

HOME INTERESTS.

Conducted by HELENE.

Laughter is so infectious. Going along the street the other day I was attracted by a crowd of jolly girls, the laughter of one in particular drawing my attention. As I gained on them I heard her remark: "I have to do all my laughing in the street or in some one else's house, for neither cannot stand it." Now, I fancy we must all agree on one point, and that is that a merry laugh is heavenborn and dispels all prejudice, ill-nature and all the other feelings we love to harbor deep down in our hearts. There is as much expression, if not more, in a laugh as in a smile, and though we may deceive by a smile we cannot by a laugh. The hollow ring is not pleasant to the ear. I felt sorry for the girl who could only give vent to her lightness of heart when not in her home, for there were those there who disliked laughter. Her life's brightness is being dwarfed and narrowed, and so on all her impulses until perhaps too soon there will be little left because so much had been thwarted.

FASHIONS.

Apparently we are to have much clear brown and pongee color and mode, and the new hats show beautiful color schemes in the deep Havana or chestnut browns with yellow or dull orange tints and soft dull greens. Such colorings are used upon some hats of green straw or tulle in the soft olive shades, too gray to be vivid, too green to be dull, and the effect is exceedingly pleasing.

Much is done with braiding on the early spring models for street wear, and velvet, silk, satin, etc., enter into many unobtrusive forms of trimming. Little pipings, bias bands, tiny plisse frills of plaid silk or plain color, of of plain silk upon a checked or plaid frock, are again in evidence, but the smartest of the street frocks show a certain severity and the plain skirt, which has risen to favor during the winter, will probably retain its prestige.

Hand embroidery is as much in demand as ever for the trimming of everything from street frocks to evening frocks, but it adds so greatly to the price of a costume that only the few can gratify their liking for it.

Those who go in for the fitted coat are wearing the tight-fitting automobiles, which greatly resemble the tight-fitting Newmarkets. They are absolutely snug to the figure and are so built that they button up tightly to the chin and cover the gown almost to the foot. It is difficult to make them smart looking, owing to their severity of style, but one can do a great deal with a boa or neck ruffle.

The kilted skirt and all forms of the full skirt laid in regular plaits, which are stitched down over the hips, and flare below, have been somewhat overdone and generally adopted for ready-made costumes. The fastidious woman prefers something more individual, and the dress-makers contrive a host of little variations for her benefit.

One of the most exquisite of the new silks has a creamy ground, and over its surface at intervals of about six inches are inset baskets of lace, apparently woven in a set design. Falling from these lace baskets and scattered over the silk are flowers in soft colorings and blurred outlines. Exquisite as well as the very soft lustrous silks in pale, delicate shades with single long-stemmed blossoms faintly outlined in silver thread placed at intervals on its surface. A very delicate light green silk, for example, has a design of single long stemmed poppies delicately woven in silver.

Above all things, the button of 1905 is ornamental rather than useful. It is employed to give a finishing touch to an outdoor garment or to relieve the suggestion of somberness of a house gown or trim, like sequins or embroidery, the girdles and stocks of the hour.

Some charming ciffure ornaments have been recently introduced in the shape of velvet bows and upstanding ends like ears in exquisite shades of emerald, rose, copper or mauve, embroidered in crystals. Ospreys are likewise very fashionable for night

wear. A bunch of these is sometimes caught with a large button rosette of silver or gold cord and braid.

There is a certain charm about handmade aprons that makes them very acceptable as gifts. A pretty design consists of interlaced circles embroidered in pale yellow silk floss. In the left corner a monogram is embroidered, and ribbons to match the embroidery silk are sewed to the ends of the belt and tied in the back. Lawn, organdie, nainsook and crossbarred muslin are all suitable.

A new idea in trimmings consists of bands of tucked taffeta padded out to form a kind of thick roll. Another novelty is the embroidered tuck, which has a running or scroll device worked in fancy stitch on the material itself. It is very effective and adds richness and importance to a frock.

