

THE HOUSEHOLD.

HELPING MAMMA.

The cream was ready for the churn,
The churn made ready for the cream,
And mamma with a careful hand,
Poured in the golden stream.

Our little Bertie, three years old,
In silence watched the process through,
Then climbed from off his "train of cars"
To "see what mamma do."

And when my hands the dasher clasped,
He raised his pleading eyes to mine,—
"Mamma, let Bertie help 'oo churn;
I tan churn nice and fine."

And so the little hands took hold,
They made the churning doubly hard,
But still, that earnest wish to help,
How could I disregard?

How could I fill those eyes with tears
And quench the love-light shining there,
And banish from his heart a plant
Which should bloom bright and fair,

And which at more convenient time,
I should be glad to cultivate?
If I should chill the starting bud
It then might be too late.

And so I churned and churned away
With not a protest, not a frown,
Though he pull down when I pulled up,
And up when I pulled down.

But when 'twas done, how sweet to see
His eyes in love to me upturn,
And hear him say with confidence,
"Mamma, I helped 'oo churn."

Ah! darling Bertie, so you did,
But more, you helped me feel it true
My heavenly Father loveth me
Better than I love you.

Oh, when I try to work for Him,
Or when I strive to do His will,
My work, like thine, though wrought with
zeal,
Is poor, imperfect still.

But he will not send me away
Or chill my heart with cold neglect;
My well-meant service offered him,
He never will reject.

—Belle Warner, in *Housekeeper*.

WHY WORK YOURSELF TO DEATH?

If you cannot afford to keep a servant and must do all your own work, there are some things that must be left undone about the house. There must be dust on the furniture sometimes, and the silver cannot always be kept bright. If the caller who can keep two or three servants comes in and sees these things, don't feel utterly crushed and disgraced. If she will suffer such small things to detract from her good opinion of you, she is too small minded to be worth cultivating, and if she stops calling so much the better for you. This is not meant to uphold "slack" housekeeping as a general thing, but where it is your life or your house, it is generally more to your advantage, unless you are tired of this world, to save your life. When there is only one pair of hands to do it all, it is next to impossible to keep a house the pink of neatness all the time. True, there is always to be found the man or woman who rises up and says there was Susan Green, who used to do all her own work and things just shone. Well, Susan Green is a phenomenal creature, one out of a thousand; suppose you consider her a moment before you begin the heart-rending business of trying to be like her. In the first place she had iron strength. She could keep going all day without getting very tired. But this is not the case with many women. Sometimes the head will swim from utter weariness, and the whole mechanism will cry out, "I can go no further." The round of housekeeping, when one tries to do it all, is as exacting as most men's labor. The more delicate structure of a woman's frame is not built to bear as much as man's, and she has to contend besides with the disadvantages of her dress, with its dragging weight and hampering of the muscles. If a man can keep going every minute all day that is no sign that a woman can, and no matter if the lord of the house cannot see just what you have been about, and tells you his mother used to do all her work, be sorry for his ignorance—you cannot help being hurt by his hardness of heart and lack of trust in you—but don't go beyond your strength if you do fail to convince him. When the

time comes to write your epitaph he will have a half-dozen nice convenient terms for the work which killed you. He will never call it by its right name. If your bones and muscles will stand the continual strain without any relaxation your nerves will not, and some day you will have to take a nice, long rest of a year or two, without any capacity left to enjoy your vacation. Have as neat and cheery a house as you can, but don't attempt to go beyond your strength. You can't be Susan Green, and you ought not to be, if you can.—*Detroit Tribune*.

VULGARITY AND VULGARISMS.

How many a roof, transparent to the mind's eye, discloses anxious fathers and harried mothers, sacrificing everything to keep up appearances. The underclothing may be patched and insufficient, but it is covered by stylish gowns. Slipshod, ragged and unkempt at home, when abroad one would suppose them to live luxuriously. Scrimping on the necessaries of life, eating crusts, shivering over a handful of coals, piecing out whatever is needed by make-shifts, such as are destitute of refinement as of comfort. This course of action ought not to be confounded with that forethought and thrift which hoards remnants and looks decent and trim on what would be impossible for a wasteful person.

Another vulgarity in woman consists in wearing the most striking costume she can devise in public places. "Mamma, see those wonderful shining stones," exclaimed a child at a hotel breakfast, looking at a woman sitting opposite who wore thousands of dollars' worth of diamonds upon her faded person. "Hush, my dear," the mother replied, "she does not know any better."

