

from social ministries, she went back and forth from the asylum to the active scenes of life in the world, and kept her eyes open and her soul responsive to all that was beautiful and nourishing to her nature, and thereby qualified herself the better for an absorbing work among the idiot and epileptic children.

We quote: "Very often Mlle. Nicoll has begun by teaching her pupils to speak; she, herself, to facilitate the teaching, learning to understand every one of their inarticulate, animal-like cries. Then by dint of naming an object again and again, perhaps hundreds of times, she has enabled them to associate words with the things they represent. To go farther, and to convey some notions of reading and writing, even of arithmetic, geography and music, to these imperfect, apparently non-existent intelligences, would seem an utter impossibility. But Mlle. Nicoll learned that in this work there are few impossibilities for patient, persevering love."

Her starting point with each child was ever the same, namely, "love to herself, which she knows how to inspire in a hundred different ways."

"As soon as they have learned to talk, to read a little and to write down a few phrases, she begins with composition lessons, which, according to her method, are only another form of learning from observation; for to each child she gives a colored picture card, such as are used in shops as a means of advertising, the task prescribed being to write out a clear and detailed description of the scene represented on the card."

"In looking over a dozen or more of the books, which were taken at random from the children, and the compositions, which I carefully compared with the card, I noticed a remarkable degree of accuracy in the descriptions of color, showing that with all their deficiencies the writers of these little compositions were not in any sense color-blind."

Of 5,000 children under Mlle. Nicoll's care since 1850 (not epileptics), a great number "have been awakened to a sufficient comprehension of ordinary life; have been rendered sufficiently self-reliant and useful to be sent back to their families; others have been enabled to undertake regular occupations in the institution, and many more have had their hearts warmed into gratitude, love and enjoyment."

After the continuance of this rescue work for forty-one years, tired nature demands repose, and in the midst of beautiful surroundings our honored sister has made her home. "She is there watched over by the most faithful of friends, one of whom she rescued years ago from mental darkness, and her mind is still occupied with schemes for the benefit of the feeble-minded."

Behold what the love of a sincere heart has wrought.

THE SILVER CROSS.

MINNIE MAY'S DEPARTMENT.

Girls and Farm Life.

It is a grievous mistake for girls who live in the country to underrate their advantages. They should be the most independent, happiest and healthiest women on this bright earth. Instead of flocking to the cities to take positions as domestics, take a third class certificate to enable them to teach impish or stupid children during the long sunny hours, or rush to factories where they stand beside an automaton machine for eight or nine long hours and call it independence, they should remain at home, take up some of the many industries that women are making profitable nowadays, and try to elevate the tone of life on the farm. Here they have wholesome food, fresh air, immunity from doubtful companionship, and all the exercise they wish to take. There is something unwholesome about the girl who prefers either or any of the occupations mentioned to a free, busy, quiet, joyous life, unless there is a mortgage in the way that she wants to help pay off; then it would be wisest not to abandon the sinking ship, but all do their best, as the time for united action had come, and pilot the ship into calm water again. Hundreds of women have engaged in agricultural pursuits all over the United States. So many of the lighter industries that women can engage in on a farm are never taken up, and there is a vast field before them, cheese making, butter making, fruit raising, stock raising, (many of the most successful stock farms of Arizona are managed by women) bee keeping, poultry raising, flower culture, bread and cake making are among the many. If large families of daughters would undertake such ventures, success would crown their efforts, and we would hear fewer complaints about girls being "unprofitable stock," as some cowardly fathers have expressed it. Women are smaller economists than men, more painstaking, less venturesome and less easily discouraged; these are some of their natural advantages, and they can show indomitable pluck when the emergency comes. If your venture pays the first year, go cautiously on, and the balance in your favor will be small the next year, and increase in proportion as you show judgment. Every Canadian woman must be familiar with the story of the woman who was given a Jersey calf, and who now owns and manages a herd of the finest Jerseys in the Dominion.

Put a few cloves into the ink bottle to prevent mould.

FRIED FISH.

Cut across in slices about two inches thick, roll in flour and fry in hot lard a delicate brown; serve on a bed of parsley.

Meaning of the Various Colors.

White was the emblem of light, religious purity, innocence, faith, joy and life. In the judge it indicates integrity; in the sick, humility; in the woman, chastity.

Red, the ruby, signifies fire, divine love and royalty. White and red roses express love and wisdom. The red color of the blood has its origin in the action of the heart, which corresponds to, or symbolizes, love. In a bad sense it corresponds to the infernal love of evil, hatred, etc.

Blue, or the sapphire, expresses Heaven, the firmament, truth from a celestial origin, constancy and fidelity.

Yellow, or gold, is the symbol of the sun, of marriage and faithfulness. In a bad sense yellow signifies inconstancy, jealousy and deceit.

Green, the emerald, is the color of spring, of hope, particularly of the hope of immortality and of victory, as the color of the laurel and palm.

Violet, the amethyst, signifies love and truth, or passion and suffering.

Purple and scarlet signify things good and true from a celestial origin.

Black corresponds to despair, darkness, earthliness, mourning, negation, wickedness and death.



Grandma.

