Home Chats

By MARIE ANN BEST

"Humor dwells with sanity and common sense and truth."—Bishop Brewster.

The Early Riser

These dark mornings who likes to get up at midnight? That is what it feels like at 6 o'clock or 6.30 a.m., and the old alarm clock dings, dings until you are just wide enough awake to realize how delightful the warm covers feel.

They say the early bird catches the worm, but one likes to think while in semicoma state that the worm is also tucked away under the hard ground and won't venture out either in the cold and dark. Then there is that cold gray open window where the wind is whistling around in gusts. What about it?

But all these thoughts make it worse the longer you debate, so perhaps—and it really is the best way—you better spring out of bed without stopping to think about how cold it is and close down the window, for it must be done.

After prodigious exercising one might even feel like smiling and come to the conclusion that it isn't so bad after all. Allowing your thoughts to turn to someone else peacefully snoring you remember how nice it was in bed and perhaps a little vindictive mirth is mixed with the loud call, "Jim, get up! Why do you lie in bed so long? Don't you know it is seven o'clock?"

But after the early breakfast is over there is a most satisfied feeling of having a full day ahead of you when the work planned can be accomplished with time and thought. And isn't it a most provoking feeling to come down an hour late, after which it takes all day just "catching up."

An Excellent Mock Angel Food Cake

Sift together four times 1 scant cup granulated sugar, 1 cup fine cake flour (such as Swandown's flour), 3 teasp. baking powder and a pinch of salt. Into this pour 1 cup boiling milk and stir until smooth. Fold in the well-beaten whites of 2 eggs. Do not beat. Bake in ungreased cake tin for 45 minutes in slow oven.

Twilight Hour Story—The Little Chickies' New Mamma

Chap. 8

When these four little chickies found their mamma had left them and they were all alone in the world, as they weer frightened and they didn't they looked around I can tell you they were frightened and they didn't something like you would feel if your mamma left you all alone down town or in a big city before you know the way home. Isn't it a good thing that you know she never would leave you? Good mammas do everything—yes, just everything, to keep their little girls and boys safe and warm, don't they? Good mamma hens don't run away from their chickies either, but then this one was a bad one, wasn't she? Well, when they grew frightened they started to run. They didn't know where, but they ran on and on until they came to what they thought were a lot of trees. But they weren't really trees. We wouldn't think they were trees. But they were higher than the chicks, much higher, so high the little balls of thistle-down could easily hide in there. What the chickies thought were trees was grass that hadn't been cut and grew so long that it would come up to about your little knees. They all got close together in there and began to feel a little better. But soon the old wind blew them and whoof—he blew at them and they just had to run out again. Then the bigest little chick (let's give him a name. How would Jimmy be? Their mamma ran away before she named them, so we'll have to give them names, shall wt?) Well, Jimmy saw a big stone. It looked as big as a house to him, but he made a big jump and used his little wings too, and found himself on top of it. He looked all around and then called out very loudly: "Mamma, Mamma," only it sounded like this, "Peep-peep-peep," and do you know Mamma did hear him. But it wasn't Mamma Hen. It was the nice farmer lady in the big house who heard him. It just happened she came out doors to get the eggs out of the big chickens' house where all the older chickens were.

The farmer lady could hardly believe her ears when she heard little Jimmy calling. She stopped and listened, then said, "Do I hear a little chicken?" Then listened again. Sure enough, it was Jimmy calling again louder and louder than before. Then she saw him on the big stone. She went over to him ever so carefully and then she saw the others too, but as soon as they saw her they ran away in the grass, but Jimmy couldn't get down quite so fast as he was afraid of this big lady, for she was even bigger than Billy when he saw them in the barn. But she came on making a nice soft noise. Really it was a little bit like his own Mamma. "Come chick, chick, chick," she said. By this time he managed to get off the stone and ran a little, then waited till she nearly caught up to him, but when she got near he was afraid again and ran on a little farther. But over near the corner of the house she caught him. Ooh—ooh—he fluttered and even jumped a little, but her hands were so nice and warm. Even then he looked at her sharply out of his little black eyes to see what she would do, but she held him in her cupped hands so warm and gently he could hardly believe he was so comfortable and very soon snuggled down as cosy as could be. Then she heard the others crying in the grass, for the cold wind would not leave them alone, and she went over and caught each little baby until she had them all close together in her two hands.

Next Week—"The Little Chickens' New Home."

New Velvets

New models of velvet shown at the recent opening in Paris were labeled spring and summer which means that this very wearable material will continue to be an important factor in dress. The short wrap of white velvet promises to be one of the smartest for the unlined suit of chiffon velvet worn with a blouse of a heavy sheer fabric. Free from fur trimming it is an ideal type for warm weather.

