

HOUSEHOLD.

Amusements for Small Children.

"What shall we do next?" is an inquiry often propounded by the average small child, who, unless it is an exceptional specimen, exhausts its stock of amusements at least once in every twenty-four hours.

The inquiry very often proves a hard-to-solve problem to whoever has the child in charge, for the supposed allments of disparted playthings are set forth in vain, and all suggestions that it is not yet tired of doing this, or should still want to do that, are met with flat, emphatic, and not-to-be-considered denials.

Who has not encountered days when the small occupants of the nursery were kept prisoners within its walls by such insurmountable obstacles as pelting rain or driving snow, slight illness or tedious convalescence, and all indoor amusements seemed to have lost their charm, the best beloved toys been cast petulantly aside, and all efforts to better the existing state of affairs proved unequal to the exigencies of the case?

Such combination of circumstances being of not infrequent occurrence in many households, where this paper makes its weekly visit, its readers may welcome a few of the devices, whereby at such times peace and comfort for the elders and contentment and pleasure for the children have been secured by very trifling outlay of time, trouble, and money.

Children under seven or eight years old need in their amusements a good deal of oversight and assistance from older heads, and cannot get along without. It is one thing to amuse children, and another to lead them to amuse themselves. The first makes a slave of whoever has them in charge, the latter makes them plan and think for themselves, and secures for the mother or nurse time to devote to other things.

Even small children usually possess considerable ingenuity and inventive faculties, and, while they are not equal to the task of always finding amusements for themselves, will, when given articles to play with, turn them to a much greater variety of uses than was thought of by their elders when they provided them.

Very simple things will give pleasure and secure the desired quiet. Something which yields children as great an amount of satisfaction as anything that can be provided for them is empty spoons. Not just a string of a dozen or so, such as is often provided for the delectation of their more infantile days, but spoons and spoons and spoons—spoons of all sizes, and on such astounding plans that almost anything the small possessor's ambitious mind desires can be accomplished with them.

By saving all that are emptied of thread in the natural course of the family sewing and needlework and begging contributions from willing friends, the supply will soon amount up into the hundreds, and even a thousand spoons can soon be collected.

For a trifling consideration to pay for the trouble of saving them, one wise mother secured eight hundred spoons from one large establishment, where dozens of sewing-machines kept up a busy hum from morning till night. To these were added the supply already on hand, making a collection varying in size from the tiny one which had held the very finest thread or buttonhole twist, to the largest spoons on which had been wound the coarsest linen thread.

They are the acknowledged property of a small girl and boy, whose united ages do not exceed eight years, but they also furnish a vast amount of amusement for an older brother and sister, who would think it much beneath their dignity to own them, and are always extremely careful to call them "the children's spoons" whenever they allude to them.

Household Hints

Mica in stoves, when smoked, is readily cleaned by taking it out and thoroughly washing it with vinegar a little diluted. If the black does not come off at once, let it soak a little.

HEALTH.

Corn as Food for Man. The time has come when corn is becoming the staple food for the inhabitants of the United States.

Never let the feet become cold and damp, or sit with the back toward the window, as these things tend to aggravate any existing hardness of hearing.

Never get alarmed if a living insect enters the ear. Pouring warm water into the canal will drown it, when it will generally come to the surface, and can be easily removed by the fingers.

Never meddle with the ear if a foreign body, such as a bead, button, or seed enters it; leave it absolutely alone, but have a physician attend to it.

Men of business push are behind the corn mills of the present time, and they are taking measures to educate the general public taste favorable to corn foods.

Virchow says that beer-drinkers have hypotrophied kidneys. This condition is due to the constant state of congestion in which the organ must be maintained in order that it may perform the extra work demanded of it in eliminating the beer from the system.

In cases of undue sweating of the feet, accompanied by soreness and whitening of the skin of the sole, a cure may be readily effected by the application, once a day, of equal parts of citrine ointment and ung. aquosa.

A growing inability to sleep in sickness is ominous of a fatal result; in apparent health it indicates the failure of the mind and madness; so, on the other hand, in disease or dementia, a very slight improvement in the sleeping should be hailed as the harbinger of restoration.

A bad breath may be cured as follows, no matter what the cause: Three hours after breakfast a teaspoonful of the following mixture: Chlorate of potash, two drachms; sweetened water, four ounces; wash the mouth occasionally with the mixture, and the breath will be as sweet as an infant's.

In cerebral exhaustion, active muscular exercise in reasonable amount and variety may be allowed and enjoyed; in spinal exhaustion, relative and in some cases absolute rest is demanded, or only passive exercise for a shorter or longer time, as may be according to special peculiarities of the individual.

The following liniment is recommended for earache: Camphorated chloral 2 parts, pure glycerine 16 parts, and oil of sweet almonds 10 parts. This is to be well mixed and preserved in an hermetically sealed bottle.

It is observed that Lord Iddeleigh's death is by no means the first tragic or sudden death of an English statesman in recent history, as during the present century there have been several.

