

THE HOME.

SOME DAINTY DESSERTS.

Grape Float.—This is a dainty dessert, easily made, and is also a very attractive dish to send to a sick friend. The whites of three eggs, six tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar, three tablespoonfuls of grape jelly. Beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff froth, and add the sugar, beating five minutes. Then add the jelly, and when it has been well taken in set away in a cool place. Any other jelly may be used. Also well cooked apples may be beaten in, this is well liked and is a delicious dish. But if sauce is used remember that it takes just three times as much for sweetening.

Cup Pudding.—Three slices of stale bread, three ounces of raisins, one pint of milk, one lemon, three eggs, four tablespoonfuls of sugar, one-half teaspoonful of salt. Separate the whites of the eggs from the yolks, beat the yolks light, and place them in the milk with the salt and sugar. Pour this mixture over the bread and beat smooth with a fork; add the raisins then the rind of the lemon. Mix all well together; and bake in individual custard pans, well greased, for twenty-five minutes. Beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff froth with a little powdered sugar, spread this meringue over the tops of the puddings, brown and set aside to cool. Or the eggs need not be separated, and when the puddings are done, put a tiny lump of currant jelly on the top of each pudding.

Lemon Pie.—For those who like pies this is a very good one and a reliable recipe: Two lemons, one cupful of cold water, one cupful of sugar, one egg, some salt, one and one-half teaspoonfuls of flour. Wash the lemons, cut off the ends and throw them away. Slice the lemon very thin, and remove the seeds. Beat the eggs well, add the flour, the salt and sugar and beat all together. Now add the water and the juice from the lemon. Line a pie plate with a crust, pour in half of this mixture, lay on the slices of lemon, add the rest of the mixture, cover with the upper crust and bake slowly for three-quarters of an hour.

Rose Cake.—Two ounces flour, two ounces sugar, two ounces butter, one egg. Beat the butter and sugar together to a cream, put in the flour, then the egg and rounds, place jam between them and serve while still warm.

Sponge Cake.—Three eggs, one and one-half cupfuls of flour, one and one-half cupfuls of sugar, one and one-half teaspoonfuls of baking powder, two teaspoonfuls of lemon extract, one-half cupful of boiling water. Beat the whites and yolks of the eggs separately until light; then place them together and beat again. Sift in the sugar a little at a time and add the flavoring and the flour and baking powder. Beat all well together and at the last stir in the hot water. Bake in one loaf for three-quarters of an hour.

YOUR BUREAU.

The accepted kind at the present time is either of mahogany or of curly birch, with swell front and very plain brass handles, after the style of forty years ago, or with cut-glass knobs.

It must be of generous proportions, with a large top, and above all things, have an even larger glass. This glass is either oval or has a square bottom, with an oval top.

The fancy glove or mouchoir case is no longer needed, as the compartment for these are found in the top bureau drawer.

Usually a sachet is made to exactly fit the bottom of each compartment. It is made of china silk in the shade of the room, has two layers of cotton wadding, between which is put the scent, and the outside is tufted with tiny bows of satin baby ribbon.

The cover to be in good taste nowadays must be of pure white, and just fit the top. The kind with the ends hanging over is out of date. White linen hemstitched all around with a border of drawnwork, is pretty; while another kind much used has a scallop around the front, and each end of white silk in buttonhole stitch, and a few embroidered conventionalized figures scattered over it, but all in white.

The large stuffed pincushions are not used any more, but a small, round one, about four inches in diameter, covered with white china silk. They are ornamented with double ruffles of the same around them and covered with white linen lawn, embroidered with wreaths of lady's favorite flower. The pincushion is placed at the upper right hand corner of the bureau, not in the centre of the front, as formerly.

TESTED RECIPES.

A Dish for Breakfast.—Boil two ounces of macaroni till perfectly cooked, then drain and cut into short lengths. Mix a teaspoonful of flour into a paste with a little cold milk and then add more till you have half a pint, cook this over the fire for five minutes and flavor highly with anchovy sauce. Beat up three or four eggs lightly, add to the mixed macaroni and sauce seasoned with cayenne pepper and pour into a greased pie-dish. Bake in moderate oven till browned and set. Turn out to serve and pour a little anchovy sauce round.

