

HOUSEHOLD.

Women and Home.

GOOD BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG.

(Edited by Natalie H. Snyder.)

According to the testimony of those in a position to know, a wave of moral depravity is sweeping over the country, threatening to destroy the purity of the youth of land. The statement is strong, but those who have carefully investigated the subject bear witness to its truth; the average teacher in town and country schools, at least, believes it, and the scholars in the public schools are aware of it, even those who are not contaminated; and the persons who are the most ignorant on this question are those who should be the wisest—the parents.

There are many conditions which have combined to produce this state of affairs, and important among these are the books and papers that fall into the hands of the young, the influence of which is as deadly as poison to the moral character. The mothers who look carefully into the kind of reading matter in which their children are interested, are comparatively few, and no matter involving moral training deserves more careful attention. In this age, when printing presses daily pour out their tons of literature, both good and bad, when the sensational daily paper brings its record of crime and vice into the home, the subject becomes doubly important.

There is a kind of literature which any wise mother would consign to the flames without hesitation were she to find it in the hands of her son or daughter, yet the same mother, it may be, will tolerate the flashy stories which do much to strengthen the tendency towards a yet lower type of books. Every now and then the account of some shocking crime startles the world, the source of which may be traced to the influence exerted by the tales of vice and crime which the youthful criminal read by his father's hearth-stone, under his mother's eye, the mother concluding that because her boy was quietly employed he was therefore well employed. The most popular modern fiction is that kind which glosses over crime and makes heroes and heroines of a class of people from whom, if met in real life, any pure-minded person would shrink back with loathing. Yet these same types of persons, made real and living by the master-pen of the novelist, are introduced into the home-life to fill the impressionable minds of the young with the idea that vice, when attractive, loses some of its sin.

Let the young people have fiction if they wish it, but let the mother see that it is worth reading, and that it is the kind which will lead the mind upward instead of towards a lower level, but, above all, let her banish from her home that sensational literature which can work untold harm to her children, whether the evil in it comes cunningly concealed between the covers of a novel, or boldly blazoned upon the headlines of a daily paper.—'Presbyterian Banner.'

What to Have in a Sewing Room.

A correspondent sends the description of a 'nearly perfect sewing room' that will be of interest to many, as the convenience of such a nook can hardly be overrated. It saves many weary steps in hunting for thread, thimble, etc., and saves the family sitting room from being a resting-place for the sewing. This room is 8x12 feet, with two windows and a small closet. In front of one window stands the sewing machine, which has one end of its cover cushioned to use as a foot-stool. On the right is a row of foot-wide shelves running almost the width of the room. One shelf is for the family medicines, the others hold all the sewing paraphernalia in boxes having the projecting ends labelled. They can be read from the sewer's seat at the machine, and are within easy reach. Patterns left-over, pieces, buttons, trimmings, etc., all have boxes and are kept in them. Below the shelves is a low cutting table always ready for use. A sewing chair, without arms, and having short rockers, is handy, and a straight chair for machine use. In one cor-

ner is a dress form, and in the opposite corner is a long narrow mirror, which shows the effect when fitting on the form. By the door three hooks are screwed, from which hang a well-filled pin-cushion, pattern-book and slate and pencil. On the slate goes every want of the family in the sewing line as it is thought of. The cost of fitting up such a room is small, as the window has a buff blind, and a rug for the feet is the only floor covering, but the convenience and comfort of such a place is unbounded.—'Ladies' Home Journal.'

Home Occupations.

A growing plant is a constant source of delight to a child during the long weeks when he is forced to spend much of his time indoors, and if he feels that the plant depends upon him for life and that it is his very own his enjoyment will be doubled. Every house-hold can afford space for one or two flower pots or boxes, and the little trouble which their presence gives will be more than repaid. Even children too young to go to school may, with a little supervision, be trusted to water and care for their plants, and it is surprising how much time is happily spent in this way.

Nasturtium seeds may be planted and their rapid growth watched from day to day, while, with plenty of water and sunlight, they will blossom freely all winter. So will petunias, verbenas, sweet alyssum, some varieties of geranium and the sultana, which is literally never without a flower. In case there is no sunny window, ivies, begonias, joint grass, partridge vine and ferns will all grow and flourish without the direct rays of the sun, and their brilliant green will delight the eyes on many a gloomy day. In the country a few roots of the hepatica or Jack-in-the-pulpit may be given an opportunity to blossom indoors before their comrades in the wood have begun to awaken from their winter sleep. A pitcher plant, brought home from a swamp and kept in a north window, was a source of interest in one household all winter, and when in the spring it sent up a tall, curiously brilliant blossom it was a wonder which all the friends and acquaintances were invited to come and see.

Selected Recipes.

German cabbage.—Cut a two-inch cube of fat salt pork in dice and fry it slightly in the bottom of the stewpan, add one cup of boiling water, and two quarts of shredded cabbage and one sour apple cut fine. Cook one hour very slowly. When it is half done add half a cup of vinegar.

German carrots.—Cut six small carrots into half inch dice, and stew in boiling water to cover until soft; the time will vary from one to two hours. Add one teaspoonful salt, two teaspoonfuls sugar, a salt-spoonful of pepper. Make a drawn butter sauce of the carrot water, one teaspoonful each of flour and butter to one cup of the water, and stew the carrots in this fifteen minutes, then turn out and sprinkle a little grated nutmeg and chopped parsley over the top.

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