Frocks of shantung are allied with velvet jackets in such gay colors as red or vivid green, making a striking sports costume. A luxury model is the lounging pajama which combines chiffon trousers with a velvet jacket.

Wax Spots

Wax spots on dresses or linen can be taken out by putting a clean blotter under the spot and another clean one over the spot and pressing the blotter with a hot iron. The blotting paper absorbs the wax. Move it around until the spot is entirely obliterated.

Atoms in Rock Crystals Called Cause of Mountains

The action of atoms composing the crystals of the rocks inside the earth causes mountains and tablelands to rise. The arrangement of the atoms or molecules is altered by the high pressure and internal heat of the earth. In this process the atoms exert powerful forces tending to thrust the earth's surface upward.

Such is the theory advanced by Dr. Bailey Willis, research associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, who made careful studies of the rift valleys of Africa.

Color Touch

You can carry out the color scheme of your bathroom even to the scouring powder can. Give the wrapper of this can one coat of quick drying paint. Six packages can be done at one time. The cleaner will look so much more attractive it can be kept in sight and serve as a reminder for daily use.

Sunday School Lesson

January 25. Lesson IV—Jesus Tempted—Luke 4: 1-13. Golden Text—In that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is to succour them that are tempted.—Hebrews 2: 8.

The Temptation narrative is really part of the Baptism story, though Luke has inserted the genealogy of Jesus between the two events. Pictures of the Baptism which are familiar to us suggest some sudden light in the sky and a mysterious thundering voice from heaven, but that seems to be far from the Evangelist's meaning. The Baptism of Jesus, he tells us in his pictorial Jewish way, was for him the occasion of a new and profound religious experience; the voice from heaven spoke to Jesus and to Jesus alone. We are not able to enter into the soul of Jesus as to understand exactly the nature of this experience. The early Christians thought of it as being, like their own baptismal experience, a receiving of the Holy Spirit; in Jesus' case it seems to have been an experience which sent him forth upon his public ministry. Some thirty years he had lived quietly in Nazareth, attracting no public attention to himself, but now the word of God came to him, bidding him come out before the people. It has often been supposed that Jesus, at his Baptism, first realized that he was the unique Son of God, or that he was Messiah; but this is quite uncertain. The Temptation is intimately connected with the Baptism, because we are told that the same Spirit, which descended upon him at his baptism, also drove him into the wilderness.

In order to understand the Temptation story we must recognize what kind of a story it is. Children often ask us whether the tale we are telling them is true; their question is sometimes difficult to answer. For instance, is the "Pilgrim's Progress" a true story? Surely it is one of the truest of true stories, but, of course, it is not literally true; there is no literal castle of Giant Despair, no literal Apollyon to straddle across our way. In what sense exactly are we to say that the Temptation narrative is a true story? We involve ourselves in very grave perplexities if we try to maintain that it is literally true. Can we, for instance, say that the Spirit of God literally drives any one to be tempted by the devil? Or how are we to picture the devil? Or is there any place on a mountain, or in the air, from which literally all the kingdoms of the earth can be seen at once? Obviously the story was told when men believed the world to be flat. But we misunderstand the story if we get ourselves into these difficulties. If a friend should tell us that he was at one time greatly tempted to be dishonest, and that for a week he had to fight the devil, we should perfectly understand him; we should never take his words literally, and ask him whether he fought with a sword or a gun. So here we shall miss the real meaning of the story, and get involved in useless discussions if we do not take it spiritually and interpret it, as best we can, of Jesus' inward experience of temptation.

Many interpretations of the Temptations have been offered, and we can never be sure that we have caught the whole meaning of them. It seems clear, however, that Jesus went away into solitude in order to think out the implications of his baptismal experience; hence, the repeated phrase, "If thou be the Son of God."

The temptation to make stones into bread might be either of two things; it might be the temptation to do private miracles for his own comfort and advantage, or it might be to attain his Messiaship, his kingship, by dealing first with economic problems. The Romans knew well that any ruler could win popularity if he would give the people "bread and circuses" for nothing.

The temptation to win world-empire by worshipping the devil suggests that he was tempted to use worldly means to achieve spiritual results. Propaganda, war, party-spirit, bribes, have too often been used by Christians to serve the cause of the church, but Jesus would not bribe nor cajole, nor force men into the kingdom; they must enter with their eyes open, because they understand and love.

The Jews demanded of him some "sign from heaven," some miraculous proof of his claims, but if they would not believe Moses and the prophets (Luke 16: 31), if they were not able to judge of the authority of John (Mark 11: 27-33), he would not cast himself down from the Temple, nor do any such miracle to prove his claims.

Then the devil left him "for a time," or "till his opportunity." The verse, perhaps, looks forward to Gethsemane.