French Rolls.—One pint of milk, scalded; put into it while hot a cup of sugar and one tablespoonful butter. When the milk is cool, add a little salt and half a cup of yeast or one yeast cake; stir in flour to make a stiff sponge; when light mix as for bread. Let rise until light, punch it down with the hands and let it rise again; repeat two or three times, then turn the dough on to the molding board and pound with a rolling pin until thin enough to cut. Cut with a tumbler, brush the surface of each one with melted butter and fold over. Let rise in the tin; bake, and, while warm, brush over the surface with melted butter to make the crust tender.

Prussian Puffs.—Cream two ounces of butter, adding three tablespoonfuls of sugar and the yolks of three eggs,

then by degrees add three cupfuls of milk and the same of flour, a saltspoonful of salt, and when all is mixed stir in the stiffly-beaten whites of three eggs flavored with vanilla. Half fill some greased teacups with the batter and bake for twenty minutes in a quick oven. Serve immediately with sweet sauce.

PLENTY OF PLAY.

Play—the real boisterous play should not be denied any child. It is nature's way of giving the children the sound bodies which they need. No systematic drill or exercise which requires precision, regular movement or mental effort will have the same effect, and for that reason the children should have from ten to fifteen minutes recess every day during school hours when they can run, laugh and shout to their hearts' content. Nothing is more healthful, and especially so if out in the open air. Mothers should see that the little ones have plenty of play. If they are too noisy for comfort, send them somewhere where they will be safe and where they can exercise their limbs and muscles without restriction.

A number of educators have come to the conclusion that even as boys and girls get older they should have some form of gymnastic exercises and athletic sports—something to keep them occupied. A college president is responsible for the following sentences, which, although amusing, are nevertheless very true. He was discussing advantages and disadvantages of athletic sports and said: A singular result of the introduction of these sports among the boys is that since then the number of flirtations and engagements between them and the girls in the village has fallen off one-half. A boy who has not only his books but his rowing and intercollegiate games to occupy his mind, has little time to give to moonlight, and poetry, and girls. Which, when we remember how short-lived and hurtful are generally these flirtations and engagements, appears to be a most desirable result.

"AFRIKANDER" COFFEE.

The Boer frau of Transvaal has the reputation for making a better cup of coffee than even the French housewife. The water is boiled in a kettle kept for coffee-making only. When the water boils, the coffee—freshly ground, and mixed with a very small quantity of chicory (the proportion being half an ounce to one pound of coffee), and the quantity of coffee used a dessertspoonful to each breakfast-cup required—is put into the kettle of boiling water, which is removed from the fire, left to stand three minutes, after which a quarter of a teacup of cold water is poured into it quickly. In a few moments the grounds all settle. The coffee, strong and clear, is then poured through a flannel bag into a saucenpan of hot milk, the milk and coffee together are then brought to the boil, and the result is the best cup of coffee in the world, as many a traveller and visitor have found, to their astonishment and delight.

WHEN BUYING SHOES.

In buying shoes it is well to remember that the feet are one-third of an inch longer when the body is standing than when seated, and the elongation is further increased when walking, for the weight is then thrown entirely on one foot at each alternate step; so that in choosing one's boots it is absolute necessary that an allowance should be made for this. The shortness may not be felt at once, but after a few weeks it becomes very manifest; and, moreover, by forcing the great toe back it is apt to produce a bunion on the joint.

TEACH BOYS TO KNOW.

That good health is better than wealth.

That honest, industrious habits are better than money.

That manly boys love and obey their parents.

That to speak or even think disrespectfully of women is to dishonor their own sweet mothers and sisters.

That a clear conscience is worth far more than the applause of men.

FRANCE'S ARTISTIC MONEY.

Beautiful Coins That Are Being Turned Out of the French Mints.

Tourists in France this year will have some very picturesque coins pass through their hands, for, after several years' agitation in the press and elsewhere the French government is about to change the designs on its coinage, and no one will be able to complain of its selections. The design for the obverse of the 100 sou silver piece represents a woman sowing grain, her figure outlined against the rising sun. The reverse shows the torch of progress and a wreath of laurel, and bears the motto of the republic—"Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite." The composition is much admired in France, and regarded as worthy of the artist who has just been elected president of the Academy of Fine Arts.

The designs for the copper coins are subject to some slight modifications, but their main features will be adopted. The obverse shows a woman's head in profile, representing Liberty, while the reverse shows "La Dame France." This design has an artistic quality far superior to those of the copper coins at present current in France, or, indeed, in most other countries.

AN ARTFUL WIDOW.

And how long, he asked, have you been a widow?
Oh, she replied, with a blush, the year was up yesterday. But, indeed, I didn't suppose you were so anxious, dearest. You must give me a month at least to get ready.

