

and the number of wives a man may have is limited by his riches.

SINGLE BLESSEDNES UNFASHIONABLE.

Many more cases could be cited, but these show that bachelors and bachelor maidens are still unknown in many lands. They are equally unfashionable on the Continent of Europe. With few exceptions, foreign girls do not remain single from choice. Most of them are unwedded not because they are unworthy of a good man, but they have not a dot sufficient to enable them to be married to men they would

have. The independent girl, outside of England and America, is not approved of by her parents. It is sad enough if a girl is single because her fortune is insufficient to give her this happiness, but she is to be laughed at if she remains single from choice.

Bachelorhood and bachelor clubs have found little favour with European men. They feel that a man is leaving his duty undone unless he has a house and a wife. England and America are unique in advocating, or at least tolerating, celibacy. Whether, as time advances, other peoples accept this fashion, remains to be seen.

The Step Ladders of Thought.

By CESARE LOMBRONO.

Metaphor is to Thought what a step-ladder is to Man.

Man helps himself of a ladder to climb heights which he would find difficult to reach by employing only his arms and legs. By means of Metaphor, Thought finds an easy manner of explaining facts and ideas very difficult to comprehend and explain otherwise.

In the same way that we have found ingenious means to avoid the necessity of bodily efforts and fatigues we have found resources to avoid mental efforts. These "resources" are Metaphors and Analogies, which have no other object than to help man to assimilate an idea or to master a phenomenon without himself becoming aware of the difficulties.

By means of metaphors and analogies, for example, a sociologist, can easily make himself understood by those of his readers whose knowledge is not sufficient to enable them to understand the confused and obscure technical language of science.

Let us suppose he wants to explain to his readers the close relationship existing between capital and labour and the reason why the one cannot dispense with the other.

"Labour and capital," he would say, "are like the two blades of a pair of scissors. Separated they are useless; put together they are of immense usefulness."

Let us suppose now that he wants to demonstrate that were it not for the intelligent work of the farmer the earth would be less productive, and accordingly it would not be as valuable as it is. The sociologist would compare the earth to a Stradivarius violin, which, unharmonious in the hands of an amateur, would become a veritable treasure under the fingers of a Paganini or a Joachim.

The resources of the Metaphor are infinite, for it is easier to apply an image to a theory than to represent a theory by an image.

Sometimes Metaphor has for its origin a scientific phenomenon which has become popularised and axiomatic.

Darwin's Theory offers an example of the Metaphor helping Science.

The struggle for life among the different styles of Literature is referred to, and a young literary man—an Italian—goes as far as delaying that Parody is a parasitical class of literature which lives and flourishes on the body and at the expense of the blood and vitality of all other literary forms, and compares it to Helminth nourishing upon the body of a superior animal. By saying this the young writer makes his thought clearer and more comprehensible, conveying to the mind of the reader the idea of a parasite, such as it has been explained and vulgarised by the Natural Sciences.

Following this system, a genial author, Mme. Stetson, in order to explain now the mentality of the ancient Greeks, notwithstanding how great and powerful it might now appear, was not superior to the mentality of the modern, uses a singular palaeontological metaphor. "They can be compared," she says, "to the Ichthyosaurus and the Megatherium, whose bodies were larger and more powerful than the bodies of the animals of to-day; yet they are inferior to them in the zoological scale."

In order to explain a very complex and delicate phenomenon—the mechanism of habit, James, the great American psychologist, employs the following metaphor:

"The water that runs down hill forms a stream, which becomes wider and deeper with distance. When the rain ceases to fall the waters of the stream cease to run, but as soon as it starts again the waters begin once more to flow, and they pursue the same course which they had formerly followed. The same occurs with the nervous system—when the nervous current opens itself a course, this one course is always followed by the nervous currents when ever they are reproduced."

It cannot be expected, of course, to find in the Metaphor the categorical explanation of a fact. The metaphors are like those plank bridges which engineers build to help them in the construction of the solid steel structure.

Like those, Metaphors may be considered ephemeral; nevertheless it must be admitted that they respond most admirably to their object, which is no other than to serve as intermediaries, as plank bridges, as step-ladders between human intelligence and a system or an idea.

The Care of China and Glass.

The china and glass cupboards must not be overlooked during the spring cleaning, and the china and glass which is not always in use must also be thoroughly overhauled. When this is being done it will probably be noticed that there is a little stain at the bottom of the tea-cups which is difficult to remove. This stain is caused by the cups being imperfectly dried before they were put away, and they should be washed in warm water, to which a little ammonia has been added, which will help to remove the stain more easily. Don't use soap or soap-powder, as these are likely to eat away the delicate ornamentation on the china, and also give it a dull appearance.

If a stain is left at the bottom of a decanter the best way to cleanse it is to put a tablespoonful of muriatic acid in the decanter, and rinse it slowly round, and then pour the acid away and rinse thoroughly with warm soapsuds and several clear waters. The acid is a deadly poison, so must be used with great care.

When putting glass dishes away lay a paper mat or doyley in between each dish if they are packed on top of each other, and the little scratches and chips that appear on them will be prevented if this precaution is taken.

Boiling water should not be used for washing glassware, as this is the cause of many a broken tumbler and cracked dish. The maid, or whoever is set the task of washing the glassware, should be instructed as to the proper way in which it should be cleaned. If a glass that has held cold water is plunged immediately into a basin of hot water it

will crack, because of the sudden expansion caused by the heat of the water. The same accident will happen if, after holding hot liquid, it is at once put into cold water.

Delicate china and glass should first of all be washed in lukewarm water, and then, if the result is not satisfactory, hot water may be employed, for it is not the heat that does the damage, but the suddenness of its application. Even thick cut-glass will crack if heat is suddenly applied, and the best way to wash it is in warm soap-suds, and then cover with sawdust. When the sawdust is dry brush it off with a soft brush, going carefully into all the little crevices, and finish polishing it with a soft cloth. It will be bright and sparkling after this treatment.

Cold water is often more satisfactory than warm water for washing glass, if it is left to drain, and then polished when dry. The glass will look much brighter if done in this manner.

When pouring hot liquid into a tumbler place a silver spoon in first. This will draw the heat away from the glass, and prevent it cracking.

Chipped edges to glass dishes, and cups minus handles, are often the cause of clumsiness, but the maid should be trained to handle the china and glass carefully, so that accidents of this kind are avoided, and if instructions as to the washing of them are carried out properly there will be less likelihood of so much damage being done. Satisfactory results are seldom obtained with china or glass that has been broken and mended, as it always requires such careful handling, and will seldom hold anything hot afterwards.

The housekeeper naturally takes pride in her bright glass and dainty chinaware, which is quite justifiable, and it is a pity it should be spoilt by scratches and cracks when, with a little care, it can be kept intact even when in constant use.

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