

HOUSEHOLD.

OUR FONDEST LOVE.

Only a baby!—so say you. And yet those eyes so bright and blue Can pierce our hearts—yes, through and through.

Our every smile and every glance They seem to watch, and then perchance They wound us with a Cupid glance— A baby's love.

Only a baby!—to recline, Or round a mother's neck entwined! But, oh! what innocence divine, What love—pure love!

When tiny rosy lips invite We kiss them, and our hearts unite; And so we to the baby plight Our fondest love.

CHATS WITH MOTHERS.

Occupation for children means happiness; the little ones who have nothing to do are inevitably fretful and mischievous, so it behooves mothers to find suitable and varied employment for their young folks.

Silver paper, which comes from chocolate packets, of tobacco, and elsewhere is generally prized; though the little ones don't know what to do with it; if a tiny ball is formed of the first piece, and other portions are added

It is always advisable to inculcate the lessons of good nature and unselfishness when the children set to work. Let the older ones paint pictures and fill scrapbooks for the hospitals, whilst the wee ones can tear up paper as a stuffing for simple charity pillows.

Children's colds should never be neglected. It is a great mistake to send a little one out in the winter with an incipient or a developed cold. There are mothers who fear to coddle and weaken the child by keeping him in the house, and so let him go out to increase the mischief, which may per- haps end in an attack on the lungs.

Dry rubbing the chest, back and sides of the body with a handful of mustard, and flour, in about equal proportions, is another good remedy for a cold on the chest.

One of the worst things that can happen to a child is to be frightened. The mischief that has resulted from a sudden shock cannot be overestimated; fainting fits, weak nerves, illness of the brain, hysteria and St. Vitus' dance can often be traced to a severe fright.

Teach the little ones to love animals, and whilst discouraging the habit of petting and stroking strange dogs, let them have no fear if one runs by barking. One of the greatest bugbears of childhood is the darkness, and how many little hearts sink down to zero, when left alone in the dark bedroom!

HINTS FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

Salted popcorn is a novelty offered in place of the always welcomed salted almonds at some recent dinners. Large kernels of popcorn are taken and lightly browned in hot butter and then salted. This brown corn has been quite favorably received and really deserves a favor.

"Sugaring off" parties are given nowadays. The delicious new maple syrup is cooked until it is like wax, and then in place of the pure white snow piled up in bright tin pans that are used by country cousins ice are substituted clear, even blocks of ice are substituted and the hot liquid wax poured upon them. This wax is eaten with a fork and toasted crackers and pickles are served at the same time.

For serving a soft-boiled egg in the shell pretty holders now come made of delicate silver wire, twisted around in such a manner as to form a graceful egg-shaped holder and standard. At the top is a tiny circular knife, which smoothly cuts the shell from one end of the egg.

When purchasing sheer linen handkerchiefs, those that are pure linen may be readily recognized by moisten-

ing the tip of the finger and stretching the fabric over it. Linen will show the moisture through immediately; but cotton threads take more time to absorb the moisture.

And regarding the boiling of eggs: If when the shell is cut from the end the egg is found not to be sufficiently cooked to please the palate, it may be again put into boiling water and cooked still longer if the top is sprinkled thickly with salt. When it is done remove the coating of salt and the egg will be the same as if the shell had just been taken off.

An old cook noted for making the most delicious of loaf cakes was asked her secret for never having a failure, and she replied: "It's all in the baking; the richer the cake the slower must be the oven."

When woollen dresses or any woollen garments have become badly creased and wrinkled, do not attempt to use a hot iron upon them, for it is likely to leave the mark of the iron and give the material a shiny look without producing any good results.

When meats are being roasted and there is danger of their becoming too brown place a basin of water in the long, and the guiding spirit of the nursery and school-room must rack her brains for a change of occupation when the children are confined to the house by bad weather.

HEALTH OF GIRLS.

In an age when the higher education of women is so much considered, and when so many sacrifices are made by parents and guardians that the girl's mental training should be quite up to the standard of that accorded her brothers, it is well to voice the caution that her physical health should be more thoroughly looked after.

When mothers complain of their daughters' immature figures the hygienist retorts, "What gymnastic exercises did you require of them? It is the age for exercise of the body as well as of the mind. Boys' spines are straight and girls' crooked because the former use all their muscles and the latter do not."

The daily use of the trapeze, the swing, or other appendage of a gymnasium, the playing of a lively game in which arms and legs are employed, and every muscle brought into due action, are essential to the development of the thorax and the muscles of the trunk.

There are many parents who discourage all questions from their children. That is not right. It is part of a child's education. A child who asks explanations of what he cannot understand will always be brighter and in a sense better educated than the one who is never interested enough to know.

Among the historic horses whose names share the deathless fame of their owners and riders, is Copenhagen, the gallant war steed of the Duke of Wellington. He survived his master, living in great ease and comfort twenty-one years after the battle of Waterloo, and dying at the venerable age of 33.

AN HISTORIC HORSE.

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Here lies Copenhagen, the charger ridden by the Duke of Wellington the entire day of the battle of Waterloo. Born, 1803, died, 1836. "God's humblest instrument, though meaner clay, Should share the glory of that glorious day."

THE PLAGUE OF VIRUS.

Such scientific authorities in England as Lord Lister and Professor Frankland speak with approval of Doctor Yersin's anti-toxin for the plague. They are convinced that he has discovered the true virus of the disease, and that his method of prevention and cure by vaccination is effective.

AN INFANT PHENOMENON.

OTTO POEHLER, THE MARVEL OF GERMAN SCIENTISTS.

At Two Years of Age He Could Read Well—Now, at Four Years, He Devours Histories and Biographies—Something About Other Famous Prodiges.

The little German child, Otto Poehler, who, when he was two years old, astounded people by his marvellous faculty for reading printed matter and manuscript, still continues to excite the wonder of the many scientists in Europe who have visited him and verified for themselves the actuality of his peculiar gift.

Carl Stumpf, professor of philosophy at the University of Berlin and member of the Academy of Sciences, Berlin, has contributed to the Revue Scientifique, of Paris, a very interesting paper, about the child, in which he tries to analyze the nature of his remarkable mental endowment as the result of a series of experiments he made with the little fellow during a number of visits.

The history of the boy is very simple. He is the child of a fairly well-to-do butcher in Brunswick, Germany, and is now four years old. It was when he was still a mere baby in arms that his extraordinary powers began to manifest themselves.

His vocabulary of printed words grew with rapidity. He learned the letters of the alphabet almost intuitively. By the time he was two years old he was reading glibly from every newspaper and book that came into his hands.

The child has not the slightest notion of how to write, although he reads, writes and even had writing frequently. He shows no desire to learn how to write. His full mental energies seem to be bent towards the one thing—reading.

Other famous prodiges. The popular belief is that such infant prodiges as this wonderful German child generally blaze with their time-dazzling light for but a short time, and then go out in utter darkness.

But of course the boy prodigy who overtopped all others, was the unhappy Chatterton. Chatterton was a freak even among prodiges. When he was five years of age he was sent to a charity school, whence, after a year and a half of unavailing effort to beat something into his head, he was sent home as a hopeless dunce.

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Little Josef Hofman was a professional pianist as well as a composer when he was seven years old. He was born in 1877. He was compared with Mozart, who at the age of four was a good player and at five years was attempting composition.

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