The younger Pitt died while Premier in 1806 from broken spirits, caused by the defeats of our allies on the Continent; and Fox, when Foreign Secretary, followed him to a premature tomb a few months later.

Perceval, who was Prime Minister in 1812, was assassinated in the lobby of the House of Commons, and Lord Londonderry, when Foreign Minister in 1821, committed suicide.

Lord Liverpool, the Premier in 1827, was seized with an apoplectic fit, from which he never rallied. Canning, his successor, died after being Prime Minister for a few months from combined work and worry.

Tierney, who was a Minister under Canning, died of heart disease in his chair in 1830. Huskisson, who had also served under Canning, was killed while shaking hands with the Duke of Wellington at the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester railway, in 1830, and Sir Robert Peel was killed by a fall from his horse on Constitution Hill, twenty years later.

These, with the murder of Lord Frederick Cavendish, in the Phoenix park, in 1882, form a list of the sudden and tragic deaths of English statesmen during the present century.

The country between the Zambesi river and the lake regions of central Africa is one of the great slave-hunting grounds of that dark continent. An English traveler, who recently journeyed through the country says that every village shows the familiar sight of the slave in the yoke awaiting the departure of a caravan.

This yoke is made from the forked branches of a tree; about five or six feet long—some are much longer and from three to four inches in diameter at the thickest part.

FARM.

WEEK TO SOW GRASS SEED. Some farmers sow their grass seed on the snow, trusting to the even distribution thereof by the downward tendency of water.

It has been demonstrated that when the harrow is used over the growing wheat early in the spring the result is beneficial, and it is when the wheat is harrowed that the grass seed should be sown.

The ground upon which the seed is to be sown deserves more attention than the grain crop, the grass seed or the mode of cultivation, for if the grass crop be intended as a permanent pasturage it must not be overlooked that weeds will spring up to compete with the grass, and for that reason the ground must be very clean.

No matter what breed you have, says a writer in the Practical Farmer, something further is necessary in order to reach the best success in raising good milkers.

Good blood, whether Shorthorn, Jersey, Devon, Arysthry, grade, or native is not everything, but lies at the foundation. Something cannot come from nothing.

Treatment in raising a milk should be something different from that in raising a beef animal or an animal for labor. Begin as soon as the calf is a day old; see that it has sufficient to eat and is kindly treated and regularly attended to.

Never pamper or overfeed, but give it good, generous food, to cause a regular, early and steady growth. Accustom it to be handled, but not to such an extent as to acquire objectionable habits as a cow, but rather to be fond of the presence of the keeper.

Kindness helps to create a quiet disposition so important in the dairy cow, and this education must begin when the calf is young. Any habits acquired when young are apt to cling to the cow when grown.

For a milker I would have the heifer come in at two years old. She is then old enough to become a cow. I would not, as a rule, allow her to go farrow, but milk her up to within a few weeks of calving, even if I did not obtain but little at a milking.

Cow thus trained will give more milk and be more likely to hold out long in milk if her after care is judicious and liberal, as it should be. Such treatment tends to form the habit of giving milk, and, as we know, habit is a sort of second nature.

Couple the heifer with an older bull—one, two or three years older than she is preferable to a yearling—and better stock is likely to come from such. After the heifer has come in her feed should be regular and liberal.

Good clover hay is the best of all, but we all may not have this for stall feed; then we must make up for what is lacking in some concentrated food, such as oatmeal, shorts, oilmeal or the like, but great care and good judgment must be used not to overfeed.

In the various rules for estimating the amount of hay in bulk not enough difference is allowed for the variation in weight depending on the condition when cured, the exposure to rains and other causes.

The same sorts will have much less weight in proportion to bulk after being dried out by a cold winter. Hay that has been bleached by long exposure to rains will always be light in weight, and be proportionately less valuable than even its weight would indicate.

The soluble juices which give hay its greatest value have been washed out by rains, leaving an undue proportion of woody fiber. There is, besides, a considerable variation in the original constituents of grass and hay, depending on the character of the soil on which it is grown.

Farmers on wet, mucky and overflooded land complain that their large crops of hay do not pan out well when brought to the weighing scales. Timothy grown on such soil has coarse, hollow stems, with smaller proportion of leaves.

Such soils are often deficient in mineral fertilizers, and a dressing of phosphate when the land is seeded makes the crop better and the hay richer and heavier. Still this coarse hay is salable and does not exhaust the soil as does hay grown on upland.

This may be one reason why the bulk of hay sold is grown on low, mucky and overflooded lands.

Storing Hay with Straw. Where the hay is put up rather green it may be saved in good condition for feeding by mixing with straw.

HEALTH.

Never put anything into the ear for the relief of toothache. Never wear cotton in the ears if they are discharging pus.

Never attempt to apply a poultice to the inside of the canal of the ear. Never drop anything into the ear unless it has been previously examined.

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