

Social and PERSONAL

The past week has been unusually dull in a social way. Perhaps the near approach of Christmas appeals to the feminine head of the family and causes her to think more about shopping and preparing for the holiday festivities than of planning entertainments for the present.

This question of Christmas gifts again looms up in colossal proportions. Of course it is a burden because we make it such in our mad tearing around and in our frantic endeavors to grudge here and there.

Everybody remembers the pathetic story of the man to whom his wife submitted an extensive list of articles suitable for his Christmas present, from which he was commanded to make a selection or to which he might add some other yearned for attraction.

The first large social event of the season took place Thursday at the handsome suburban home of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Sturges on North Washington avenue, when two large receptions were given in honor of Mrs. Clarence Sturges and Miss Helen Douglas Saxe, the fiancée of Mr. George Sturges.

The reception at the Bowling association Tuesday evening in honor of Congressman William Connell, was one of the pleasantest events which have taken place in years at that popular club so noted for its social affairs in the past.

The marriage of Miss Marie Schlenz to Rev. William Brucker, of Woodville, O., was a pretty event which took place in the Chestnut Street German Presbyterian church Wednesday evening.

Bedleman's holiday book rooms, in the Board of Trade building, were made a popular place last evening, on the occasion of the opening. It was quite

Religious News.

The ladies of the Second Presbyterian church served an elaborate and bountiful turkey supper last night in the basement of the church. A large number of patrons were present.

The bride of Henry George is a fine musician and received a diamond medal for her proficiency when at the Chicago Musical college. She is also much interested in politics as lefts the wife chosen by the late distinguished leader's son.

Dr. G. E. Hill is in Rochester. Attorney A. A. Vosburg is in New York. Mr. J. P. Dickson has been ill for several days.

The pastor of Calvary Reformed church will preach his first anniversary sermon on Sunday, Dec. 5, which will mark the close of his first year's work in this city.

At the Jackson Street Baptist church it will be Anniversary Day. At 10 o'clock prayer meeting; leader, William Thomas.

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Religious News.

Bishop Ninds and Dr. Schell have sent out a letter to Epworth League chapters which contains the following: "The growth of the Epworth League still attracts comment. We now have in the Methodist Episcopal church alone 18,000 regular and nearly 6,000 member chapters--fully 1,650,000 members.

The addition of a large cross to the altar furnishings of Holy Trinity Lutheran church has greatly improved the churchly expression of that sanctuary. Whatever may be said about the abuse of the symbol of the cross, which is the symbol of the Christian church, there is no altar complete in its ecclesiastical furnishings without the symbol of the cross.

At the Epworth League church, the pastor, Rev. Charles G. Spieker, has secured for the congregation, the Rev. Mr. Spieker has likewise introduced the proper attitude of the pastor in prayer by turning to the altar.

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NICK IN OUR CHINA THE PATHOS OF LIFE

The Theory of Household Accidents, According to the Cook. OTHER CHIPPED POSSESSIONS The Person Who Takes Nicks Out of Our Gowns, Our Friends, Our Opinions, Hopes and Fears--Not Even Our Faith Is Spared--A Warning We Should Heed.

There was never a woman in the wide world who didn't have nicks in her china. I dare say the heathen in her blindness who has bowed down to wood and stone for generation after generation feels desolate when she discovers a nick in her favorite god and her modern civilized sister is overwhelmed with dismay and grief when a pet dish, by association dear to her, has mysteriously acquired a similar blemish.

Whether produced by accident or malice, a chipped dish is a horror to its owner, who will generally prefer it in the shape of a total wreck than with even the tiniest nick apparent. The average mind of all work has different views and frequently exercises not a little ingenuity, it would seem, in taking chips out of plates and saucers in systematic order, while a handless cup affords superior charms.

The housemistress wails in desperation if a chipped saucer is to be seen, for the expense of the destroyer's wages, but is sure to feel very uncomfortable after taking this course and to be convinced that the annoyance of the loss is aggravated by such a process.

China isn't our only treasured possession which suffers nicks, and the house-maids and cooks aren't the only peacocks. There are a great many people who enjoy nicking the dearest things in their lives. Some are privileged to charge them in dollars and cents for the costs. They take chips out of our new gloves by telling us that the particular brand we are wearing isn't as satisfactory as a different one which they have found.

There is the person who compliments your youngest son thus: "Dear me, what a fine handsome lad he is growing to be. What a pity that he has lost his hair!" Now, you've never before

NICK IN OUR CHINA THE PATHOS OF LIFE

felt that Joe's toying in was likely to seriously interfere with his future career, but somehow you suddenly realize that you have been very remiss in not having a surgical operation on the offending locks in early childhood.

Sometimes the person destructively inclined breaks an ugly little chip out of your faith, which is never again so symmetrical and lovely. Sometimes it is your belief in yourself which is injured. This may not be such a horrible calamity after all, as by careful readjustment of position, a new standpoint may develop unexpected attractions. It is more bitter when the chip is your own life. It is chipped even the finest air, by a malicious or tactless acquaintance.

This is indeed a sorrow, often more pitiless than death. When faith in some mortal has "become a passionate passion," it is always a fearful thing to have it even faintly shattered by a chance word of a "frank" third person. Oh, these awful frank people and these careless servants! What a trial they are to be sure. It is a pity that we do not see them as horrible examples to warn us against rough handling of the pet notions, the fancies, the reputation of others, as we would of their costly china or dainty bric-a-brac. Oh, for the velvet touch of speech as well of fingers.

From the Chicago Inter-Ocean. To fully understand the domestic spirit and simplicity of the Norwegian it may be of interest to know that the Storting, some years ago, abolished as incompatible with true democracy such superfluous ornaments as his or her majesty, or his or her royal highness, etc., in the title of the Storting. Such honorary titles for certain public officials as "his excellency" or "the honorable" have also fallen out of use, but many of the public officers retain the honorifics when they step out of office, as, for example, one who has once been a member of the cabinet always afterward retains the title "statesman" (statsmann).

No Reason to Make Excuse. "Come and take lunch with me today," said one business man to another. "I can't. I've an appointment." "Can't you break it?" "No; a man has promised to come to my office at noon and pay me some money." "Oh, then, that's all right. I'll order lunch for two. He won't come."

RED ROUGH HANDS. Itching, scaly, bleeding, cracked, swollen, and painful finger ends, pimples, blackheads, oily, scaly skin, dry, thin, and falling hair, itching, scaly scalp, all yield quickly to warm baths with CUTICURA (ointment), the great skin cure. CUTICURA. There is the person who compliments your youngest son thus: "Dear me, what a fine handsome lad he is growing to be. What a pity that he has lost his hair!" Now, you've never before

1,000 ROLLS OF CARPETS. Do You Realize What This Means? 50,000 YARDS, OR CARPETS FOR 2,000 ROOMS. We had an opportunity of buying, for spot cash, from three of the largest carpet mills, all they had made up from free wool; including all the new Spring patterns. This will be an opportunity to buy Rugs for a Christmas Present. WILLIAMS' PATENT ANNUITY, SCRANTON AND PITTSBURGH.