

# Joys for the Stay-at-Homes; Environs Offer Many Outings.

By MARIAN V. DORSEY.

Those who are obliged to be the stay-at-homes in summer need not pine, for there are, indeed, many compensations in the way of short trips to the pleasant nearby places that are too often ignored because of their easy accessibility.

Usually it is the father or the mother, or both, who give way to the younger members of the household and become the stay-at-homes during the weeks of oppressive weather, when they are the ones who most need the change and relaxation.

Often, too, it is an older sister, one past her gayest youth, who insists that the mother and younger daughters shall go away while she stays to keep house for the father who cannot leave his business or, perhaps, cannot afford to go.

These elder daughters are usually as unselfish as the fathers and mothers, and there could be no more unselfish people in the world than American parents.

She has helped to rush the sewing through, has trimmed hats, mended laces, worked innumerable buttonholes, packed trunks, and done a thousand and one things under pressure in order to get the lucky ones off; and when the house is emptied of most of its occupants, she feels a wonderful relief and freedom for a few days. But after that a reaction of loneliness sets in for her and the father which, if yielded to apathetically, will make the summer seem interminable.

They think at the beginning of their stay-at-home experience that there is nothing to do but let the days pass by monotonously and unvaried; but, seeing the father's weariness, the daughter begins to think up diversions for him, and he, noticing the attention given to insure his every home comfort, comes to the conclusion that there must be some sort of little outing he might give the faithful daughter.

He at last realizes that there are adjacent to the city many beautiful suburban towns and stretches of country that may be seen and enjoyed for the price of a trolley fare—lovely groves, too, and even daisy fields.

If the father could come home in time to have a 5 o'clock dinner, or supper, they could start at 6 on a trolley ride out into the coun-

try and see the sun set where there is a wide horizon and a sweep of invigorating air.

Or they can go earlier in the afternoon for a quiet trip on lake or river, returning late in the evening feeling that they have a new lease on life.

There are in the near suburbs recreation parks of the better sort, patronized by people of good standing, where trolley parties go seeking coolness and diversion—and here are lights and laughter, music and joy cold refreshments. It is better to spend an occasional evening at these nearby summer resorts than to mope forlornly in the dim house in the deserted block, for it is always amusing to watch the people.

Let the stay-at-homes also make up their minds to put in their time in seeing the best civic features which their city and suburbs boast—those buildings, statues, monuments, art galleries, libraries, parks, museums, and those notable town residences and adjacent villas which they have never seen, simply because "one can see them any time, you know." It is embarrassing, often, to find that visitors know more about your own city than you do. Better to see and know something of our own local shrines before going far-away to make pilgrimages to those we have no reason to revere.

It is a good time, too, to frequent the cool, quiet libraries and study up some special subject for a paper to be read during the winter session of one's club.

Before the tired bread-winner comes home on hot evenings have the pavement and yard thoroughly sprinkled with the hose, the windows up, and the fresh air coming in.

The bathroom should be in perfect order and readiness, and when he comes down from his ablutions he should find a daintily spread table, with fresh flowers on it and an appetizing repast consisting of dishes which differ as much as possible from those of the rest of the year, and ending, always, with a frozen dessert or iced tea or lemonade.

Those who stay at home grinding the money mill should surely avail themselves of the cooling little trips to nearby places that give so much more than a nickel's worth of mental and physical recreation.

Clipped By:



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