*** The matter which this page contains is carefully selected from various sources; and we guarantee that, to any intelligent farmer or housewife, the contents of this single page, from week to week during the year, will be worth several times the subscription price of the paper.

HYMNS THAT MOTHER SUNG.

Through the changing scenes of life,
The shadowed vale of smiles and tears,
Where all is lost within the mist
That hides the bygone years,
Some strains there are that linger still,
And many hearts no longer young
Are thrilled with joy again to hear
The hymns that mother sung.

We used to gather at the hearth
When darkness overcame the day,
And, dreamily, as children will,
We'd watch the shadows play;
And sitting by the glowing fire,
As to and fro the kettle swung,
We learned the songs we've always loved,
The hymns that mother sung.

We seem to hear again her voice,
So long remembered, clear and sweet
As when, in days of long ago,
We sat at mother's feet;
And gazing upward on the wall,
Where dearest father's picture hung,
We thought he smiled, for he, too, loved
The hymns that mother sung.

On many snowy wintry nights,
When all without was cold and drear,
We've clustered close around her chair
In happiness and cheer.
No more for us the glowing fire,
No more the cricket's chirping tongue,
And never more on earth we'll hear
The hymns that mother sung.

To them we owe our happy home.
Praise be to God who reigns above,
For keeping ever bright and clear
The lessons learned in love.
Outliving sorrows, bearing hope;
The dear old songs have ever clung
And never can the heart forget
The hymns that mother sung.

—*Newark Journal.*

THE HOME.

A Mother's Training School.

One morning recently the elevator stopped at the third floor of the Art Institute of Chicago, and I made my first visit to a mother's class in a kindergarten. The day was very stormy and the streets were in a frightful condition, but here, gathered about the tables, were a dozen young mothers, intent, eager, anxious to learn the science of motherhood. A short lecture preceded the teaching of some kindergarten employments intended for a child from two to three years of age. Everything taught was taught symbolically; it was an expression that was in the child or in the mother; it was made to link the child to the world about it, to the heaven above it, to the mother who bore it. Questions were asked and answered; mothers exchanged experiences, and the bright faces testified to the knowledge and insight gained at the class. The mothers used the articles placed in their hands; they did not merely talk about them.

At the close of this part of the morning's exercise the classes changed seats so as to face the platform at the other side of the room, where a woman with a beautiful voice taught the following lullaby:

Plump little baby clouds,
Dimpled and soft,
Rock in their air-cradles,
Swinging aloft.
Snowy cloud mothers,
With broad bosoms white,
Watch o'er the baby clouds,
Slumbering light.
Tired little baby clouds,
Dreaming of fears,
Rock in their air-cradles,
Dropping soft tears.
Great brooding mother clouds,
Watching o'er all,
Let their warm mother tears
Tenderly fall.

She also taught a very beautiful translation of a German lullaby; a couple of marching songs were also taught to the mothers to be used at bedtime when "Captain Sleep" takes command and "marches the little comrade into bed." One mother exclaimed when she had learned this song, "It is worth anything to get rid of the frown on my boy's face at bedtime; he loves to be a soldier."

This special class number thirty, and has been studying in this way one morning of each week since the college term opened last fall. Similar classes adapted to the intelligence of the mothers have been started in connection with all the charity kindergartens, with positive results. As one kindergartner said, in speaking of these tenement-house mothers, "Of course, the first thing we have to teach them is self-control; but isn't that what every mother has to learn? Isn't self-control the foundation of true motherhood?"

On going West it was found that this idea of the kindergatren prevails in the cities and towns of the interior, and wherever a charity kindergarten is started for the children of the higher circles, the mothers of those children are found in a class that meets at least once a week.

In one town of thirty thousand inhabitants one of the women's clubs raised a thousand dollars last year, and started a kindergarten for the poor children of the town, and are going to work this year to raise another thousand dollars to start another kindergarten. When one realizes that in the wealthiest city in this state the Free Kindergarten Association has, after almost three years of existence, been able to start only seven kindergartens, one cannot glory in the standard of education at the East.

In Chicago one kindergarten association has succeeded in getting rooms in the public school buildings for its kindergartens, and next year it is thought that not only the rent, but all the expenses of these kindergarten will be borne by the Board of Education. Before this is done a state law must be rescinded which makes an appropriation of money for the education of children under six years of age illegal. But public sentiment, through the various kindergarten associations, has been educated to the point that demands the kindergarten as part of the system of public instruction.