TIMELY HINTS.

This is a good recipe for furniture paste: One and one-half ounce of beeswax, one and one-half ounce of castile soap, half an ounce of white wax. Cut in fine shreds, pour over half a pint of boiling water and simmer for five minutes, stirring frequently. When cold add half a pint of turpentine. Put in a big-mouthed bottle and shake well.

One of the most convenient things for washing the inside of lamp chimneys is a piece of sheepskin with the wool on, tacked around a stick of a convenient length. This is easy to keep clean, and will dry quickly.

When staining a floor don't forget that the stain should be applied with the grain of the wood—that is, up and down the boards, not across. In polishing afterward work the same way.

Long hair should never be shampooed more than once a month. Some people think that by brushing and caring well for the hair a shampoo once a year is sufficient; but few people, especially those whose hair is naturally oily, believe in this advice. Brushing stimulates the growth of the hair and makes it glossy and soft. It also stops the hair from falling out, and is the best tonic for the scalp.

One of the most soothing applications for a fresh burn is raw potato scraped or grated and bound like a poultice on the injured surface.

It is said that a sound, ripe apple placed in a tin cake box will keep the loaves from drying or crumbling.

To wash anything that is greasy, use hot soda water. The alkali turns the grease into soap, which will do its own cleansing.

Milk will immediately and effectually extinguish the flames from gasoline or any form of petroleum, since it forms an emulsion with the oil, whereas water only spreads it.

If the cover of a fruit-jar sticks, do not attempt to wrench it off; simply invert the jar and place the top in hot water for a minute. Then try it, and you will find it turns easily.

The serving of sardines with their accompaniment of oil always causes more or less trouble. A small china dish, fluted and adorned with a realistic fish for handle, does away with all embarrassment in this direction. It is stood on a plated silver tray, which makes a very pretty adjunct to the supper or luncheon table.

The sardines are either turned out into the dish or set inside of it, box and all.

In cooking onions, cabbage, sauerkraut, etc., the usual scent which permeates the house can be avoided by putting four good slices of bread in a bag and cook with them.

Do not put salt in soup until you are done skimming it, as salt will stop the rising of the scum.

Coppers dissolved in water is one of the most valuable of disinfectants.

Javelle water will remove many stains from linen. Linen treated with it also requires immediate and thorough rinsing in boiling water, for its strong ingredients are chloride of lime and washing soda. It can be bought in drug stores, but it can be manufactured at home for less than half the cost. Directions for its preparation are on the boxes of chloride of lime one buys for disinfecting purposes. Strained off into bottles and corked, it will keep indefinitely, but as a safe precaution the bottles should be labelled and marked "Poison" in prominent letters of red ink.

There would be less lockjaw,

said a physician recently, "if people would just take a little simple precaution. The smoke from a woolen cloth is fatal to the tetanus microbe. This bacillus is picked up with such dirt as gets into the wound from a rusty nail, or whatever else inflicts it, or from other causes, and is one of the easiest to kill. Take a woolen cloth and set it on fire. Hold the wound over the smoke for 20 minutes, and in nine cases out of ten the microbe which causes all the trouble will be dead."—New York Sun.

GENIUS AND THE HAT-BRUSH.

"Don't think, because you are learning Greek, you should forget to brush your Sunday Bonnet," writes an American paragrapher, and the advice holds a truth which is well worth ingrafting on many a busy life.

It is not uncommon, for young women especially, to fancy that some lofty pursuit or great work absolves one from the small duties and trivial requirements that are binding upon ordinary mortals. Carelessness in appearance, brusqueness of manner, neglect of common courtesies, should be condoned, we are told, in those "who are busy about more important matters, and have no time to think of such little things."

