

cordance with the latest styles, but it is too old for a young lady. The *Bordeaux saphir*, and bronze shades will be the most fashionably worn this winter. The new color is the "Zulu," a dull copper color, but it is excessively trying; in fact, very unbecoming to almost every one. Your mull will make up very prettily with lace over pink and blue silk. Have at least one made with wide silk belt and round surplice waist. The cream bunting with garnet velvet, and the two colors in satin ribbon for trimming will be very pretty, but do not add a collar of velvet to the velvet vest. The white satin will cut over very nicely for a short ball dress, and be really more distinguishing than a long trail. Cut off the basque in front, if it has one, and make a wide belt of the satin, starting from the side seams. Trim it high across the front, and drape the back softly and irregularly. Your handwriting is not yet as characteristic as it will be, but it denotes refinement and the promise of a woman possessed of a discriminating judgment, and a fine, evenly-balanced character.

## LITERATURE

**Farm and Fireside.**—This popular journal of agriculture has deservedly attained an enormous circulation. It is an eight-page paper, is published twice a month, and is only fifty cents per year. In addition to this, the enterprising proprietors advertise an elegant pocket-book as a premium, which they send free to every subscriber, and which certainly looks worth all the money. Gentlemen who do not want so handsome a pocket-book will be suited with an excellent knife, by sending two or more subscribers to the publishers at Springfield, Ohio.

**A Christmas Story from Miss L. M. Alcott.**—We have the pleasure of announcing a Christmas story from the brilliant pen of Miss Louise M. Alcott, author of "Little Women," etc. The story will be written expressly for this MAGAZINE, and with all the force and earnestness that underlies the sparkling wit and strong characterization of the author. It may be counted upon as a treat.

**Martin Luther.**—We shall shortly give our readers a striking illustrated sketch of Martin Luther, with pictures of his home and domestic life, and a copy of a valuable portrait by Holbein, now in the collection at Windsor.

**"A Winter in Algeria"** will be found interesting, by the author of "Elizabeth," "Strangers Yet," etc.

**Ladies will find** the illustrated article on sea-weeds specially interesting and valuable.

**A Serial Story by the Author of "Little Women."**—With the January number we shall begin a serial story by Miss L. M. Alcott, entitled "Victoria; a Woman's Statue," in which the heroine works out her own salvation in spite of many obstacles, and makes her life a finer statue than any that comes from her studio. The first chapter is of "Clay," the second, "Plaster," the third, "Marble." It is one of Miss Alcott's finest and most dramatic efforts.

**"Summer Savory,"** issued by S. C. Griggs & Co., is one of Benj. F. Taylor's pleasant books of travel, and is dedicated to his "life-long friend," Mr. S. C. Griggs of Chicago. Mr. Taylor has picked up the material for the present volume in rambles about Utah, Colorado, and the golden West generally, and of course the book smells of the mountains and the fresh ozone. It is a pity that it is marred by a somewhat forced style of expression, which occasionally makes the reading as hard as one imagines the writing must have been.

**"The Breton Mills."**—The author of this work has had the advantage of the attractive style in which G. P. Putnam's Sons always issue their publications, but it lacks every element of a good story. The author is over-weighted in the first place by his hero, who carries about with him that awful burden, a mission; and he makes an unlikely plot the vehicle of some rather forcible harangues on the rights of labor and capital. The better way would have been to have lectured them, and not deceived any one into supposing "Breton Mills" a story.

**"Plant Sweet Flowers on My Grave."**—This is the title of an excellent new song and chorus, by Eddie Fox, of minstrel fame. The melody is beautiful, and the words plaintive and touching. It is published by F. W. Helmich, Fourth Street, Cincinnati.

## In the Mountains.

RICHFIELD SPRINGS.

This pretty summer resort occupies an exceptional position among the watering-places of America. It is situated in a shallow basin of the hills of Otsego Co., New York, the summits of which overlook the Mohawk Valley and a vast extent of beautiful and fertile country on the eastern side of which are the Adirondacks, and in the midst of which are six lovely lakes, some of them of great extent, as Lake Otsego, and all set in a striking and picturesque framework of hill, and wood, and dale, with a cultivated garden-like country beyond.

