



The Family Circle.

"Home, Sweet Home."

Minnie May's Department.

MY DEAR NIECES, — While conversing with some of our nieces about school and lessons, etc., the subject of dress was introduced, which now leads us, to make a few remarks. If there is one place where simplicity should characterize dress, it is the schoolroom. The object for which children are here gathered is certainly not the display of the wealth of their parents. Anything which diverts the mind of the pupil from his or her duties is an injury to that pupil; and it will accord with the observations of teachers that fine clothes oftener work mischief to the wearer in this respect than mean clothes do. The highest minded children are oftenest found in plain garb, while those who are frilled and ruffled are generally destitute of home culture. Their mothers have been too busy with their clothes to pay much attention to their brains. While over-attention to toilet matters is a hindrance to study, negligence and untidiness are as carefully to be avoided.

Plenty of clean clothes, plainly made, need not be expensive, either of time or money, and a proper regard to personal cleanliness in all its details what every person owes to himself and his associates. It is very desirable that the pupil should have at least two school suits, for in the crowded schoolroom the clothing soon becomes saturated with the exhalations floating in the atmosphere, and an airing of the clothes every few days is necessary to keep them sweet and fresh. As a rule, the simpler a child is dressed the more attractive it is to all sensible people, and particularly in the schoolroom.

MINNIE MAY.

Our young friends will kindly excuse us for omitting story, illustrations, etc. Advertisements have encroached on your department this month; We will try and make amends in future numbers.

RECIPES.

CHOCOLATE CREAM.

Chocolate scraped fine, half an ounce, thick cream, one pint; best sugar, three ounces; heat it nearly to boiling, then remove it from the fire and stir it well. When cold add the whites of four or five eggs; whisk rapidly and take up the froth on a sieve; serve the cream in glasses and pile up the froth on the top.

SURPRISE LOAVES.

Mix four ounces of grated ham with one pound of mealy potatoes well beaten till quite light, add two spoonfuls of butter, a little cream and two eggs. Be careful not to make it too soft. Form into small loaves or balls, and fry in butter till a light brown. Serve with thick, brown, high-seasoned gravy; garnish with parsley.

TO RESTORE COLOR.

When color on a fabric has been accidentally or otherwise destroyed by acid, ammonia is applied to neutralize the acid, after which an application of chloroform will, in almost all cases, restore the original color. The application of ammonia is common, but that of chloroform is but little known.

ORANGES FILLED WITH JELLY.

This is one of the fanciful dishes which make a pretty appearance on a supper-table, and are ac-

ceptable when much variety is desired. Take some very fine oranges, and with the point of a small knife cut from the top of each a round piece about the size of a shilling; then, with the small end of a teaspoon, empty them entirely, taking care not to break the rinds. Throw these into cold water and make a jelly of the juice, which must be well pressed from the pulp and strained as clear as possible. Color one-half a fine rose-color with prepared cochineal, and leave the other very pale. When it is nearly cold, drain and wipe the orange rinds, and fill them with alternate stripes of the two jellies. When they are perfectly cold, cut them into quarters, and dispose them tastefully in a dish, with a few light branches of myrtle between them. Calves' feet, or any other variety of jelly, may be used to fill the rinds. The colors, however, should be made to contrast as much as possible.

POTTED HERRING.

Scrape and wash a dozen fish, and lay them in salt for three hours. Take an earthen jar and cut the pieces so as to fit it, season with a teaspoonful of salt, twenty whole peppers, ten cloves, two bits of mace and half a teaspoonful of ground ginger. Put the fish in the jar in layers, adding the salt and spices on each layer. Pack down tightly, then fill the jar with three parts of vinegar and one of water. Cover the top with a stiff crust of flour and water. Bake gently for five hours. Eat cold.

CUSTARD-APPLE PUDDING.

Pare and quarter six good-sized apples; pour them into a stew-pan with the rind of half a lemon, two tablespoons of water and four ounces of sugar. Let them simmer, and stir continually till the whole is reduced to a jam; then pour into a bowl, take out the lemon-peel and stir in three ounces of butter, a teaspoon of lemon-juice, and when cool add the yolks of five eggs. Bake in a buttered mould for half an hour, turn it out, brush it over quickly with the white of an egg, then cover with fine sifted sugar and return to the oven for five minutes for the icing to cool. Serve hot or cold.

TO RENOVATE BLACK GRENADINE.

Take strong, cold coffee, strain it and wring the grenadine out of it quite tight, after which shake out and fold up; then iron it with a moderately hot iron over a piece of any old black material.

AUNT ADDIE.

TO BLEACH GRAIN.

I would like to give you a recipe for bleaching grain for ornamental purposes. The barley, oats and wheat must be cut three or four weeks before it is ripe, placed in a tub or tank, and enough boiling water poured on it to scald it well. Take it out and let it drain, then take a tight box, large enough to let the top open with a tight cover; five or six inches below the top make a slat shelf, then take one-half pound of roll brimstone, pulverize coarsely, place it in a piece of paper in a dish, place the dish in the bottom of the box; after placing the grain on the bottom of the box, set fire to the paper, cover tight and let it smoke one night; spread in the sun next day, and the thing is done. This is the way rye straw is bleached for bonnets.

F. H. G.

Friendship.

What is it? Do smiles, words of cheer and kind actions constitute it? Are those who never upbraid, but meet all our deeds with words of praise, who flatter us on every possible occasion, to be considered true friends? Their attentions may be pleasant to our vanity and conceit, and keep us in the best of humor with ourselves, and we may think their company very desirable, yet they will not do to put faith in; for their amiable behaviour is often the cloak for self-interest. The person who will tell us our faults—kindly of course—who will try to teach us to see ourselves as others see us, who will show by acts rather than words that he kindly regards us, is more worthy of trust than one who agrees with all our sentiments, right or wrong, and who is equally ready to coincide with some one else, even if the subject should happen to be our shortcomings. Give me the friend who has the same love for me always, who is ready to "speak up" for me in the midst of enemies, and repeat what he considers my virtues as an offset to the failings they may rehearse, who will hold fast to his faith in my truth and goodness in spite of defamation. Such friends may be scarce, but when found are priceless treasures.

All Kinds of Annual Flower Seeds

May be sown in the months of April and May. For early flowering, sow the seed in boxes, and transplant into the open ground as soon as the weather becomes warm.



BALSAM (CAMELLIA-FLOWERED).

A very beautiful outdoor plant, producing masses of beautiful colored flowered in great profusion. The soil should be rich; set plants fifteen inches apart.



VERBENA (HYBRIDA).

Well-known and universally admired plants. Invaluable for summer decoration; blooms freely the first year from seed.



ICE-PLANT.

A pretty little trailing-plant, the leaves of which are covered with crystalline, thus giving it the appearance of being coated with ice. Half-hardy annual.

Mr. G. A. Sala, writing to the *Illustrated London News* of the higher education of women, holds that if clever girls were "taught to paint on porcelain, to model in clay and wax, to turn, to carve, and especially to draw on wood, they would be a hundred times better employed, and fifty times nearer the possibility of earning from three to ten pounds sterling a week than in 'spanking' the piano."

Our sight is the most perfect and most delightful of all our senses; it fills the mind with the largest variety of ideas, converses with its objects at the greatest distance, and continues the longest in action without being tired or satiated with its proper enjoyments.

Wit is not the produce of study; it comes almost as unexpected on the speaker as the hearer; one of the first principles of it is good temper; the arrows of wit ought always to be feathered with smiles; when they fail in that they become sarcasms.