

THE SUMMER AT HOME.

How It May Be Comfortably Passed by Those Who Cannot Take an Outing.

There are so many summer resorts nowadays, pleasant spots within easy reach and comparatively inexpensive, that all but the very poor may usually enjoy at least a week or a fortnight at one of them.

Indeed, there are many discomforts that such a course entails. Heat and dust and noise and monotony—all these the summer at home means, in contrast to tantalizing thoughts of sea air and bathing, or mountain coolness and greenness, freedom, natural beauty and rest.

To get the benefits of a vacation at home, one must assume a mental attitude of willingness to make the best of the case. Having put oneself into a cheerful frame of mind about staying at home, many devices for passing the time agreeably and usefully will present themselves.

A wise physician once remarked to a woman patient, troubled with a slight, persistent nervousness: "There are two ways of curing your trouble. You can do it yourself by thinking on new things, and resting your brain thus, or you can go away for a period of recreation, which is exactly the same thing, only more expensive."

The same thought applies to the vacation need. The strain of winter work and of winter amusements leaves most people, especially women, in a condition of greater or less nervous exhaustion. They crave change more than they are restless, mentally, than for any other reason.

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THROUGH DANUBE'S GATES.

Remarkable Scheme for Towing Vessels Against the Tide in the River.

For centuries the navigation on the Danube, the largest river of Europe next to the Volga, was greatly hampered by the so-called Iron Gates, a celebrated defile in the river at the confluence of Hungary, Serbia and Roumania.

During the years of 1890 to 1896 a scheme was carried out here which involved immense difficulties. A canal 125 feet wide and seven feet deep was cut through the rocks of the Iron Gates. No less than 14,000,000 cubic feet of rocky masses had to be blasted and more than 30,000,000 cubic feet of stone and earth had to be excavated.

One drawback, however, remained. The current in the Iron Gates is immense, averaging from 14 to 18 feet per second, and it was especially difficult to tow the barges laden with ships to tow the barges against the current.

A wire rope 20,000 feet in length and almost one foot in diameter, having a resistance of 84 tons, is strongly anchored to a rock at the upper end of the gates at the bottom of the river bed. This rope or cable runs over a drum on board the steamer.

HOW TO BUY BEEF. By Purchasing Fairly Large Quantities the Butcher's Bill Will Be Perceptibly Reduced.

Among meats beef leads off as the most expensive; but it is also the most nourishing for people in good health, writes Mary Graham, in the Woman's Home Companion.

Autos in the Wheat Field. In the immense California wheat fields the modern steam traction engines, or "automobiles," as they are called, have cheapened the cost of harvesting wheat on the Pacific coast so that the grain can be raised there at less actual cost than in the Argentine Republic, where farm labor is only a fraction of a dollar per day.

One Experiment. The shy damsel whom the unassuming youth had taken to the restaurant had ordered everything on the menu except bread and butter, when she turned to the young man and said: "Do you know, I am not one bit hungry."

Weather Service of the Philippines. The Jesuit fathers of Manila have maintained a meteorological observatory for many years. Since 1894 Father Aguirre has made a special study of the typhoons of the region. His extensive report on the subject is now in course of publication as a congressional document (Senate document No. 138, Fifty-sixth congress, first session).

GIRLS OF THE NETHERLANDS.

Jerous and Alert and Many of Them Are More Than Passing Fair.

Dutch girls talk rather loud, move decidedly, and are often bright and ready in manner. They are frequently very pretty, with fair hair, blue eyes, white teeth, and pink cheeks; that is, the Saxon type. The Frisian type is tall and slight, with bright color, and a quick, eager look.

These joyous, alert, young girls settle down into the sedate matron, which every Dutchwoman thinks it her duty to become. They have strong domestic tastes and affections, and when married are devoted to their homes, their husbands and their children.

A woman who does not marry, and who has a little money, can lead a very pleasant life. After five-and-twenty she is allowed as much liberty as if she were a married woman.

More girls of the higher classes remain unmarried than of old, and fill their lives with many interests. Living is cheap in Holland, and a woman can live comfortably on £150 a year, and is quite well off on £200, able to afford her own house and a good servant, to go constantly to the theater and to travel in the summer.

PICTURES THAT POINT. Trick of Artists in "Foreshortening" to Give a Moving Effect to Drawings.

With the exception of making the eyes of a portrait follow you 'round, there is no trick of the draughtsman which so much impresses the general public as violent foreshortening, remarked the designer for a St. Louis lithographing establishment taking a vacation in this city to a New Orleans Times-Democrat man.

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PERSONAL AND IMPERSONAL.

A Jury at Indianapolis Has Acquitted a man charged with passing counterfeit money, the counterfeiters having been put into a "jack-pot" during a poker game.

In a recent interview Bjornson declared that Europe consists of two races—the French and the others. "France," he said, "has surrounded herself with a Chinese wall."

Dr. Hannah W. Longshore, the first woman to practice medicine in Philadelphia, has just celebrated her eighty-second birthday. She has been a physician in the Quaker City for half a century, and was born there.

Rev. Dr. John Watson ("Jan Mac-laren") and others recently dined with W. S. Caine, M. P. Mr. Caine offered to give £50 to a hospital fund through the man who would make the best pun on his name within five minutes.

Edward Tuck's gift to Dartmouth college of \$100,000 for a building for the Tuck School of Administration and Finance, already established by him with an endowment of \$350,000, is a noteworthy event.

