

birds, flowers, trees, and little wild animals of the woods and streams?

Some Good Games for the Older Beavers.

Dear Puck and Girls and Boys,—I was quite pleased to see my letter in print. I think the "Christmas Advocate" is a very pretty one.

I am sending some games, suitable for New Year's, or any winter evenings:

(1) Which is your aunt? (Ant.) Have slips of paper with one question put in different places in the room, all numbered as below, and provide each guest with a pencil and sheet of paper with merely the numbers on. Explain that there is a word ending in "ant" in answer to each question, as: "Which is the oldest ant? Adamant."

1. What ant leaves his home? Tenant.
2. What ant is joyful? Jubilant.
3. What ant is learned? Savant.
4. What ant is well informed? Conversant.
5. What ant is trustworthy? Confidant.
6. What ant is proud? Arrogant.
7. What ant sees things? Observant.
8. What ant is angry? Indignant.
9. What ant tells things? Informant.
10. What ant is successful? Triumphant.
11. What ant is an officer? Commandant.
12. What ant is a beggar? Mendicant.
13. What ant is obstinate? Defiant.
14. What ant is youngest? Infant.
15. What is the ruling ant? Dominant.
16. What is the wondering ant? Errant.
17. What ant lives in a house? Occupant.
18. What ant points out things? Significant.
19. What ant is prayerful? Suppliant.

(2) "Private view party." Place these objects around a room and have all numbered. Give each guest a catalogue of the paintings, and they must guess from the objects to what name they correspond in the catalogue, placing the number opposite the name. It is best not to place the objects or the names in the catalogue in exact order.

Departed days. Last year's calendars. We part to meet again.—Scissors. The reigning favorite.—Umbrella. A line from home.—Clothes line. Bound to rise.—Yeast cake. A place for reflection.—Mirror. Deer in winter.—Eggs. A rejected beau.—Old ribbon bow. Sweet sixteen.—Sixteen lumps of sugar. The four seasons.—Salt, pepper, vinegar, mustard.

A morning caller.—The bell. Bound to shine.—Shoe polish. I will send some instructions on making New Year's gifts:

1. "Making a pen-wiper."—Take a wishbone from a good-sized chicken, get some black sealing-wax and make the top part black for the head. Then make a little dress of chammois skin for the wiper. Draw it tight around the top and trim it with ribbon. Write this verse on the chammois:

Once I was a wishbone,
Taken from a hen,
Now I am a little slave
Used to wipe a pen.

2. "A match scratcher."—Take a piece of cardboard 8½ x 6 inches, covered with blue sateen for the background. Then cut a moon and star from sandpaper (No. 1), and tie the top with ribbon to hang up. Put a little match-holder on the right-hand corner, and also tie this on with ribbon. They are very neat and useful presents. I am making No. 2 just now.

Well, I must not take any more room of this precious Corner.

FLOSSIE M. STAGER (age 14).
Hespeler, Ont.

Although New Year's is past, we have put in your New Year's gifts, Flossie. They will do just as well for birthday gifts, will they not?

The Younger Beavers.

Dear Puck,—My papa has been taking "The Farmer's Advocate" for about 18 years, and we all like it very much. This is my second letter to the Beaver Circle, but the other must have found the waste basket. I go to school every day. Papa drives us to school in the winter. We had another room built to our school last summer, and we have two teachers.

I have been helping papa and the boys to clean oats. Roy and Jack are snow-plowing roads around the house. We live beside Lake Simcoe, and when the lake freezes we have great fun skating and sleighriding.

MYRA REID (age 9).
Hawkestone, Ont.

Dear Puck,—An aunt of mine has a little terrier dog whose name is Shorty. He knows how to do some cute tricks, but I shall tell you how he took care of a little pet chicken. My aunt brought it in from the barn because the mother hen would not let it go with the other little chickens. Shorty went with the little chicken under the stove, and sat

take up too much room in your valuable Circle

JAMES HUNTER (age 11).
The Maples.

This letter is too short, Jimmie—short and sweet, eh? You might have told us some more about your pony.

Beaver Circle Notes.

Robert Kent, of Prince Edward Island, sent a letter, which was almost too short to publish, so I am not going to put it in this time. Write us again, Robert, and tell us something about your Island. That will be very interesting to us islanders, who never saw salt water.

Gertrude Deadman's letter was omitted as it was nearly all about Christmas, and it was impossible to print it before that day. Write again, Gertrude.

Lulu McKenzie thinks she cannot write to the Circle until she knows what "Puck" means. Never mind what it means, Lulu. Write anyway. Puck is a good-natured old fellow, who will not bite your head off.