When he got outside again he murmured to himself:
Now I know what old Weller meant.

YOUNG FOLKS.

LAUGH A LITTLE BIT.

Here is a motto, just your fit,—
Laugh a little bit,
When you think you're trouble hit,
Laugh a little bit,
Look misfortune in the face,
Brave the belidam's rude grimace,
Ten to one 'twill yield its place
If you have the wit and grit
Just to laugh a little bit.

Keep your face with sunshine lit—
Laugh a little bit,
All the shadows soon will flit
If you have the grit and wit
Just to laugh a little bit.

Cherish this as sacred writ—
Laugh a little bit,
Keep it with you; sample it—
Laugh a little bit,
Little ills will soon betide you,
Fortune may not sit beside you,
Men may mock and fame deride you
But you'll mind them not a whit
If you laugh a little bit.

JOHNNY AND THE GATE.

"Johnny, I want you to do an errand for me."

"Where, mamma?"

"Over to Mrs. Root's. Here is a note for her. Put it in your pocket."

Johnny set out on his errand, soon arriving at Mrs. Root's gate. And here he found trouble. The latch on the gate was so tightly caught that he could not open it. With all his might he tugged at it, but his small hands were not strong enough. What did he do? Turn about and go home again with his errand undone? No, Johnny was not that kind of a boy. He had been sent to give that note to Mrs. Root and he meant to do it. He tried to climb over the gate, but it was too high. Then he looked about him. The gate belonging to the next house was low. He was an active little fellow and could easily climb that. He walked carefully along the fence until he came to the board wall which divided Mrs. Root's lot from this one. There was a ledge along it. He climbed on this, then hung by his hands and dropped into Mrs. Root's yard. Coming out, he found it easy to open the gate. With- in sight of the gate there was a tiny park with seats under the trees. As Johnny started for home he saw his father sitting on one of them.

"How long have you been here, papa?" he asked.

"About ten minutes," said his father.

"Did you see what a time I had getting into Mrs. Root's?"

"Yes."

"And you didn't come to open the gate for me," said Johnny, feeling a little injured.

"No, because I was thinking of the times when I shouldn't be with you, and you would have to make your own way—just as you did now."

"But I don't go to Mrs. Root's very often. Perhaps I shan't go there again for a great while—and perhaps the gate will be fixed then."

"I mean, my boy, that I was thinking of the times which will come to you as you go on in life, when they will seem hard for you, and you will have to work it out alone. Now, God has given you your strong, active body and your bright mind, and he expects you to use them. When you cannot do a thing one way by the powers of your body or call on the powers of your mind to tell you of some other way; just as you did in getting into Mrs. Root's yard, when you could not open the gate."

"Yes, I had to think it out," said Johnny, brightly.

"I was much pleased at seeing that you did not give it up when you met with a difficulty. A boy who brings his best thought and power to the overcoming of an obstacle will be sure to make his way."

HOW TO PLAY THE GUITAR.

Girls who are musically inclined should by all means learn to play on the guitar. It is an instrument easily learned and one which forms a delightful accompaniment to the voice. And mere artistic considerations aside, how very popular on moonlight picnics, sailing parties or any of the many little jaunts and excursions of Summer, is the maiden who can thrum the "Spanish guitar," and enliven the company with music and song. So girls be sure and brush up your accomplishments and learn to play this attractive instrument before the "silly season" sets in.

In fixing upon the guitar as the accompaniment, it is not for a moment to be imagined that it is suitable only for that purpose, an idea possessed by too many. Few more beautiful instruments exist for solo playing. It is closely allied in tone and capabilities to the harp. Of course, the tone is softer and less powerful, but it is inexpressibly sweet and fascinating.

In a large concert hall the guitar is out of place for solos—it is essentially for home use. Although a full-toned instrument will fill a moderate-sized hall, the sweet, soft effects which go so far to add finish are lost.

To play solos well on the guitar is difficult. Rapid execution requires much patient study and long practice.

It is, however, as an accompaniment that we must consider it at present. A great deal of charming and effective music is now written for the guitar.