A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK. She Caught the "Rebate" Idea from Her Father and Did Business on That Basis.

This incident is recalled because of the fact that the traveling freight agents recently made a flying visit to the city, and incidentally held their fifth annual convention, says the Detroit Free Press.

When the couple were about to engage in housekeeping her husband told her to figure out about what her household expenses would be, allow a margin in her favor, and fix the answer as determining the amount of the weekly allowance he would give her.

So the grocer advanced his price 20 per cent., and allowed her 15 per cent. rebate, an arrangement highly satisfactory to herself. She secured an equally gratifying bargain with the dry goods merchant, the millman, the dressmaker, the coal dealer and the ice man.

New Theory of Longevity. The great question of the elixir of life has been vexing philosophers for centuries. A scientific man has now entered the field with a new theory for prolonging man's mortal span.

AMERICANS LIKE SCENTS.

Tons of Violets Grown to Make Pomades—10,000 Pounds of Roses Make One Pound of Essence.

Throughout the south, in southern California and the middle west there are many places where soil and climate are particularly adapted to flower growing, and the field is open for some energetic individual to start an industry which eventually might become as great as those of renown at Grasse or Nice, says the Washington Star.

Pomades are first made, a sort of stock, from which the skillful perfumer extracts the odors by means of alcohol. The refuse, or waste material, he then, with a little judicious doctoring, makes into soaps, or pomades or toilet waters.

The distillation of scent is usually done by a machine, which collects the water or oil and thus obtains the very quintessence of perfume. Something of its value may be conceived when it is known that 10,000 pounds of rose leaves produce but one pound of the essence, but of such intense strength are these essences that with the aid of oils, resin or some animal secretions, perfumers, through combinations and manipulations, can obtain from them almost any desired scent.

At one time we had thrust upon us innumerable golden-rod perfumes, because the plant was then being talked about for the national flower. The sweet-scented golden rod, solidago odorata, however, is the only one of the great tribe which has any perceptible odor, and that being similar to anise would hardly be agreeable to wear continually about one's clothes.

Everything, it must be remembered, in connection with the handling of the flowers must be done quickly, for much depends on their perfect freshness, their scent being their most elusive and quickly lost characteristic.

Always there seems to be a demand for some new scent. The well-known frangipanni essence, which at one time was only detected on a certain select few, is made up from several species of plumeria, a genus of plants which grows in certain parts of South America and in the West Indies, or perhaps more especially from plumeria rubra, the Japanese. Gichia, now the most exclusive and fashionable scent, leaves a wave of faint impressions similar to the odor of sandalwood.

Of Course. "What did the lawyer say when you explained your case to him?" asked Mrs. Baxter. "He said it was fee-ible," replied Mr. Baxter.—Detroit Free Press.

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GRAY WOLF OF RANGES.

Dangerous Foe of Cattle, Sheep and Horses—Often Beaten by Equine Strategy.

Lib Vincent, one of Wyoming's old-time cow-punchers, and now riding on the Powder river ranges, says that the gray wolves of his section are legion in number and so fearless as they are ferocious, relates the Denver News.

These gray and greedy scourges of the Powder river stock areas do their raiding in bands ranging in numbers of from six to thirty, each band being organized and disciplined under the leadership of an old dog wolf especially chosen for his wariness, speed and endurance.

The age or size of their quarry is of little moment with these wolves, as they pull down and devour alike cows, calves, steers, mares, colts and geldings. Their attack is always strategic and systematic, one portion of the band assaulting from the front and fastening on to shoulder, ear or muzzle, and thus giving the big wild gray dogs who are ever closing in from the rear the objective opportunity of hamstringing the victim.

The cattle herds are open and easy prey to the bold canine bandits, the cattle fleeing from the pursuers and thus rendering individuals attack easy and successful. The horses, however, with their superior intelligence, very frequently beat off the wolves by forming on the open ground an equine square, with the mares and colts in the center, the gallant stallions on the corners and the best and bravest geldings distributed on the outer lines of defense.

This is an especial result when the horse herd has with it a stallion experienced in range life. He can smell a wolf further than he can see him, and at his shrill and warning neigh the herd rushes together and quickly forms the protecting square. The wolves fully appreciate this fact, and instances have been known of a gray band numbering scores of raiders trotting leisurely around one of these embattled equine squares and then seeking other and easier prey.

Up to six months old the gray wolf pup is awkward and unskillful, and it is a favorite cowboy pastime of the Powder river ranges to locate a gray wolf litter on the prairie and shoot the pups from horse-back as they skulkingly roll and tumble from their coverts in the grass and sagebrush. Crack shots with the pistol have been known to get a pup with every bullet from their six-shooters.

Michael and His Honor. He was rather the worse for speech-liquor when he faced the magistrate in the Central police court the other morning, and it didn't require a rich brogue to indicate his ancestry.

A New Affair. A lady, whose maid accompanied her to a vegetarian restaurant in London, was soon the recipient of a protest. "But, Mary," she argued, "the food is palatable—you cleared your plate—and it is certainly wholesome. Why do you object?"

"The minister doesn't bring his little girl to church any more?" "No; the one Sunday her mother brought her she said right out loud: 'Why, mamma, you never let papa do all the talking t' home.'"—Philadelphia Bulletin.