Nellie Spalding's composition on "The Beaver" came far too late. Be up with the rest next time, Nellie.



The Laughing Jackass, Australia.

The Ingle Nook.

Some Questions.

Dame Durden,—Have been reading with interest your paper for a number of years, and since the discussion about the young people in your paper last fall, have been wanting to put in a few remarks, too.

Someone said the girls' dresses should always be in keeping with their work, and that they should always have clean work dresses on for the rough work connected with the house. I would like to know what they would do with the older, going-out dresses, and would it be economizing to wear them out, or what would it be best to do with them? Also, if parents were not willing to supply regular work dresses for all such work, what would the girls do then? I think young people, as well as older ones, have to do as they can to quite an extent, not as they wish.

Would you advise busy housekeepers to get a bread-mixer, as you spoke of in your report of the convention, and about how much do they cost?

Where could one get circulars regarding such?

Your kind attention to these questions will be much appreciated by

QUIZZ.

Yes, I agree with you that, as a rule, a great many people have to do as they can, not as they wish. Eventually, I think, "going out" dresses have to be worn out as work dresses, but I do think they should do duty just as long as possible first for going out. I often think that country people lose much by never

sending dresses and suits to a professional cleaner. As soon as a dress gets soiled it is taken for everyday wear, and that is an end of it, so far as its appearance is concerned. A far better way, it seems to me, is to get good material that will look well for a long time, have it well made in some simple fashion (extreme fashions "go out" much sooner), have it cleaned when soiled, and so get the money's worth out of it. A good cleaner will send you back a suit looking as good as new. His charge may seem a little high—possibly \$2, or \$2.25, for a coat and skirt—but when one considers that the cleaning saves the price of a new suit, the saving appears.

When a dress has done duty for going out, it may be worn quite a while as an afternoon dress, and may be kept presentable for a long time, if well protected by "all-over" aprons, with sleeves, or sleevelets, whenever it is necessary to do work. Finally, when it has to be used as a morning working dress, I should say to take every vestige of trimming off it and make it into a shirtwaist suit, if possible, when, with a white collar and maybe a bright tie, it will look neat enough, and suitable enough to its purpose, to suit anyone's taste. Besides, when all the trimming has been taken off, most of these dresses can be "tubbed" as often as necessary. They may come out of the process looking a little the worse for it, but if the material has been properly shrunk before it was made up in the first place, there should be no shrinkage, and the gowns should look quite good enough for morning wear, especially if well pressed.

As regards buying work-dresses—this certainly pays, when the only alternative is to take a going-out dress that may be made to do duty for another season for a working dress. Blue Holland, or navy blue prints are, perhaps, the best material for regular work-dresses, as both are easily laundered, and not as easily soiled as softer materials.

Any hardware man will get a bread-mixer for you. They were well spoken of at the Convention, and cost about \$8.

"Leaves" from Maple Leaf.

Dear Dame Durden,—I have come to answer to the roll-call of the shades, in fear lest my shade should become so vapory that you would not recognize it.

I hope you and the Nookers have all had a Merry Christmas and are starting the New Year with bright prospects before you.

I wonder how many lived the pleasures of their childhood Christmases over again this Xmas by inviting some families to spend the day with them, and seeing the excited enjoyment of the children, just as we remember when we used to all pack into the sleigh and go to grandpa's, where we would meet uncles, aunts, and cousins? Let us give the children pleasant memories to carry with them through life.

Now I must try and shake a few leaves from this staid maple tree. Here they are:

If any of you are crowded for closet room and have high wooden bedsteads, just pull them away from the wall and put some clothes hooks on the back of the head end. If the head of the bed is away from the entrance of the room, you can have your clothes handy and yet out of sight.

Have any of you tried cheesecloth curtains, as suggested in "The Farmer's Advocate" some time ago, made with a frill on the inner edge and just long enough to reach the sill? They are very dainty for bedroom or living-room.

The next time you want to clean your stovepipes, do not blacken or varnish them, but get a can of aluminum paint and a small brush; the paint seems rather expensive, but a 25-cent can will go a long way. It is nearly two years since I painted my sitting-room pipes, and they are just beginning to look shabby. It will make rusted tinware look like new, but do not use it on anything that requires to be washed often.

I must now close, and hope the rest of the shades will put in an appearance before long.

MAPLE LEAF.

Waterloo Co., Ont.

Answer to "Anxious Mother."

Dear Dame Durden,—In reply to "An Anxious Mother," I am sending you the information she asks for; I have spent