Before proceeding with the left hand, a good touch should be acquired with the right. The forearm should rest on the edge of the instrument, which should be held, well-balanced, on the left knee—crossed over the right, or raised on a hassock—the wrist, must be well-raised, and gracefully arched. The little finger may be lightly placed on the body of the guitar, and lifted whenever the hand is raised from a chord. Some players find this balance and support the hand, but it is never intended that the little finger should be fixed firmly and held down. The

third finger should be placed on the first string; the second on the second string, and the first on the third—a finger for each gut string—while the thumb plays the three covered strings, falling, after striking each, on to the next string, except when, having struck the fourth, or D string, it rests on the first finger. After playing a chord, which is most effectively produced in a slight arpeggio, the right hand should be turned outwards and upwards, with the palm in view of the player. Let all the movement be from the joints of the hand, nothing from the arm. In quick playing, the wrist must be steady, but not stiff, or the effect will be staccato and jerky. Give every note its full vibration, on no account returning a finger to its string until required. Approaches of this, a fact not often noticed is that the left hand should be slightly in advance of the right in the fingering; this gives a sustained tone, and more of the glissando effects so dear to the heart of all good guitarists.

Having practised on the open strings until the tone is pure and sustained, and the movement of the fingers free and supple, the left hand must be studied.

The elbow must not be held close to the side, nor yet stuck out ungracefully. The neck of the guitar rests lightly in the hollow of the hand, the fingers curved over the strings, the tips downwards, so that each string may be stopped without touching the others. A firm pressure just behind the frets is requisite, the same rules applying to all fretted instruments. It is absolutely necessary that the position of the hand be changed according to the nature of the chords. Each individual hand, too, has its peculiarities and must be treated accordingly. The left hand should not hold the guitar, but simply balance it.

The naming of the strings, fingering, etc., should be obtained from a good tutor, as it is impossible to enter into it here.

A BOY'S MANNERS.

His manner is worth a hundred thousand dollars to him!" This is what one of the chief men of the nation lately said about a boy. "It wouldn't be worth so much to boys in every other line of business, but to a young, ambitious college student it is worth at least a hundred thousand."

The boy was a distant relative of the man, and had been brought up by careful parents in a far-off city. Among other things he had been taught to be friendly, and to think of other persons before himself. The boy was on a visit to the town where the man lived. They met on the street, and the younger, recognizing the elder, promptly went to his side and spoke to him in his cordial, happy, yet respectful way. Of course the man was pleased, and knew that anybody would have been pleased. The sentence above was the outcome of it. A little later the boy came into the room just as the man was struggling into his overcoat. The boy hurried to him, pulled it up by the collar, and drew down the wrinkled coat beneath. He would have done it for any man, the haughtiest to the poorest.

The boy has not been in society a great deal. He has not learned orthodox selfishness. He positively can't be easy at the table until his neighbors are waited on; a chair is torture if he thinks anyone else is less comfortably seated. He wouldn't interrupt to let loose the wittiest or most timely remarks ever thought of. He may learn to do so some day—after he has earned his hundred thousand—but it is doubtful. The expression of his kindness may become conformed to popular usage, modified, refined, but the spirit which prompts the expression will only grow with his years.

Do not misunderstand, boys. You may wish to do things for others; and yet feel that you do not know how. The only way to learn is to try; to hesitate for no feeling of bashfulness or awkwardness, but to put into direct and instantaneous practice whatever kind, helpful thoughts occur to you.

RAILROAD FIRE ENGINE.

IT HAS BEEN DESIGNED AS A RAILWAY YARD PROTECTOR.

Carries Both Pump and Water Supply—A Locomotive Furnishes Motion and Steam Power—Necessity Compelled the Production of the Machine and its Name.

A method of fighting fire that is distinctly novel and practical is in operation in the yards of the New York Central at East Buffalo. It comprises a car 34 feet long, a pump, two water tanks and all the apparatus necessary to extinguish flames. The pump is operated by an ordinary railroad engine, attached to the car, and thus the force which the streams that are thrown receive is greater or less, according to the power of the engine.

The capacity for each of the two water tanks is 3,500 gallons, and as they are kept constantly filled, a reservoir of 7,000 gallons of water is thus at hand at all times ready for emergencies. The pump which forces the water from the tanks into the lines of hose is located in the center of the car directly between the two tanks. Over this pump is what the railroad men call a cab, but in reality is nothing more nor less than a miniature pump house. The pump is of the duplex fire variety, with 12 by 12 inch steam cylinders, and 6 by 12 inch water cylinders. The water discharge is arranged for three two-and-a-half-inch hose connections, so that three streams can be used at one time.

THE PUMPING APPARATUS.

For its motive power, the car depends upon an ordinary locomotive, any sort. This locomotive is coupled on to the car and the steam connection formed just as it is for heating the ordinary passenger car. This gives the

necessary power to the pump and the water can be forced through the hose at as great a pressure as the strength of the hose will permit. This steam hose connection with the engine is of the standard sort, and thus any engine of the New York Central may be utilized as a power producer for the fire-fighting car.

