

HOME INTERESTS.

Conducted by HELENE.

The truth of the saying "cuid we but see ourselves as others see us" was brought forcibly to my mind just a few days ago, while visiting at the delightful country house of one who throws it open once in a while to a party of friends who dearly enjoy the trip simply to be partakers of his whole-hearted hospitality. But to my parable. We were on our way to a splendid stretch of ice when our friend spied a bird trap. His indignation was indeed justifiable and might have been better appreciated had not more than one been aware that this gallant champion of the birds often indulges in the not over-gentle game of polo, thereby causing "unintentional" suffering to his horse. Then, again, he is known not to spare the check rein when he drives behind his spirited team. The dissertation lost its point because our friend, although his logic was perfectly sound, had forgotten the first principle—consistency.

FASHIONS.

All the most fashionable white silks and satins have an exceedingly brilliant luster finish. They are qualified by the term oriental, lustrous, and argent.

Crepes in varying weights, eoliennes, veilings, lightweight cloths, etc., are as practical for one season as another, but such goods, where they have formed a part of the winter stock, are often in the way of the new output, and merchants who keep up with every smallest move on the part of the manufacturers haven't room to carry over everything among the winter materials that might possibly have a chance among the new stuffs.

To be sure there are warm weather frocks offered to tempt the women who are going south for the next two months, and there are thin stuffs on sale, particularly in shops of the higher class, but the early birds who are picking up these summery materials are few, and the crowd is to be found around the bargain counters, where winter materials light enough in character to be utilized for spring and summer wardrobes are being offered at greatly reduced prices.

And so the bargain counters are piled high with lightweight silk and wool, all wool and all silk stuffs, some of them a trifle shopworn or out of style, others fresh and conservative enough in color and design to be desirable in any season. The woman who knows values, who can tell the quality of goods and see the possibilities in a length of material, would do well to dare the bargain counter rush and pick up some of the eoliennes, crepes, etc., that are being sold at prices really low, but she must be wary, for, in some shops, goods worth no more than the price asked for them are plentifully mingled with the genuine bargains.

Indications that checked materials have not lost their prestige are seen, too, in the new tafetas, messallines, foulards, etc., and in the veilings and eoliennes. Brown and white and champagne and white are combinations much in evidence; and, if, as the early showing suggests, the browns are to continue their vogue, in the warm weather, this vision of the new browns and whites will be one of the coolest of the brown effects. A majority of the winter's new browns, while beautiful, are too warm in color to look anything save oppressive under a midsummer sun and in combination with a complexion heated to florid hues.

There is a tremendous vogue for lingerie blouses this winter and, truth to tell, it is a wiser mode than one would at first imagine. They are always fresh and dainty, not at all perishable, and as warm as any of the lighter weight silks when worn over one of the well cut linings of heavy India silk. Then, again, they may be worn all through the year, and in the character of fabric answer a certain hint of informality in the nature of the blouse proper. At any rate, modish women are buying them by the wholesale and seem to like the innovation of wearing bastia and linen in midwinter.

An all white visiting costume has a redingote of white chiffon velvet buttoned in front, double breasted, with eight large silver buttons of opeswork design. A rolling collar

and cuffs of ermine with a sack shaped muff complete the effect of this very smart garment. The skirt is heavy soft white taffeta, with a narrow chiffon velvet panel in front.

Very pretty are the youthful white lingerie waists, two-thirds in lace settings, and the tops of the full sleeves, trimmed with shower groups of narrow bebe ribbons, curled on the edges by a hot iron or a pipe stem. This curling process one may do for herself. A few such ribbon strands are sewed on the full sleeve close to the gauntlet and pipe stemmed in the same way.

Among the newest wrap materials there is a beautiful plush that very strongly resembles fur. In gray tones it suggests squirrel.

A five pocket directoire coat is a pleasing Parisian invention, comprising two large hip pockets, one breast pocket and one pocket in the turnover cuff of each sleeve. A bonnet made entirely of small ostrich tips on a white silk foundation is the latest of dainty affairs for a baby's wardrobe.

TIMELY HINTS.

When making fruit tarts sprinkle a little carbonate of soda over the top of the fruit before putting on the crust. This will prevent the juice from running over, and so spoiling the taste and look of the tart.