No less remarkable is the work done among the mothers. In Chicago two thousand mothers are in mother's classes. As soon as a kindergarten is formed, independent of the social standing of the pupils, the mothers are urged to join the mother's class. The mother from the tenement-house does not get just the same instruction that the mother who may be a college graduate gets, but she receives such instruction as will enable her to deal with her children most intelligently.

We are beginning to feel the need of training mothers to understand the principle of the kindergarten; that it means more than amusement; that a kindergarten is not merely a place to send a child to get rid of him, but a pleasant place for a growing soul—a place where all is bent, material and spiritual, to secure for him the conditions that fit him to become a trained member of society. It is not a preserving-case where no breath but that of play and love will reach him, but a little world where the effect of evil is felt in robbing life of its pleasure, where good makes happiness, and its opposite brings its sure result in pain, sorrow or disgrace. Selfishness shuts out from loving companionship, evil temper becomes a national calamity, falsehood is that which robs the sinner of what he needs most—confidence. All this is felt in this little world, where Love is the schoolmistress. It is the mother who understands the principles of the children's prophet, Froebel, who learns this, and makes her home that smaller world where natural law operates. Every faculty is trained to its legitimate use. Reason, the affections, imagination, are trained in harmony with observation, discrimination and the utilization of all the powers of body and mind.

The mother is the post-graduate teacher, if she keeps herself in touch with the educational forces that are molding her child. She is prepared for a companionship which keeps her in a sympathy with her child which no amount of intelligence or sacrifice of self can make possible.—*Mary Willis, in Christian Union.*

Pressed Ferns.

Among the prettiest of the woodland treasures, which may be gathered to decorate the house, are ferns. Though they lose much of their exquisite color and all their soft freshness after pressing, much of the delicate grace of the leaf remains, and suggests through the long winter nights, soft, cool shadows of the verdant woodland or river bank, where they grew.

The best time to gather these ferns is in the last days of August or later in the fall, when they have fully ripened and will not turn dark. The first desideratum for pressing ferns is a good botanical press. This usually consists of two planks of pine wood, which may be screwed together at both ends by stout clamps. In this, a quire of coarse brown paper, such as grocers use, should be placed. Newspapers will do, but they do not absorb moisture quite so rapidly as the brown paper. The ferns or flowers to be pressed should be laid in several folds of tissue paper before being placed in the layers of brown paper. When they are put in the brown paper and firmly arranged in the press, tighten the press as closely as possible. Let them remain two or three days. Then take them out and put them in fresh papers, both brown and tissue. The old papers should be dried and the ferns should be rearranged in the press in their new papers, to remain a week or more.

In gathering your ferns remember to gather a variety of colors. Ferns which retain their perfect color, but which have turned brown or yellow by the natural ripening of their juices with autumn weather, are especially pretty mixed with the several shades of green found among ferns. Such pressed ferns make delightful little bouquets and are all the prettier if they are arranged in a lichen-covered basket of birch bark rather than in stately mantlepiece vases. A very pretty effect may be given to a corner by making a portfolio of birch bark and filling it with ferns of various sizes, shapes and colors. Where ferns are placed in a basket or vase of this kind, the receptacle should be strong enough to hold sand, and the stem of the fern should be thrust into the sand to hold it firmly in place. Otherwise the least draught will blow your basket of ferns into a chaotic mass.

It seems to us to be a vulgar mistake to wax or varnish autumn leaves or ferns. No such artificial coating resembles in the least the natural bloom of the leaf. Avoid also the use of gay ribbons and millinery trimmings in connection with these dainty bouquets. Where a ribbon is necessary to secure a portfolio or a vase in its place on the wall let it be of a color harmonizing as nearly as possible with the color of the ferns, so that it may be in harmony with them and in no way detract from their delicacy of tint by a coarse display of garish color. When you have learned to appreciate the effects of the harmonious lovely greens and yellows and golden browns found among the autumnal ferns alone you will receive far more delight from them than from any bizarre effect in color, which may dazzle the eye for a time, but as quickly tires it.

The Fruit Cure.