"Luke omits in his narrative the ministry of angels mentioned by the other two synoptists, a sweet postlude we should have missed much, had it been wanting; but he gives us instead the retreat of the adversary: 'He departed from him for a season.' How long a season it was we do not know, but a brief one it must have been, for again and again in the story of the gospels we see the dark shadow of the evil one; while in Gethsemane the 'prince of this world' cometh, but to find 'nothing in me.' And what was the horror of great darkness, that strange eclipse of soul Jesus suffered upon Calvary, but the same fearful presence, intercepting for a time even the Father's smile?"

Fashion Gems

Every dress should have its jacket, whether it be silk or wool. As many as four color combinations are utilized. The suit proper remains subdued in tone, the colors lending their brightness to the blouse.

The cowl cape has to a certain extent tupplanted the cowl neckline. It is very youthful, and in many instances reaches almost to the waistline both in the front and back. It fits closely the high neckline from which all fullness is eliminated. The high neckline, by the way, is considered the correct neckline for mid-season wear.

Novelty fabrics are accepted as correct for the top coat. Self scarves play an important part, while long-haired furs are also meeting with approval. While the coat of more dressy type has a novelty weave, the colors are plain. Long, fitted lines, accentuated or not by a belt, lead as to style. Large shawl collars and often cuffs are consistently in the foreground.

Petticoats

At the present time, crisp hemlines are as much seen on the season's evening frocks as are the dripping lines of the Greek silhouette. Frequently the entire undersection of a frock is fashioned of white or flesh-colored organdie. Sheer velvet may form the body of the frock, leaving a wide hem of organdie below. Other frocks of lace or velvet are worn over underskirts of taffeta, but always the wide, sheer flaring hem is in evidence. Thus the name "petticoat frock" designates this model, which swishes pleasantly as the wearer dances and reminiscent of the quaint bouffant gowns of the past.

The Rough Woolens

Rough woolens are smart for coats but equally so for frocks. A rough woolen called frisca cloth is being shown in soft colors of pistachio, strawberry-rose, lemon-yellow and in periwinkle-blue. The fact that the material is thin and supple enough to be worn comfortably in warm houses and classrooms as well as rough and nubby on the surface guarantees its future popularity.

Gabbie Gertie

"The man who doesn't rejoice when he finds a fifty-dollar bill is usually a husband.'

Mother: "Why do you play with all those rough boys? Why don't you play with the nice boys?" Boy: "Their mothers won't let me."

Mother: "I don't like to shout at you Harold." Little Harold: "And I can't say that I like it, either, mummy."

What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNABELLE WORTHINGTON

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern

A distinctive model for the miss of 11, 13, 15 and 17 years, that will give her smart sophistication.

It merely pretends a bolero through the attached circular cut applied bands.

The circular skirt with its smartly fitted hip yoke is emphasized by cleverly shaped applied bands, that give it lots of snap.

Rust-red woolen with white piqué finishing the neck and sleeves made the original.

Style No. 2885 takes but 3⅝ yards of 39-inch material with ⅝ yard of 35-inch contrasting for the 15-year size.

Lightweight tweed mixture, wool jersey rayon novelties, flat crepe and wool challis prints are ideal for immediate and spring wear.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

Methodical Cleaning

If there is one time more than another when dresses should take a trip to the cleaners it certainly is just before starting a season with a freshly lined coat. It is surprising how quickly the lining of a coat gets soiled just through contact with even one soiled dress, and once the lining of a coat is soiled, even clean dresses will become dingy from it.

One woman who takes very good care of her clothes keeps a little cleaning fluid in the house for extra cleaning of collars and cuffs, guimps, vests, and sleeveless blouses. These smaller pieces she cleans herself. Then when a new coat or freshly lined coat is to be brought into service, all the dresses to be worn under it are rounded up and given their annual, semi-annual, or perhaps quarterly trip to the cleaners.

It is cheaper, she considers, to have the cleaning of all dresses done at this particular time than to pay for cleaning a whole coat just because one or two soiled dresses were worn with it. As in a race, the coat and dresses all start off together.

3 Italian Cities Near Million

Rome.—Three Italian cities—Naples, Milan and Rome—are racing for the million population mark. Naples leads with less than 15,000 to go; Milan lacks 22,000 and Rome is short 50,000. Present growth indicates that all will reach the goal within two years.

Control of Radio Policy Is Urged

Canadian Listeners-in Delegates Wait on Federal Minister

Ottawa—A national radio broadcasting company, sponsored by the Federal Government, which would own, operate and control a number of powerful broadcasting stations throughout the Dominion, was the desire of the vast majority of the radio owners in this country, a delegation from the Canadian Radio League informed Hon. Alfred Duranleau, Minister of Marine, here on Jan. 9th.

Such a company should be administered by a directorate of 12 persons voluntarily employed, who would be drawn from industrial, educational amusement and other circles, it was stated. Distributed throughout Canada, according to the representations of the Radio League, would be six 50-kilowatt broadcasting stations that would reach into every section of the Dominion, thus neutralizing to some extent the virtual monopoly enjoyed by the higher-powered and more numerous stations at present operating in the United States.

