

Your Problems

Conducted by Mrs. Helen Law

Mothers and daughters of all ages are cordially invited to write to this department. Initials only will be published with each question and its answer as a means of identification, but full name and address must be given in each letter. Write on one side of paper only. Answers will be mailed direct if stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed.

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M O S T O F T H I S P A G E I S M I S S I N G

A. H. B.—This plan has been tried by a mother and was successful in curing her little daughter, who had violent spells of temper. When a fit of temper came on, the mother took a basin of cold water and sponged the little girl's face and neck, holding the cold sponge especially long at the temples, behind the ears, and at the back of the neck. In a few moments the tense little muscles relaxed, the eyes grew less wild and the child would lie down. Then the mother would take her daughter's hand and talk to her lovingly but firmly on self-control. After six or seven treatments a complete cure was brought about.

L. D. M.—1. The milk bottles that are used for infant feeding can be thoroughly cleaned by rinsing first with cold water, then washing with hot soapsuds and a clean bottle brush. Rinse the bottles both inside and outside in an abundance of flowing clean water, preferably under the cold water faucet; examine each bottle to see there is no cloudiness or speck remaining. Then place in a bottle rack and set in a moderately hot oven for an hour. The bottles will be sterile and fit for use. Bottles may also be put over a fire in a boiler filled with cold water, to boil for half an hour, after which they should be carefully drained and kept dust-free. But the oven method is preferable. Cool the oven slightly by opening the door a few minutes before removing the bottles; this will prevent the cracking that might result on sudden exposure to the colder air of the room. 2. To tell when a child has scarlet fever the following should be noticed: The hatching period is from a few hours to several days, no longer. Then comes a scarlet rash, appearing first on the neck and chest, then covering

the face and body. This eruption peels as scales and flakes. There is fever and quick pulse, and the "strawberry tongue." The glands in the neck are swollen and there is sore throat. The discharges from the nose and throat are more dangerous than the rash—more catching.

D. G.—Try these games at your party for boys and girls. 1. "Pictured Verbarium." You take some long word, such as "Caribbean" or "Beloochistan", and by rearranging the letters find a number of smaller words, such as cat, loot, bean, belt, and others. Then from advertisements in the papers and magazines cut out pictures which represent the words and paste them on cards for an exhibition. From these pictures the guests are supposed to guess the smaller words and then pick out the individual letters and guess the whole large word from which they are taken. 2. "Geography." Take each letter of the alphabet and in five or ten minutes' time write down as many towns, seas, rivers, etc., as you can think of which begin with the letter chosen. 3. "Change Places." For this the players sit in a circle and there must be a leader, who tells a story. The story teller goes very rapidly, inventing as he goes along, and suddenly and frequently introducing the phrase "change places." No attention must be paid to this unless he adds, "The King is here." Then all must jump up and try to take different seats. In the confusion the leader tries to slip into a seat, and then the one left without a place has to start a story. It adds much to the excitement if the leader sometimes seems on the brink of giving the sentence which means a general move, such as "Change places, the King—will come soon," or something else of royal news, to which no attention should be paid.

Sheep Notes

Shear fairly early, at least before the very warm spring days arrive, and thus save the ewe discomfort and loss in weight. With wool as valuable per pound as butter, the greatest care should be taken to produce the cleanest, best fleece and properly to care for the same after shearing. Co-operative marketing will add from two to eight cents per pound revenue from your wool.

Clean all vermin from the flocks and herds before the young stuff

comes. Feed is too high in price to waste on lice and ticks, and the newly-born animals will thrive better if they are free from them.

Undocked and uncastrated grade lambs are always an indication of primitive methods in the handling of sheep, and no farmer who takes an interest in his flock will neglect the performance of these operations.

In spring, gather up the bones which have accumulated during the winter and bury them at the roots of trees, bushes, etc. They make excellent fertilizer.

THE CALL FOR CHARACTER

Character is the Only Fortune Worth Accumulating, the Only Possession That Survives.

