BY AUNT JUNE

Our Boys and Girls Corner

Registered According to the Copyright Act.

DEDICATED TO EVERY BOY AND GIRL IN CANADA

Dear Boys and Girls:—

Aunt June has gone away for some holidays, and I rather expect that when she gets back she will have some mighty interesting things to tell you. I don't know whether it's a secret where she has gone, but in case it is I'm not going to tell you anything about it. She can tell you herself when she gets back.

Now, I'll bet you are wondering who I am, to be writing this when Aunt June is away? Well, I'll just call myself Uncle Jim, and let it go at that.

There are a lot of letters at the office for Aunt June; but I'm not much of a hand at answering them. You see I don't write many letters. But I know a lot of Helpers, and am just as interested in them and their work as Aunt June is, because I like Aunt June, too.

About the best fun I have with Helpers is with two I have all of my very own—and their mothers, of course. They're fine Helpers, too. They live on a farm all summer, and just enjoy themselves like everything. They have lots of fun helping mother and filling the woodbox every day so that mother and the hired girl won't have to do it. Then they feed the chickens and watch the little baby chicks to see that they don't get lost or wander through wet grass or anything like that. They have some pet hens, too, and a pet colt, and some pet calves and horses that eat out of their hands. They just love to gather the eggs for mother; but sometimes they slip and fall with them and break them. They are making pets now out of a whole lot of new little pigs that are as cute as ever they can be, and as fat and playful as anything. They get right into the pen with the old sow and her family, and the sow, whose name is Bessie, likes them, and lets them play with her little babies. But the Helpers can't hold the little pigs very well because they squirm and squeal so much.

Helpers' Badges.

Aunt June is arranging for the badges for the Helpers, and as soon as they're made they will be sent out to the Helpers who have sent in their pledge. Any Helpers wishing to join the League should sign the pledge and send it to Aunt June, 515 Manning Chambers, Toronto, because that is the headquarters of the League. If any Helpers ever come to Toronto for a visit they must come in and see Aunt June.

Some Letters.

Here are a few letters that came in for Aunt June, and as soon as she gets back from her holidays I'll bet she'll write nice answers to them:—

Tottenham, Ont., July 3, 1920.

Dear Aunt June:—

I would like very much to join the Helpers' League of Service. I have signed the pledge and I think it a splendid idea that you have all the boys and girls who are helpers belong to one league.

I have seen a good many birds this year, and our school teacher helped us to study their habits. Last year we started a club at our school. We called it the Belgium Relief Club. I joined the club, and so did almost all of our school boys and girls.

We had a box social and a play, and we sent the money to the little Belgians that had no mother or father. I help mother with the garden, but I have no garden of my own. I hope to see my letter in the paper next week. Yours lovingly,

MEARL GODSON.

That was a wonderful thing to do, Mearl dear, to help raise money for the poor little Belgian children. Isn't it nice to think that you can help other children? Perhaps your mother will let you have a garden of your very own next year. Write again.

Cordova Mines, July 2, 1920.

Dear Aunt June:—

I want to be a Helper, as I have been reading your boys and girls column and enjoy it. Now here is a week's service — milking, feeding calves, picking berries, doing housework and taking care of the children. Please find enclosed my pledge and stamp for badge.

MABEL HOUGHTON.

Well, Mabel, if you have any spare time after doing all that every week, you are a lucky girl. Which do you like best, milking or picking berries or taking care of the children? I just love to take care of children myself. I like milking, too, but I can't do it very fast, because I don't do it often enough. But I'm a good berry picker. I'd like to know all about your farm, and will be glad to hear from you again.

AUNT JUNE.

PLEDGE.
For Young Helpers' League of Service.

"Do a little kindness to someone every day.
Scatter rays of sunshine all along the way."

I pledge myself in the service of my King and Country to DO MY BEST IN MY DAILY WORK, wherever it may be, to help others wherever possible, and to endeavor in every way to make myself A GOOD CITIZEN.

Date.....

Name .....

Age .....

Address .....

Cordova Mines, July 2.

Dear Aunt June:—

I have been reading your column. I am ten years old and would like to join your club. I wish to win the badge. Now I am going to tell you what I have been doing this week. I have been washing dishes and pulling weeds in the garden, and sweeping the floor and sewing and watering the plants, cleaning the windows, making beds, feeding the pigs and hens and the calf, and carrying the water and wood. And I hoe in the garden, too.

