

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., April 24, 1925.

HOUSECLEANING RAGE.

By Levi A. Miller.

"Now is the time, they say, but I say no sense!"
Better remain in peace till by and by;
Then, by degrees, set everything in order
When days grow warm beneath a warmer sky.
Let those who will bring to their discomfort,
And make their kith and kin look precious
glum,
Catch cold for want of fires—get faint and hungry;
And all because uneasy spring has come;
But girls, don't you do it."

It is a foregone conclusion, that every woman who reads the above verse will be willing to take her solemn oath, or affirmation, that it was written by a man. The conclusion is a very natural one, because the woman who can restrain herself from tearing out the stove, jerking up the carpets and washing windows the first day the sun shines brightly is a phenomenon, and it is not to be expected that one of her own sex would write a thing so at variance with their sentiments. It was a woman who wrote it, or at least Margaret Eyttinge's name is signed to it. She may have had a towel tied around her head, a big apron on with a tack-hammer in one pocket and a scrub-brush in the other, and her feet encased in a pair of well-worn rubbers. You never can tell by the poetry she writes what a woman has in her mind.

That peculiar quality of solar energy that sets a flowing the vital currents in the shrub and tree, starts boys to jumping and flying kites, arouses snakes from their lethargy and calls forth the modest daffodil, has a most marked effect on women. Like the birds, they begin singing earlier in the mornings than usual, and are fretful as porcupines. Carpets, wall paper and white-washing are their chief topics of conversation. A cobweb in the corner annoys them dreadfully, and a dirty window renders them nervous and ugly.

One day of sunshine in spring will work a wonderful change in a house at such times. The comfortable, tidy dress gives place to a ripped and slit wrapper, rings and bracelets are laid aside with bangs and collars, whole shoes give place to ragged ones supplemented by an old pair of rubbers, while a towel takes the place of the neat and becoming dusting cap.

If a man has any business to attend to out of town this is a good time to attend to it. He can be of little use at home unless he joins the gang. To attempt to do business and live in the house may set him crazy. If not so bad as that it may derange his liver and make him cranky, which is all the worse, for if there ever is a time when a woman is queen it is during house cleaning. She is then a sovereign ruler, and will tolerate no interference. The piano is locked up, the work-basket packed away in a closet, brass hammering tools exchanged for tack-hammers, and crochet needles for dust pans and feather dusters. Grate fronts are dragged out from their winter quarters, chimney stuffers raked out, and old barrels and ash buckets resurrected from their old hiding places. It is a mystery where she finds all these things, but she finds them, and there is no use objecting to their presence in the halls, on stair landings and cellar stairs.

Did you ever notice how unphilosophically a woman begins the spring cleaning? About the first move is to turn everything topsy-turvy in her bed room. The next is to pile things up in the parlor and leave them so. Thus she goes through the house until there is not a room that does not look as if there had been an auction in it. With hall carpets loosened and stair rods removed, a man is in danger of falling and breaking his neck at every step. Now a woman is ready to begin business. She has everything before her and she knows just what is to be done. With torn and bleeding fingers, knees sore and stiff from crawling over carpets, and shuffling step caused by ill-fitting shoes, she rushes in.

About the only indication that heaven has a hand in the affair is that the woman has torn everything up from cellar to garret. Were it not she would repent her rashness about the second day and retire to that portion of the house not in a state of chaos. But like Noah's dove, she has not where to set a foot. The bridges are burned behind her, and she must fight the engagement to a successful issue. The result is that housecleaning is over in a week, whereas if it were done, a room at a time, it would last the summer.

Men often object to having the house all torn up, but it is clear that they do not take a philosophic view of the matter. "The fiercer the storm the sooner it is over," applies beautifully to housecleaning; therefore, it is better to let it rage and spend its fury.

There is a great deal of nonsense about spring cleaning; also a great deal more fuss made over it than there is any necessity for. Women get excited and work themselves sick; men get nervous and bilious, while children usually do as they please. In a majority of instances there is probably more harm done than good. A clean house is a good thing, but not good enough for what it often costs.

Whether or not the poetess who wrote the text for this article was suffering from the effects of a recent attack of the house-cleaning mania or not, is neither here nor there, but she knows what is right. All women know it, too, but they haven't the nerve to do as well as they know. They cannot resist the impulses that come with the spring winds. If houses are kept as they should be, they do not need a special cleaning in the spring. Besides the early spring is not the best time for renovating and cleaning rooms. The air is too damp and chill to render them specially healthy, besides there is great danger of con-

tracting colds which may end in pneumonia, pleurisy, neuralgia or rheumatism; the suffering from either of which will in no way be compensated for by the improved appearance of the place. Washing windows is entitled to high rank as a cause of suffering and death among women. There is no other work about a house during the winter or spring that subjects one to more severe and dangerous drafts than this. The vigorous exercise of washing and polishing the inside of a window is likely to induce perspiration, while the sudden exposure to a sweeping draft of cold air while cleaning the outside is sure to produce a chill.

The best time to clean house is after the days have become warm enough to allow the windows to remain up all day long. Let everything be taken out of the room, the windows removed and the wind and sunlight allowed full play. This will do more to disinfect and freshen a room than all the scrubbing and dusting that can be done with closed doors and windows. If the room can be spared it will be the better for remaining vacant, with bare floor and open windows for two or three days. Whatever else is done, do not put carpet down on a damp floor. Life is not so short, nor the emergency so great, that a house must be cleaned all in one week; neither is the necessity for so doing such as to justify any woman in killing herself in order to get through with it as soon as some of her neighbors.