Put a teaspoon of powdered borax in your cold starch; it gives extra stiffness to the linen.

When the fingers are stained in peeling, fruits, or in similar ways, dip them in strong tea, rubbing them well with a nail brush, and afterwards wash them in warm water, and the stains will disappear.

When baking a cake, on removing it from the oven, place the tin containing the cake on a damp towel for a moment and the cake may be readily taken from the tin without sticking.

To clean the silver spoons and forks in everyday use, rub them with a cloth dipped in baking soda, then polish them with a piece of chamois leather.

Even when there is cream in the coffee, the stain of it may be removed from silk and other delicate fabrics by brushing the spot with pure glycerin. The glycerin must then be rinsed out in lukewarm water and the spot pressed on the wrong side with a warm iron.

Hang up clothes by the thickest part, waist or neckbands, etc., because if hung up by the thinner part the water would run into the thick part, lodge there, and take longer to dry. Hang everything wrong side out, so that any accidental soil may not do so much damage as if it appeared on the right side.

In washing glassware beware of placing it in hot water bottom down, for that is the time that an ominous sound will tell of a crack from sudden expansion. Very hot water will not hurt any piece of glassware if only the inside as well as the outside comes into contact with the water.

A child two or three years of age, before taking a dose of medicine, may have the tip of its tongue touched with a very little oil of cloves, which will destroy all taste for awhile and increase the flow of saliva, making swallowing involuntary. When it is possible, give the dose in warm water or a warm drink of some sort, as it will relax the muscles of the throat.

To clean or renovate furs of all colors, half fill a stone jar with white cornmeal, place it on stove and heat meal as hot as you can bear the hands in it, stirring to prevent scorching, and put in piece at a time and rub till thoroughly clean, then beat out meal with a stick. Heat further if needed for other pieces. The meal must be hot.

Ostrich tips can be freshened by holding them in the steam from a boiling kettle for a few minutes. This freshens them, absorbs the dust and restores the color. They should be well shaken, holding them either in the sun or before a fire till they are quite dry. The curling is best done either with a stiff piece of whalebone or a silver knife.

To stimulate the growth of the hair hold the bristles of a rather soft brush close to the head, touching it. In this position work the handle about in a circular direction, keeping the bristles in the same place and pressing lightly on the skin of the head. Move the brush from place to place and continue the ac-

tion. The stimulating effect is felt at once, and the hair is afterward fluffy and easily dressed.

To treat paint spots that painters have left on your panes of glass, soak in turpentine. If they have been left long enough to be very stubborn scrape the spots with the edge of a penny. It will not scratch as would a knife.

Do not try to sweep an invalid's room, but wring a clean cloth out of cold water to which a few drops of ammonia have been added and carefully wipe the carpet, matting or floor, turning and rinsing the cloth, and changing the water as it gets dirty.

To remove varnish from the hands, and also from the brushes with which it is applied wash with a little spirit. This done, wipe with an old rag or soft paper as clean as possible and then wash again with soap and water. For brushes the water should not be more than lukewarm.

RECIPES.

Curried Oysters.—Soak two level tablespoonsful each of butter and flour and a rounded tablespoonful of finely minced onion, one cup of oyster liquor and a level teaspoonful of curry together. When it boils up, strain well. Cook five minutes, add oysters, let them boil up once, season well with a little salt and serve. Some tastes may like more curry.

Orange Salad.—Soak one-half box of gelatin in one-half cup of cold water, add one cup of boiling water, juice of two lemons, one pint orange juice, two tablespoons sugar and stir until dissolved and strain. When set, unroll on a bed of green salad, fill the centre with orange pulp freed from seeds and membrane. Place an orange cut into eighths so as to represent a lily and serve very cold. A rich and dainty dish.

Peanut Salad.—Peanut salad is excellent for the duck or game course. Soak one cupful of nut meats in olive oil, drain and mix with two cupful of cut celery and a dozen ripe or green olives, pitted and minced.

Tomato Sauce.—Simmer 20 minutes in a saucepan one pint of tomatoes with a bay leaf, five whole cloves, a blade of mace, a little parsley and a slice of onion. Mix together two tablespoonsful of butter with two of flour in a saucepan, stir until smooth; then add a cupful of the tomato liquor, a little salt and butter and mix all thoroughly with the tomato and cook until slightly thickened. This is delicious with chops and other meat. It may be heated over.