IRENE WEESE.

Well, well, Irene, for a ten-year-old you certainly are busy. I'm afraid I'll have to tell one of my own Helpers about all the things you do on the farm. Don't those weeds just grow as fast as anything? It keeps me busy, too, keeping them hoed out; but then I don't have to make beds and sweep floors and do all the other things you do. But so long as you are happy in your work, that's all that matters. Write again.

Cordova Mines, July 3.

Dear Aunt June:—

I have been reading your pledge in the paper, and I thought I would like to have a badge and be a Helper and sign the pledge. I have been working in my garden this week to keep down the weeds, and I do other things, too. I am going to help do the dishes now, so will close.

ROBERTA THOMAS.

Don't those garden weeds keep you busy, Roberta? And do the cut worms get at your cabbages and tomatoes? They did at mine. I thought I had got rid of them all, but found a lot of my plants dead. Then I found it was a small worm that was eating the roots, and not cutworms at all. So I'll have to get rid of them some way, or we don't have any cabbages and tomatoes and things to eat next winter. I'm going to have some nice vegetables, though, and have a great big field of potatoes. I like to hear from little boys and girls on farms, because, you see, I'm a farmer. Aunt June doesn't know I'm a farmer, but I am.

Now, that's about all I have room for this week. As I told all you Helpers, Aunt June is away, so it will be a little while before you get the badges; but you just write whenever you feel like it, and if Aunt June isn't here I'll answer your letters for her.

YOUR UNCLE JIM.

ONCE I saw a little bird
Come hop, hop, hop.
I offered him some bread and milk,
If he would only stop.

He gobbled up my bowl of food,
Without the least delay,
Then darted off. not waiting to
Say "Thank you," or Good-day."

Find two other friends of the bird. Lower side down, along dress; left side down, in the leaves.

POEMS YOU SHOULD KNOW.

[Of this poem, Thomas Wentworth Higginson said ("Outlook," February, 1890): "It is so magnificent that it cheapens most of its contemporary literature, and is alone worth a life otherwise obscure. When all else of American literature has vanished, who knows but that some single masterpiece like this may remain to show the high-water mark, not merely of a poet, but of a nation and of civilization?"]

THALASSA! THALASSA!

I stand upon the summit of my life. Behind, the camp, the court, the field, the grove,
The battle, and the burden; vast, afar
Beyond these weary ways, behold the sea!
The sea, o'erswept by clouds, and winds, and wings;
By thoughts and wishes manifold; whose breath
Is freshness, and whose mighty pulse is peace.

Palter no question of the horizon dim—
Cut loose the bark! Such voyage itself is rest;
Majestic motion, unimpeded scope,
A widening heaven, a current without care,
Eternity! Deliverance, promise, course,
Time-tired souls salute thee from the shore.

—Brownlee Brown.

A LITTLE OF EVERYTHING

THE MULE IN WAR.

According to an official publication just issued there were more than 45,000 army mules engaged with the armies overseas, and more than 100,000 with troops in the United States, and while there was much hee-hawing, kicking, balking, biting and other mulish tricks as might be expected, the army mule lived up to his established reputation for enduring, sacrificing and dying like a soldier. There were times during the final stage of the world war when it was impossible to give much needed rest to these animals. There were not enough to do the work which confronted them, and the result was that it was necessary to keep on the move forty-eight, sixty and sometimes seventy-two hours, with hardly more than a pause. Then it was possible only to feed a small amount of grain and a few handfuls of hay. Under this strain the mule went forward, giving his all uncomplainingly. Instances have been known where a pack mule would loaf about the army kitchen while the cook was baking bread until he observed the cook busy at some other duty, when he would approach the fire, raise one foot and paw off the lid of the Dutch oven, grab a hot loaf within and make off with it on the run. He would do the same if he observed a hunk of bacon within easy reach.

