

THE HOUSEHOLD.

ROCKING THE BABY.

I hear her rocking the baby—
Her room is next to mine—
And I fancy I feel the dimpled arms
That round her neck entwine,
As she rocks and rocks the baby,
In the room just next to mine.

I hear her rocking the baby
Each day when the twilight comes,
And I know there's a world of blessing and love
In the "baby-by" she hums.

I can see the restless fingers
Playing with "mamma's rings,"
The sweet, little, smiling, pouting mouth
That to her in kissing clings,
As she rocks and sings to the baby,
And dreams as she rocks and sings.

I hear her rocking the baby
Slower and slower now,
And I hear she is leaving her good-night kiss
On its eyes and cheek and brow

From her rocking, rocking, rocking,
I wonder would she start
Could she know through the walls between us
She is rocking on a heart—
While my empty arms are aching
For a form they may not press,
And my empty heart is breaking
In its desolate loneliness?

I list to the rocking, rocking,
In the room just next to mine,
And breathe a prayer in silence,
At a mother's broken shrine,
For the woman who rocks the baby
In the room just next to mine.

THE MOTHER'S MOTIVE AND INFLUENCE.

I am impressed, daily, with the care we must take to train our children in correct physical habits, the infinite patience, the untiring watchfulness a mother needs, to start everything in the right direction, and keep it going in that way. How much greater the need, important as the other is, to start the will and the affections in the right direction, with the right motive power. I am convinced that we cannot begin too early to impress a little child with its relation to, and obligation to the Lord Jesus. Every mother here will, doubtless, recognize the thrill I felt, some weeks since, when kneeling with my little boy to ask Jesus to bless and keep him, as is the nightly custom, the little fellow looked up into my face and said:

"Jesus, me." The first dawning of a gleam of his relationship to Jesus, who, we trust, is to be the Master of his life henceforward. Not a moment could be lost, I felt then, in making love to Jesus and consciousness of duty to him the spring of every motive in his little life. Of course, it is an infinitely slow process, but if that end is in view, it must be a sure one. With this end in view we will not tell our children stories of the Master and what he thought, simply to interest them, but with the express purpose that they may be won to love and imitate. "All religious instruction," says a well-known writer, "should be given to children with a reference to practice. If they are taught that God is their Creator and Preserver, it is that they may obey, love and adore him. If that Christ is their Almighty Saviour, it is that they may love him and serve him." It is with the definite object of making their relations to their God and Saviour the ruling, controlling motive of their lives.

I am sure we must begin very early (how early the dawning intelligence of each child must suggest to each watchful mother) to ask, and to teach them to ask for themselves at each recurring step. What would Jesus do? What would Jesus think?

A mother told me not long since of a little incident in the training of her two sons, who are now grown men, and both faithful and earnest in Christ's service. She heard high voices in the room where they were playing. She went to the door and found them quarrelling. The little fellows, about five and seven years of age, did not desist at her approach; so quietly she asked them the familiar question in that household, "What would Jesus think?" Immediately they burst into tears and asked to be forgiven.

How different from the question so common, alas! in many homes, "What will people think?" That may give a veneer

of politeness which hardly bears the test of time. The other, taking hold of the inmost springs of being, and reaching up to the unseen, becomes a deep, abiding and controlling influence.

But Oh! dear mothers, how absolutely essential is it that these be the motives that rule our lives and conduct, if we would in any wise effectually train our children thus.—*Abby C. Labaree, in Christian Intelligencer.*

THE GIRL AWAY FROM HOME.

A girl who leaves home for the purpose of earning a livelihood in another place should connect herself with some church as soon as possible.

If she joins any of the guilds—such as the Girls' Friendly Society, or the King's Daughters, it will afford pleasant companionship, and give her at once a circle of safe acquaintances, who may develop into warm, personal friends. If she stands in need of advice or assistance which the home circle cannot give through letters, she will generally find that her Sunday school teacher, or the wife of her pastor, will be a safe confidant.

In selecting her employment, she should feel that any work that is honest is respectable, no matter how lowly the position. She should not be too ready to shed tears if things go a little wrong, or take offence at criticism. The very fact that a girl is away from friends and home, and unfamiliar with the requirements of her new position, will tend to render her more sensitive than she is naturally, but she should remember that her employer is not expected to take this into consideration, and that her work must be gauged, as a young man's would be, by its real value. An employer has a right to find fault with work that he is paying for, when it is not done as he requires. It is his standard that must be adopted, and no favor should be asked or expected in consideration of her sex.

No expenditures ought to be made that will exceed her income, and no pecuniary obligation incurred to man or woman outside her own kindred.

The average boarding-house, which most girls with homes at a distance are obliged to seek, is not the best place for them, and every effort should be made to obtain board with a private family, or in some place obtained through the auspices of the Young Women's Christian Association.

