

## YOUTH'S DEPARTMENT.

## THE OLD MAN'S BLESSING.

Summer after summer the writer has noticed an old man sitting on the stoop of a tumble-down cottage in the suburbs of one of our sea-shore watering-places. He sat day in and day out alone, and in the same position, smoking his pipe. It was evident that he was poor, and that he was tied to the house by some disease. Yet he always seemed cheerful and interested in things about him. This summer we missed him from his stone step, and thought no more of it.

Within a few days an incident in which this old man had a part has come to our knowledge. It is worth repeating. To more than one mind and heart the knowledge of it has been a stimulant and a benefit.

One of the families summering in the seaside town has for several seasons driven almost daily past the old man's house. Several children were in the family, among them an observant girl of thirteen.

No one else in the carriage had given the stranger more than a moment's notice; but she began to watch for him whenever the horses turned the corner that brought his little one-story cottage in sight. He looked so ill and patient and helpless that she pitied him. Toward the close of the season her sympathy led her to bow timidly as she passed. The old man returned her salutation, and for the few days that were left a smile passed between the gray invalid and the little summer girl.

But the child did not forget her new friend all that winter, and when the family went to the sea-shore the next spring she bought a package of fruit,—the best she could get,—and was very silent about it. On the way from the station when the carriage came opposite the familiar cottage, she called to the coachman:

"Stop here, Joe! Tell him to stop, mamma!" and springing from the carriage, she ran up to the steps and laid the fruit on the old man's knee.

"I'm glad to see you sitting in your old place," she said. "I have thought about you all winter."

"Thank you for the fruit, miss," said the old man. "Thank you heartily. I'm mighty glad you're 'round once more. I missed you when the cold weather came."

"May I call and see you again?" she asked, timidly.

"Maybe it'd be too much trouble, miss, but it would do me a world of good," replied the invalid. He watched her to the top of the hill until the carriage sank out of sight.

From this time Freda began to call at the cottage once or twice a week, and took the sick man presents and read to him as well as she knew how. He fell to calling her his "little angel," and his wife said that he became restless to see her on the days she was expected to call. She, too, grew fond of him. He must have been a rough man once, but he had become gentle and tender as a woman. His helplessness and his eager joy to see her were a constant stimulant and delight to the child.

Last fall, before the family went to the city, Freda noticed that he was growing feebler. So, with her mother's permission, she began to write to him after her return home, and he wrote a few letters in reply. By the time cold weather came he was confined to his bed.

On the approach of Christmas Freda went to a fashionable grocery store, and with her mother made up a box of dainties, such as are nourishing, and that tempt the appetite of people who are sick; and such, too, as only a rich or a self-denying person would select. When the expressman took this box of canned soups and fruits and jellies, and wonderful modern delicacies into the sick man's house it was received with astonishment and delight.

Such a package had never before entered there. It was hardly known that there were such dainties. The invalid was so much excited that he had the empty box put beside his bed, where he could constantly see it.

One evening he called wildly for his "little angel." His wife brought a picture of the child which had been sent to him, and with his eyes fastened on the portrait of perhaps the only person but his wife who had gone out of the way to do him a kindness, he passed gently away.

The old man lived on the only road

that leads to a settlement of about a thousand summer visitors, who each year pass his house, and amuse themselves only a mile away. Out of the thousand, this child was the only one to notice the invalid, and do this Christ-like deed. We should be sorry to think that the usual proportion of practical Christianity to summer boarders is no larger.

This experience, which became more than an incident in the lives of a happy family, may afford a hint and an inspiration to most of us who can do as much, or more.

"I was sick, and ye visited me," is made a test of character in the text-book of heaven. Opportunity for doing good is like the air! Wherever men are found, it is there.

## HOUSE AND HOUSEHOLD.

## NEW FASHIONS.

Yellow will be one of the most worn colors this spring both in stuffs and trimmings, and a whole scale of shades have been introduced, starting from beige and the admired sand-color and finishing in tints of red. New is also light hazel-nut, a coffee-brown called "Cafeine," and brownish yellow, "Sumatra." Green and dark red enjoy, too, special success, for instance, as "Ressau," a soft, light yellow-green, and "Palmier," medium grass-green, the latter being seen principally in ribbons and ornamental tissues. Two novel colors, "Walkure" and "Ambussan," are slight repetitions of the charming antique reds of former days.

