

**HOPE.**—The best self-cure for stammering is to speak very slowly, pronounce every syllable very distinctly, beat time with your hand or foot at regular intervals, pronouncing a syllable at every beat. Read aloud in a room by yourself for a certain length of time daily, following this plan. Then recite a piece of prose or poetry in the same way. When speaking to any one think of what you wish to say before you begin to speak. Practice saying words commencing with "M," "N," "B," and "P."

**COUNTRY COUSIN.**—1. The marking of a bride's tresson, either in her maiden or newly assumed name, is perfectly optional. Many prefer to leave them unmarked until after the marriage has taken place. 2. Shake hands with your host and hostess, and any member of the family near you, but do not make a tour of the room shaking hands with everyone to whom you have been introduced.

**B. W. G.**—At a quiet wedding, where there would be only twenty or twenty-five persons present, sandwiches cut very thin, fancy cake, chocolate, lemonade, a pyramid of fruit and the bride's cake would be sufficient. As your dining room is small, why not have the refreshments handed around? There should be no confusion, and the comfort will be greater than if you attempt to pack twenty-five people in a room only capable of holding twelve.

**B. WILSON** asks for a description of the "fancy hat band" made by ladies for their gentleman friends. We think from her letter that she has a wrong impression as to its use. It is not as she suggests, a misnomer. That they may excite tender memories in the breast of the wearer is not improbable, and their usefulness is quite apparent, as by the description you will see that the wearer is enabled to distinguish his hat from any number of others, for one seldom meets with two people who bear the same initials. This hat band is not worn on the outside of the hat, as our correspondent may have imagined, but is fastened diagonally into the crown of the hat. It is made of a piece of satin ribbon of any desired color, about 2 or 2½ inches wide; the length depends some upon the depth of the hat, from ¼ to ¾ of a yard for an ordinary hat. The ends may be either turned under and fastened to the lining or allowed to run under the inside band. The initials of the recipient are embroidered on the ribbon with some contrasting color; for instance, gold and white letters on a cardinal satin. The letters should be chosen sufficiently large to be in keeping with the width of the ribbon, as very small letters would not look well on so wide a ribbon.

#### Recipes.

##### TO KEEP EGGS FRESH.

Rub them all over with a little butter when taken from the nest, and they will keep fresh for two or three months in a cool place.

##### DIPHTHERIA.

Put one teaspoonful of flour of brimstone sulphur into a wineglass of water; stir it with the finger and use as a gargle, swallowing some of it if possible. If a patient cannot gargle, take a live coal, put it on a shovel, and sprinkle a spoonful or two of flour of brimstone upon it; let the patient inhale the fumes, and the fungus will die. In extreme cases blow the sulphur through a quill into the throat, and after the fungus has shrunk give the gargle.

##### PRINCESS PUDDING.

1 quart of milk, 1 cup of sugar, 2 cups of bread crumbs, 3 eggs, yolks only, 1 teaspoonful baking powder; any kind of flavoring. Beat the whites to a stiff froth and put on the top of pudding after it is baked; set back in the oven to get a delicate brown; put three teaspoonfuls of white sugar into the eggs before you stop beating.

##### TO KEEP THE LAMPS IN ORDER.

All that is required is to take off the burners and put them in a small iron pot or tin pail with some hot water and a handful of wood ashes and boil them for a few minutes. Then wipe them with a soft dry cloth, and they are good for six months' wear. When the wick will not turn up, or the lamp burns dim, this is all that is required to put them in good order again.

A clergyman was walking out one day and passed two little boys, one of whom made a bow. As he walked away he heard the following amusing conversation: "Why, John, didn't you know that was Parson May?" "Of course I did." "Why didn't you make a bow?" "Why, mother don't belong to his church."

#### Art of Leave-Taking.

Not all have learned the fine art of leave-taking in an appropriate manner. When you are about to depart, do so at once, gracefully and politely, with no dallying. Don't say, "It is about time I was going," then settle back and talk on aimlessly for another ten minutes. Some people have just such a tiresome habit. They will even rise, and stand about the room in various attitudes, keeping their hosts also standing, and then by an effort succeed in getting as far as the hall, when a new thought strikes them. They brighten up visibly and stand for some minutes longer, saying nothing of importance, but keeping every one in a restless, nervous state. After the door is opened the prolonged leave-taking begins, and everybody in general and in particular is invited to call. What a relief when the door is finally closed! There is no need of being offensively abrupt, but when you are ready to go—go.

Every woman who has kept house for a few years has a theory which is dear to her heart as to how beef should be roasted. One says that it should be put into the oven without a drop of water in the pan; another that it should be rolled in flour, a little lemon juice squeezed on it, and so on indefinitely—each one thinking her way is the best. As for me, I am sure that my ways are the best, for I have two of them. If the beef is fat and seems juicy I put it into the oven with just about a tablespoonful of water, and roast, allowing an hour and a half for five pounds of beef. If the meat is lean and dry and gives an impression that it is tough, and especially if any butcher has been betrayed into confessing that it is not very tender, then I put it into a dripping pan on the top of the stove with half a pint of water, turn a tin pan over it and let it steam for half an hour, then put into the oven. I have in this way served what appeared to a confiding and unsuspecting family as a delicious roast, but which I knew to be a very tough and unpromising piece of meat; so unorthodox is this way of roasting beef that I almost fear to make it known.—*Some Woman.*

#### Humorous.

**A MAN WITHOUT A FRIDAY.**—The people of an episcopal church in this city, which is regarded as a very low one indeed by those who strictly observe times and seasons, do not know whether to be angry or amused, whether to storm or laugh at present. Last Sunday they were visited by a very high dignitary of the church, who is not only high in office but is high as to observances. While reading the lesson or perhaps preaching, he referred to the rich man who fared sumptuously every day, and who came to such a bad end; the reverend preacher laid a very heavy emphasis on the word "every" and then remarked, "ah! there was no Friday for him." The question that is puzzling that congregation now is, whether they were expected to draw an inference and apply it.

