



It is always a genuine pleasure for me to hear from my young friends on any point on which they have anything to ask.—Ed. Post Bag.

MESSENGER. The actual transmission of a cablegram is only a matter of seconds. It is the interpretation of the cablegram and other incidental matters that take up the greatest time. You may judge of the rapidity with which a message may be "wired" or "cabled" from the fact that the velocity of electricity has been found to be 230,000 miles per second, a velocity greater than that of light, which is between 185,000 and 186,000 miles per second. It may interest you further to know that observations made in connection with the use of the electric telegraph for determining longitudes have shown that the time which intervenes between the sending and receiving of a signal was about four-tenths of a second.

TRAINING CLUB.—By means of constant practicing on the piano, you may be able to render the fingers more pliable than at present. Washing the hands in water containing borax, in the proportion of a teaspoonful to a quart of water, will check excessive perspiration. Running, jumping, and boxing will develop the muscles of the lower portion of the body. It is not wise, however, to exercise one portion of the body at the expense of the others. Boxing brings all the muscles into play.

YOUNG CANADIAN AMATEUR BOAT CLUB.—We are much pleased at the title of your club. We shall watch your career with deep interest. It is not easy for you to make your own sails, but the trouble will well reward you if you are successful. The great thing is to make the sails of stuff that has had all the stretchiness taken out of it. Fine muslin, Horrocks' M longcloth, and fine linen are all used. Before you cut out your sails put the calico into boiling water for five minutes or so, then take it out, and roll each end once or twice round a broomstick so as to get a firm hold, and get a friend to seize hold of one broomstick while you hold the other, and work the stuff backwards and forwards over the clothes-horse or some such contrivance. You can, instead, lash the calico into a large wool-work frame, or even nail it down on a board, but whatever you do keep the selvages straight. When the stuff is dry iron it, and iron it straight. Then put down on it the paper patterns of the sails, taking care that the selvages come in their proper places, and rule them out exactly, going round afterwards about a quarter of an inch outside for the hem. Remember the curve at the foot of the sails. Rule the parallel lines for the canvass slips before you cut. Iron down the hems before you begin to sew, and iron the sails when done before you fix them. Tapes round the sails do as well as hems. Do not hem the selvage.

R. H. GUELPH.—If there are insects in your pigeon loft, you should give it a complete cleansing and disinfecting. Get from the druggist a little permanganate of potash. Dissolve it in water, and wash every part well with it. Use this hot. It is more effectual in killing the insects. Dump out your grain boxes, and wash them well in hot water and soap. These pests of pigeons are often lurking among the dust of grain. See to the food, the bath, the gravel, the ventilation and let your pets have a chance of plenty of sunshine. Tell me again how you succeed.

PETER SMITH.—The reason that white letters appear larger on a black ground, than black letters on a white one, is owing to the laws of light. The impression made on the eye by bright objects, extends wider than the actual portion of the organ struck by the light, and spreading into the space occupied by the darker objects makes the brighter appear larger than they really are.

H. B.—Birds can fly much faster than twenty miles an hour. I read not long ago that the flight of the swallow, when emigrating, is not less than fifty miles, and it has been calculated that the swallow can fly at the rate of ninety miles an hour. The flight of hawks and several other birds is about a hundred and fifty miles. It seems strange, does it not, to think that these little creatures can move through the air, with such wonderful rapidity.

MAMIE.—I trust my answer will not be too late for the picnic. The game you ask about is called "Cat and Mouse." A cat and mouse must be chosen from amongst the children. The others take

hands and form a ring, with the mouse in the middle. The cat must sing these words:—

"Pray, Mrs. Mouse, are you within?"

Mouse.—"Yes, kind sir, and I'm sitting to spin."

Cat.—"Mew! mew! mew!"

The cat must try to catch the mouse, who must run in and out of the circle. When the cat catches the mouse, she must say "Mew!" if she omits to say this, the mouse is free again. The other children must help the mouse by holding up their arms, so that she may run through. If the cat, however, manages to get into the circle, the two who have permitted her to do so, must in their turn become cat and mouse. When the cat catches the mouse, it must pay a forfeit. I hope that your birthday will be a bright and happy one, and that your little friends will enjoy themselves to their hearts' content.

PRACY B.—To use a gun without the help and advice of one who knows all about it, is at once foolish and dangerous. Consult a personal friend who is a good shot. His advice will be more reliable than that of a gun-dealer.

FRANCIS BROWN.—Candles are made of tallow, wax, spermaceti, stearine, paraffin, and some kinds of oils. Common ones are composed of the coarsest tallow poured into moulds made of tin, glass, or pewter, with the wick suspended in the centre. Wax candles are not moulded.

ALFRED SMITH.—Cultivate your horse's acquaintance, let him know that you are his friend, and prove it to him by your kind treatment. When you have reached this stage you can teach him to follow you and perform other tricks. You must always speak soothingly and be patient at all times.

FRED. BLACK.—Distemper usually sets in when a dog is from three to six months old. It is really a severe cold which settles into a kind of consumption. If your dog begins to snuffle, his eyes to run, the coat to lose its gloss, and has violent fits, it is then about time to put him out of misery, as there is no hope for recovery.

W. ARMSTRONG.—You should always remove your hat in the presence of ladies, whether it be in the kitchen, parlor, or hall, also when you enter the private office of a business-house. There is also a certain amount of respect due your employers and superiors during business hours. Be a gentleman at all times, and you will succeed in commanding respect.

FANNY MILLER.—Sensitive silver paper or photographic paper is nothing more than ordinary white paper covered with a sizing of albumen and made sensitive to light with nitrate of silver. Albumen is a substance existing nearly pure in the white of an egg, and its chief component. We will send you the Amateur's Manual of Photography on receipt of price, 10 cents.

YOUNG HOUSEKEEPER.—Laundresses usually secure the glaze on cuffs and collars by putting a little gum-arabic into the starch. Another way is with wax. Into a pint and a half of boiling water in a saucepan put an ounce of wax, melt over the fire. When it has stood a few minutes to cool, stir into half a pound of starch, previously mixed with a little cold water; the whole to be boiled and stirred for half an hour. The wax starch thus prepared is to be used cold. We believe, however, that the glazing substance most used at the present day is borax. Some borax is dissolved in a saucer, the linen is starched in the usual way, an iron is passed over it, a clean rag is dipped in the borax and rubbed over the face of the article, and the ironing then finished.

