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The February "Smart Set."

Readers of the *Smart Set* have learned to look upon the complete novel that appears in each issue of that magazine as the biggest event of the month in fiction ; but even the most enthusiastic reader will be happily surprised by the story in the February number. Beyond a doubt "The Eavesdroppers," by Arthur Stringer, will prove one of the sensations of the year. The story deals with the careers of two daring criminals —a man and a woman—whose astonishing adventures the reader follows with breathless interest. From the very opening sentence the tale becomes one of rapid and exciting incident, and, moreover, it is written with that literary distinction which always characterizes Mr. Stinger's work. Different as "The Eavesdroppers" is from such fiction as "In the Bishop's Carriage" and "Raffles," it combines all the interest of those stories with a movement and intensity entirely its own. It is a notable achievement for the author, and will prove a notable novelette in *The Smart Set's* long list of successful stories.

Of the sixteen short stories in this number each is so excellent in its own way that it is almost impossible to make a selection of any one as "the best." Caroline Duer's "The Duty of the Beast" is almost equal to the finest thing Edith Wharton has done; Owen Oliver's "The God of Our Fathers" contains a thrill for the lovers of all that is startling and dramatic in fiction; Vincent Harper's "Stuff o' Dreams" is an exquisite idyll of the South Seas; Ethel Sigsbee Small's "Tasters at Fame" is one of the best examples in the field of "child stories for grown-ups"; Elliott Flower's "A Pass to Paradise" is delightful in its mingled humor and romance; while Margery William's "The House by the Way" is a pathetic and beautifully told tale. Besides these stories there are others of equal merit by Catharine Matthews, Elizabeth A. Sears, Guy R. Bolton, Helen Vacaresco, Tom Masson and Algernon Tassin, with one in French by Cyrilles Hardy.

The essay in this issue is by the noted dramatic and music critic, James Huneker, and will cause wide comment.

Mr. Huneker has written of "Ibsen the Individualist," and has many important and interesting things to say both of the personality and the work of the great Norwegian dramatist.

The poetry of this issue is of more than usual value, and is contributed by Florence Wilkinson, Joaquin Miller, Dora Reed Goodale, Madeline Bridges, Clifton Dangerfield, John Arbuthnott, Richard Kirk, Leah Durand and Clifton Scollard.

Altogether the Feburary *Smart Set* is a splednid example of what a modern magazine should be.

SMITH HAD A VALUABLE DOG.

"Well, I wouldn't have believed it!" exclaimed Jones, in astonishment, as he dropped in to see Smith, the other evening, and was met in the hall by a St. Bernard dog, relates London Tit-Bits.

"Wouldn't have believed what?" asked Smith.

"Why that you'd have a dog in your house," continued Jones. "It belongs to one of your neighbors I suppose.

"No, sir; that's my dog," replied Smith, proudly.

"You don't mean it, old man? Why I've known you for five years, and you've always had a marked aversion to dogs."

"Yes, I did until lately, but I wouldn't be without one now. This brute is a noble, faithful fellow, and I wouldn't take—

But at this juncture he was interrupted by his wife calling down stairs :

"Henry Smith who was it that scattered these cigar ashes all over the table?"

"It must have been the dog, my dear," he replied.

"And who was it that dropped these apple peelings on the floor?" she demanded.

"The dog, my dear," answered Smith.

"And there is a bottle of gum spilled on the carpet up here, too!" Is that some of your work, Mr. Smith?"

"No, dear, the dog is to blame for that."

Well, it is a burning shame the way this house is disordered. Your collars and ties are scattered all over the room."

"Are they? That dog's been up there again, then. Yes," continued Smith, as he drew his friend into the parlor, "I would not take a big pot of money for that dog. The noble fellow saves me about 20 scoldings a week."

"So I see," chuckled Jones, "and yon bet I'll have one before noon, tomorrow."

Our Climate is Bad For You.