The great remedy for diarrhœa, chronic or acute, is nature's own remedy, acidulous fruits. Strawberries, raspberries, huckleberries, quinces, peaches, apples and grapes are all good, but not in an equal degree, nor are all of them equally suitable for all cases. Many of the cultivated strawberries and blackberries are not so good as the wild sorts. Peaches must be used with caution. Pears are too relaxing in many cases, especially when there is great weakness; but when they can be taken, they have special value of their own, not only on account of their great cleansing power on the system, but also on account of their decided action on the kidneys. Apples are excellent, and can be used by almost every one who has good teeth. They must be thoroughly masticated. The peel should be rejected if tough, but will do no harm if tender and chewed to fineness. Grapes are best of all. I have used them with most gratifying results for the diarrhœa of teething children of one year and upward, for that of older children, and for the chronic diarrhœa of the veteran who contracted the disease in the army. All the common sorts are good, if not too tart, but I have found the Delaware one of the best, especially for young children. Grapes are also an effective remedy for malaria and for scrofulous diseases.

Whatever kind of fruit is used, it must be used freely on an empty stomach, at regular meals only; never between meals. Especially ought the fruit to be eaten just before breakfast, when it has its best effect. The whole breakfast may often be made of some one kind of fruit with great benefit, with the addition, perhaps, of dry bread or Graham water-crackers. In some cases an exclusive diet of grapes will, in a short time, effect remarkable cures. The first effect of the free use of fruit on the patient who has not been accustomed to it, will be cathartic. Do not be alarmed at this, but use the remedy the more freely at the beginning of every meal, and the tendency to purge will soon correct itself. Should there be symptoms of colic on account of too much acid, sip a gill or two of scalding hot water. In most cases two or three gills of the hot water, sipped half an hour before breakfast, will greatly facilitate a cure. This hot water before breakfast is also one of the best things for constipation and dyspepsia. I could add many particulars and illustrative cases, but it would make my letter too long. The intelligent patient will be able to suit the details of the treatment to his own case better than any one at a distance can do it, without the most particular information. —*N. Y. Witness.*

The Manners of "Society."

"These geese in stays and starch ('society' people) are ignorant of the true philosophy of good manners, which may be compressed into a single sentence," writes Walter Blackburn Harte in the *New England Magazine*, "The secret of good manners is an entire lack of self-consciousness. If all men were born with a proper perception of *justice*, bad manners could not exist. It may be somewhat vague, but the almost universal conception of justice is, that it is *the interest of the stronger*, as Plato's sophist has it; and a moment's review of our codes of manners will convince one that this idea is at the bottom of them all. All manners are bad which are built upon a substructure of injustice, either inflicted or suffered. These 'best people,' paupers in every essential of noble manhood, have elaborated a religion of which an immense cipher is the symbol. Their range of ideas is so limited as to merely correspond with their physical needs and indulgences, and they have invented (with a wisdom not uncommon among geese and cockatoos) a code of manners which condemns all naturalness, individuality, and thought as the brand of the parish."

THE FARM.

Scrub Grain.

It is as important to choose the best seed of grain to propagate its kind as the best animals for reproduction. In either case improvement is only make by wise selection; without this both will deteriorate. Yet how few heed the rule in grain-growing, but sow and plant the same, good, bad and indifferent, all together, year after year. Farmers who will have no other than pedigreed cattle continue to produce scrub grain to feed them. They are not "well-balanced." Those who did not raise an excellent quality of wheat this season would do well to get such of others for their fall sowing. Seed corn should be selected in the field, while standing on the stalk. It should then be cured in the garret, or in some warm room that can be well ventilated. It should not be exposed to dampness, nor to freezing so long as any water remains in the cob. By not observing the latter an acquaintance loses a good share of his crop this season.

A Cheap Method of Manuring Land.

As fertilizers, whether homemade or purchased, are usually costly, and as good crops are inseparably associated with a well-sustained fertility, if there is any one mode of supplying this fertility that is cheaper and more effective than another, it is well worthy of the attention of the farmer.

Until quite recently it has been held as important to manure such crops as peas and clover with nitrogenous manures, as nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia. This practice was based on the theory that since clover and peas, and kindred crops, that is, the leguminous, contained large quantities of nitrogen, it was a necessity to have abundance of this in the soil to enable them to get a supply. It now turns out that this theory is all wrong; that lands which possess but little nitrogen are able to produce good crops of legumes, the other conditions being right. These other conditions include the presence in the soil of a plentiful supply of the other elements of plant food, more especially phosphoric acid and potash. These legumes, therefore, must get their supply of nitrogen from the atmosphere, which possesses an inexhaustible store. Other crops, as wheat, oats, rye, and the grasses, do not possess this power; hence nitrogen must be supplied to them from another source.

