

Answers to Correspondents.

Answers to questions will be given if possible, and as early as possible, only when the question is accompanied by the name and address of the questioner. The name is not for publication but as an evidence of good faith. The problem in behavior printed each month may be answered by any reader on a post-card. The best answer will bring the writer the present of a book.

Prize Problem for February.

The problem in this issue is proposed by a constant reader of our paper. Who will give the best answer? One day, in conversation with my friend, Mrs. Rudy, I thoughtlessly passed a remark about Mrs. Paoce to the effect that she was one of the loveliest characters I knew, but that she seemed to be pretty fond of displaying her powers as a conversationalist, especially before men. Two weeks later in a drawing room where both ladies were present Mrs. Rudy in a joking manner accused me of saying about Mrs. Paoce that she was fond of gadding about with the men. I denied that I said this, but Mrs. Rudy said: "Don't deny it, now; you know you said it, and you know we all have our failings." What should I have done under the circumstances?

Problem in Behaviour.

The problem for February was as follows: Mrs. Brown and family have just come to Calgary. Her neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Xanthope, are vulgar people and their children are very objectionable. Mrs. Brown does not wish to have anything to do with the Xanthopes. At an "at home" one afternoon Mrs. Brown is introduced to Mrs. Xanthope, who says: "I have been waiting to come and see you for a long time. May I call and bring my little girl?" What should Mrs. Brown say?

The prize answer is awarded to Laura A. Dynes, Burlington, Ont., for the following:—

Mrs. Brown should say to Mrs. Xanthope that she would be at home upon a certain date and would be pleased to have her come and see her then. Upon closer acquaintance she may find Mrs. Xanthope possessing virtues she little suspects, and a closer intimacy with people as refined as Mrs. Brown and her family would do much toward improving the character of Mrs. Xanthope and her children.—Laura A. Dynes, Burlington, Ont.

Other answers are as follows:—

As Mr. and Mrs. Xanthope and children are so objectionable, Mrs. Xanthope having asked permission to call, Mrs. Brown should very politely give the permission. When Mrs. Xanthope calls Mrs. Brown should be the only one "at home," be very polite but very reserved and dignified. Mrs. Xanthope will scarcely repeat the call.

It would be rude of Mrs. Brown to refuse when an acquaintance asks to call. Her answer should be: "Yes, Mrs. Xanthope, you may call and bring your little girl." This is polite but not pressing. Mrs. Brown does not return the call and does not permit her children to go. She also refuses them to play with Xanthope children, but both she and her children are agreeable when occasion demands. By so doing Mrs. Brown commands Mrs. Xanthope's respect and Mrs. Xanthope sees she does not care to be intimate.

A cut direct is better than deceit. Strange that such vulgar people ever gain admission to refined society. Mrs. Brown is certainly in a bad dilemma, as she will have to say to Mrs. Xanthope's face whether she intends to allow an intimacy between them or not. The only plan for Mrs. Brown is to "freeze" her neighbor's unwelcome advances and thus nip further acquaintance "in the bud," as it were. If she

is not capable of doing this, she will no doubt murmur a polite, untruthful assent to Mrs. Xanthope's desire to call.

I would be much obliged to you for furnishing an answer to the question: If green poplar posts will last longer for fence purposes without or without the bark on?

Answer.—Without the bark.

A Sickly Fern.

Will you tell me how to treat an asparagus fern that has turned brown and weakly? I have repotted it and I water it daily and it has plenty of sunshine. Should the brown fronds be taken off? Or will fresh ones spring from the stem again? This is a large fern, and until this winter has been exceedingly well.

Answer.—If it turns brown it is probably too warm; if it turns white it is too wet. As a rule, it should be kept in shady spot and in rather cool atmosphere.

Blackheads.

Kindly let me know what is the cause of blackheads in the skin; how to rid the face of blackheads and how to prevent them.

Answer.—May sometimes be squeezed out by gentle pressure. Permanently removed by washing with warm water and severe friction with a towel. Then apply liquor of potassa 1 ounce, cologne 2 ounces, white brandy 4 ounces.

Wants a Position.

Would like very much to have your opinion on the advisability of a young girl (17) coming to Winnipeg to look for a position as a stenographer, she having a diploma. The girl in question lives East and wants to come West.

Answer.—If she is a good stenographer and typewriter, and can readily adapt herself to new conditions she can probably secure a position before very long, but she will have to canvas or get her friends to canvas for her, as positions are not to be had every day. Good, faithful, capable stenographers are always in demand.

A Siphon.

I have a well on the side of a hill with a slough at the bottom of the hill. The surface of the water in the well is one foot higher than the bottom of the slough. The surface of the water is seven feet six inches from the top of the ground at the well. If I put a pipe level with the surface of the water running out to the slough, also one connected with the other running down into the water, how high could I lift the water from the well (providing the water should get lower in the well) with a siphon rigged in that way? If I lowered the end of the pipe next to the slough four inches lower than the end at the well and put a valve on it so as to keep the pipe full of water, would the force of the water running out cause the siphon to lift water out of the well or would the siphon have to be started each time I wished to run water into the slough? The well is a two foot hole, sixty feet deep.

Answer.—If we understand the question aright, the siphon will lift the water about 30 feet above the surface of the water in the well. The difficulty, however, will be to get the siphon going. When once going it will continue to work until the water in the well gets as low as the surface of the slough. The siphon once filled and kept air tight will always be ready for use.

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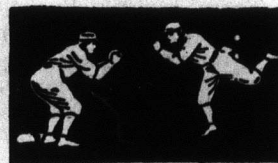
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