stood on the stairs and confronted Daisy's grievous face, she began to realise the existence of a spirit higher and purer than her own.

Perhaps it was just because she could work at, the people who had injured her that Daisy was a happy girl. It was this power of forgetting herself and her own wrongs, and feeling with another, that almost startled Rhoda, so strange did it seem. It was the first revelation that she had ever received of the Spirit of Christ, and she stood amazed and almost awed by the sweetness of it.

"Do you really think we ought to let Maud alone?" she asked, suddenly.

"I hardly think he will insist upon her appearance."

Doctor Garnett did not insist, and Maud was permitted to remain in her self-chosen solitude.

She scarcely touched the luncheon that Jack brought her from the table downstairs; heart-sickness, a kind of aliment that was new to this girl, had deprived her of appetite, and the servant carried the dishes away again in some surprise. "Miss Maud must be really ill," she thought. "This time it is something more than bad temper."

Yes, it was something more than temper; it was the deep sorrow of a soul already ground down.

After the first reading of Gertrude's letter, Maud had, indeed, burst out into a storm of passion; but her fury soon spent itself, and died away, leaving a dull, deep pain behind. She had called Gertrude hard names, but the outburst had not relieved her in the least. And as she sat alone in her room, she felt that she would have given almost anything in the world to have been able to relief her again.

She rose and opened her door a little way. There was no one moving about upstairs, and she stole into the corridor and went straight to the room that Gertrude had occupied.

There were many spare chambers in the Doctor's great house, and Miss Sandon's room was left empty. Gertrude and her personal belongings were gone; yet there were many things here that seemed to speak of her still.

There were the mirrors that had reflected her bright face and fairy figure; there was the easy chair in which she had sat while she talked by the fire with Maud. All the little winds and sparkling looks of her lost friend came back to Maud as she stood in that vacant room; and she lifted up her voice and wept.

She was not very young, and this feeling for Gertrude had been the most real and intense that her life had ever known. Such treasures as her nature could give she had lavished unreservedly on Gerty, believing that her affection was cordially returned. And now to find that her idol louted its worshipper, and despised her offerings!

She was too miserable to care that her mortification was known to Miss Daugh-

To be continued.

THE ART OF CONVERSING AGREEABLY.

It is somewhat difficult to restrict conversation within the limits of any particular rules.

To many they would be quite superficial, for the art above named is a natural gift to them, and they adapt the subjects they meet to the individuals with whom they address with intuitive tact and a happy facility in the use of language, which has to be acquired, as any other art, by the majority of persons.

As these few observations are designed for the benefit of the latter very suffering class, I must direct attention to the close connection existing between conversing and letter-writing. There must be a degree of reflection excited as to the individuals to whom, whether by word or pen, your communications are made. The age and circumstances in life, profession or other calling of religious and political opinions, health and spirits, and losses by death or of fortune, all demand to be taken into account. Task, as I have before observed in reference to good dressing, must be cultivated, regulative the choice of topics in your conversation according to the society in which you are placed. In fact, the whole question of making your presence a comfort and pleasure to those with whom you associate, whether at home or in general society, resolves itself into the selection or avoidance of certain subjects in your conversations with them. To those who take a religious view of the matter, the words of St. James must be very opposite and familiar, when the power of the tongue is compared to that of fire, which consumes almost all things exposed to its influence.

Let it ever be a standing rule to avoid raising subjects of probable, or even possible, disagreement, and reflect before you speak, when there are any points of dispute amongst your hearers, to which some leading remark of yours might prove like a spark to an unpowdered Thoughtlessness might cause you to be regarded on both sides as a dangerous person, from your apparent lack of common sense, if not actually from being an intentional firebrand.

Divergent views on religious and political questions are, unhappily, a very fruitful source of much estrangement between those who are bound together by very near ties of kindred, and other mutual interests. In such cases remember that "Similitudes of the mind concurred with the most interesting observations that might be at all likely to start an ill-advised and irritating argument."

Keep your present capacity, especially when with the company of any who are wearing mourning; avoid also allusions to accidents when, on collecting your thoughts a little, you might show that a fit of melancholy was at an end, engaged on active service abroad.

Take fully into consideration, as I said, the state of health of the individuals with whom you may converse, and beware of relating circumstances in the conversation of those who are similarly afflicted that would tend to depress and alarm them; nor relate any news, such as of deaths resulting from the same indisposition.

As a young person, you should be very modest in the matter of leading a conversation, of raising your voice above that of anyone else, or of monopolising the attention of the chief speaker, and attracting the conversation more especially to yourself.

Retain also from any tendency to dogmatism in the expression of opinions, remembering your comparatively small experience and limited information, and that you are not a Newton, likely to astonish the world by a high and intellectual power that is superior in exceptions above those of the present company.

Try to forget yourself and those who may be looking at you, and what may be thought of your style of address and language and, above all things, never interrupt anyone else.

Wait scrupulously until they have finished speaking before you utter a remark. Good breeding alone demands of you that you should treat the observations of others, however trivial in character and feebly expressed, as though they were of superior importance. As a rule, good listeners, who make but few observations, are far more agreeable in society than persons who possess what, in somewhat inelegant parlance, is described as the "gift of the gab," delighting in hearing their own voices and "talking down" everyone else. No matter how entertaining some of their remarks may be, they are always the center of their hearers', whose mouths they have closed, as intrusive, vain, and ill-bred.