## THAT EASTER BONNET.

Spring bonnets of straw and horsehair have already appeared, and the plaits would seem as if meant to imitate moss and frost, to excuse, as it were, the rapid alteration from felt to straw; the trimmings have also their share in the frost-like appearance, and feathers and flowers are dusted over with white crystallized powder to give the same effect.

## PASSING OF THE WIDE SKIRT.

Really well dressed ladies are rejecting dresses of enormous width and fullness at the bottom, and at all events for visiting and street wear, returning to the usual plain gored skirt.

## HOW TO WASH FLANNELS.

The first step is to shake out the dust and lint. Use soft, clean, cold water. Let the hard soap lie in the water, but do not apply it to the clothes.

Wash the white pieces first; throw articles as fast as washed into blued cold water; let them stand twenty or thirty minutes; wash them through this water after dissolving a little soap in it; wring hard, shake and hang up.

Wash colored flannels in the same way (but not in water used for white or they will gather the lint). Rinse in several waters if inclined to "run."

When the flannels are very much soiled they should soak longer, and a little borax, well dissolved, might be added to the water.

## A WORD OF TIMELY ADVICE.

In these deceptive days of approaching spring, which tempt one to put on lighter clothing, it is a good rule for the avoidance of colds to remember the old adage:—"Stick to your flannels till they stick to you."

## USEFUL RECIPES FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

## BREAD SIPPETS.

Bread sippets, which are used to garnish many dishes, should be invariably fried in butter. Cut them out of stale bread with a paste cutter, being careful to have them of uniform shape and of the same thickness.

## APPLE SHORTCAKE.

If you have never tried apple shortcake, try it now. Prepare it exactly as you would strawberry shortcake, using apple sauce in place of the berries; and by the time apples grow again you may consider an apple shortcake as great a treat as strawberry shortcake.

## TO COOK FISH.

In boiling fish be careful to put plenty of salt in the water. A large handful to a gallon of water is not too much, and a tablespoonful of vinegar should be added as well. A white fish is greatly improved by being thoroughly rubbed with a cut lemon before cooking.

## EGG CROQUETTES.

Boil eighteen eggs, separate the yolks and whites and cut them in slices; pour

over them sauce a la creme; add a little grated bread, mix altogether, and let it get cold. Put in some salt and pepper, make them into cakes, cover them well on both sides with grated bread, let them stand an hour, and fry them a nice brown. Dry before the fire, and dish quite hot.

## FRESH FISH BAKED.

Clean the fish well and wipe it dry (not to cut off the head); prepare a forcemeat of bread and oysters chopped fine and moistened with their own liquor, salt it and season with parsley and pepper; fill the fish with this, sew it together and lay it in a dripping pan; pour around it some warm water, and sprinkle with pepper and salt, and baste often. If a good sized fish, bake one hour.

## TROPICAL SUNS.

Four sweet oranges, half a grated coconut, three bananas, strained juice of two lemons, and powdered sugar to taste; peel the oranges and remove seeds and white membrane; put a layer of oranges in the bottom of a greased dish sprinkle with sugar, add coconut, and then bananas; cut into thin slices, pour over some lemon juice and repeat the process, using orange, sugar, coconut, etc., as before; the top layer is to be heaped high in the center, and sprinkled thickly with coconut and sugar, and garnished round the base with slices of banana; other combinations of fruit may be arranged to suit the taste.

## INDIA AND CEYLON.

## THE OPIUM QUESTION IN INDIA.

The following is the memorandum addressed by the Most Rev. Dr. P. Goethals, the Archbishop of Calcutta, to the Government of India on the opium question: "I have followed with a certain amount of interest the work of the Opium Commission which is now coming to a close. One statement has particularly attracted my attention. It has been urged by some that the use of opium is a serious obstacle to the success of missionary work. Looking back with the experience of more than fifteen years of Indian Missionary life, and having consulted several priests of longer standing in the country, I have been forced to the conclusion, as far as Catholic Missions are concerned, that the facts do not tally with this assertion. As representing the Church that has lasted longer than any other in India, where it has made more converts and employs more missionaries than all the other Christian sects put together, I can conscientiously affirm that to the best of my knowledge not a case has fallen under my observation in which the use of opium has stood in the way of conversion to Christianity. Further, I do not remember having ever heard complaints on that subject, either from my colleagues in the Indian Episcopate or from any of the numerous missionaries whom I have met since my arrival in India."—*Illustrated Catholic Mission.*

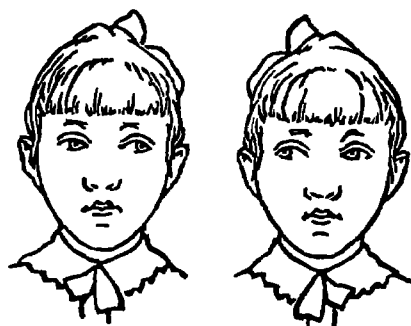
## HOW TO MAKE OTHERS HAPPY.