PROPELLED BY AIR JET

The invention of a French scientist, an engine was exhibited at the recent airplain exposition in Paris, which furnished the motive power for airplanes. It has neither cylinders, pistons nor propellors, its essential elements being a combustion chamber and a special nozzle, consisting of a number of concentric cones of increasing size, the outer one being elongated to four or five feet. The gasoline and air burned in the oval combustion chamber discharges through a small orifice toward the cones, at a velocity of 4,000 to 5,000 feet per second. Additional air is drawn into the stream and heated at each opening between the cones. The final discharge at the nozzle has considerable volume and power, and tests are reported to have indicated an efficiency superior to that of the air screw.

WITCHCRAFT IN ZULULAND.

The Zulu baby is born into the fear of witchcraft; in the fear of witchcraft he grows up and when he sickens and is about to die, his one thought is that a spell has been cast upon him for which the charm can not be discovered. All his life long he dreads to meet in lonely places the "inswelabova"—an inhuman man, lacking only hair or fur to make him altogether a beast—a sort of beast in human form who rides backward on a baboon, ready to pounce upon and make medicine of the unwary traveler. In mature manhood he suspects his neighbor, his friend, his brother, and even his wife of having dealings with makers of charms and poisons. He walks with an uneasy feeling that an enemy may have put medicine in his pathway to harm him. From every possible source, from earth and from sky, from river and from forest, from friend and from foe, he is continually apprehensive of an evil influence coming upon him and searching for a talisman to wear against it.

DANUBE NOT ALWAYS BEAUTIFUL.

I floated down the Danube to Budapest, says a correspondent, with both eyes wide open for madmen rushing along the banks with knives in their hands. I saw nothing but the swollen brown waters of the Danube, the flat, monotonous and wonderfully rich Hungarian farm lands and millions of wild mallard ducks. The Danube has worked up considerable of a reputation for beauty and blueness, on account of Strauss's celebrated waltz. It is, however, not particularl ybeautiful and not at all blue between Vienna and Budapest. Instead of "The Beautiful Blue Danube," Strauss should have written a jazz melody entitled, "Down on the Danube There are Dandy Ducks," or something like that, if he wanted to be strictly up-to-date and truthful. As the little steamer churned downstream she was constantly surrounded by a flocks of ducks which got out of the river ahead of her and circled round behind her to settle again and resume their feeding. I strongly recommend the Danube as a duck hunters' paradise.

HORSE NOT YET OUT-OF-DATE.

In Illinois, an association has been formed which will spend $250,000 in the next three years in advertising the economic value of the horse. In Denver, on the other hand, the authorities are considering an ordinance to prohibit the use of horses on the streets. But the horse goes on his way, regardless. He is not doomed but on the increase, according to figures announced at a recent convention of the retail harness makers of Iowa. It was found that there are 26,000,000 horses in the U. S., one for every four of the population, and curiously, that the number of horses has increased in the last ten years in the very States where the automobiles and tractors have been heaviest. In 1919 there were 20,000 more horses on the farms than in 1917. The farmer is using the automobile and the tractor, but apparently he needs just as many horses as he ever did, if not more.

The price of motor cars in England has increased two and one-half times since before the war.

Claimed to be the largest in the world, Akron, Ohio, has a garage to accommodate 3,500 automobiles.

In western Samoa, motor vehicles were a curiosity seven years ago. Today there are 49 passenger cars, 19 motor trucks, and six motorcycles.

There are 90,000 automobile box cars in use on railroads at the present time.

ADVICE TO GIRLS

By Rosalind

Registered According to the Copyright Act

Rosalind welcomes letters from readers of this paper asking for advice on any subject. Do not write too long a letter, and write on one side of the paper only. Send your inquiries to Rosalind, 515 Manning Chambers, Toronto, and they will be answered in these columns.

Dear Rosalind:—

The subject of my letter is rather different from any that has appeared in your column; but you asked for letters about anything we cared to write!

This particular matter has bothered me for years, so I am going to voice it through your most helpful department. The charge is often made by men of this generation that women are extravagant. But have those among you who are fathers never realized that the remedy lies in your own hands, that if you do your share in training your own daughters the women of the next generation will have some knowledge of administering money?

Study your own daughter. Perhaps she, like many other girls, would prefer to leave home and become self-supporting, but cannot because she is needed at home. A girl of this type will do without money, or in her spare time try to discover or invent some way of keeping a little money in her purse, rather than ask for it.

