

Minnie May's Department.

MY DEAR NIECES,—I wish to say a few words, not only to you, but also to your parents, about money matters. Many families of the present day do away with hired help, especially when there are sons and daughters, who all turn in and do their share of the house and farm duties, which is perfectly right, for all should know how to do them; in after life they may not be called upon to perform, but still must direct. It is also our duty to do our own share to lighten the burden of those near and dear to us. But let me here suggest a plan, which, if adopted, will, I feel sure, meet with their approval, namely, allowing a certain amount weekly or monthly to each child, which they can call their own, be it ever so small, and which can be increased according to your means and their usefulness. I do not mean sufficient for all their requirements, but what is ordinarily termed "pin-money." By so doing your boys and girls become more ambitious and economical, from the fact that

obtain nice furniture, all of which would be a great help at some future day if you were starting house-keeping, for at such times young people are seldom able to afford everything at once, and every article on hand is so much gained. I have no doubt that many of my nieces have tried this plan, and could recommend it from experience. MINNIE MAY.

Answers to Enquirers.

MYSTERY.—1. We think the best remedy for your sickly rose-bush would be to take soot from a stove or chimney where wood is used, put it into an old pitcher and pour hot water upon it. When cool, use it to water your plant every few days; when it is all used, fill up the pitcher again with hot water. This remedy has been known to produce a wonderful effect upon roses that have almost hopelessly deteriorated. 2. The best way to make yourself a good timeist is to count aloud when practising, and to yourself over all doubtful passages when playing before people.

BROWN-EYED NELL.—1. When a visiting card is doubled down at one end it means that it is intended for a second person (usually a daughter), and that the visitors had only one to leave. 2.

The bride's parents pay all expenses of the wedding except the fees. The bridegroom can, if he wishes, send the bride and bridesmaids' bouquets. 4. Bride-cake need not be dispatched to friends on the wedding-day, but as soon after as possible. It should be put into white paper and tied round with narrow white satin ribbon. If to be sent by post, it should be put in a small box.

V. B. A.—To remove the shiny marks from your black cashmere, sponge it with a solution of water and ordinary washing blue. 2. We advise you to purchase as large a supply of personal and household linen as your purse will afford. It is a great comfort to a house-keeper to be well supplied, and you will probably have less time on your hand to make it when you have home duties to attend to.

The Great Chestnut Tree of Mount Etna.

Conspicuous among historic trees is the famous chestnut tree of Mount Etna, called in Sicily the "Chestnut of a Hundred Horses," which is reported to be 170 feet in circumference.

This tree, with its vaunted diameter, is entirely hollow. It is supported chiefly by its bark, having lost its interior entirely by age; but it is not the



THE GREAT CHESTNUT TREE OF MOUNT ETNA.

their small allowance will not obtain for them the numerous articles desired, unless they are careful and saving. Your children are made to feel more independent and self-reliant, and when called upon are better able to battle with the world through the aid of their slight experience. There are few of us but like some money to call our own, and young people particularly take pleasure in making presents to the dear ones, and when obliged to ask for means do not feel that they are giving, and oh, how sweet to give of our very own! The family expenses are not increased by the means, for the parents should advise as to the best method of using the money, and when spent by the children for certain useful articles, the parent has so much less to think of.

Now, my dear nieces, let me advise you not to spend all your money on fine clothes and gew-gaws. By practising economy you can save a little now and then, which will purchase something nice for the house or some article of dress that the over-taxed parent could ill afford. You have your room, for which you could, with your own savings,

Tell the servant your name to be announced, and if you be admitted there is no occasion for leaving your card. Should your brother be unable to call make an apology for him, and on going out leave his card on the hall table. 3. Dip the linen in milk and put it out on the lawn to bleach. Repeat this process several times, and in most cases the mildew will disappear.

A WELL-WISHER.—1. Eruptions on the face proceed from many causes, therefore it is always best to consult a doctor when they appear, as it is seldom they can be cured by external applications. But plenty of exercise in the open air, cold bathing and general attention to the health are the best things to make the complexion fresh and clear. 2. Use charcoal for your teeth; it is perfectly harmless, and is an excellent thing for whitening them.

IGNORAMUS.—A young girl of twelve years of age should wear her hair either in curls, crimped, or in two long plaits hanging down and tied at the ends with bows of ribbon. 2. The bride just inserts the knife in the top of the cake, and then it may be cut by the principal bridesmaid. The bridegroom sits on one side of the bride and the principal bridesmaid on the other side. 3. The bridesmaids generally provide their own dresses, subject of course to the bride's wishes as to color, style, etc.

less crowned by verdure. The people of the country have erected a house here, with a sort of furnace for the chestnuts and other fruits they wish to preserve. They are even so indifferent to the preservation of this wonderful natural curiosity, that they do not hesitate to cut off branches to burn in the furnace.

Some persons think that this mass of vegetation is formed of many trees which have united their trunks; but a careful examination disposes of this notion. They are deceived. All the parts which have been destroyed by the hand of time or the hand of man have evidently belonged to a single trunk. I have measured them carefully, and found the one trunk 160 feet in circumference.

In confirmation of the above statement, a celebrated traveller, Mr. Brydone, who described this tree early in the present century, says: "I was by no means struck with its appearance, as it does not seem to be one tree, but a bush of five large trees growing together. We complained to our guides of the imposition, when they unanimously assured us, that, by the universal tradition, and even testimony of the country, all these were once united in one stem; that their grandfathers once remembered this, when it was looked upon as the glory of the forest, and visited from all quarters; that for many years past it had been reduced to