But such excuse, however charitable we may offer it for others, is one we should never begin to make for ourselves. Nothing is trivial which affects the feelings and comfort of those about us, or the power of our influence over them. No eloquent advocacy of a noble cause can atone for needless untidiness in the dress of the advocate. No amount of genius can excuse one from being, first of all, a Christian gentleman or lady.—Selected.

THE FRENCH APRON FAD.

The wearing of aprons is one of the old useful fashions now being revived, greatly to the saving of our frocks and the comfort of the wearers. The coquettish apron has been set aside for awhile, but is now once more asserting itself. The strictly useful has always held its own. The French have turned a kindly eye to them, and in the days of Louis XIII. women wore them and their bunch of keys, showing they were veritable housekeepers. In the time of Louis XIV. ladies of the court donned them when employed in needlework and other arts, and it is from that period we are restoring the airy nothings of lace and muslin to our favor. Sometimes they are of light colored crepe de chine, worked in gold. More useful ones of thicker fabric have large pockets. These are adorned with pretty ribbon bows, and these ribbons sometimes draw up the pocket. Sometimes strong linen aprons are laced with ribbon at the edge by means of eyelot holes.

Table embroideries, such as centre-pieces and doilies, should never be allowed to become very much soiled before being washed, as they ought never be rubbed very hard to remove spots. Wash such articles in warm soap suds. Never rub the soap on the linen, as it will ruin the colors of the embroidery, but pat gently, and after rinsing squeeze them as dry as possible without wringing. Then spread out smoothly on a clean cloth, lay another cloth over them, and while wet iron with a hot iron, keeping the cloth between the iron and the embroidery until the latter is nearly dry to prevent the color from running, and even then the iron should never touch the right side of the embroidery piece.

A business woman must be economical. She has not hundreds of dollars to spend upon her wardrobe, consequently if she is wise she finds out what color is the most becoming and buys an office gown of that color and uses it as the foundation upon which she builds up her system of dress. This color scheme makes it possible to wear one hat with various articles of clothing without appearing radiantly dressed like a bird of paradise, and nothing in a business woman's office dress is more detestable than finery. Simplicity, cleanliness, harmony, are the three qualities essential to the business woman's wardrobe. It is not so much how many clothes the business woman possesses as it is the kind of clothing she wears and her general appearance.

FEMININITY IN WOMEN.

Men like femininity in woman, and the woman who affects the mannish in dress or manners or conversation does it at her peril. Indeed, so great is man's admiration for womanliness that he will forgive her all other defects if she only possesses this one quality. This is the reason that the silly little ingenue can mar-

ry six times to her strong-minded sister's once, and why we see women who are dull and stupid and unattractive who are still adored by their husbands. A man may love a woman in spite of her being witty, and intelligent, and able to take care of herself, but he never loves her because of these virtues.

RECIPES.

English Pot Roast.—Select a nice roast, if possible; if not this manner of cooking will greatly improve an inferior one. Put the roast in a pot, cover with cold water and place on the back of the stove. Let simmer, but not boil until the meat is tender and the water is nearly all cooked out. Then draw the pot to the front of the stove; sift several table-spoonsful of flour over the roast; also slice a large onion over it. Cover again and let the meat brown to the bottom of the pot, then turn and brown the other side. Add enough water to make gravy.

Corn Fritters.—One quart of flour, one-half teaspoonful of baking powder, a tablespoonful of lard and a pinch of salt. Mix with one pint of sweet milk and add a teaspoonful of canned or fresh corn. If fresh corn is used, cut the grains several times and scrape the cob. Fry until a light brown and serve hot.

Beef Loaf.—Take two teaspoonful of cold meat, ground or chopped fine, one teaspoonful of breadcrumbs, one medium-sized onion also chopped fine and one and one-half pints of the liquor in which the meat was cooked. (Milk may be substituted but it is not so good.) One egg well beaten. Mix all together and season highly with salt and pepper, and also spices if desired. Bake in a mould; when cold slice thin and garnish with parsley.