When you rise in the morning, form a resolution to make the day a happy one to a fellow-creature. It is easily done: a left-off garment to the man who needs it, a kind word to the sorrowful, an encouraging expression to the striving, trifles in themselves light as air, will do it, at least for twenty-four hours. By the most simple arithmetical sum, look at the result. You send one person, only one, happily through the day; that is three hundred and sixty-five in the course of the year; and, supposing you live only forty years after you commence that course of medicine, you have made fourteen thousand six hundred human beings happy, at all events for a time. Now, is not this simple? It is too short for a sermon, too homely for ethics, too easily accomplished for you to say, "I would if I could."—*Sydney Smith.*

## A PUNY AND FRETFUL BABY.

This is now quite unnecessary! Like many others, you may have your baby fat, laughing and happy, if you give it Scott's Emulsion. Babies take it like cream.

A mendicant approached a benevolent-looking old gentleman the other day, and said: "Dear sir, I have lost my leg;" to which the benevolent-looking gentleman replied, as he hurried away, "My dear friend, I am very sorry, but I have not seen anything of it."



Beside herself

with work and worry—a woman without *Pearline*. She has twice as much work, and gets half as much done. With *Pearline*, she can keep her house clean without keeping it upset. She can wash the clothes easily, and know that it is done safely. *Pearline* washes everything. If you try to have comfort, you will have to try it.

Beware of imitations. 240 JAMES PYLE, N.Y.

## SURGEON VELPEAU AND THE MARQUIS.

The famous surgeon Velpeau was visited one day at his house during the consultation hour by a marquis renowned for his stinginess. Velpeau informed the marquis that an operation was urgent, and that the fee would amount to four thousand francs. At this the marquis made a wry face and left. A fortnight later Dr. Velpeau, while making his rounds in the charity hospital, had his attention attracted by a face that seemed familiar to him. In answer to his inquiry, it was stated that the patient was the footman of a nobleman in the Faubourg St. Germain. The surgeon found that his case resembled in every particular the somewhat unusual one for which the marquis had consulted him a fortnight previously. He refrained, however, from making any comments. Three weeks after the operation, when the patient was about to be discharged, Dr. Velpeau called him aside and exclaimed, "Monsieur, I am extremely flattered and pleased to have been able to cure you. There is, however, a small formality with which you will have to comply before I can sign your discharge; that is, you will have to sign a check for ten thousand francs in behalf of the public charity bureau of your metropolitan district." The patient's face became livid. "You can do what you like about it," continued the doctor, "but if you refuse all Paris will know to-morrow that the Marquis de D—adopted the disguise of a footman in order to secure free treatment at this hospital and to usurp the place which belongs by right to a pauper." Of course the marquis paid.—*Sacred Heart Review.*

When Ponce-de-Leon sought to find  
The fountain giving back lost youth,  
It may be that he had in mind  
That draught which seems to make a truth  
Out of the fable ages old.  
For drinking it the old grow young;  
It is, indeed, a draught of gold,  
Surpassing all by poets sung.

The draught meant is Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, of course. It is a most potent rejuvenator of the weakened and debilitated system. It drives out all poison, all impurity, enriches the blood, and makes the old and worn out feel young and vigorous. Ponce-de-Leon didn't discover it, but Dr. Pierce did, and he rightly named it when he called it a "Golden Discovery."

Dr. Pierce's Pellets cure permanently constipation, indigestion and headaches. All dealers.

"My dear," said the husband to the wife before the glass, "I'm ashamed to see you put all that red stuff on your cheeks." "Oh, don't worry about that," she replied sweetly, "it matches the colour on your nose admirably, and harmony is what makes the marriage relation ideal."

## HAVE YOU TRIED IT.

Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup cures coughs, colds, asthma, bronchitis, hoarseness, sore throat and diseases of the throat and lungs. Price 25 and 50c.