There is one thing needful for every girl to cultivate daily and hourly, whether her home and friends are near her, or far away—and that is her own self-respect. With this as a monitor she cannot go far from right, no matter what her circumstances or surroundings may be.—*Elizabeth March in Household.*

SAVING WORLD.

"You would scarcely believe," said a lady to a caller, who dropped in one morning, "but I haven't swept my parlors thoroughly in three months, at least what we would ordinarily call sweeping them, and I am sure you will agree they don't look it. Of course, I have points in my favor, as there are no children about the house, except those of casual callers; but even then I should not be such a slave to a sweeping-day as most of my friends are. To begin with, I never allow my rooms to get littered up. To be sure, eternal vigilance is rather hard work, but all the same, I think it pays. I never see a scrap of any sort on the carpet without picking it up at the first opportunity. I take pains to keep things as far as possible in their places, and between you and me, what I think is the strongest of all points, I have just as little in my rooms as I can get along with. For years my life was a burden with bric-a-brac and trinkets and ornaments and draperies and fancy articles of every description, which had put in order and dusted and looked after daily. Now I keep within easy reach a very large soft square of flannel. This I wring very dry out of clean water, and once in a while move an article of furniture and wipe the dust off from the carpet under it with this cloth. I never bother myself to go over the whole room at one time, but just keep track of the places where dust is most likely to accumulate. My dusting is done with soft, rather large cloths. I wipe up the dust

with the utmost care, working very slowly and between every article I take the cloth to the open door or window and give it a thorough shaking. In this way I not only clear the dust off from the articles in the room, but keep it from the carpet and get it out of the room altogether.

"There is science in everything, even in dusting a room, and I contend, and with a fair array of facts to prove my statement, that if the parlor is properly cared for, one sweeping in a month will answer every purpose. Of course, sitting-rooms and dining-rooms need more care, but then, once a week is plenty, if the dusting-cloth and brush are used with discretion and thoroughness."—*Housekeeper.*

EVERY DAY ECONOMY.

The following is from an article on this subject by Georgia B. Jenks in the *Charities Review*: "We need to learn new ways of making common things palatable. There are many combinations, or rather disguises, to be learned, that transform cooking from commonplace drudgery into the learning and discovery of something new each day. Most people, and justly, too, dislike the old-fashioned bread pudding, but if you transform it into a "queen of puddings" by using ten minutes in making the white of egg into a meringue, and adding a spoonful of jelly, you have accomplished the economical purpose of the bread pudding, and given infinitely more satisfaction to the palate. In the same way a half-cupful of salmon or a cupful of canned tomatoes made into soup, with the addition of a quart and a half of milk and crackers makes a very good fifteen-cent supper or breakfast for four people, while these same ingredients uncombined would be only a very unsatisfactory part of a meal. A crust of bread grated, an egg and a tough piece of steak can be made into very palatable croquettes, the chopping-knife accomplishing what the teeth could not. No one cook-book or person has a monopoly of the ways of making everyday foods palatable, and giving them variety. Time, patience, and thought will find them if one earnestly sets to work to accomplish something in accordance with these plans."

A SAND BAG.

Cold weather is the season for earache, and mothers with young children who are subject to this affliction will find a sand bag almost invaluable, as it will hold the heat a long time, and its composition is such as to render it easily adjustable to the affected part.

Make a flannel bag ten inches square, and fill it with fine, clean sand that has been thoroughly dried in the oven.

Make a cotton bag to draw on over the flannel, as this will prevent the sand from sifting out.

This sand bag will also be found useful in cases of toothache and facial neuralgia. Place it in a hot oven on a plate when you wish to heat it.—*Household.*

USEFUL HINTS.

CONDENSED milk, beaten up with one egg and a little pulverized sugar, will make an excellent filling for cream puff.

Use fresh, green grape leaves to place on the top of pickles in jars, instead of cloth. Change them occasionally.

PURCHASE laundry soap by the box of one hundred pounds and keep in a dry, warm place, and it will become hard and last much longer.

A BRUISE may be prevented from discoloring by immediately applying hot water, or a little dry starch, moistened with cold water, and placed on the bruise.

FOR NEURALGIA make a small muslin bag and fill it with salt; heat it hot, and place it against the aching spot; it will retain the heat for a long time and will greatly relieve.

PUT a teaspoonful of ammonia into a quart of water, and wash your brushes and combs in this, and the dirt and grease will disappear. Rinse well, shake and dry.

TO CLEAR a stove of clinkers put a handful of salt into it during a hot fire; when cold remove the clinkers with a cold chisel.

SELECTED RECIPES.

PANNED EGGS.—Butter patty pans with smooth sides; on the bottom of each, sprinkle a little parsley, then drop in each an egg, and bake in the oven until set.