One of the distinctive growths of the region consists of hops, and it was these which raised the farmers to a degree of almost unexampled prosperity. Of late years hops have not been so good or so sure a crop, and dairy products are cultivated with more assiduity and to a greater extent than formerly. Still, the hop-poles form a picturesque feature in the landscape, and though they rarely yield the maximum of a thousand pounds to the acre, which was formerly not uncommon, yet still they are a profitable crop, and "hop-picking" in the early autumn gives a tinge of romance to the monotony of the working-hoes of the region.

Richfield is a village of one main street, with a hill at the end of it, like the one described by Miss Milford in "Our Village." It has also, however, some very pretty side streets, many pretty residences, and leading away in almost every direction, farms of fifty to a hundred acres, with dwellings and grounds marked by vastly more taste than is usually found in an agricultural community.

The fame of Richfield was acquired through its sulphur springs, which are the most powerful of any found in this country. It is half a century since the discovery of the principal one, and it does not seem to have varied in strength or general characteristics since that time, although it has been constantly drawn from during the summer season by thousands of persons, bottled from, and used for bath purposes. Other springs have been discovered, some of which are utilized, but none are equal in strength to the first; and one of the curious facts in regard to it is, that in a very cold region, where the winters are long, the temperature never varies more than half a degree the whole year round. The waters contain other elements besides sulphur, principally magnesia and potassium, and are useful in sciatica and liver diseases as well as the acuter forms of rheumatism, and are excellent, combined with the mountain air, for hay-fever, and malarial difficulties.

Doubtless much more benefit would be derived if a more accurate knowledge and more systematic attention to the use of the waters as remedial agents was generally obtained. The recklessness with which the average visitor to any of the great mineral springs of this country will drink the waters in varying quantities, and at any part of the day or evening, on the top or before the heartiest meals, without the advice of a physician, and without the least knowledge of how the system is likely to be affected by the introduction of so much saline or sulphurous matter in a liquid form, is strange, to say the least of it. The taking of the baths is a matter of quite as much moment, and the "happy accident" by which apparently miraculous cures of chronic cases are sometimes effected, might just as well be the rule if the conditions were equally observed.

The great resources of Richfield Springs are the beautiful drives in every direction, and the lake. The latter is four and a half miles long by a mile and a half broad, and is a great resort for rowing and fishing; while the grounds at the "Lake House," and also at "Walnut Grove," half a mile below, though not improved as much as they

might be, are still provided with abundance of beautiful shade trees, and the means of spending many pleasant hours.

The ride to Cooperstown is through the valley, and along the shore of Lake Otsego for the last eight miles, the river road forming one long avenue of noble trees. Another road takes its way over the hills, and this is usually employed for the return drive, as the views after leaving Otsego are so much finer by the hill than by the valley road.

The most comprehensive view of the entire valley of the Mohawk, of the surrounding hills which hold it as in a basin, of the distant Adirondacks, and the six lovely lakes—including Otsego, Schuyler, the Twin Lakes, Allan's Lake or Pond (a beautiful sheet of water fed by an unfailing spring, which supplies Richfield through its recently completed water-works with water of the very purest quality), and one other, whose name is not now remembered, but which shine like jewels in the setting of the cultivated landscape—is from the Waiontha observatory, erected on the summit of "Waiontha" mountain, the highest point in the vicinity, said to be 2,700 feet above tidewater mark.

There is another fine view from "Cruger's," a spacious old mansion between Richfield and Cooperstown, but it is less comprehensive. There are some very romantic drives but little known to visitors, and numerous villages scattered here and there, which form, more or less, points of attraction, though there are no large cities near Richfield, and the country is principally divided up into small, well-cultivated farms.

The class of persons who visit Richfield are the solid and well-to-do residents of New York, Philadelphia, and other cities, but principally the two named, for whom Saratoga is too fashionable, and who prefer the air inland as a holiday change, to that of the seaside which they get in New York all the year round. It is a great mistake to suppose that it is frequented entirely by invalids; the persons who go year after year rarely take the waters; they go for the air and the beauty of the place, its attractive mixture of gaiety with home-like comfort, and its freedom from all extravagance of dress and dissipation. Of drinking there is scarcely any, of drunkenness none, and the strict laws regarding the killing of all animals or poultry within the precincts, and the care in regard to drainage, preserves a remarkable degree of sanitary purity in the place and its surroundings.