It is a manifest waste, therefore, to supply nitrogen in large quantities to such crops as do not require to have it so applied. If clover and peas can get along without nitrogen from an artificial source it should not be applied, as it will not remain long in the soil when applied in the soluble form, and therefore will not be there to feed the crops that may come after. Nitrogen is the costly element of fertilization, hence it is of great moment that there be economy in its use. It may be argued that increased crops of clover and peas follow the application of farmyard manure which contains nitrogen. While that is true, it is equally true that if the nitrogen were taken out of the manure and the residue applied, the results would probably be equally good. The manure would benefit these crops more because of the phosphoric acid and potash which they contain. It is manifestly better policy, then, to use farmyard manure for other crops, and if the soils need phosphoric acid and potash to enable them to grow clover and peas and all legumes in good form, these can be supplied directly in the form of artificial fertilizers, and there will be a saving to the extent of the nitrogen supplied in the manure.

But this isn't all. It will be good policy to grow these legumes because of the nitrogen which they gather for other crops. It seems that they not only furnish nitrogen in large quantities in those portions of the plant grown above ground, but they actually leave the ground richer in nitrogen than it was before they were grown. When these crops are fed upon the farm, they become a source of nitrogen for other crops when they are returned to the soil in the manure.

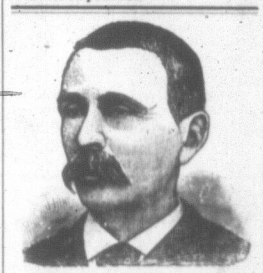
The precise way in which these crops gather atmospheric nitrogen is not precisely known. It is generally supposed, however, that the process is connected with the formation of nodules in the roots. When these are entirely absent, the growth is weak and sickly. It should also be remembered that a certain amount of nitrogen is necessary in the soil if these root nodules are to be abundantly formed, but nearly all soils have usually a sufficiently plentiful supply to enable this species of root formation to commence.—*Live Stock and Farm Journal.*

Horse and Horseman.

History does not reach the time when there were not relations between men and horses. The nature and disposition of the horse, after so many years of contact with man, are not creditable to the more intelligent member of the partnership. The treatment of the horse to be trained and used by man is almost universally wrong, and the first lesson one ought to learn who wishes to become a horseman in the broad sense concerns the nature and disposition of the horse itself. The horse is one of the most timid and nervous of all known animals. How is this excitable animal broken to man's use? By a system in which violence and force are predominant features. He is treated as if he combined the attributes of the rogue elephant and the man-eating tiger, with the tough hide of the one and the cunning ferocity of the other. Horse-breakers, as a rule, are neither highly educated nor very thoughtful persons, and they resort naturally to force when the animal under their hands makes them impatient. No animal, not even man, seems to be so entirely the creature of habit as the horse.

One not broken in spirit nor dulled by age cares to stand near a railroad train passing at even a moderate rate of speed. At the station of a little town in Essex Co., Mass., there is a horse, not high-spirited, but sound and well fed, whose business it is to take people from the train to destinations in the neighborhood. When not so engaged he stands with his waggon parallel to the inward track of the railroad, facing the same way as trains which pass on that side of line, from which he is separated by a platform perhaps five feet wide. Thirty or forty trains a day pass along that track. Some rush by at the rate of forty miles an hour. That horse stands unmoved, hardly turning his ears. If any one thinks this is not a display of confidence let him stand with closed eyes on the platform of a station while an express train comes by. If, after performing the experiment, he is not convinced that this horse shows trustfulness, in this case born habit, I am much mistaken. To be a real horseman a man must both love the horse and comprehend his nature. To get him into the habit of obedience, which is the foundation of all good results in riding, we must win his confidence.—*Cosmopolitan.*

— Corn is not easy of digestion, and hogs fed on it easily become cloyed. A dose of hardwood ashes, and still better if ashes are made from corn-cob, restores their appetite and keeps them in thrifty condition. This, however, is only to be recommended for fattening pork, as the ashes, like the soda and baking powder used for making biscuit, is really injurious to digestion in the long run. With hogs that are fattening, the digestive organs a year hence are matters of minor importance.



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