The same answer should apply to all forms of vulgarity, "They do not know any better." It is true of the society belle who sends for the reporter on the eve of a ball in order to give a minute description of her costume. "Mind you say there is nothing so elegant in the ball room, Jenkins," she says. Oblivious of the sweet, maidenly retirement and self-communion which ought to precede marriage, she sends for Jenkins again on the eve of her wedding day to hold voluble and free discourse concerning elaborately displayed presents and gowns. And she is most triumphant who figures most conspicuously in that spectacular drama where the chief actors enter together upon the most sacred relation of life. Yet her friends and herself would be terribly shocked at the sight of a modest woman who should lift up her voice in favor of a change of the laws which would permit a mother to be the guardian of her infant child.

Another vulgarity arising from ignorance is personal mutilation. Under what other name can be classed that fashion of the ear-lobes pendent with barbaric gold and gems? Why not pierce the nose also, like the inhabitants of Barbadoes and Africa? The delicately moulded curves of a beautiful ear are certainly not enhanced by this savagery. Even that is not as bad as the compressed waist. If there be one thing more vulgar than another it is to suppose that the lovely curves that enclose the form, free and graceful as all nature's flowing outlines, can be improved by pinching, dwarfing and distorting. Who that has ever seen even a copy of that incarnation of splendor and grace, the Venus de Milo, but revolts at the maiming, tortured, unnatural waist line under which are compressed all the organs that give richness, strength and beauty to the human frame? Every particle of artistic sensibility reacts against the mutilation, and every instinct of strength, wholeness, completeness, cries out against the outrage. Those rivers of life that course through heart and lungs on their task of replenishing, and return through the veins loaded with waste and sewage, once checked in their career, are compelled to hold in solution the impurities that poison the fountains of life. Better far to pinch the feet like the Chinese and leave the vital organs free to do their wonderful work.

It seems as if the Prince of Ignorance was in league with the originators of fashion, and dress-makers, gleefully said among themselves, "Go to now, and see how much women will bear! Twist the hair from the nape of the neck, leaving that exposed

to cold winds, and compress waists with stays, tight, tighter, tightest, till they measure eight inches less than in their normal condition. Don't let them draw a full breath, and keep them in that vise till they feel uncomfortable without the corset. Make the sleeves so tight that they cannot raise an arm to the head. For dress occasions cut down the bodice till the most tender parts of the lungs are exposed if you cannot persuade them to go *decollete*. Pile heavy skirts on hips and back, contrary to reason and experience, taper down the clothing so that it is less warm at the feet. Line the dress with heavy facings and cover it with draperies and ornaments till it weighs several pounds, and leave it long enough to druggle through mud and flop from stair to stair. Then let some woman of fashion don the costume and every working woman and housewife will be sure to follow. They lose health and freedom, joyousness and freshness; but they have style, and style is worth more than these. Long live ignorance and fashion!"—*Good Housekeeping*.

CONVENIENCES FOR THE NEW HOUSE.

At this season of the year, thousands of husbands and wives are making plans for the new house that is to be built in the spring. The majority of those plans provide for seven rooms; four on the first floor, and there will be many who, in order to get the number of rooms and all of good size, will plan to "manage somehow" without kitchen or bedroom closets, or a shed. A wardrobe may be made to do, where there is no closet; but at best it is only a make-shift.

In "mother's room," the closet should be at least three feet in width, and should extend the whole length of the room. Cut off about three feet from one end of it, for drawers and a cupboard, but don't have them opening into the closet, as so many do. A cupboard opening into a dark closet is not easily kept clean, and it is next to impossible to find anything in closet drawers. Have the lower four and one-half feet of your enclosed space devoted to four nicely fitting drawers, that you can pull out into your bedroom. One other deep drawer should be put in next to the ceiling, and fitted up with compartments as nearly fire-proof as is possible. It will not be easily reached, but it is designed for family papers that are not referred to often, which it is desirable to keep, and equally desirable to be kept out of the reach of little fingers. In this way, they are comparatively safe, and occupy space that could not be used in any other way.

Between this upper drawer and the lower ones, have built a cupboard in which to keep home remedies to be used in case of sickness or accidents. Have a place for everything in it, and everything labelled carefully. When wanted, they are easily found; they are also out of reach of little fingers, and can be kept from the light, and out of sight. The convenience of such a closet-cabinet is worth every year five times what it will cost you to have it built.

In planning your house, take care that you do not have two doors between your dining-room and kitchen, or a step down from the former into the latter. Also be sure and build your kitchen with an alcove, which should be at least six feet square, and contain a window. In this alcove put a washstand, and glass, combs, brushes, etc. Near by hang a clothes brush; have a row of hooks for hats and coats; a wall-pocket for mittens; a long, narrow peach basket lined with oil cloth for damp rubbers, and a slipper case that is strong enough and not too fine to hold shoes when they are exchanged for slippers. Make a seat of a strong ten-box cushioned with pieces of an old comforter, and covered with furniture calico. It is handy in which to keep a change of socks, an extra pair of mittens, besides numberless other things, and to sit on when removing the working shoes and putting on the slippers. A curtain of calico will screen the alcove from the kitchen. You will be surprised to find how many steps will be saved, how many annoyances and harsh words avoided, by having an alcove to your kitchen, and it does not make your house so very much more expensive.