Dressed Eggs.—Boil the eggs until they are quite hard, remove the shells and cut either lengthwise or through the centre, take out the yolks, mash fine and mix with bread crumbs and chopped pickle, also a tablespoonful of butter or cream, add pepper and salt. Replace this dressing in the whites and press together. Place on lettuce leaves and serve with a rich mayonnaise.

Hoeecake.—Mix two table-spoonsful of sifted white meal with cold water into a thin batter. Pour this on a hot griddle which has been greased, leaving the space of an inch around the edge. When browned on the underside turn it over quickly with a cake turner and brown on the other side. It should be turned several times in order to cook through and through, and the art in cooking it consists in browning it without scorching, so that the inside will not be sticky and gummy. Serve with fried fish or sausage for breakfast or lunch, and it should be broken at the table.

In cold weather it often happens that a nest of frozen eggs are found hidden away in the hay mow. Pour boiling water over them and set them aside till the water is cold, and on breaking the eggs the yolk will be soft and beat up like an egg that had never been frozen.

SHE WAS TOO GOOD.

One winter in the mountains of North Carolina I met old Lige Downs, a familiar character of those hills, trudging toward the town with a bundle tied in a red bandanna slung over his stooped shoulders.

"Good morning, Uncle Lige," I said.

"Maw'nin', missy," he replied, taking his hat from his kinked white crown.

"Are you going away?" I asked.

"Yessum," he answered, "yessum."

"Where's Aunt Hootie? Is she going too?"

"None; she ain't goin' wit me. I ain't no fittin' cumpny for dat woman nohow."

"Why, what's the matter?" I asked, amazed.

"I always thought Hootie was the best wife in the world."

"Yessum; dat's what she shorely is. But a pore, mis'ble sinnah lak me kaint stan' no much goodness. Dat woman nevah did know de power of sin, and de parson hisself kaint come up to huh for preachin'."

"De hull cabin shines wit glory, but me—I ain't nuffin' but a black spot."

"Why, Uncle Lige, you cannot leave your wife because she's good," I said.

"That would be a strange cause for divorce."

"Days lots of um does it, missy. I ain't no dejections to huh bein' good, but when anybody gets so good dat dey ain't got no feelin's for nobody, what dey want is a cabin to dere-selves."

The "black spot" moved down the sun-flecked road toward other blacker spots that waited for him in the village.

NOTES OF THE NEWS.

Lord Strathcona has donated \$10,000 to the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Rat Portage.

The Montreal Bank branch at Regina has been completely destroyed by fire. The loss is \$50,000.

There is some talk of the C.P.R. establishing iron works on the Pacific Coast on much the same basis as those at Sydney, C.B.

An application is being made for an extension of time for the commencement and construction of the Canada Central Railway Company.

In the midst of a blinding snow-storm, the Legislature of Prince Edward Island opened last Friday. There were only 16 members present out of 30.

An attempt was made last Friday to assassinate President Morales, of San Domingo. Five of the President's assailants were arrested, and the remainder escaped.

The total deposits in all the savings banks in the world, according to the latest available statistics, amounts to \$10,500,000,000, contributed by 82,640,000 depositors.

Famine is threatened in many places in Nova Scotia. Up till Saturday the Intercolonial had been able to keep its main line open, but it then became solidly blocked in the mountains near Londonderry.

Alcide Laurin, one of the best known young men in Alexandria, was instantly killed in Maxville last Friday night by a blow from an opponent's hockey stick, during a match between the Maxville and Alexandria teams.

If sufficient business offers the C.P.R. will run special trains for colonists during March and April to the Northwest, and the agents of the company have consequently been instructed to give every attention to colonists.

A six and a quarter inch rock crystal ewer of the 16th century, with silver gilt mounts, the property of the Marquis of Anglesey, which was discovered recently by accident in a heap of rubbish, was sold by auction for \$21,000.

