

IMPROVING THE HOME

MISS LAIRD IS HEAD OF DOMESTIC SCIENCE COLLEGE.

She Started With a Few Classes in Cooking at the Victor Mission in Toronto and Her Work Has Grown Into the Full-Fledged Lillian Massey School of Domestic Science—Works Long Hours.

"Miss Laird, the head of it, is the only person who knows more about the work being done there than anyone else, and has had most to do with its becoming what it is." The speaker was Mrs. Massey-Treble, the woman to whom the University of Toronto is indebted for its new building for the study of domestic science, and her words were in reply to a question as to the plans for the new college.

Miss Laird has for long been a force in the educational world of Toronto. It is more than ten years ago since she came as assistant teacher to the Lillian Massey School of Household Science. The next year she was principal, and has held the position ever since, although after the school's absorption into the university, the title was changed slightly, so that she is now "associate professor." But "what is in a name?" The lady is a Canadian, but her specialized education was received at the Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, since at that time there were no training schools for domestic science in Canada.

This is not the place to dwell on the phenomenal growth of the school which started to teach home cooking to a few classes in the Victor Mission, and ended by having on its roll hundreds of students, some going deep into household science as part of a university course, and others taking only short courses.

The advance has been slow, but steady, and in each step of the upward progress, Miss Laird has been



MISS ANNIE L. LAIRD.

chief counsellor to the founder of the school, and has had a part in all the planning for the beautiful building in Queen's Park. Her time, outside her usual duties, has been given to endless conferences as to the detail of furnishings and equipment. The better to know what were the most up-to-date ideas on the subject, Miss Laird has visited within the last year or two many of the recently established girls' domestic science is taught, among them being Simmon's College, Boston, and the new Teachers College of Columbia University, New York. No slightest detail escaped her notice that could help to realize the ideal held by the generous founder and the faculty.

Miss Laird's days are full ones, full as few people's are.

What do you think of a person who, between beginning work at the usual time in the morning and ten o'clock at night, has not a moment to spare for any interest outside? And this is what frequently happens.

Such unusual hours are owing to the peculiar fact that the class taught by a student in household science for practice may be one of boys at the Executive Y.M.C.A., or for girls or married women at a settlement house in The Ward, or of young ladies at the Y.W.C.A.

It is more than likely to meet in the evening, so the teacher of the student-teacher must needs be present to "oversee."

It seems a long day, but when some asked Miss Laird if she did not get "sick and tired" of it, there was no acquiescence.

"It is such fascinating work, I never tire of it. It is always so full of interest."

Of course, if that is a worker's attitude to what engrosses all her time and attention, that work is sure to be a success.

No one could be more calm and unbothered than this busy woman, more modest about what she has accomplished or diffident about speaking of her successes.—Mignon in Toronto Star Weekly.

Scottish Copper Discovery.

What is confidently believed to be a payable copper deposit has been discovered at Killin, in Argyllshire, near the shores of Loch Fyne. For some weeks past a company has been energetically prosecuting prospecting operations, and as a result a lode at least six feet thick has been proved for a considerable distance north and south of the point at which it was found. The copper is found in the form of carbonate and sulphide in a limestone formation. Mining operations are to be initiated on a considerable scale without delay.

Chance to Get Even.

"Going to Wombat's wedding over on the north side?"

"Not I. I was engaged to that girl, Wombat, out the out."

"Well, come to the wedding. You may get a chance to biff him in the jaw with an old shoe."

CURIOSITIES OF BREEDING.

English Biological Expert Makes Important Discoveries.

It is quite a common belief that if the pure bred mate with the pure bred the progeny is bound to be pure. Such a result, however, does not naturally follow, and many breeders particularly of fowls, have been puzzled to account for the various species which arise from parents of pure breed. Take, for instance, the case of the blue Andalusian fowl. If two birds of this strain are mated, it will be found that besides the blue birds which hatch out there will be a certain number of blacks and of whites with occasional black points.

Again, if the blues thus produced are mated together, blacks and whites will again appear among their offspring, and no amount of breeding from the blues alone will rid them of the black and white blood, which will crop out at every generation, although blue birds only are mated every time.

