was suggested as a pretty way of giving money or fine candy. The foundation was a small, round candy box, plainly covered with green crepe paper. The rose was made of pink tissue paper in several shades, framed in yellow diamonds, forming the center of the flower. Money or a check is often sent in some little fancy case or box such as this, with rather more Christmas effect than in the usual way.

The two little turndown collar pictures are two dollars or over, but if one can do fine needlework, they can be made at a very small expense. One of those pictured is one of the novelties in the stiff linen collar, being made of striped linen, in color on which the dots being hand-embroidered to match the stripes. The cross-stitched linens are also very smart for these collars, the padded dots and the scalloping at the edge being done to match the color of the

The Children's Party and How to Give It

BY BEATRICE CAREY.

The Christmas season usually brings jolly gatherings of young people, and where there are children in the family a "children's party" is generally in order. Most people agree that where there are young people in the house Christmas is more enjoyable and often the elders enjoy the annual children's party quite as much as the children themselves. Of course, there should be a gayly decorated tree, lighted with numerous candles and hung with amusing favors and little gifts, but, as the parties are usually given during the holidays and generally after Christmas Day is over, the pretty tree itself will not hold the attention of the children very long, unless some amusing games or some pastime or other is made to entertain them.

Often, too, it is not found practical to have a large tree in these days of apartments or when the house is small, so although a miniature Christmas tree of the artificial kind may be used as a centerpiece on the dining-table, the children may be entertained in the drawing-room or living room, remembering that it is a poor plan to leave the amusement to the inspiration of the moment. Ten chances to one the shyness of the children and their evident embarrassment will strike you too, and you will not be able to think of a game which will break the ice. Plan ahead and prepare for the amusement of your little guests, and your party will be sure to be a success.

Original games are an invaluable aid in entertaining children, and when a touch of novelty is added to the fun and the children can play a game which is really new, their enjoyment is certain.

One very pretty and amusing game which is suitable for a party where both boys and girls are invited is the "Horse Race" game. This is not suitable for very young children, for whom I will suggest a few other games.

A long room or a wide long hall is necessary for the playing of this game and several bolts of inch-wide white tape and several pairs of scissors, all the same size and crossbar. White striped or barred with very narrow lines of black and worked in black are very chic, and white with blue, lavender, pink and red are all effective.

The other collar was in all white, the collar being buttonholed in scallops in white wash cotton. The linen was cut out as shown in the drawing, the edge being buttonholed in a straight line and a strip of lace insertion set in, either Valenciennes lace or fine Irish or cluny being used.

The linen case for jewelry or money which may be worn about the neck when travelling is another useful present illustrated. It is made in simple envelope shape, the model being in heavy white linen embroidered in Retzella embroidery. A chamouis case or inner envelope is made to slip inside, and a wash ribbon is attached long enough to go about a neck.

A Small Cottage Design.

Designed by Chas. S. Sedgwick, Architect, Minneapolis.

We submit for the consideration of our readers a small but neat cottage design of five rooms, the size being 20 feet wide by 24 feet deep. The cost of this house should not exceed \$1,200, as follows: All carpenter's material and labor complete, \$850; all mason work complete, \$250; painting, \$100; total cost, \$1,200. This approximate estimate does not include heating or plumbing, and contemplates building the house simply with Norway pine finish on the inside and hard pine floors, a good cellar and good foundation wall.

In constructing a small house of this description it is not necessary to timber it as heavily as would be needed in a large house, and if the sheathing on the outside is put on diagonally and well nailed, and the floor joists laid diagonally and well nailed to the joist, the framing may be quite light.

Such a cottage may be shingled all over on the outside and have a very rustic and artistic appearance, and the cost would

At a Dublin Party.

(The Bellman.)

The Countess of Aberdeen is at heart in favor of home rule, it is said. Recently there was a state garden party in Dublin, and her ladyship, anxious to know how the sympathies of her guests lay, asked a high official attached to the vice-regal court whether there were many Home Rulers present.

"That official did not sympathize with her ideals, 'None,' was his laconic reply, 'except your ladyship and the waiters.'"

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