For revenue purposes, the company should, in the opinion of the delegation, handle indirect advertising; but direct advertising was disapproved by the Radio League. The delegates urged upon Mr. Duranleau that the Government take affirmative action upon the report of the Aird Commission.

Mr. Duranleau assured them that the Government had been studying this matter, appreciating the importance of the problem and being resolved to protect Canada from the effects of foreign advertising and foreign propaganda.

Stock Betterment Urged on Farmers

Most Vital Problems Faced by Dairy Industry Today, Says Commissioner

Cornwall.—Periodical testing of herds and direct efforts at improvement of stock are the most important questions before Canadian dairy farmers today, sair Dr. J. A. Ruddick, Dominion Dairy Commissioner, in a address before the annual convention of the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario.

Farmers were feeling the pinch of low prices, but, he said, the average farmer "is losing very nearly, if not quite, as much every year by his failure to give attention to this matter as he is through the drop in values at the present time."

After explaining that in New Zealand the group testing system had so improved the quality of cattle that the average annual yield of butter fat had increased from 175 to 220 pounds for each cow, Dr. Ruddick said.

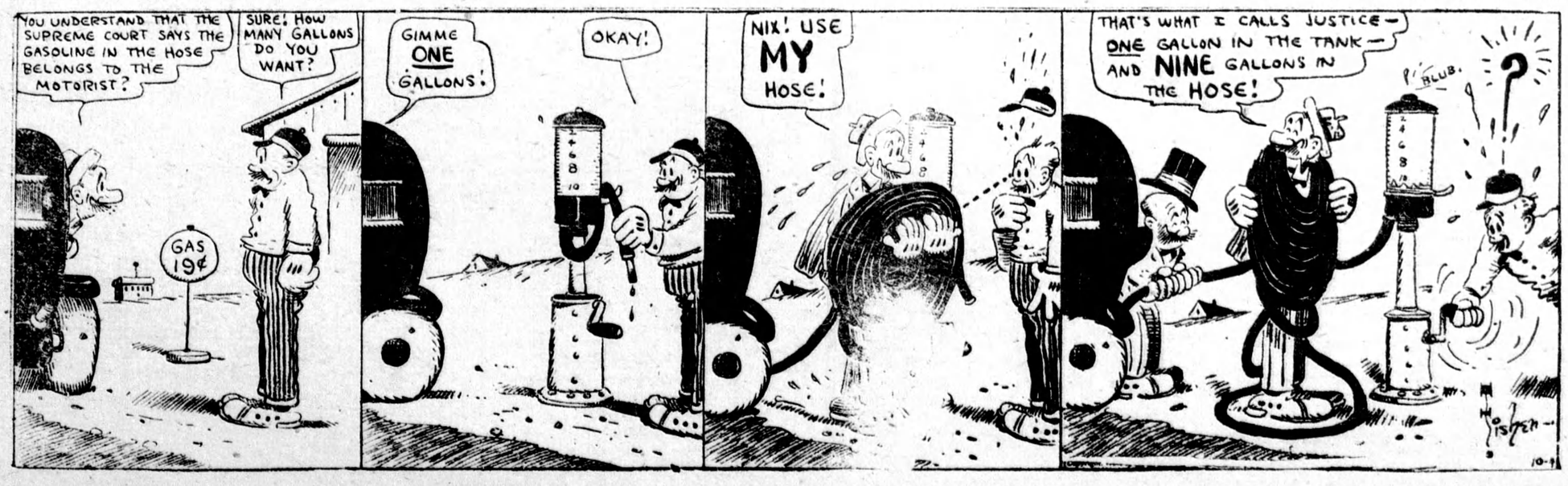
"The average annual yield of milk per cow in Canada is now thought to be about 4,500 pounds, or the equivalent of just about 400 pounds of cheese. If this yeld were increased by 30 per cent., which is easily possible, it would be equal to an increase of 2½ cents a pound on the original 400 pounds of cheese at 15 cents a pound, after allowing for the cost of manufacture."

From reports already received, the Commissioner estimated butter production in 1930 was probably 10,000,000 pounds higher than in 1929, which in turn had been 6,000,000 pounds greater than in 1918. If the estimate were justified by complete returns, 1930 would show the greatest increase in butter production since 1914.

Robot to Time Phone Calls

London.—No longer will Londoners hear the cheery voice of the operator say, "Your three minutes are up, sir," when telephoning in a pay booth. A robot, whose voice sounds something like a dentist's drill, will take her place.

Lions and tigers are too weak in lung power to run more than half a mile, it is said. Now you know how much start you need.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

Mutt Buys Gasoline by the Yard.