

late brown, are inserted between ornamented covers, and the specimens of lace tacked in upon one side only. Some of these specimen lace albums are as large as the single sheet of a daily paper, others are small. The edges of the leaves may be notched out or bound.

**Keep the Blues Outside.**—Everybody says this is a "hard" winter, and because they think so, and hear other people say so, they make it much harder than it need to be.

The "panic" was not caused by short crops, or any other great calamitous visitation. It was simply the natural result of the hurry of people to be rich, which made them willing to lend themselves to any schemes of speculators which promised a large return upon a small investment. The highest interests, the interests and happiness of home and family, were all sacrificed to the saving of money for the purpose of investment in some railroad bubble. The lesson we have had was needed. Instead of putting on the screws still further at home in order to make up losses, open your hearts and your pockets, keep Christmas and New Year's with a will, make up your mind to put the most into that out of which you get the most—that is, your home, your family. Don't make them bear the consequences of your folly any more than you can possibly help; encourage them to cheerfulness by setting the example, and stop talking "hard" times, lest hard times really come.

**Living Too Fast.**—There was once a little frog who swelled, and swelled, until he believed himself to be as big as an ox, but in trying to eat as much as an ox, alas, he burst, and that was the end of him.

This fable of the ox will apply to a good many of us. We have been living and swelling out of all proportion, and should have seen that it was a mere question of time whether we should burst or suffer an ignominious collapse. It will do society good to come back to first principles, to hard earning and honest paying, to simple pleasures and home duties, to plain living and neat dressing, to a "flat" instead of a brown stone front, and to a desire for comfort before "style."

**Higher Education.**—There is a great deal of talk about this higher education of women by persons who do not know what education means. Education means not what you put in, but what you get out; in other words, it is not the sawdust which you put into an empty head, but it consists of instruments whose size and strength should be adapted to our capacity, and which are of value to us, as we can put them to use.

That education, whether called higher or lower, is the best which most develops the individual and teaches him how to put himself to the largest use. Thousands of boys and girls are going through college at the cost of much comfort and many sacrifices on the part of their friends, who will never make any use of the knowledge they acquire there. This is a waste of time, and energy, and money.

It is the common impression that you cannot know too much, and neither can you, if you do know it; that is, know it in such a way that it is available whenever you want it.

But the class of which we speak very little in this way. An effort of memory enables them, for the time being, to retain words, but they have not enough

brain to take in ideas, and therefore the larger part of what they acquire is to their ears mere sound, signifying, so far as any use is concerned to which they can apply it—nothing.

Teach your boys and girls, or have them taught, what they can know, with the view of aiding them in what they can do; but do not expend energies in endeavoring to put the fullness of a quart into a pint-measure, or develop what does not exist.

## Afternoon Thoughts.

### WOMEN'S WORK IN PRISONS.

THE International Prison Congress inaugurated a new era in prison discipline.

Never before has been gathered together so valuable a mass of information relating to the government of prisons and the treatment of prisoners.

One of the very important features of this Congress was the discussion of the subject introduced by Mrs. Chase—*Woman's Work in Prisons*. The chapter devoted to its report by Edwin Pears, L.L.B., Secretary of the Congress, is one of intense interest; and as it will probably be read by few, except those more immediately interested in the conduct of prisons, we offer the following extracts from Mrs. Chase's remarks.

[H. K. B., Quincy, Ill.]

Mrs. Chase said: "In some of the United States of America, an effort has been made within the past few years to procure the enactment of laws requiring the appointment of women on the Boards of Inspectors of Prisons.

"Criminal women, however vile and debased, still need the sympathy and society of their own sex, and the peculiar treatment which only women know how to apply.

"I have found, in visiting prisons, where both men and women are confined, that the inspectors devote their attention chiefly to the care of the men. This inattention is owing to these facts: In the first place, there are in our country always much fewer women in prison than men, so that it seems less important that they should be looked after. In the second place, ordinarily good men regard fallen women as much worse than fallen men, and so shrink from their presence. And, lastly, the public sentiment, which condemns a fallen woman to irrevocable, irremovable disgrace, and so pronounces her restoration hopeless, follows her within the prison walls, and, regarding her as wholly lost, the inspectors cannot hold out to her the same hopes and promises which they can to men.

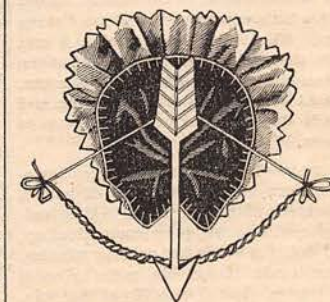
"Now, if there is any way by which the path to a well-ordered life can be opened to them; if the stone which an unjust public sentiment has laid over the grave of their respectability in the position from which they have fallen can be rolled away, it must be done by women; and I know, from my own experience, as one of a board of lady visitors to prisons, that we cannot do it thoroughly and well unless we share with the men the responsibility and the authority which guides and controls these institutions."