According to report, the extensive properties of the E. B. Eddy Company will shortly pass into the hands of an American syndicate. The Company gives employment to several thousand hands, and is the principal industry of Hull.

A syndicate, represented by Mr. Hugh Sutherland, has offered to supply Winnipeg with water from the Winnipeg River, first sterilized by electricity at a cost not greater and probably less, than the city now pays for its present supply.

Advices from the mounted police at the mouth of the Mackenzie River, dated the end of November last, arrived in Ottawa last week. The latter travelled a thousand miles by water and three thousand miles by rail in a little over two months.

So far as can be learned from the Imperial authorities in Halifax about the transfer of the defences of Halifax to the Dominion Government, nothing has reached them from official sources. Halifax having been an Imperial garrison station from its settlement, the withdrawal of its troops meets with serious opposition.

A bill designed to protect teachers in public schools from threats and abuse by parents or others during school hours has been introduced by Attorney-General Longley.

On Monday the Kingston Street Railway Company passed into the hands of the bondholders who held a mortgage of about \$160,000 on it. Mr. Hugh C. Nickle, the present superintendent, becomes general manager.

STRENUOUS BALZAC.

He Lived in a Frenzy of Toil and Died Pleading for More Time.

"To be celebrated and to be loved—these were Balzac's two supreme and passionate desires," writes Tighe Hopkins, the English author. "He gave the preference to fame and killed himself with work if ever author did. His books—each one of which, when he had settled down to the 'Comedie Humaine,' he proclaimed a masterpiece—were a veritable obsession. We know now with what ceaseless and almost insane toil he brought them forth and can see him wrapped in the monk's robe of white flannel, the big throat laid bare, veins swollen, the great black eyes aflame, agonizing over plot and scene, supplanting and cursing the phrase that would not come, sustaining this through the days and nights of three dreadful weeks at a stretch in the sealed and curtained

FATHER KENIG'S FREE NERVE TONIC

A VALUABLE FREE BOOK ON NERVOUS DISORDERS AND A SAMPLE BOTTLE TO ANY ADDRESS. POSTAGE FREE. SEND FOR THIS MEDICAL FREE LITERATURE.

ROEING MED. CO., 100 Lake St., CHICAGO, Sold by Druggists, or direct per bottle, \$1.00 for 60.

chamber where the candles were never extinguished. Then, clad, unwashed and half clothed, he would drag himself to the printer's. Thus only in a nation of stylists could the man that never achieved a style make himself the first novelist of his day and a classic.

"Wearing and wasting as this travail was, Balzac's splendid strength of body, the sure and ready return of his inspired and seer-like periods, his quenchless belief in himself and intrepid faith in the future enabled him to continue it, with a minimum of repose, for thirty-one successive years. And what a bulk of work! From 1821 to 1824 he wrote thirty volumes, and in 1824 he was but twenty-five years of age and had not even begun to think of the 'Comedie Humaine.'

Between 1830 and 1842 seventy-nine novels of the 'Comedie' saw the light, and with all this the great work was never completed. On his deathbed he pleaded with his doctor for six months, six weeks, six days in which to consummate his task and sank into coma while pleading for six hours."

CATHOLIC SOCIAL IDEALS.

Adaptability of the Church Makes Her the Leader in General Movement Towards Personal and National Democracy.

At a recent meeting of the Queen's Daughters at Yonkers, N.Y., the Rev. James F. Driscoll, D.D., president of St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, gave the first of a series of practical talks on "Catholic Social Ideals."

"Since religion exists for the benefit and proper guidance of society as well as for the individual," said Dr. Driscoll, "it has been the duty of the Church to adopt and formulate standards or ideals in the realm of social action and intercourse. These, though in the main reducible to principles distinctively Christian, are nevertheless dependent to a great extent on intellectual, material and other social conditions. The Church has always assimilated sooner or later the best elements of the learning, institutions civil and political, practices and customs of the various peoples that have been brought into her fold, and in this has she shown that great power of adaptability to external circumstances and environment which is the necessary condition of vitality.

