NORTHERN MESSENGER.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

" THIS MINISTRY." BY HOPE LEDYARD.

"I do hope that one of my boys will be called to the ministry," said Mrs. Ashland. "Only one ?" was her friend's reply. "I ask that all my children may early accept the ministry God offers them."

"The ministry God offers ? I do not understand."

'I mean just this. 'Even as the Sou of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister,' so to each of us is given a ministry (ministering) in this world which we only can fully accomplish, and in which, 'as we have received mercy, we faint not.' Our ministry as wives, mothers, and housekeepers is often a harder service than that of our good pastors."

"I am sure it is ! But these daily duties seem quite transfigured in such a light," said Mrs. Ashland thoughtfully. "If my daily cares constitute my ministry, I have no right to complain or shirk them."

Her friend, who knew her circumstances better than Mrs. Ashland supposed, knowing that she was indeed sorely tried and tested, prayed that her words might be guided with discretion as she replied,

"I won't say you have no right, dear. only think that when you see your life in the full light of God's Word you will not want to shirk or complain. You have just this ministry, this man boarding with you, this sickly husband, this family of growing boys, this untrained, carcless servant. Seeing then you have this ministry, as you have received mercy, you faint not. You are called quite as plainly as you long to have your sor called, and to quite as important a ministry." "'Or ministry, let us wait on our minis-

tering.' I never noticed how that text might apply ? Why, you have made it such a different matter to plan for to-morrow's meals, to try to make things run smoothly, and to be patient with my poor husband. I had been trying and trying to see a way out of it all, and so many give me such advice! Every one seems to think I should get rid of this or that burden! Yet I never can see that I ought, and if it is my minis-try I would not." ""Take heed to the ministry which thou

hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it," said Mrs. B—— lovingly. "There is such a wonderful rest in accepting our lot as a gift from our dear Lord. As to the puzzles in your life, no experience is with-out them, and I find such comfort in trusting to what God is preparing for us. You remember how, when Jonah was cast into the sea, God 'prepared a great fish' to swallow him; then later he 'prepared' a gourd and an east wind. He is not only able but willing to prepare what we need of trial and blessing and to give us his mercy that we faint not. I fear that we too often weaken each other by our sympathy for trials which if seen as part of each one's ministry, would not seem trials but blessings." "I am sure we do. I never before

thought of my little daily cares and duties as a ministry, but I shall not forget it, I hope. And now I must go home, for it is nearly dinner-time, and 'wait' on my 'ministering."

Is there not a suggestion here for you, dear reader? Are you accepting your daily cares and duties as a ministry to be entered into for God? If day by day we say to him "Whatever work thou hast for me to do, give it into my hands and give me grace to do it," and then just "wait on our minister-ing," will not our life be one of peace, even though full of trial and sceming perplexity? -Illustrated Christian Weekly.

LEARNING HOUSEKEEPING.

posal-namely, that of establishing the fatter than many another, but it was his, air to settle again the same place. Use a sending every young girl after she has finished her school education, and before she is "out" to learn housekeeping This window. system which is practised in Germany, of don't you see. sending every young girl after she has finished her school education, and before she is "out" to learn housekeeping. This every girl in Germany does, be she the daughter of a nobleman, officer, or small official. She goes direct from school into a family corresponding to her station in life. family corresponding to her station in life. they who are who are who a where they nay official state of the state Those who are rich go where they pay highly, and are in a "good family," so that they are enabled to live well, and have good cooking and great variety."

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lishments for less than a year, so that with worst of it every month a new branch is learned—one Household. month the preserving of fruit in season, the next laying in of apples and vegetables for winter use, preserving of eggs and butter, etc. These girls are taught everything, from washing up dishes, sweeping and polishing the floors, clear starching and ironing, dusting and cleaning ornaments, cooking, laying the table, waiting, polishing the silver and glass up, to decorating the table with flowers and fruits. Great is the ambition of the pupil to hear that her taste and management are the best. Combined with these duties are those of keeping the household linen in repair and learning plain sewing. Thus the young girl gets experience in household affairs.

Though the pupils have to learn every thing, servants are kept in these establishments, who in their turn are taught by the advanced pupils, who have learned from the mother of the family. This accounts for the excellent housekeeping in Germany, where comfort is combined with economy, and the pleasure of having everything pre-cise and clean. The labors of the day are over by midday (dinner being at midday), when everybody is at liberty for study, needlework, or amusement till time for preparing supper.-Exchange.