Yes, here she is, coming down the path knitting her stocking; for Grandma's hands are never idle, and very quickly indeed does the work grow under her practised fingers. Many a wee leg is warmly dressed, many an otherwise cold finger is warm, through her steady and persevering habit of keeping her fingers busy. Age sets lightly on her, for like Moses of old, her eye is not dim, nor her natural force abated—that is, some of the old energy is left, although she wisely husbands it, and does not attempt to do what once she did when bearing the burden and heat of the battle of life. How tidy and clean she looks with her well-done-up cap covering the silvery, beautiful, soft hair; her snowy kerchief, her white apron and cuffs, her dress so short as to gather neither dust nor mud, and the good, stout, low-heeled, thick-soled shoe. What lessons we younger folks could learn from her, were we willing to be taught in such matters.

Poor Grandma! what stories those lines of care could tell: how many memories crowd around her this June evening, as the sun paints his roseate picture and the waters again reflect it. The freshness of Spring calls the beloved and the true-hearted of other days around her.

"The smiles, the tears of childhood's years,
The words of love then spoken,
The eyes that shone now dimmed and gone,
The youthful hearts now broken."

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE.

Measure one quart of sifted flour, rub in four ounces of butter, one tablespoonful of sugar, a little salt, and one teaspoonful of soda, and one of cream tartar; mix thoroughly with the flour. Make a hole in the centre and with a knife mix with sufficient sour milk into a stiff dough, divide into two parts, roll each into a ball, and with a rolling-pin roll into a round cake about an inch thick; bake in a moderate oven until a nice brown. When done split in half, butter and lay on a layer of strawberries, cover with sugar and place the other half in place, and keep hot for tea or dinner.

The Dainty Sash Curtain.

AGNES CHASE.

The recent revival of the sash curtain is a fashion we hope has come to stay. Nothing makes a window look so dainty or a room so inviting from the outside as the thin white curtain next to the glass, instead of the staring yellow, brown or green shade.

These little curtains are made of a variety of material, and are run on to a brass rod in the window casing close to the glass outside the shades. They may be either whole or half sash curtains; the latter being usually fastened to the window sash itself.

A simple and pretty pair of sash curtains is made of white dotted Swiss, with a ruffle about two inches wide down the sides and across the bottoms; another is made of cream-colored cheese-cloth, with a row of little white or cream cotton tassels on the edges. These tassels can be bought by the yard ready for sewing on. When one can afford it, there is nothing prettier than cream Japanese silk or silk muslin for these curtains, especially for half-sash curtains, trimmed with little silk tassels, or left plain down the sides and being hem-stitched across the bottoms, and tied back with silk cord and tassel.

These curtains are also made of the finer kinds of scrim, either plain or with an edging or torchon lace, or of mull with a two-inch ruffle of lace around it.

A very pretty pair, although rather elaborate for sash curtains, is made of oriental lace, a yard or nearly a yard deep, and put up lengthways for curtains. The raw edge should be neatly hemmed and trimmed with an edging of very narrow oriental lace, and the bottom should be finished in the same way. Of course none of these curtains reach beyond the window sill, even when the window sill is narrow enough to permit it.

Perhaps the daintiest of all sash curtains is made of plain white netting or bobinette, as it used to be called. Buy the yard-wide netting and trim with a ruffle of fine oriental lace. It is surprising what an elegant and graceful appearance this simple curtain has, drawn back with a little white cord and tassel.

The old-fashioned method of embroidering or darning netting with linen floss may be brought into requisition with very good effect in making these curtains, if it has not become a lost art. Work a narrow pointed edge down outside and across the bottom of each curtain, and then work the little six-pointed stars, so easily made, all over the curtain at regular intervals of six or eight inches.

The main thing to be desired in these sash curtains is simplicity. They are not supposed to be "costly as thy purse can buy," like the inside lace curtains, but are simply to give the window a dainty, inviting appearance from the outside. And the neatly made sash curtain, no matter how plain, is preferable to the purchased article; however elegant the latter, it bears the "shop" appearance about it, like ready-made gowns. The curtains should be tied back with little white cords and tassels.

The half-sash curtain may be made more showy and may have colors introduced if desired. A pretty one is made of scrim—the kind sold for fancy work. After hem-stitching the bottom, half-an-inch above the hem pull out the cross threads to the width of half-an-inch, and after an interval of the same width another open space, and so up until you have four open rows, through which run satin ribbons, red, green, orange and blue, making a Roman stripe. Cream cheese-cloth may be used for this instead of scrim, if preferred. These half curtains may be made also of pale tints of India or China silk, plain or figured, and trimmed with little silk tassels.—The Home Magazine.

The Bite of a Snake.

The heads of most of the venomous snakes, including the "rattlers," bulge just beyond the neck. Without exception they have fangs, either always erect or raised and laid back at will. These fangs are long, sharp-pointed teeth, with a hollow groove running their entire length. At the root of each fang is a little bag of poison. When the snake bites the motion presses the poison sac, and its contents flow down through the hollow in the tooth into the puncture or wound. The harmless little forked tongue is often spoken of by the uninformed as the snake's "stinger." Now there is no propriety in the name, as the poisonous snakes do not sting, but bite their victims. There is no creature, even if brought from foreign countries where "rattlers" do not exist, but will halt and tremble at the first warning sound of the rattle.

Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, with others, has been making experiments with the venom of different serpents. He has found that, aside from its poisonous qualities, it contains living germs which have the power of increasing enormously fast. So, you see, when an animal is bitten these tiny bits of life entering with the poison cause harmful action to begin almost at once. Dr. Mitchell has found that the nervous centre controlling the act of striking seems to be in the spinal cord, for if he cut off a snake's head and then pinched its tail, the stump of its neck turned back and would have struck his hand had he been bold enough to hold it still.—St. Nicholas.