"In the present day, on account of the many and great changes that have been wrought in the realm of political as well as in that of economical and industrial condition, many new social problems demand a solution, and often it is asked what is the Catholic mind with regard to this or that question of the hour. The answer should not in every case be sought in the authoritative utterances of the Church, for it may often happen that with reference to recent problems the Church, at least officially, has assumed no definite attitude, is committed to no special policy. Even in many cases where a definite attitude has existed, or might be logically inferred from certain official pronouncements or actions, a change of policy or ideal may be looked for if the altered conditions of society render it desirable. Notably is this the case with regard to such questions as the Church and personal liberty, the relations between Church and State, etc.

"Heretofore the policy and legislation of the Church have been more or less intimately bound up with medieval forms and conventions, and particularly with those peculiar to the so-called Latin races. At present, however, a most prominent feature of the situation which confronts the Church is the great movement towards democracy, and the growing predominance of the Anglo-Saxon spirit in the political and social life of the civilized world. The principal factor in this spirit is a love and enthusiasm for personal liberty and individual initiative in every field of human action. This spirit seems to be destined to prevail in the world, and if so it may be confidently assumed, in view of what the Church has accomplished by way of adaptation in the past, that she will in due time assimilate whatever is good in the ideals and methods of the English-speaking race."

OUR B...

Dear Boys and Girls—I see new nieces and nephews corner this week. It shows little people are reading that is put in just for selves. Many thanks, I am sure, for a lovely time. Perhaps I will have the pleasure some if not all of my nephews.

Your loving friend,

AUNT

Dear Aunt Becky:

My father takes the True Witness for me. I like to read the stories in the corner for my little and myself. I have a little younger and five older than I am eight years old. I walk nearly a mile to school in the second reader and I graphy, spelling and history live in the country about from the village of Hunt. That is where I go to church. Our priest's name is Father I hope to see my letter in week.

I remain, your niece,

Huntingdon, Que.

Dear Aunt Becky:

I was pleased to see my thank you very much. With little girls and boys who since it pleases you so much helped me with my first letter I must try this alone. My letters are well; their names are, Stacy, Isa and Doris. years old, and is spending it at my grandpa's; he lives the Bay de Chaleur. I spend vacation there, and have boating and bathing with cousins. Gustin and Tommy there we go a long way out and then on a steamer. I'm yellow dog; his name is P. comes from Montreal, perhaps have seen him. Good-bye Aunt Becky? Shall I write your loving nephew,

West Frampton, Que.

(By all means, Harold,

often as you like.)

Dear Aunt Becky:

This is my first letter to would love to see you very live away down the River reme in the Bay of Chaleur thirteen years of age. I have nephews and nine nieces. A many as you have, Aunt B live on a large farm with my one sister. The Catholic in this part of our parish closed for two years, as the number of pupils required study French and music a but will go to convent next have a nice young horse of Aunt Becky, and please do next summer to visit our B will give you lots of drives main.

Your loving niece,

Port Daniel Centre,

Baie de Chaleur.

A COLD SHAKE.

One day old Polar Bear finished a dinner of frozen walrus hide boots, the boots been left by an arctic explorer he had eaten at a previous and was taking a quiet nap on the ice floe when he saw a would-be hunter, gold prospector, and what was rying a double-barrelled gun. As soon as the hunter saw Bear he dropped his gun and to load up with buckshot. Curious to see this strange animal, Mr. Bear drew near. "Are you doing there, if I may bold?" he asked. "Oh, I'm loading for bear, piled, putting in some shot. "I hope you will forgive me, Mr. Polar, rising upon his hind opening his mouth please. "I find it inconvenient to carry lead about my person—so don't you know. But, say, you think of shooting in my tion?"

"Well, you see," said the sadly, "I was brought up on tain breakfast food, and every