MY BOSSY.

"Make home attractive ?" Yes, in every way in your power. Spare no pains or ex-pense to keep your boys (and girls, too,) just as long as possible. Life's realities, responsibilities and burdens will come to them all too soon. If, by any effort of yours you can prolong the season of youth, do it. Indulge them, not foolishly, wickedly and weakly, but kindly and judiciously. Don't feel as if it would pauperize you to give them a pint of molasses now and then for a candy pull, with the neighbor's children as guests. Don't begrudge the few extra sticks of wood in the kitchen stove for the boiling of said pint. Don't mourn over the marks of boot heels on the painted floor. Don't fret because it takes an hour or two to set things to rights the next morning. The children will cheerfully help clear up themselves, in memory of the frolic, and they will find other ways, too, of paying mother back for her indulgence.

Let the young folks have plenty of room, and warmth, light and music, books, papers and games, and cosy chairs their very own. Mark, their birthdays by some appropriate gift that can be kept, like a book, picture, ring or pin. Something that may be both ornamental and useful. No matter sometimes if it is simply ornamental. They do sometimes appreciate a gift just for its beauty, and surely anything which helps to cultivate the love of the beautiful is greatly useful. In this practical world we are too apt to overlook this fact.

To be sure, every one else has said it, but let me say it, too ; let your boys have some-thing of their own. Give it to them, or sell it to them, but let it be their very own, somehow. The place where lies their own property, be it in stock, or land, or tools, has a charm for them a little beyond any other place on earth. Make that place their childhood's home. It is in your power, but in the power of no one else. What matters a little more or less of what you are pleased to call "my property" to the love of home in your children ? O, avarice, avarice, thou art the very root from which springs many a child's destruction !

Said a great, big boy, big enough to be teaching his first school, when he got home after an absence of eight weeks, and had shaken hands and kissed all around, "Now I want to see my bossy." And away his long legs went to the barn, like the veriest An English lady who has resided for some school-boy, and think very likely he kissed time on the continent writes: The com-plaints I hear daily about servants and of him if I knew he did. Said "bossy"

ings were no more like words than those of every other pig. Was the ownership that glorified them in his eyes and ears. But alas ! there's many a Christian father who doesn't know that the gift of a pig Brown.

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No one is taken into one of these estab- | would be a means of grace to his boy, and the worst of it is, he doesn't want to know it.

PREPARE FOR SUMMER.

1. Clear out the cellars. Remove all rubbish that interferes with the freest circulation of the air. Let no remnants of the winter's vegetables remain to decompose into poisonous gases. See that there is no leakage beneath the floor from the sewage pipes, and that no neighbor's broken drain is emptying its offal there.

Now is the time to replace all wooden floors—sources of danger—with good cement. See that provision is made for the most thorough ventilation. Remember that the air of the cellar circulates through the whole house, even to the attics, and that it should be as pure and sweet as that of the parlor.

2. See that the pipes from the bath-room and the kitchen are in good order, not only sound in every part, but furnished with reliable traps that cut off the ingress into the house of noxious gases, and still more noxious microbes, from the main sewer. If an occasional flushing with a full head of hot water has hitherto been neglected, begin now, and continue it through the season, from time to time following it by the use of a strong solution of chloride of lime, or copperas (sulphate of iron), for the purpose killing all bacterial life within them. of

If intending to shut up the house during some weeks of the summer, flush and disinfect the drains, and fully ventilate every room in the house the last thing before eaving, and repeat it on returning

3. If there are pumps or wells on the premises, make sure that no surface water enters them; and if they are within one hundred feet of a cesspool, or stable, or cowyard, abandon the use of the water for cooking or drinking—and that, too, even though the surface of the ground around the well or pump may be considerably higher. It is the bottom of the former that is to be compared with the surface of the latter.

4. If expecting to spend the summer by the seaside or in the country, see beforehand that the drains and all the hygienic surroundings of the boarding-house are right and safe, for the number of boarders who annually bring back typhoid fever with them is apt to be comparatively large. Don't allow any uncertainty on this point.