NUT STEW is a standby among vegetarians. To make it, cover two cupful of walnut meats with boiling water and let them stand for five minutes. Then drain, cover with hot water, add a slice of onion, a stalk of celery, a bit of bay leaf and a small blade of mace and boil for a quarter of an hour. Then strain and thicken the liquor with a tablespoonful of flour creamed with a teaspoonful of butter. Return the nuts to the sauce, season with salt and pepper and simmer slowly about twelve minutes longer. At the last add half a cupful of minced celery and cook slowly five minutes longer. Turn into the tureen, sprinkle the top with croutons and serve.

VERY APPEZIZING sandwiches are made of thin slices of buttered brown bread spread with crisp, finely minced radishes that have been moistened with whipped cream. Just before covering the slice, sprinkle it lightly with cheese.

GINGERBREAD.—A good plain gingerbread is made of a cupful of coffee and sugar rubbed to a cream with three tablespoonsful of butter. Add a cupful of molasses, two eggs that have been well beaten, and add a spoonful of ginger. When the mixture has been thoroughly blended with the spoon, stir in two and a half cupful of flour that have been sifted with two tablespoonsful of baking powder. Turn into a deep pan and bake in a moderate oven for an hour.

LEAD, DON'T FORCE

Parents cannot plan out with precision what life work is best suited for their children. This is especially true as respects vocations for the priesthood. To tell a boy that he is going to be made a priest and to keep that parental intention constantly before him, rather tends to produce a reaction. The boy makes a test of his freedom of choice by going directly counter to the wishes of his "pious mother" in this particular.

And of all vocations, that of the priesthood is the one in which there should be the least forcing; whether of open and undisguised coercion or of that more subtle and dangerous paternal pressure which makes use

of a number of indirect methods to make the boy choose the religious life for the sake of pleasing his mother or of coinciding with the judgment of his father.

If parents desire to have a "priest in the family," the only proper way is to surround their children with the conditions that will evoke the spirit of the priestly vocation in case that it exists. Under favorable conditions, if the natural bent exists, it will show itself. If it does not exist, nothing is lost. But the practice of setting a boy apart, noting volens, for the religious state, either defeats its own ends or results disastrously.

THE GIRL WHO IS ASHAMED OF HER MOTHER.

"It is a sorry day for a girl," says a writer in Success, "when she feels herself superior to her mother, and considers herself called upon to apologize for her bad grammar, mispronounced words, foreign accent, or slips in speech. When a girl becomes so small and contemptible that she is ashamed to appear in public with her mother, because she is old-fashioned and dowdy in appearance, her hands brawny, her face prematurely wrinkled, and her form bent by long years of drudgery for her children, she is indeed to be pitied. She has indeed fallen below contempt.

"What a return to make to the poor mother for all her self-sacrifice, for the years of patient trials, cheerfully plodded through, that her daughter might enjoy advantages that she in her youth never dreamed of!

"The girls who are ashamed of their hard-working mothers are few, happily, compared with the vast number who appreciate, and endeavor to repay their mothers' sacrifices. Still, there are too many of them,—girls who do not even darn their own stockings, mend their own clothing, or make their own beds.

"I have in mind a mother who is constantly making sacrifices in order that her daughter may make a good appearance. She wears her old cloak and shabby bonnet another year; she remodels for the second time and tries to freshen up the gown which should have been discarded last year, so that the young girl may have new ones and appear to as good advantage as other girls of her age. She drudges from morning till night, and often far into the night, so that her daughter may have more leisure to practice accomplishments, or to have a good time. Anything is good enough for the slave-mother. When the tired hands should be at rest, they are busy with some dainty laundry work, or plying the needle on some pretty thing for the girl's adornment when she shall make her next appearance at a dance or a reception. The daughter, meanwhile, is gossiping about the neighborhood or is at the theatre, or some other place of amusement, or, perhaps, she sits by reading a silly story or strumming on the piano. Should her mother ask her to assist her by washing the dishes, clearing off the table, or doing some other simple duty, she usually finds some excuse for getting out of it."

LITTLE LAUGHS.

THE HANDY MAN.