It is decided that the new house must have a woodshed. It will not be half a

house unless it does have one; and when you are building it, you must not forget to take a closet off from it that can be easily reached from the kitchen door. This closet must have a window, if only a small one; for it is where you will tuck things away out of sight, and it must be kept sweet by means of fresh air and light. On one side of it, there will be two broad shelves reaching the whole length. One of these must be as high as a table, and the other one just high enough to be quite easily reached. Under this shelf you can—but why go into particulars? There isn't one woman in five hundred, who will not know exactly what to do with that closet, in less than five minutes after she takes possession of her new house!

Do you think so many closets will make your house too expensive? Then dispense with a dining room. You can do so much more easily than you can get along without the closets; and if you make a screen large enough to hide your stove and work table, there is no reason why your kitchen should not be kept neat and pleasant enough to serve as a dining room, too.—*Mrs. Jack Robinson, in Housekeeper*.

ALLEGHENY MUFFINS.—For a dozen muffins allow one cupful and a half of sifted flour, one generous cupful of milk, one tablespoonful of butter, one teaspoonful of lard, two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, half a teaspoonful of salt, and one egg. Mix all the dry ingredients and rub them through a sieve and into a bowl. Melt the butter and lard in a cup. After beating the egg till it is light, add the milk to it. Pour this mixture on the dry ingredients. Add the melted butter and lard, and after beating quickly and vigorously, put in buttered muffin pans and bake for a quarter of an hour in a quick oven.

RICE MUFFINS.—To make two dozen muffins one must take a pint of milk, a pint and a half of flour, half a pint of cooked rice, three teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, one teaspoonful of salt, two teaspoonfuls of sugar, one tablespoonful of butter, and two eggs. Mix the dry ingredients and rub them through a sieve and into a large bowl. Melt the butter and beat it into the rice. Beat the eggs till they are light, and add the milk to them. Put this mixture with the dry ingredients in the bowl. Now add the rice, and beat quickly and well. Pour into buttered muffin pans and bake for twenty-five minutes in a moderately quick oven.

PUZZLES.—NO. 2.

HIDDEN MOUNTAINS, ANCIENT CITIES AND RIVERS.

1. This offset, namely, this shoot of the orange tree, will grow nicely.
2. That hospital in N. Y. is now well conducted.
3. Have my friends come at last to see me.
4. Ulysses, husband of Penelope, King of Ithaca.
5. If John is naughty, papa, then send him away.
6. This book belongs to me, and Ernest will lend you another.
7. Is the Centaur usually represented half man and half beast?
8. My temper has been greatly tried to-day.
9. A general battle took place among the whites and Indians.
10. No power could balk and diverge the sun's rays.
11. We will do our best, I, Bertram and Oscar.
12. Among other things on this program, piano duets and songs were mentioned.
13. Can Gaspa analyze his lesson to-day?
14. A better omen could not have been expected.

Mrs. S. A.

ENIGMA.

I am composed of 19 letters.
My 15, 17, 5, 13, acceptable in summer.
My 12, 11, 4, 12, 18, a girl's name.
My 9, 13, 8, 3, 12, a relative.
My 6, 7, 2, 17, 14, 10, 12, agreeable.
My 1, 17, 15, 16, to be cautious.
My 19, 12, 13, number.
My whole is a poet.

T. RODGER.

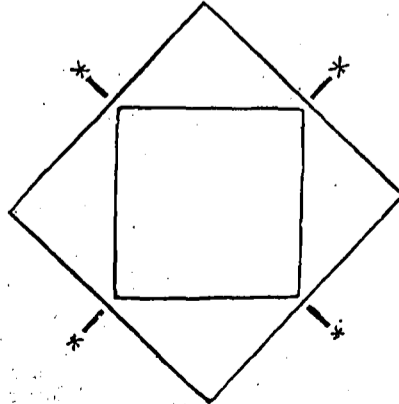
SQUARE WORD.

To thrash.
An island in the Mediterranean Sea.
A man's name.

PERCY PRIOR.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES.—NUMBER 1.

THE SQUARE FIELD.—The farmer enlarged his field in this way: He added to the square as shown in the outer lines, so that the square form was still preserved, and the trees still remained on the outside.



HIDDEN ANIMALS.—1. Lion. 2. Panther. 3. Cat. 4. Mare. 5. Goat. 6. Ass. 7. Monkey. 8. Snake. 9. Bear. 10. Llama. 11. Otter. 12. Mandril. 13. Camel. 14. Chamois. 15. Bison. 16. Zebra. 17. Badger.

PUZZLES HEARD FROM.

Correct answers have been received from Lizzie McNaughton.