Or perhaps she longs for independence, but is kept from seeking it by the fact that her father is in comfortable circumstances and objects to losing her. Or possibly she stays at home merely because she has never thought of doing anything else; instead of a craving for independence, her one desire is for a good time. If she answers any of these descriptions she is dependent for her spending money on an indulgent, or otherwise, father. The girl who happens to possess a wealthy and indulgent parent is not to be blamed for extravagance. What can she know of the value of money, when it comes so easily?

You will say the solution to the problem in all the cases I have mentioned is an allowance. But I happen to know several girls who have allowances and yet spend their money carelessly, knowing that they may run freely to father to supply any deficit.

No; the real solution is more inclusive. If your daughter is ever to know the value of money, you must teach her to keep accounts and to live within whatever sum is allotted her.

Figure up approximately the entire amount you have given her for clothes during the past year. If she is the sort of girl who asks frequently, or for large sums at a time, knock off ten or fifteen dollars from the lump sum; if she asks but seldom, and then reluctantly, add twenty-five. Tell her she must keep within this limit.

Let her have it monthly or quarterly, as is most convenient for you both. If at all possible, put the money in the bank for her and let her have her own check book. By this plan she will learn to keep accounts, to do business by check, to plan and shop for herself, and to live within her income.

There is a special advantage in such a plan for the girl who often goes without because she hates to ask for money. It is there all ready for her, and that peculiar self-respect of hers is thereby saved.

No doubt there are some fathers who will say: "A great fuss about nothing! The old-fashioned way of handing it out is good enough for me!" Let me tell you, many a girl (it may be yours) is using her earning capacity on the housework, by this means saving you the expense of outside labor. If she gave the same amount of time and attention to any business or profession away from home, she would draw a salary and enjoy her personal independence on it. Then why shouldn't she enjoy a similar independence with a stipulated income at home? Financial dependence at home is driving out into the world many a girl who really does not need to go, and whose parents would be glad to have her stay with them.

If you have done your share toward training your daughter to spend wisely what money she has, you are privileged to complain about woman's extravagance—but not before.

MARY H. H.

Dear Mary H. H.:—

Your letter puts the question up to Father so well that there is absolutely nothing for me to say except that I endorse your opinions heartily. Whether a girl is allowed a dollar a week or ten a week she should have the sum regularly and know exactly what she has to spend. Sometimes a country girl has the butter and egg money to buy groceries for the house and things for herself. Let her keep a cash account and know just what she receives as wages for housekeeping, butter-making, etc. I would like very much to have other letters along this line.

ROSALIND.

California, Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota can carry their entire population in their own motor vehicles.

Travelling at the rate of 115.79 miles an hour is the new world's record for motorcycles.

Registration fees for automobiles in Auckland, New Zealand, cost $2.43, with an additional charge of $1.94 for two license plates.

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF CHILDREN

By ELINOR MURRAY

Registered According to Copyright Act.

This Column is published for the guidance and information of mothers. Elinor Murray has given advice to thousands of mothers throughout Canada, and will welcome any letters of inquiry in connection with the care and feeding of children. Address all inquiries to Elinor Murray, 515 Manning Chambers, Toronto. If a personal answer is required, a stamped, addressed envelope must accompany the inquiry.

IF BABY VOMITS.

There are several reasons why a baby vomits his feed. And because most babies spit up food at one time or another is no reason for accepting it as a matter of course.

First of all, find out the cause of your baby's vomiting on this particular occasion. If baby throws up his food as soon as it is taken it is often because the quantity given is too large for the stomach to hold easily. In such cases give less food at a meal. Sometimes this same kind of vomiting is caused by taking the food too rapidly; or his bands are too tight; or because he has been handled too much after his meal. For the first cause, the hole in the rubber nipple may be made smaller. That is, a new holeless nipple may be bought and a small opening made in it with a sterilized needle. The breast-fed baby must be made to rest very frequently during his meal.

The bands are easily adjusted if that is the disturbing cause, and for the last reason for this kind of vomiting the sensible course is always to put baby down in his basket after his hunger is satisfied. Think of all these causes before you decide that something is wrong with the food. Spitting up food quite a while after a meal has been given or just before before another is due is a different matter. This usually shows stomach indigestion. The food may be too rich in cream. Even if you are using mixed milk it may be stronger than your baby can stand. So before you shake up the milk bottle to mix the milk and cream, take off the richest part of the cream and then mix the remainder. As the vomiting ceases, you may gradually increase the richness of the milk again. If removing the cream does not seem to reduce the quality, a teaspoonful of lime-water should be given before each feeding. Often it is necessary to omit sugar from the food entirely for a little while, and then gradually add a little.