Cleanliness everywhere is the great essential to good health in summer. Cleanliness about the premises is the only means by which the air can be kept pure, and impure air in summer readily becomes a poison. - Youth's Companion.

GLEANINGS.

To make good rusks take one pint of milk, one cup of yeast ; mix it thin ; when light add twelve ounces of brown sugar, two ounces of butter, four eggs, flour sufficient to make stiff as bread; when risen again, mould and spread it on tins. Mouldiness is occasioned by the growth

of minute vegetation. Ink, paste, leather and seeds most frequently suffer by it. A clove will prevent it ; any essential oil au-swers equally well.

In using student-lamps, never let the oil accumulate in the cup below the wick, but pour it out at least once a week. Let every. thing used about lamps—rags, scissors, or extra wicks—be kept in a small box together, an empty starch-box being the best. Burn lamp rags every few weeks. If allowed to lie, filled with oil, spontaneous combustion often takes place, many fires having been

caused in this way. In dusting remember that old silk handkerchiefs are best for pianos. Shake the duster often while using it from door or window, and never flirt it about the furni-

WHY WOMEN BREAK DOWN.

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There is little doubt that women are breaking down more rapidly than men, because they allow themselves to take less real rest. When a man drops his business he drops it. When a woman lets go of any work she may have in mind she ties it to her apron strings, as it were. She has been taught through long ages of training that it is a high crime and a misdemeanor to let anything escape her mind, so she is constantly, when she is at rest, pinching herself or prodding herself to see if she hasn't forgotten something. In this way she carries the burdens of her work into her resting hours, and sits down among the roses of relaxation with her foot on the treadle of the grindstone of prosy drudgery. If men kept their noses to the grindstone with womanly persistence they would be nervous and irritable beyond compare. If women would get their own consent to rest they would have better complexions, better stomacus, and a happier life. - Chicago Inter-Ocean.

PUZZLES.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

The initials of the single words omitted spell the two words omitted from the last couplet. Their finals spell the two words omitted from the fourth couplet.

Be joyous and happy, kind hearted and glad, Dear children, but never, no never, be * * *.

Which letters are vowels? You surely must

know Pronounce two in place of these stars here. -*. *.

Now lest you with study your senses befog, Run out in the yard for a romp with your * * *.

This is apropos quite, for the almanac says, Tis July 25th. Now begin the * * * * * *

Recess now is over. Come, do as you're bid; Those vowels repeat as beforetime you * * *.

Inverting their order. Please mind what I say. Pronounce them in place of these stars here, -*, *.

I'll tell you the consonants some other day, When vacation has passed with its pleasures so * * *.

But now I will teach you no farther than this. Good-by, my dear children,-Rob, Harry, and

If you go the country, don't fall into hogs : If you stay in the city, beware of * * * * * * *

ENIGMA

ENIGMA. I am composed of 30 latters. My 26, 1, 24, 25, 30 is a cloister. My 6, 4, 12, 2, 10 is sweet to the taste. My 19, 23, 5, 7, 9, 25 is to revolve. My 28, 2, 27, 25, 16, 11, S is a book of the Old Testament. My 8, 17, 29, 18, 3, 28 is a season of the year. My 14, 20, 8, 22, 4, 29, 15 is a record. My 13 and 21 are alike--consonants. My whole is advice found in the Book of Ec, clesiastes. clesiastes.

PHONETIC CHARADE.

My first half is three different parts of speech, If that be true which the grammarians teach. My last half is an ancient city's name, From which, when called, an ancient chieftain came

came. My whole (head-gear) is heard within the line, "To err is human; to forgive, divine."

ANAGRAM.

The left-hand asterisks form the anagram of the right-hand asterisks.

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Left hand : 1, a vowel ; 2, existing ; 3, the cry of an animal ; 4, a burden ; 5, to throw ; 6, a famous Roman tribune ; 7, a trickster ; 8, sorrowful.

Right hand : 1, a consonant ; 2, an exclamation; 3, not good; 4, an animal; 3, a mountain of the Arabian Peninsula; 6, powerful; 7, a famous city of Spain; 8, pertaining to chemistry.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES IN LAST NUMBER. RIDDLE,-Bar, INITIALS.-Cockatoo, Auk, Titmouse, Bul-fuch, Ibis, Redstart, Dragoon bird.-CATBIRD,

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