**HOUSEHOLD DISPUTES.**—"Speech," says the proverb, "is silver, silence is golden." Favorable occasions are the openings to success, and of those who fail in life we say they "missed their opportunity." In a recent work entitled "The Intellectual

Life," a loss is pointed out which is common to too many persons in this talking age. The writer is addressing a young person who is so fond of controversy that he cannot forbear from contradicting even his mother. The habit of contradiction and correction in conversation, always inexpedient, is, when your mother is in the case, unfilial; when your wife is the object, useless; when your daughter in her teens is concerned, mutually vexatious. The intuition of a woman generally suggests the right conclusion, though the mental process by which she reaches it may not be strictly logical. Entering into a dispute is what the French call a fine opportunity for 'holding your tongue, but you missed it!'"

**THE FIRST HUNDRED DOLLARS.**—The first hundred dollars that a young man honestly earns, and saves over and above his expenses while earning it, will ordinarily stamp upon his mind and character two of the most important conditions of success in after-life—industry and economy. It is far better for him that he should earn the first hundred dollars than that it should be given him. If he earns it, he knows what it is worth, since it represents to him a very considerable amount of effort. If he saves it while earning a much larger sum, he acquires thereby the habit of economy. Neither of these valuable lessons is taught by a pure gift. On the whole, it is no serious disadvantage to a young man to begin life poor. Most persons who become rich in this country were once poor; and, in their poverty, they gained habits from the stern necessity of their condition which in the sequel resulted in riches. Those who are born with "silver spoons in their mouths," and spend their early years in idleness and prodigality, seldom excel as men in the practical business of life.

## WORK - TABLE.



PEN-WIPER.

This is a very pretty pen-wiper, made to represent a bow and arrow. Articles required are cardboard bonnet-wire, wool, velvet, tinfoil, and blue flannel.

Cut the arrow of cardboard, about four inches in length, covering it with tinfoil or silver paper. Make small holes down through the centre of that part representing the feathered end, and draw colored wool through. For the arrow wand, eight inches long, turned to form a loop at each end, and wound with wool, then sew it fast to the bow, using a piece of wool for the bow-string. One-quarter yard of black ribbon velvet two inches wide, plaited round, as in the cut, edged with button-hole stitch behind, which is a plaiting of blue flannel, notched on one side, and back of all are fastened three round pieces of black cloth, for wiping the pen.



HAIR-PIN HOLDER.

This is a simple hat of pasteboard, crocheted over with colored wool, blue, scarlet, or mauve. The edge may be crocheted in black, white, or black and white to form the border, and a band of ribbon with a bow at the side, where the brim is turned up, ornaments the crown. After the hat is completed the inside crown of pasteboard is cut out, and a stiff white crown lining, such as milliners use, sewed in. Through this the hair-pins are stuck.

**CARD RECEIVER.**—Frame of nice cardboard. Bind the edges neatly with gilt or silver paper and with either transparent or opaque wafers dampened; ornament the receiver in squares, diamonds, festoons, flowers, or any other fanciful figure. Decorate the handle to match.

**CLOVE BASKET.**—Soak the cloves in brandy till softened—pierce them with holes and string them on wire intermixed with gay beads and now form the basket to fancy.

**CARD RECEIVER.**—No. 2. Form of card board in any fanciful shape and with a brush spread a thick paste of gum arabic over the receiver and sprinkle rice thickly over it and leave it to dry. In the mean time put a parcel of red sealing-wax in alcohol, to dissolve which will take 24 hours, then put this solution smoothly over the receiver and the rice on it and it will be a good imitation of coral.

**A VARNISH TO COLOR BASKETS.**—Take either red, black, or white sealing wax whichever color you wish to make. To every 2oz. of sealing wax add 1oz. of spirits of wine. Pound the wax fine—then sift it through a fine sieve—then put it in a large phial with the spirits of wine—shake it and let it stand near the fire 48 hours, shaking it often—then brush the basket all over it, let it dry and repeat the brushings one time.

**RESTORING FADED FLOWERS.**—Place the flower in a small empty tea-cup or scent-bottle. Half fill a saucer with water, in the centre of which place the cup or bottle containing the flower, over which invert a tumbler, the top of which rests in the water, covering the flower in the cup and excluding the air. The effect is surprising; in a short time the faded flower will revive, the color return into the petals, which quickly expand, and the sweet returns as powerfully as when the flower is plucked. Care should be taken that the flower does not come into contact with the sides or bottom of the inverted tumbler.

**FANCY BASKETS.**—No. 1.—Coral Basket—Form it of wire of any fanciful shape—wrap the wire with untwisted lamp wick or candle wick cotton. Then, to give it the irregular appearance of coral, tie short pieces of cotton cord about in the open places of the wire. Now melt white wax and with a spoon pour it over till the frame is perfectly covered—bend the ends of the cotton cord in various directions to represent coral. Now give it a second coating which will give it the thickness of coral. If red coral is preferred Chinese vermilion may be mixed in the wax.