NOW AND THEN

DESTINY

The rose fulfills its desire as rose,
The bluebird as a bird;
I would not change for any easier one
My life as it occurred.

Nor change my death, whatever it may be,
And on whatever date:
The soul, that pilgrirm coming down the wind,
Chooses its own fate.

And when it cries, "Oh, take away this cup!"
Knows the cry profane.
The cup if shattered to the marble floor
Would fill up bitter again.

P. H.
Virginia More

SAD STORIES

The Atlantic Monthly has among its many interesting articles, one or two short stories in each issue if it is not publishing a serial at the lime, which it seldom does. These stories have been very sad recently and some of the subscribers are writing to ask that they might publish more cheerful ones. This has occasioned quite a discussion, many thinking that they are more true to life writne in that vein.

And in looking up the authors of these short stories, it is found that the saddest are written by the young.

As life advances, there is generally a more optimistic view taken of life, and less striving after the unattainable.

FALCON ISLAND

Falcon island is among the Tongan group of the South sea Inlands. Sometimes the navagators see it very plainly on their way across the ocean, and again it has disappeared while all around it are volcanic stones floating on its site. Some bold explorers sometime ago, swam up to the island and climbed over the reefs.

They found it covered with lava while in the centre was a pool of red hot liquid. Recently in sailing by the spot, the island could not be seen, and it is thought before long it will disappear altogether, sinking beneath the surface of the ocean.

Some time ago a party was invited to attend a Symphony Concert in New York City. Many notables were there and when Deems Taylor came in there was great applause. His Opera, Peter Ibbetson, written in English was sung in Grand Opera last winter.

DEEMS TAYLOR: CHORIST

I made butter not long ago, with an egg beater. I wanted to see whether I could, and it's a great comfort to know that I can. For whereas other men may be devoted to golf, or hunting, or what not, the thing in the world that amuses and interests me most is—chores. I don't pretend to make or save money by doing odd jobs. I classify my chores under the head of recreation.

I can do household chores—cooking, bed making, cleaning and dusting. Besides these domestic accomplishments I know something of several trades. I am more than a fair carpenter and woodworker; I know enough about masonry to put up a stone or brick wall. I can do any reasonably simple job of electric wiring, and have been working for years on a marvelously complicated switchboard for a toy theater.

Incidentally, I am by no means alone in this vice of tinkering. Ben Hecht, author and playwright, is an expert furniture builder. Richard Boleslawski may be famous as a motion-picture director, but his heart is in his carpenter shop. Josef Hofmann, the famous pianist, is a mechanic and inventor. The Hofmann shock absorber has netted him a small but quite visible fortune.

My favorite chore is woodworking. It is, of course, merely a refinement of the oldest brain-resting device in the world, whittling. I seldom sit down at a typewriter or a music desk, for instance, without having some pieces of wood and a few tools within reach. Then, when ideas refuse to come, knock wood—or gouge it, or saw it, or hammer it. The completion of almost very ambitious piece of work I have ever tackled has been coincident with the finishing of some job of carpentry that served to fill in the unproductive hours.—Deems Taylor, composed of the grand opera, The King's Henchman, in Cosmopolitan Magazine.

THE MYSTERY OF THE STARS

Oh, the wonder of the stars! They have been shining so brilliantly these winter evenings. The planets are easily distinguished from the suns, as the latter twinkle as they shine. Suns that are far larger than the one around which our earth revolves.

But they all are shrouded in mystery? Are the planets inhabited? Some times it seems that they must be. Is the foliage of Mars red, and has it great canals to water it? No one on this earth can tell. One feels as he gazes up at the stars, like Lord Dunsany.

Beautiful when the world lies dreaming
Are the lights from the Evening Star's
Oceans of pale blue water gleaming
And the tawny deserts of Mars.
Alas, that they lie beyond our reaches,
Our sisters sidereal,
And never an earth ship touches the beaches
Of any one of them all.

OLD CHESTERTOWN DAY

The resourceful committee of the Chestertown Library are always planning ways and means to raise money for the Library. Now they are planning to have a day in May for the purpose of showing Chestertown to those who love to travel to and fro, to look at old homes and old gardens, charging a sum of money for the privilege of seeing them.

Chestertown is very old and its history is very interesting.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Do not forget to wear green and a shamrock on St. Patrick's Day in honor of the Saint who drove the snakes out of Ireland. There are great doings in the cities on this day, March 17th, especially in New York City where there are great numbers of Irishmen, whose ancestors settled there in the early days of Old New York.

THE HAMMOND ORGAN

There was a large crowd at the Sacred Heart Church on last Tuesday evening to listen to the many tones of the Hammond Organ, which has just been purchased by that church. Mr. Elterman was the organist, for the occasions and the program was very pleasing to the listeners.

It combines in its tones, the sound of nearly every instrument known, the string, the horn, and the drum in all of their variations.

After the program was over the Organ was dedicated to the use of the church.

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