"I want to advertise for a man," said the lady, approaching the want advertisement counter in the daily newspaper office. Judge reports the conversation:

"I want to get a man to carry coal in the winter, keep up the fires, shovel snow, mow the lawn in summer, also sprinkle it, tend the flowers, mind the children, wash dishes, sweep the front porch, run errands, and all that kind of work. In short I want a man who will always be around the place, and can be called upon for any kind of hard work. He must be sober and reliable, of good appearance, not over thirty." "Pardon me, madam," said the clerk, "we cannot accept matrimonial advertisements."

MEASURING SPACE.

James Whitcomb Riley, who occasionally visited country schools in the Hoosier State, once gave a brief address on the subject of the stars. At the conclusion of his interesting talk he said:

"Can any of you boys tell me what space is?" The bright faced young son of a country editor promptly raised his hand. "Well, my lad," said the poet, "what do you think space is?" "Twenty-five cents an agate line for display matter, sir," he piped out.—Saturday Evening Post.

NOTES OF THE NEWS

Water consumers in Owen Sound are facing a water famine.

The civic finance committee has increased its grant to the Anti-Tuberculosis League to a thousand dollars.

Rev. Father Guimond, parish priest of St. Damien de Buckingham, was found dead in his bed on Friday morning.

Fears are expressed in St. John's, Nfld., for the safety of the Silvia, Red Cross Line, from New York. She is five days overdue from Halifax.

There is said to be a project on foot at Quebec to build a six-story hotel on Parent Square, facing the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway station.

The Chambre de Commerce has solicited the aid of all the Boards of Trade in the Dominion to secure a law to prevent the use of trading stamps.

Rev. Brother Hildegard, who has been in charge of the reformatory for the last fifteen years, left on Wednesday for New York, whence he will sail for Brussels.

The old Rodier mansion on St. Antoine street, near Guy, has been leased to the Ottawa Government from the C. S. Rodier estate for the use of the immigration department.

At a meeting of the Grand Trunk shareholders in London a dividend of first and second preference stock was ordered to be paid. This amounts to \$1,700,000.

An important real estate transaction was announced at the last meeting of the Chambre de Commerce, to the effect that the Government offices on St. Gabriel street had been acquired by them.

In the French Chamber of Deputies on Friday last the government made the declaration that the separation of Church and State was inevitable. The declaration was approved by a majority of 255.

Almost all the Sisters of the Sacred Heart who took refuge in Canada after their expulsion from France have left for the Philippines in answer to an invitation from the Archbishop of Manila. Madame Murphy, formerly of Halifax, is among them.

A statement prepared by the Dominion Department of Finance shows that the revenue of the Dominion during the past 7 months amounted to \$40,822,859, an increase of \$505,046 over the corresponding months of last year.

A frightful report bespeaking youthful depravity comes from Margare, N.S. Oliver Ingraham, who had been disliked by his schoolmates, was set upon by four of them and so maltreated that in consequence he had to have his eye taken out.

The Canadian Press Association has passed another resolution in favor of the nationalization of the telegraph and telephone systems, and the reduction of the postage rates charged by the British postal authorities for papers and magazines from Great Britain.

The Bank of Montreal will in the near future probably open two city branches. The north-west corner of Peel and Burnside streets is spoken of as where one branch will be located. The other will be erected on the south-west corner of St. Lawrence and Sherbrooke streets.

Rev. Father Fleming, formerly parish priest of Morrisburg and Tweed, who resigned about a year ago on account of ill-health, and went to Ireland, is returning this week. He will take charge of the parish of Chesterville in place of Father Quinn, removed to Tweed.

The Canadian Northern Railway Co. has big business on hand in Great Britain, for besides Mr. MacKenzie, the president, and Mr. W. G. Grace, third vice-president, Mr. D. B. Hanna has been summoned to London, and left on Friday. The plans are said to be complete for connecting the several short lines recently purchased in the Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec districts with the main line at Port William and with the James Bay line which runs north from Toronto.

FATHER KING'S FREE NERVE TONIC. A valuable medicine for all nervous diseases and a sure cure for all cases of nervous debility. Poor get this medicine FREE. Koenig Med. Co., 109 Lake St., Chicago, Ill. Sold by Druggists.

