

CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

AMUSING CHEMISTRY.

A Pretty Little Trick That Any Bright Boy or Girl Can Manage.

Get a wide mouthed bottle closed by a hollow cork, in which is inserted the pipe of a small glass funnel. By means of sealing wax make airtight and water tight all the joints that might leak, both between funnel and cork and between cork and bottle.

Half fill the bottle with water and throw in the two powders that are used to make soft water—tartaric acid and bicarbon-



ate of soda—which may be bought at a drug store ready for use. Effervescence will at once take place, throwing off carbonic acid gas, and this will escape through the funnel.

But if you have placed within the bottle two or three little balls of cedar, oak, or even of cork, the gas cannot escape except at intervals, for as one ball is lifted from the surface another will drop down to close it. By painting these balls in different colors you may produce a pretty effect.

The effect may be made more beautiful by cutting these paper in the form of a butterfly's wings and gluing them to one of the balls. The balls will dance up and down in the funnel, and the imitation butterfly will flutter as if over a flower.

How to Write a Letter.

The art of letter writing is one of the easiest to acquire and is the means of giving more pleasure than almost any other accomplishment. Don't try to write a fine letter, a perfectly grammatical letter, one of which you think you would be proud. Let us imagine your friend at your side. You have much to tell her, all the news and news of a week's gossip about acquaintances. You would share her your fancy work and your moods, relate stories about your dog, your cat or your bird. Have something to say about the garden, break in every few lines with "I am so glad to see you," and "Can you go with me on such-and-such a place?" or "You ought to have been with us when we were at..."

That is exactly how an interesting letter is written. It runs on and on about little things which make up daily life and which those who love us want to know. Nothing is too trivial to be written in a friendly letter and especially in one to a friend, neighbor, sister or brother. The high school girl may think it silly to mention that baby fell over the cat or that Jimmie's kite went higher than any other in the field, but the father or mother would much rather read those things than "the weather is too hot for me to write more." —Brooklyn Eagle.

Swiss Schoolboys.

The teacher of the school at Vidy, in the district of Neuchâtel, is a very old man. His wife and a half from the schoolboys, and during the severe winter of last winter he found it extremely hard to walk to his school. On one very day he was unable to get there at all.

What did the boys of the school do upon this—rejoice in the misfortune which seemed likely to give them a holiday? Not at all. They took their largest hand sled and set out after their old master. Installing him comfortably upon it, they drew him to school in triumph.

And this was not all. They held a meeting and organized themselves into committees to draw the teacher to and from school every day. Four boys regularly went after him in the morning, and four more drew him home at night. Taking turns in this way, they furnished him conveyance and team as long as the rough weather lasted.

When the return of spring weather enabled the old schoolmaster to resume his daily journey on foot, the school and the neighborhood celebrated the occasion by a little festival. The children all accompanied him to the house of a resident of the district, where a pleasant dinner was given in his and their honor.—Youth's Companion.

Queen Wilhelmina's Autograph.

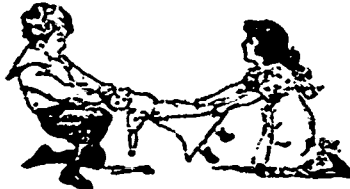
When young Queen Wilhelmina visited the other day the marvelous vaults at Maastricht, which are one of the sights of the place, she was requested by the authorities to inscribe her name upon a marble slab in the wall, which bears the signatures of many other sovereigns, Dutch and foreign, prominent among them being the autograph of the first Napoleon. Just at the very moment when she was about to comply with the request three tiny gnomes sprang out from behind a pillar and exclaimed, in accordance with their honored custom:

"Who are you that dares add your name to that of William the Silent and of many illustrious rulers of the Netherlands?"

Queen Wilhelmina, who had been prepared for this little piece of personation, replied:

"I am the daughter of this King William III, whose signature you see here, and his successor to the throne of Holland," whereupon the gnomes, three small boys dressed up for the occasion, bowed low, received some coin and retired.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

No Fun For Dolly.



These two little children commenced pulling in play. But poor little Dolly quite saluted away.

HOW TO CARE FOR SHOES.

Valuable Hints on an Important Article of Dress.

Have three small clean cloths, a basin of water, a bottle of cosmetic, vaseline, petroleum jelly—or whatever name you like to call it, it is all the same—and a clean shoe polishing or clothes brush.

The shoes should be wiped as free of mud as possible before drying and should be hung in a warm current of air, say two or three feet above a register or stovepipe, not underneath the kitchen range, where they will be scorched on top and wet underneath.

When they are perfectly dry, wipe the mud stains off with a damp cloth. Be sure to get them all off. Then rub hard with a dry cloth, then polish with the brush, being careful about the stitching and around the sole. It is best to do only a part at a time, say first the vamp, one side, then the other, not forgetting the heel.

Unless your shoes have been badly scuffed and rubbed by bad shoe dressing they will look almost like new. Now rub cosmetic over them, with a clean cloth and rub it well in. Use it liberally.

15, for too little will only destroy the polish, while plenty of cosmetic improves it. The whole shoe should be carefully done, even among the buttons and buttonholes, and, presto, your shoes are soft, pliable, black and just polished enough to look well, will not stain your underclothes or fingers when putting them on, and a little water will do them no harm.

Try it once, and you will never want to do it any other way.