"Thou desirest truth in the inward parts."—Psalms, li, 6.

Character is not what you say you are, that is profession; nor what you do, that is conduct; nor what people think about you, that is reputation. Character is what you are. It is the central self, the man inside the man.

With truth as the fabric of character we have manhood at its best. The call of the hour is for character. No substitutes will do; no paper currency, no promises to pay, only the pure gold of reality will answer.

In this age of fortune hunting character is the only fortune worth accumulating. It weathers all gales of adversity, defies all financial panics. When the curtain is rung down and we enter the narrow door of the sepulchre all other possessions are scraped off. Character alone goes through to God.

Character has three characteristics: veracity, which is character expressed in speech; honesty, which is character expressed in deed; sincerity, which is character expressed in motive and purpose.

Three Aspects of Character

"Whatever mistakes or follies you may commit, don't lie," said a father taking leave of his boy. Wise advice, because deceit honeycombs the moral nature and makes it collapse under sudden strain of temptation. Dishonesty is stupidity, because it chloroforms conscience, that sensitive nerve of the soul, implanted by God to show us the difference between right and wrong, and between the calls of the angel and the animal in us.

Whatever honesty costs it is always a bargain. Mother Nature teaches sincerity. She has no false prophets, she keeps all her pledges. When the sun is in Capricorn it is winter; in Cancer it is summer. Hence, when man is insincere he is out of gear with nature's machinery and out of tune with the symphonies of God.

Cervantes said, "Honesty is the best policy," but the old Spaniard might have added that a man who is honest merely for policy is not honest, he is politic. Honesty disdains all cloaks and the oily tongue which calls steal-

ing "appropriation," which speaks of the "tricks of trade" instead of the "crimes of trade," and reports "she won the prize" instead of "she gambled."

Many a home has gone to pieces, many a marriage tie has been shattered from lack of sincerity. Little acts of deception have caused the rift within the lute. A safeguard against evil is to have no secrets. Where there is a secret there must be something wrong. I do not refer to legitimate private affairs, but to secrets which, if told, would involve us in shame. Pity the poor wretch who for the brief moment of illicit pleasure walks every day shadowed by the spectre of exposure.

Character Must Be Acquired

The call for character makes no compromise with hypocrisy. Jesus faulted the Pharisees because they stressed conduct instead of character, taught rules instead of principles, filtered the water at the faucet but neglected to cleanse the spring. Out of the heart are the issues of life. Repentance means letting truth get its grip on your central self. Outward respectability and polished manners are only veneer. You cannot purify the cistern by painting the pump.

Character cannot be inherited; it must be acquired. It is the result of the continual doing of the right things. No man ever gets ready for a crisis at a moment's notice. What he does at the critical moment depends on what he was doing yesterday and the day before, and the day before that. Our habits grow upon us as our flesh does. Good habits, like good flesh, make for health; bad habits, like bad flesh, make for disease. Begin your good habits early in life. Few men form any new habits after thirty—it takes all their time to steer their old ones. Blessed is the man who thinks character building worth while and builds the structure, not out of driftwood, but out of granite blocks.

"Build it well whatever you do,
Build it straight and strong and true,
Build it high and long and broad,
Build it for the eye of God."
—Rev. Daniel Hoffman Martin.

and upwards, it is cheaper to have the place plowed and harrowed at a cost of about \$1.50 for that area and more in proportion to larger extent.

The questions of how much space and time one must have for certain sized crops and results are important, but just now these can be deferred, since out-door work is impossible on account of the hard winter and late spring. Indoor gardening such as the seed buying and planning spoken of is possible.

Many plants can be started in the house, both vegetable and flower, and be ready to plant out when the ground is dry and warm. Even without a hotbed one can get earlier crops of tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, peppers, eggplant and lettuce by starting seed early in boxes in the house. Early potatoes sometimes are forced in the same way.

Seeds so planted germinate and are ready for transplanting by the time it is safe to sow the same kind of seed in the open ground. When danger of