FRENCH DRESSING.—Mix together (in the following order) one tablespoonful each of salt and mustard, one-half tablespoonful of pepper, three tablespoonfuls of good olive oil, a few drops of onion juice, and one and one-half tablespoonfuls of vinegar.

SCALLOPED CORN.—Butter a shallow baking dish and put in alternate layers of corn, seasoned with salt and pepper, and cracker crumbs well buttered, until the dish is full, having crumbs on top. Pour over enough milk to nearly cover it, and bake three-fourths of an hour in a good oven.

EGGS WITH TOMATOES.—One and a half cupfuls of tomatoes, stewed and strained, a pinch of soda, one teaspoonful of butter, two teaspoonfuls of flour, salt and pepper to taste, six or eight eggs. Heat the tomatoes to the boiling point, add to them the soda and seasoning, then the butter rubbed into the flour. Scramble six or eight eggs, and pour around them the tomato sauce. Serve very hot.

FISH HASH.—Boil six good-sized potatoes and one cupful of stripped codfish, together, and while hot chop them fine together with three or four slices of boiled beet. Put the mixture on the stove in a granite stewpan, add a good-sized piece of butter and beat thoroughly with a silver fork. Place on a hot platter in any form desired, garnish with parsley, pieces of beet and carrot cut in fancy shapes, and slices of hard-boiled eggs.

PULLED BREAD.—Put a loaf of light, flaky bread between two pans, and let it heat through in a moderate oven. It will take about twenty-five minutes for this. Take from the oven, and with a fork tear the soft part into thin, ragged pieces. Spread these in a pan and put them in a hot oven to brown. It will take about fifteen minutes to make them brown and crisp. Serve at once on a napkin. Always serve cheese with pulled bread.

PUZZLES NO. 18.

ENIGMA.

My first is in corn but not in rye,
My second is in low but not in high,
My third is in bird but not in bee,
My fourth is in strait but not in sea,
My fifth is in channel but not in bay,
My sixth is in write but not in say,
My seventh is in ear but not in nose,
My eighth is in Nina but not in Rose,
My ninth is in diamond but not in brass,
My tenth is in weed but not in grass,
My eleventh is in story but not in book,
My twelfth is in sea but not in look,
My thirteenth is in mouse but not in rat,
My fourteenth is in kitten but not in cat,
My fifteenth is in good but not in bad,
My sixteenth is in glee but not in glad,
My seventeenth is in sorrow but not in sad.
Now if you are not very blind,
A friend to children you will find.

L. E. BROOKS.

CHARADE.

My first is inclination. My second is not high.
My third is a fish. My fourth is wandering.
My first and second are pronounced like a kind of tree. My first and third like a word that means disposed. My second and fourth like a word that means threatening.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

1. What three men each slew a lion?
2. What color is first spoken of?
3. Who is the first spoken of having laughed?
4. What man was slow of speech?
5. What woman first made a vow to give her son to the Lord?

H. E. GREENE.

PROGRESSIVE ENIGMA.

My 1, 2, 3 is poisonous; my 2, 3, 4 is a mineral spring; my 2, 3, 4, 5 belongs to a ship; my 3, 4, 5 is a small fish; my 3, 4, 5, 6 is a piece of Turkish money; my 5, 6, 7 is a part of the dress of some people; my 7, 8, 9 is a boy's nickname; my 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 grows in the garden.

GEOGRAPHICAL GUESSWHAT.

Miss (one of the United States) (city in Mississippi) and her (river in Ohio) brother (river in Virginia) were invited out one afternoon to a birthday party. For a birthday present (one of the United States) took along a (sea south of the Yellow Sea) (country in Asia) rose jar, while her brother carried a (lake in Oregon) handled umbrella. After they had played a city in England) Bridge, going to (city in Palestine), and other games, they were called out to supper.

On the table were plates of (celebrated watering-place) chips, (city in New Hampshire) bread with caraway seeds, (bay off the coast of Long Island) patties, and a dish of (country in southern part of Europe) salad. A tongue (islands in the Pacific Ocean), tied with tiny (sea in Asia) ribbon, was placed at each plate. Next came (town in New Jersey) jelly, served in cunning baskets, tied with (sea west of Arabia) ribbon. (river in Michigan) cake, (sea in the north of Russia) grapes, and (city in Virginia) cream.

When supper was over it was late, so they went home at once, saying (cape at the southern extremity of Greenland) with regret.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES No. 17.

DECAPITATION.—Drum, rum.

SCRIPTURE ACROSTIC.—

1. P late.
2. H umility.
3. I dole.
4. L ot.
5. I ncense.
6. P laister.—Philip.

ENIGMA.—Original charade.

DROP-VOVEL BIBLE VERSE.—This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you.—John 15:12.

WORD HALF SQUARE.—

W H E L M
H A L O
E L M
L O
M

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

H. E. Greene sent one correct answer.