A fire broke out at Bridgewater, N.S., in a house occupied by Edward Rodenhiser and another family. All the children, with the exception of one, were taken from the burning building. The mother, in spite of protests from those around, re-entered, and both she and the child perished. Mrs. Rodenhiser leaves six children.

Six persons were injured, but none fatally, in an accident on Friday on the Gatineau division of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The express bound from Manwahai to Ottawa was partly derailed near Low. Two passenger cars left the track on account of the snow flanges attached to the rear end running off. The cars toppled over and nearly went down an embankment.

Lord Stratheona Gives Princely Donation to Ottawa University.

With his customary generosity, Lord Stratheona has donated the magnificent sum of \$10,000 to the Ottawa University to help defray the enormous expense of rebuilding made necessary by the terrible fire which destroyed it about a year ago. Accompanying the donation was the following: "In responding to your request it affords me much pleasure to hand you herewith my cheque for \$10,000 in aid of your university, and I have to express regret that I am unable to make the contribution larger."

OBITUARY.

Reverend Sister M. Bertha, of the Sisters of Providence, departed this life on January the twenty-seventh, in St. John's Hospital, Port Townsend, Washington, where she had gone some time previous to have an operation performed. The treatment appeared successful for a time, but the rupturing of a blood vessel caused her death inside of a week. Sr. M. Bertha was a daughter of Robert Massam, of Kensington, Que., and made her profession in the mother house of the Sisters of Providence, Montreal, fifteen years ago. After teaching there some years she was sent to Portland, Oregon, thence to missions in Kootenai, B.C., Cranburn and New Westminster. At the latter place she was greatly attached to the orphan children, to whom she expected to return the first of March and resume teaching, but God ordained it otherwise, and ever submissive to His holy will, she cheerfully gave up her soul into the hands of its Master. Always of a pious disposition, her life since childhood was but a preparation for death, and all her sufferings were gladly welcomed and borne with Christian resignation, knowing how great the reward would be when the Bridegroom welcomed His loving spouse home. Oh, the rapture of that meeting, when beholding our dear Lord face to face; she has secured her eternal happiness and is united forevermore to all the loved ones gone before.

Dear Aunt Becky: This is my first letter. I read the little letters. I have sisters and two brothers. My other sister is 4. My birthday is on the fifteenth of February. My papa is a blacksmith. My cousin sent me a doll and a book, and my sister sent me a doll. I guess that is all for closing by saying good-bye.

Yours sincerely, BERTHA.

Dear Aunt Becky: This is my first letter. Our neighbors takes the True Witness. I get it as soon as they receive it, and I read it, and I tell a little about the things in it. There is just one store, a boarding house, and a house. The store is closed the winter. There is no school. I am a blacksmith. I have three years old, and I hope to see in print, so I will close my letter.

From your loving nephew, HUGHIE.

A CLEAN MOUTH. A distinguished author resolved, when a child, never to use a word which I could not use before my mother. He had resolution, and became a gentleman, noble, honored gentleman, and example are worth imitation by every boy.

Boys readily learn a class vulgar words and expressions are never heard in respectable circles. Of course, we cannot imagine a girl using words she would utter before her father or her most esteemed friend. Such vulgarity is thought of as "smart," the "wicked," but it is a lead to profanity, and fills with evil thoughts. It degrades the soul, and the way for many of the fearful sins which now corrupt society.

Young readers, keep your free from all impurity, and "tongue from evil," but if you do this, ask Jesus to cleanse your heart and keep it clean.

THE PICTURES WE G. A group of girls were laughing together over some One of them had been to a photographer, and was showing "proofs" of herself in various "poses." "Look at this one," she said, "you ever see a more awful

Liquor Habit PERMANENTLY CURED. GOOD NEWS.—To all men and women who have become enslaved by the evil habit of drinking, here is indeed Good News. A sure and lasting cure as hundreds testify, can be administered unknown to the patient, quickly restores shattered nerves, tones the appetite and digestive organs and rehabilitates the entire system. ARCTON is guaranteed to cure, money refunded in case of failure. Price of ARCTON, Two Dollars per treatment. Sent by mail securely sealed to any address. Register all letters containing money. THE VICTOR MEDICAL CO., Toronto, Can. Mention the True Witness.