One more point deserves some passing notice. Unconscious individuals, and the persons, peculiarities, and infirmities of those in your society impress themselves on your imagination; and it needs the greatest self-possession to check yourself in time, before committing a sad act of indiscretion in reference to them. Thus, beware of speaking of a squat, deformity, lameness, baldness, stammering, corpulence, or the reverse; "false teeth, wigs, dyed hair; girls like harpists, or May-poles; dwarfs, or "crumpets," and very especially about people being "on the wrong side of fifty," or that are aged maids." You may say much safely, without wounding the feelings of anyone at home, in the sacred privacy of the family circle, or in a three-beds with an intimate friend; but you must set a careful watch on your words when you associate with others, and scrupulously guard against hurting their feelings in any kind of conversation. You never take the sting from a wound inflicted by one thoughtless word of a personal character. Such observations are never forgiven.
Doublets, some one in the party has been away, or ill; or in expecting a relative home, or visiting. All these news, which are nothing out of the way, are in the nature of a friend. In such a case, and especially if any sympathy be needed, go over and place a chair by her side, and turn completely towards her; then let her have a little special chat with her. Then ask all about herself, and listen attentively to what she will tell you, abstracting your thoughts from all other conversation for a while. Or, of course, questions of a prying, insipid character, respecting matters not usually made public, are not the style of questions to which I now refer; those on your relations, and any scandal connected with their friends, being especially unnecessary and intrusive. Writing for young people, I may perhaps be accused of giving advice on what appears so very obvious, including my earnest charges to make use of no description of "slang," whether of the fleeting, odious, or aesthetic type.

But perhaps some reader may complain that I have done no more than recommend the asking of leading questions, and suggested a type of conversation which is the result of others more qualified to speak than yourself. True, but I can only do my best with the materials supplied to me; I cannot create anything better than I am, simply because you lack the natural gift of both originality of thought and fluency of speech. I cannot give you new and striking ideas, nor can I, if you are the one to whom the empty, baseless, and empty-sounding phrases of the beautiful and poetical language; nor can I supply you with that wit and dry humour wherewith "poor Yorick" was wont—said Hamlet—to set the table in a roar.

But by means of a little reflection, and judiciously adapting your questions and oblique references, and so skillfully never allowing your eyes or thoughts to wander when the replies are given, or at times when you are yourself addressed, you will have made up, to a very considerable degree, for your natural deficiency in conversational powers.

But the art under our consideration may certainly be cultivated, and by degrees the shy girl, the bashful, and the timid girl may acquire a certain amount of facility in expressing themselves. Some years ago a very sensible article appeared in one of the periodicals, which described the circumstances of training boys and girls, at an early age, to relate stories and incidenints which have come under their notice. It struck me at the time as a very clever piece of writing, and greatly to further the future interests of those who have thus early learned to arrange their thoughts, and express them in suitable words.

Classes should be formed in every school for the purpose, and parents should include this training as an item in the catalogue of their children's home-studies. It needs not to be a dull lesson; far from it. If no little incident should have occurred which the children could be made to relate, give them a short story to read; and, when well acquainted with this treatment, write some scholars in a row before you, and bid them each, in their turn, to give you the story in their own words. The lesson might even be converted into an amusing game by their paying a forfeit for every superfluous word with which stories are often interleaved by way of gaining time for thought. All children enjoy the exercise of "forfeits," and it might easily be adapted to the purpose under consideration.

As in a case of stammering, so also, and equally, in applying yourself to make a relation agreeably, two or three rules must have due attention. Speak slowly; a hurried articulation makes your ears sympathetic nerves. Do not hiss your words between your teeth, nor look away from the person whom you address, but turn quietly from one to another. Never begin to relate a history without first collecting your thoughts, and centring them on the main point of the story, from which they must never be allowed to wander—as in a portrait, there must be a centre of interest, to which all other objects must be subservient. The red military coat, or the various accessories surrounding the chief subject of the picture, must be toned down, and such a prominence should be given to the face, and such a light thrown upon it, as to attract the eye from all else at the first glance, and cause it to form the principal feature in the whole design, however beautifully it may be executed. Exactly so separate items must be noted in every story; but the main fact to be recorded in each should always be given an especial prominence. Think of this chief point of interest, not of the mere words in which you narrate the history.

My second rule is that you should make your sentences short. Persons who lack eloquence must not venture to employ many words. My third rule is to avoid any "stop-gap" words and phrases, which are only used to cover up your ignorance, and which should be avoided when your thoughts have wandered from your subject.

To conclude what I mean, I will give a specimen of very ordinary discourse:

"Do you know what happened when I was at—at—uh—at, what's the name of the place? Uh—at Wimborne; staying at the— you know—that hotel up on the downs—or rather, I should say, at the turn of the road, on the top of the hill. Well—uh—but I ought to have said that, when we started, I was told that the horse was supposed to shy, and the carriage was a light one. It was a phaeton, or, I should say, a victoria. Well—uh—I forget where I was? Oh—uh—yes. We were trotting down the hill, you know, when—uh—we saw a white post, or something white, at the side of the road; and—uh—and, you see, the horse—the horse shacked. So when the servant whipped him, he made a plunge or two and upset the carriage. Not at first, you, know, but dashed us against a heap of stones; and—uh—of course I was thrown out."

Imagining how such a situation would exhaust the patience of the listeners! Yet eloquence would be thrown away on so simple a narrative. Ask yourself what the effect would be, if you should turn aside only to ease the upset of the speaker. Relate the circumstances in very short sentences, and in plain, simple language. Thus:

"The horse shacked at a white post at the side of the road, and dashed us against a heap of stones." Voila! Persons who lack a ready flow of good language should try to abridge their sentences as much as possible, be careful to make no mistakes in grammar, and avoid having to retrace their steps in the narrative on account of circumstantial details which should have been previously named, as they usually forget these when they were in the course of the incidents described, and lose the thread of the story.

S. F. A. CATELLEDE.