The chief hotels are the "Spring" House, the "American," the "Tuller," the "Cananderago" House, and the "Davenport." The Spring House is the most fashionable, the Tuller the most comfortable and home-like. Mrs. Jewell, the wife of the present proprietor, is the daughter of Mr. Tuller, the original proprietor, and the house preserves not only the kindly atmosphere of its original ownership, but bears the impress of the constant supervision of an intelligent woman's tasteful and careful hands.

There is a great deal of very nice young society at Richfield Springs, and an "Equestrian" Club, lawn tennis, garden parties, and other recreations flourish there. The band is divided between the two principal hotels, and well patronized hops take place on every alternate night at each of them. The regular season ends early in September, but it is very pleasant in the autumn, and many extend their stay, or go specially during September to escape hay-fever.

The short dress is almost universally worn, and thin dresses are but little required. Short dresses of thin wool, flannel, camel's-hair, and the like are most useful, and are made very pretty and picturesque, with broad belt, and straight side bands of woolen brocade, kilt-plaited fronts, and draped backs. In the evening the young ladies wear dotted muslin over white, or colored silk with broad satin sashes, or creamy gaseline or



fine white bunting trimmed with ivory satin in sashes and cascades of satin bows. Deep garnet silks are sometimes seen with rich lace fichus, and handsome black silks with amber, or iris-hued bead fringe and passementerie. Everybody carries round knitted woolen shawls, and warmth in dress is essentially requisite on account of the cool evenings and mornings which distinguish even the warmest weather.

Like most of the mountain resorts, Richfield Springs is distinguished by the superior quality of its service, the attendance being mainly drawn from the farming population in the vicinity. The girls are neat, quick, willing; can turn their hands to anything, and are ready to do so in an emergency. The most of them live at home during the winter, and gain the money for their clothing, and often for family needs, during the few months of service in summer, and hop-picking in the fall.

As an evidence of the individuality which develops itself may be cited the case of a colored boy, the son of a laundress, who twelve years ago assisted his mother in carrying the clothes from and to the different hotels. From being an errand boy about the Tuller House, he was promoted to assist the cook in the kitchen in cases of emergency, and soon so far surpassed that functionary, that he took her place. During this whole time he was a passionate lover of music, and cultivated it at every opportunity. His increased earnings enabled him to take lessons in technique, and he was soon an accomplished musician. He has been chief cook at the Tuller House now for eleven years, and has a detached room, away from the kitchen offices, which is very prettily furnished with Brussels carpet, chintz lambrequins over embroidered muslin curtains, pictures, a handsome piano, and Eastlake chairs. Here he spends all his leisure, and after cooking all day, not unfrequently entertains visitors with a brilliant rendering of some of the best compositions, or well-known ballads with original variations. His fingering is very rapid, and his execution correct to a nicety. He is very good-looking for a really black negro, and extremely gentlemanly in his manners. In the fall and winter he teaches music in Little Falls, N. Y., where he was born, and where he is known as Mr. George Morris.

**"Centennial Folding" Bedstead.**

This happy thought which obtained the prize at the Philadelphia Exposition, is winning golden opinions from those who have experimented with them. They are the invention of DEGRAAF & TAYLOR, the well-known furniture manufacturers of New York, and consist of a bedstead, very handsome, and complete in every respect, which turns up with mattresses, pillows, and linen all made for sleeping, and folds by simply raising into the recess of the deep head-board, the ornamental top forming, when down, the foot upon which the bed-part rests. Folded up, it occupies less than the place of an upright wardrobe, which it seems to be, only it is not quite so deep; open, it is an elegant bedstead, with a spring, and nothing to distinguish it from ordinary bedsteads of good style and workmanship.

The increase in the demand, and the greater facility with which they are produced, has enabled the proprietors, Messrs. DeGraaf & Taylor, to reduce the original price, and the Centennial Folding Bed can now be obtained from forty-five to one hundred dollars, in ash, walnut, ebony and gilt, or mahogany.

Fashion is reviving the older and more elaborate styles of furniture; the square Queen Anne styles are going out and the more ornamented Louis XIV. styles coming in. The fall designs are very richly upholstered in raw silk, with plush finish, and display some very fine panel and mirror effects.

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