If you've gone and been a hero, and
you're lauded to the skies,
And you come back to your home
when war is done,
Seek the tall and uncut timber when
you've got a good disguise,
For a hero sorter melts out in the sun!

"Do Unto Others as you Would The Should do Unto You" For One Whole Day.

It is a strange fact that no matter how down trodden and abused we consider ourselves, we, in our turn, are quite ready to do our share of the treading and abusing when the opportunity comes our way.

Take, for instance, the girl who works in a factory. As a rule she is do wn on the foreman. She thinks he treats her un fairly, demands too much of her and does not speak as civilly as she should.

When that girls goes shopping, is she always polite and patient with the girl who waits on her?

Being a patron of the shop, she stands for the time being in a position to command attention from the salewoman, and very often I am sorry to say she abuses the privilege by being disagreeable and impatient.

In other words, is behaving exactly in the other way in which she complains the foreman treats her.

Most of you know the Golden Rule of the Scriptures.

If not, here it is—"Do unto others as ye would they should do unto you."

Just try that rule for one day and see if at the end of the day you won't have a happy feeling of satisfaction.

A true lady never treats those over whom she is placed in authority as if they were her inferiors.

As long as you are doing the work appointed you in a satisfactory manner you are no one's inferior.

The girl who is in domestic service must realize that her mistress is the recognized head of the house, and as long as she is treated fairly she is her turn should do her work to the best of her abilty.

You should never take money unless you can give an adequate return for it.

Don't grumble and think that you are not being treated fairly unless in your inmost heart you know it to be untrue.

Then, if you honestly feel that you are being put upon, try and better yourself.

Don't always feel that the person in authority over you is down on you; if you work in that spirit you will never get on.

And even supposing that such should be the case, is that any reason why you should treat others in the same way when you have the chance?

The stenographer who is most indignant at the manner in which her employer treats her, treats the office boy in exactly the same way, and the office boy in his turn is equally harsh with the little street arab.

It is like traveling in a circle, isn't it? And don't you think if you are one of the links in that circle it would be a good thing to break away from it?

When you get up tomorrow morning say to yourself, "For this whole day I'm going to act as though I like every one and every one likes me and the world is all bright and beautiful. I'm going to treat every one in exactly the same way as I would lile them to treat me."

It's an experiment worth trying, you know, and I wish all my girl friends would try it, and then write and tell me how it succeeded.

Especially remember to try it when you go into one of the big crowded shops.

The girls behind the counter have to be patient and polite all day long to hundreds of women who half the time don't know what they want and insist having dozens of drawers and boxes opened, laces unrolled or dresses tried on, only to take a sample, or murmur vaguely that they "don't quite know—they come back again," and the walk out without have bought one cent's worth.

So, when the shop girl seems uninterested or cross when you ask her for something, don't think the feeling is directed toward you personally; it is directed against the women in general who have brought her to this state of irritation by being disagreeable to her and not realizing that while they have one to deal with she has hundreds.

A sympathetic remark or smile will brighten her up wonderfully. Try it.—New York Journal.

Gooseberries and a Cat.

Not long ago, says Collier's Weekly, officials of the department of agriculture were much amused by a letter sent the department by an occasional correspondent in Virginia.

Among other things the writer hastened to advise the secretary of the department to this effect:

My wife had a Tame cat that dyd. Being a Torture shell and a Grate favorit, we had the same berred in the Gardin, and for the enrichment of the soil I had the Carkis deposited under the roots of a Gooseberry Bush. (The Frute being up to then of the smooth variety.) But the next Seson's Frute, after the Cat was berred, the Gooseberrys was all Hairy—and more Remarkable, the Catapilers of the Same Bush was All of Hairy description.

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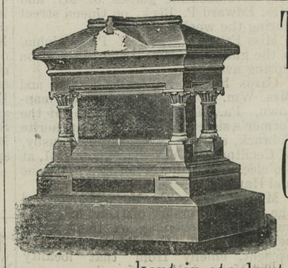
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J. D. BACCHUS,

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