**ODD NOTICES.**—A gentleman near Winchester made a rockery in front of his house in which he planted some beautiful ferns, and, having put up the following notice, found it more efficient and less expensive than spring-guns or man-traps. The fear inspiring inscription was: "Beggars, beware; Scolopendriums and Polypodriums are set here." The wall of a gentleman's house near Edinburgh some years since exhibited a board on which was painted a threat quite as difficult for the trespassers to understand as the preceding: "Any person entering these enclosures will be shot and prosecuted." An eccentric old gentleman placed in a field on his estate a board with the following generous offer painted thereon: "I will give this field to any man who is contented." It was not long before he had an applicant. "Well, my man, are you a contented fellow?" "Yes, sir, very." "Then why do you want my field?" The applicant did not wait to reply.—[Chamber's Journal.]

**POETICAL.**—Some genius has been endeavoring to describe a railroad incident in poetry. As it is a "first effort," we shall not say much about it. Here it is:

Goods and mail  
Were on the rail,  
And mail pulled up to water,  
Goods, slap, dash,  
Ran in—crash—smash!  
And express came tumbling after!

#### The Bairns a' at Rest.

There was din, as ye ne'er heard the like,  
'Mang our bairns the nicht roun' the fire-en';  
A' were busy as bees in a birk;  
A' were blithe as the birds in the glen.  
What wi' castles and kirks built wi' tools,  
What wi' rhyming at spellings a' roun',  
What wi' playing at ball and at bools,—  
But there's peace now, they're a' cuddled down.

Now, the bairns are asleep and a calm  
Has fa'n roun' like a soft gloaming shade,  
And a kind hand unseen sheds a balm  
O'er their wee limbs in weariness laid.  
On their fair chubby faces we see  
Sic an evenly sweetness o' rest,  
That ye'd doubt but they'd borrow'd a wee  
Frac the far-awa' realms o' the blest.

Like we birds in a nest do they cow'r,  
By ilk other so cozy and kin';  
O, their bed's like a rose-bed in flow'r.  
And our glances o' love on it shine.  
O, awa' wi' your glairy gowd crown,  
But, hurrah for the bairns that hae grown  
Like a living love-wreath roun' the heart!

Ha, let's wheesh! As we warm in their praise,  
We might waken some flaxen-hair'd loon;  
See, already shot out frae the claes  
Just as lithe a wee limb's in the toon!  
Hap it o'er, hap it o'er. Bonnie bairn,  
Whaur awa' may that wee footie pace?  
The richt gait o' the world's ill to learn,  
And fair fortune in fickle to chase.

There are hid 'neath these lashes so long,  
The full een that are stars o' the day;  
There lies silent the nursery song,  
On these lips fresh as mornings in May;  
And there beats in these bosoms a life  
More o' promise than spring-buds are giv'n,  
That must meet the world's favor on strife,  
And shall make them or mar them for heav'n.

Will ye guard them, ye angels o' Peace,  
In this haven, in the curtains o' night?  
Will ye guide them when dangers increase,  
Heaving out in their day-ocean fight?  
For O, whaur, frae the bairnie so wee  
To the bairnie the biggest o' a',  
Is the ane we'd first part wi', and see  
To a bed in the moola; taen awa'?

\*Marbles. †Whisper. ‡The grave.  
—[Good Words.]

#### Frankness with Children.

A clever writer in *Education* says of the would-be infallible teacher: A bright child asks a question that a gray-haired philosopher would be cautious in answering; yet a teacher of limited learning and less sincerity gives a glib reply to keep the child from doubting his scholarship. He wishes the pupil to think that all knowledge worth having has been attained in a few years by one person, namely, himself.

Between devotion to text-books and the careless dogmatism of such teachers, children leave our schools with the conceit that they have compassed the universe and settled all the problems of existence. A young teacher once followed an older one of this infallible type. During the first week a bright boy propounded a question to which she quietly answered, "I do not know, but I think you will find it in—" naming a book. The class looked surprised. From that day several of the students threw test questions at her on all occasions, to about half of which she simply replied, "I do not know." Contempt for her began to grow; but meanwhile, she had interested them in her daily class-work, and gradually they forgot to ask her puzzling questions. Before she had been there a year, it was reported about town, in their western phrase, "The scholars all swear by Miss —." The pupils would accept no statement that varied from what she had told them without careful investigation; and when such investigation had proved her mistaken, the pupils carried the knowledge to her with joy, knowing that she would sincerely thank them for correcting her. Compare the results of the two kinds of work,—results to the character of the teacher and the development of the pupil. If a teacher is to be truthful, it follows that he must be unexceptionable in character, and well prepared in scholarship.