Men should remember that housecleaning is a sort of mania with some women, and that the best way to get along is to humor them, and make them think they are great fellows. One thing they should kindly and firmly insist on—that fire-places be left open, and stoves allowed until the cold spring rains and chilly nights have really passed; even if it be not until July.

Men might take a hand in the picnic; not that they are likely to do a great deal of good in the way of cleaning, but for the favorable impression they will make on their wives.

Nearly every family is now busily engaged in housecleaning. No wonder Freeman Hile was overheard to say: "The devil is to pay and nothing to pay him with."

Central Pennsylvania Scenery and Touring Motorists.

A concerted effort to direct the attention of the touring motorists of the country to scenic and historic wonders of Pennsylvania is about to be made by the Pennsylvania Motor Federation and the American Automobile Association.

The first step in the plan will be the issue in May of a special number of the American Motorist, the official organ of the organized motorists of the country, devoted exclusively to the exploitation of the Keystone Commonwealth. The best qualified writers in the State have been enlisted in the enterprise and the result of their efforts will undoubtedly be to stimulate interest in Pennsylvania touring. The 78 motor clubs throughout the State that are affiliated with the P. M. F. are all keenly interested in this venture and are giving it their active support.

Frederick A. Godcharles, of Milton, Pennsylvania, former Deputy Secretary of State, will write descriptive stories of the leading routes through the State, with scenic beauties and historic features of the State as the background. Mr. Godcharles is one of the outstanding exponents of Pennsylvania. He is the author of "Daily Stories of Pennsylvania," and of "Pennsylvanians Past and Present," which are syndicated to forty daily newspapers.

Dr. John T. Farris, author of "Seeing Pennsylvania," and "Seeing the Middle West," will concentrate especially on carrying the tourist through Pennsylvania's historic trails.

The magazine will be illustrated with cuts of the historic places of our State and many views of our highways taken along the different trails.

1,000,000 Killed Daily.

The automobile takes its toll of thousands of human lives annually, while more than 1,000,000 animals and birds are crushed to death daily by motorists during the tourist season. This is the astounding estimate made by Prof. Dayton Stoner, of the University of Iowa. In making a trip of 632 miles, principally through farming communities of Iowa, Professor Stoner counted the dead bodies of 225 reptiles, birds and mammals. Within a space of 211 miles of his journey, made over graveled roads, 105 dead animals were counted. Averaging the destruction of animal life for the 3,000,000 miles of auto roads in the United States, he computes the total daily loss of all species of animals and birds at over 1,000,000. The hunters and trappers may slay their thousands, but in the wanton destruction of small animal life the death-dealing auto is the greatest menace.—Our Dumb Animals.

Spiders as Factory Workers.

Two hundred spiders are employed yearly in the manufacture of a certain make of engineer instrument. They are kept busy spinning threads, which are wound up gently as the spider runs away. After being steamed and stretched so that changes of climate and temperature will not affect them, these threads are used, in the form of "cross hairs," to mark the exact center of the object lens of each instrument.

Only two species of spiders, it has been found, spin webs of the proper size and strength. Although but five ten-thousandths of an inch in diameter, the strands have been known to remain intact through forty years of use.

The Track Supervisor received the following note from one of his track foremen:

"I'm sending in the accident report on Casey's foot when he struck it with the spike maul. Now under 'Remarks,' do you want mine or do you want Casey's."

Real Estate Transfers.

Harry B. Gentzel, et ux, to Uriah G. Ammerman, tract in Penn township; \$280.

Harry E. Eckenroth, et ux, to Emma Houtz, et bar, tract in Spring township; \$800.

Della Albright, et al, to Irvin P. Kern, tract in Penn township; \$735.

Frederick K. Karter, et ux, to David M. Bradford, tract in Centre Hall; \$1,900.

Albert Schenck, et ux, to Samuel E. Poorman, tract in Howard township; \$3,290.

Coburn Farm Products Co., to Sheffield Farms Co., Inc., tract in Penn township; \$1.

Hannah Lee Williams to Aikenside Farms, tract in State College; \$200.

Mary I. C. McMillen, et bar, to Ida M. Jackson, tract in College township; \$270.

W. F. Ghaner, et ux, to O. E. Miller, et al, trustee, tract in Patton township; \$150.

William C. Martin, et ux, to Daniel Marks, tract in Harris township; \$700.

L. P. Korman to Wingard Brothers, tract in Penn township; \$260.

A. B. Kern to George Wingard, tract in Penn township; \$480.

L. P. Korman to Henry W. Wingard, et al, tract in Penn township; \$190.

LeRoy K. Metzger, et ux, to Charles Schlow, tract in State College; \$18,000.

Adam F. Heckman, et ux, to S. Edward Brown, tract in Potter township; \$4,500.

Newton C. Neidigh to Joseph C. Shoemaker, tract in State College; \$10,500.

E. R. Taylor, sheriff, to Olive J. Brown, tract in State College; \$6,800.

Lydia E. Irvin to Charles J. Reese, tract in Boggs township; \$1,000.

James C. Furst, Exr., to Harry Ward, tract in Bellefonte; \$2,000.

Andrew Lytle, et ux, to Elizabeth Witmer, tract in College township; \$65.

C. E. Gunsberg to Catherine Yearick, tract in Walker township; \$650.

William D. Custard, et ux, to Margaret M. Fulton, tract in State College; \$3,500.

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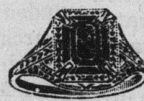
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