Helps for the Housewife

THE WINTER BLANKETS.

Before putting away the heavy blankets brush them thoroughly, shake them, then put them, one at a time, into a tub of very warm, but not hot, suds, using a good soap. Douse them up and down until clean. Then have ready a tub of warm water with about two tablespoonfuls of household ammonia and a little soap in it. Rinse them thoroughly, and press as much water as possible out. Do not wring a blanket. Hang on a line, turning once in a while. Choose a bright, sunny day for this work. When dry, fold and pack with cloves between the folds. Wrap in newspaper and pack away.

GREASE SPOTS ON WALL PAPER.

To remove grease marks from wall paper apply some newly-powdered French chalk wetted with cold water. Let it remain on for a day or two, then brush off lightly, and repeat if the mark be obstinate.

SAVING JELLY-GLASS PARAFFIN.

When a glass of jelly is opened wash the paraffin thoroughly and put it away in safe keeping. When needed again drop it into an enamel teapot in which it can be quickly melted and easily poured over the new jelly.

TO POLISH LEATHER.

To remove grease stains from leather bags, etc., apply the white of an egg to the grease mark, and dry it in the sun then gently rub with a clean cloth.

INSTEAD OF CHAMOIS SKIN.

A piece of old velveteen is an excellent substitute for chamois leather for all polishing purposes, and is much cheaper.

ABOUT SHOES.

Have shoes carefully fitted. Well fitting shoes look better and wear better, besides being more comfortable. Poor quality shoes are seldom economical.

Alternate two pairs; they last longer. Slip shoe trees into shoes when you take them off; it makes them keep their shape longer.

Keep shoes clean and well brushed. A dressing of olive or neats-foot oil, well rubbed in, prolongs the wear of leather and kid.

Clean canvas shoes on shoe trees to prevent shrinkage. Sponge with a little water and soap that contains whiting or use a standard commercial cleanser.

Dry wet shoes slowly on the trees or stuff with paper.

Protect shoes with rubbers in wet weather. Even with careful drying the moisture tends to rot the sewing threads.

Do not wear run-down heels; they will spoil the shape of the whole shoe.

CANNING YOUNG VEGETABLES.

Vegetables canned when they are young and very fresh are incomparably sweeter and better than those stored for winter use at the end of the season. Therefore many housewives can the young vegetables as they come along, beets, carrots, corn and others. The method in common use is known as the Cold Pack, and the vegetables are canned in glass jars.

Prepare the canning utensils in a boiler or other large vessel, with a wire or wooden rack fitted inside it on which to rest the jar during sterilization, you will also need a large square of cheesecloth in which to hold the vegetables when dipping and blanching; jars with tops that fit accurately and do not leak; can rubbers of good qualty; paring knives and bowls as needed. A good plan is to spread newspapers on the table and drainboard; it makes cleaning up much easier. Wash the vegetables thoroughly in clean, cold water, and prepare them as if to be cooked for immediate use.

Blanching means putting vegetables into a cheesecloth bag or wire basket and letting them stand in boiling water from one to twenty minutes, according to the vegetables used.

Cold Dipping means plunging the vegetables from boiling water into clean cold water, and keeping it there until it is cold to the touch.

Sterilizing means boiling the jars of vegetables in a large vessel with a false bottom long enough to kill the germs and spores which cause decay. As soon as the sterilizing of vegetables is complete they are sealed, tested for leaking, and put away in a cool, dark place.

Canning Young Beets.—Wash them well, leaving on roots and an inch or two of stem to prevent loss of color. Blanch twenty minutes in boiling water or steam. Cold dip, and remove skins, roots and stems. They should slip off easily. Pack in jars as closely as possible. Add a teaspoon of salt to each quart jar. Fill the jar to overflowing with boiled water. Put on rubbers and tops, but do not seal tight, and sterilize for an hour and a half. Remove from boiling water, seal jars absolutely, and set away.

In Tokio, Japan, more than $250,000 has been spent for motor fire engines.