How to Make Tutti Frutti.

Get from a distillery a pint of the purest alcohol, pour into a jar and put into it a quart of firm, large strawberries, free from every article of sand or dust, and a quart of granulated sugar. Stir gently several times during the day. Next day add a quart of red currants, stemmed, and the same quantity of sugar. On the third day add red cherries, pitted, and on the fourth red raspberries. Stir frequently every day, letting the spurs reach the bottom of the jar. Every time fruit is added put in same quantity of sugar. Along with the raspberries put in 5 large lemons, sliced thin. On the fifth day peel a pineapple, remove every particle of the eyes, place in a good sized earthen dish and sliced fine. Pour over it a bowl of sugar and stir the whole into the mixture. Later, when peaches are large and fine, peel 2 quarts, cut into pieces about half an inch square and add with a quart of sugar. There is no cooking of the fruit or heating of the alcohol. Simply stir in the fruit in its normal state. It does not need to be sealed, but must be kept in a cool place. In a week or ten days it will be ready for use. These preserves are the finest ever made and are particularly nice when served at dinner with the meat course.

How to Write a Letter.

In a formal letter the date, including place of residence, is placed at the top of the letter. In a note sent to an intimate friend it should be placed toward the left hand in the line below the signature. A note of invitation is dated in the same place. See that a margin of about one-fourth of an inch is allowed to the left of the body of the letter. A formal letter should begin with the address of the correspondent. Otherwise it may begin with the salutation, "My dear friend," or "Dear Mary," etc. Observe that an elder addressing a younger person or friend may properly write "My Dear Mrs. Brown." It would argue not a nicer sense of propriety for a younger lady or gentleman to address an older lady or gentleman as "My Dear Mr. James," or "My Dear Miss Smith." It should be "Dear Mr. Jones," "Dear Miss Smith." The nicer shade of distinction can hardly be explained. It may be felt.

How to Make Mushrooms a la Toast.

Put the contents of a can or a quart of fresh oves in a saucepan with sufficient water to cover. Boil 20 minutes. Add a pint of milk, better size of an egg, salt to taste; then stir in a tablespoonful of flour, first made smooth in a little cold milk, and boil just a minute; then remove from the fire. Now toast, by placing in a hot oven as many slices of bread, 4 to 6 inches square, as there are persons to be served. Butter the toast and place on a warm plate singly and dish the mushrooms and gravy over the toasted bread and serve.

How to Care For a Wet Umbrella.

A wet umbrella should never be put ferrule end down to dry; neither should it be left open for the same purpose. Shake it well, knock it and stand

handle down where the water will run off. Never roll parasol or umbrella tightly when putting away, but without clasp or outer cover leave the fold to lie unconfined.

How to Prepare Escaloped Oysters.

Take a pint of large oysters, 2 tablespoonfuls of butter, a gill of cream, 3 tablespoonfuls of cracker dust and some pepper and salt. Put the cream into the chafing dish. Drain the oysters and put in alternate layers, sprinkled well with cracker dust, and a little butter, salt and pepper. Cook ten minutes covered.

How to Make Boston Biscuit.

Sift a quart of flour, add a teaspoonful of salt and a tablespoonful of lard. Mix with sweet milk and beat hard for 20 minutes, roll thin, cut out, prick with a fork and bake in a very hot oven.

How to Choose Vessels For Sweetbread.

Always cook sweetbreads in a china lined saucepan and use a silver or plated knife to cut them, as steel is considered to be injurious both to flavor and color.

How to Keep Curtains In Place.

To prevent light curtains from flying out of the open windows or across the room sew small weights in the hem at the bottom of the draperies.

Bloomers Break an Engagement.

Miss Lilly Drew of Walton, N. Y., who is an expert wheelwoman, donned a bloomers costume last week. On the road near her home she met her fiancé, Frank Hammond. The young man was so enraged at the sight of the new woman garb that he indignantly demanded what she meant by making such an appearance.

"Why, Frank, this is the most approved style for lady cyclists now, and what possible objection can you have to my being in fashion?" answered the girl, with a laugh.

"The rig is one of the most abominable outfits a girl ever wore," exclaimed the young man, "and I want to say right here that unless you discard that mode of dress forever our intended marriage will not take place."

The two eyed each other closely for a moment, and then Miss Drew slipped from her finger the engagement ring and handed it back to Mr. Hammond, with the remark, "Very well, Mr. Hammond, here is your ring." The new woman has a mind of her own and will not submit to such a dictatorial spirit under any circumstances. Friends of the couple declare that there will never be a reconciliation.

ANCIENT PROVERBS.

- A book that remains shut is but a block.
The fur that warms the monarch warms a bear.
A library is a repository of medicine for the mind.
Get a name to rise early and you may lie all day.
The day I did not make my toilet there came one I did not expect.
A small fire that warms you is better than a large one that burns you.
Secure the three things, virtue, wealth and happiness; they will serve as a staff in old age.

UPPER CUTS.

The time may come when a divorce will be necessary to place a pugilist in good standing in his profession.—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.
The knockout blow on the jaw is the great terror in pugilism. This fact may account for the vast amount of maxillary exercise that is indulged in prior to an encounter.—Wash. Post Star.

Unappreciated.

Author—Only one thing kept my hat novel from making a sensation.
Friend—What was that?
Author—No one read it.—London Quiver.