As a matter of fact, when blue Andalusians are mated together, according to Mr. A. D. Darbishire, the English expert, in his book, "Breeding and the Mendelian Discovery," birds of three types of color are produced in the three following proportions: one black, two blue Andalusians, and one white in every four birds, on the average. And while the whites are found to breed true, the Andalusians when mated together again, produce these three types in the same proportion.

On the other hand, the result of crossing a black and a white bird is a blue Andalusian, and the blue birds obtained in this way, when mated together, produce a generation of fowls again consisting of about one black, two blues, and one white in four.

This phenomenon of breeding forms one of the most striking illustrations of what is known as the Mendelian theory, i.e., the doctrine that in the second and later generations of a hybrid the combinations of the parent character occur in a definite proportion.

Here is another remarkable instance of recurrence in breeding which Mr. Darbishire cites. As every fowl-keeper knows, one of the characteristics which distinguish the various breeds of poultry is the form of the comb. The commonest type of comb is known as the single comb, with flat sides and the edges marked with deep indentations. Another type, which characterizes the Wyandottes, is known as the "rose" comb; a third type as the "pea" comb; while a fourth is known as the "walnut" comb, which only occurs in the Malays. If a fowl with a "pea" comb is mated with one having a "rose" comb, the resulting hybrids have "walnut" combs, and when these hybrids are mated together the generation produced has the following remarkable composition—nine "walnut" combs, three "rose" combs, three "pea" combs, and one single, although no single was put into the cross.

The Craze For the Antique.

Whether the present craze for antiques represents in reality any artistic progress on the part of people in general would be a nice speculation, says The London Globe. We fear in the majority of cases the acquisition of attempted acquisitions of "genuine" old furniture, prints, china and so forth is merely dictated by a desire to be in the fashion. It may be argued that even this is so much to the good, since it is better that persons of small or no taste should live in artistic surroundings, even if they are unable to appreciate them. So much may be admitted, but our concern for the moment is rather with the class of people who have some instinct for art, but who in their pursuit of the beautiful and their dislike of the blatantly ugly have rushed into the extreme of acquiring articles merely because they are "genuine old." Now, age alone does not necessarily imply beauty. An artistic copy of a beautiful object is far more to be desired than an imitation, even if genuinely old, original. But, unfortunately, most of us are such impulsive creatures that in our haste to buy the old we are in danger of forgetting to note whether it be really beautiful as well. The result will probably be that in a few years' time the present craze will die out and we shall be filling our rooms with priceless specimens of mid-Victorian art!

Curious Pavement Mark.

In the ancient town of Southampton (Eng.), and situated in the busiest part of the picturesque old High street, stands the Church of Holy Rood. Immediately before this church, and let into the public pavement, is a small brass cross some 6 inches or 8 inches in length and breadth. This cross marks the exact spot where a heavy stone pinnacle fell from the top of the church during the busiest part of the day, and it also commemorates the fact that, though numbers of people were at the time passing and repassing, not a single person sustained the slightest injury.

Why Parliament Gathers Tuesday.

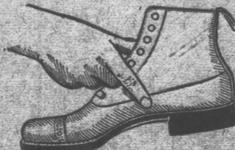
The British Parliament's custom of assembling for a new session on Tuesday instead of on the first working day of the week originated in the religious scruples of legislators of a century ago. In 1809 it was proposed that Monday should be made the day of meeting, but one of the members protested that this would involve Sunday traveling—a thing to be abhorred. A number of other members sustained him in his protest and the day for assembling was made Tuesday.

A Bootless Attempt.

"Ma," said Tommy Twaddles, looking up from his reading of "Terry the Tenor," "what is a bootless attempt?" "It's the sort you make when you get in without my hearing him when he comes home late from the club," answered Ma Twaddles incisively. "Pa doesn't stop to remove 'em at the foot of the stairs now. He knows it's no use."

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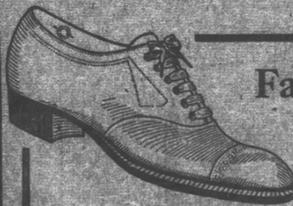
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