The hose, of which there is always 400 feet on hand, is two and a half inches in size and constructed of linen, the strongest kind of hose that is made. The nozzle attached to the end of the hose, and through which the water passes directly upon the fire, has an opening at the forward end of one inch in circumference. This gives opportunity for the passage of a strong, forceful stream that would drown almost any ordinary fire. In fact, with an ordinary pressure through the nozzle a stream can be thrown over the highest building in and about the East Buffalo yards.

One hundred feet of this hose is kept on a rack in the car close to the water connection, and is thus in readiness at all times for use. It is so arranged that it can be transferred from the rack in the twinkling of an eye, and so carefully arranged details have been looked after that there is no chance for a slip of any kind. When it is only necessary to use this amount of hose, the line is run through the window on either side of the car and the stream thrown upon whatever is ablaze. With a locomotive attached to the train, owing to the multiplicity of the tracks in the yard, the fire-fighting car can be under ordinary circumstances switched in a moment as close as safety will permit to whatever may be a fire, if it is in the yard themselves or on the borders thereof.

If it should happen, however, that the fire is at some place near which it is impossible to switch the car then two horse reels, which are in the car at all times, are called into requisition. Each of these reels has wound upon its drum 150 feet of hose. If it is necessary all this hose can be coupled to the 100 feet originally attached to the engine and thus give a continuous line of 400 feet.

POWERFUL PRESSURE.

A fair idea of the power which this apparatus has constantly in reserve can be gained from consideration of the fact that with a pressure of 80 pounds of steam throwing water through a hundred feet of hose and the one-inch nozzle a stream can be thrown straight up in the air a distance of from 160 to 176 feet. With one such stream as this working the capacity of the tanks, which is 700 gallons would admit of being drawn upon on an average from 50 minutes to an hour. Rare, indeed, is it that a fire in a railroad yard would demand more than this. Even if the tanks were to give out the car is so constructed that the tanks could be refilled from the ordinary water tank in the yards in an incredibly short space of time.

The fires in railroad yards have always been the bane of fire departments. The firemen themselves, totally unaccustomed to railroad matters, are at sea in the yards, and thus work under a tremendous disadvantage.

The crew which operates the fire car is composed entirely of railroad men, to whom the modus operandi of yard affairs is as familiar as the alphabet. Therefore the moment an alarm is sounded an engine is coupled on almost as quickly as a team of horses is snapped into the traces in a five engine house. Of course, a locomotive is always kept in readiness close to the fire car. There is no waiting for a switchman to turn the switch so that the car may be pulled onto the right track. The engineer, the fireman, or any of the train crew can perform the task, for all are thoroughly familiar with the official methods of the yards and switch keys and other necessary instruments are within reach at all times.

Once upon the network of lines of rails that form a yard and also a mystery of complication to the untutored car and its crew go almost as directly to the location of the fire as if they were rolling up an asphalt pavement. Every man carries a map of the yard in his head. He knows just where every switch is located and just exactly what will happen when it is turned. The result is there are no delays through ignorance and the fire fighting car apparatus is throwing water on the blazing object almost before the local fire department could have made a start.

The car and its apparatus form the result of an idea of a well-known official of the New York Central. Railroad men who have seen them work claim that they solve the fire fighting problem which has puzzled the officials of railroad yards for many a long year.

A SKINNER.

Grimshaw (in the chair)—You haven't been a barber long, have you?

Barber (with dignity)—I have been working at my present profession 14 years.

Grimshaw—H'm! I should have supposed you had been a taxidermist up till within the last half hour.

TRUTH IN ABSENTMINDEDNESS.

Mrs. Furlong—We received your bill, doctor, and were rather surprised at it, under the circumstances.

Dr. Sternum—Under what circumstances, madam?

Mrs. Furlong—Why, the child died.

Dr. Sternum—My dear madam, if we were paid for only those patients that we cure we would starve.

SUDDEN BACKSLIDING.

Fond Mamma—You have always been a good boy at school, but I hear that to-day you were so bad that the teacher kept you in at recess.

Little Boy—No use being good to-day, 'cause my new shoes were so tight I couldn't play if I went out.

HURRIED PREPARATIONS.

Good Minister (awaiting the appearance of the lady of the house)—What is that, my little dear?

Little Girl—My apron, I's goin' to put it in the wash. Mamma got it all dirty.

She hid.

Yes, sir, she grabbed it just now to dust off the Bible.