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branches the club is composed entirely of girls whose chief work has been the Red Cross; in others they have taken up reading courses; in some districts the club is formed of boys and girls. In one club the president, a fine leader, is a young man of 25, while the youngest member is a girl of 14. This club is combining recreation with study; they are going to organize a tennis club and a basketball club for the summer months; and next winter they hope to have hockey. At each meeting a member reads a short paper. They have taken subjects like the Peace Conference, citizenship, the farmers' platform, how to improve rural life, and so on. This club is looking forward keenly to the coming conference of the University, and are making all sorts of plans for the future. They meet in each other's homes and the mothers provide tea and a good time. When there is a piano or a gramophone the meetings always end with music and a sing song.

Can you not see what a club like that means to a rural community? And again, not only to the rural community, but to the whole life of the country. Do you not see how it develops leadership, the group spirit, how it stimulates mentality and an active interest in affairs outside the little rut of home and community life; how it broadens the whole horizon; how it creates an interest in every aspect of life? What better way can you find of developing the rural children than this? Tell me if you know, always remembering, however, that self-help is more valuable training than any government bonus or state aid.

Question Drawer

(1) Q.—Why is yawning infectious?

A.—One human being can affect another by what is known as suggestion. If one girl in a group becomes afraid or hysterical, there is great likelihood that some of the others will follow her example. If everybody around you is laughing, you will likely laugh too—that is, unless they are all laughing at you. Now, yawning, or deep breathing, deals with the most urgent and constant need of life and, therefore, a suggestion is quickly followed.

(2) Q.—How are volcanoes formed?

A.—Inside the earth's crust there is hot molten matter. At some point thinner than the rest, or at some point where radium or some such substance exists freely the heat has burst through. In the course of time there is an elevation — a mountain of molten matter, solidified. Through the centre of this elevation the molten matter continues to pour. This is the ordinary volcano.

(3) Q.—How can we keep fruit fresh?

A.—It is a battle between ourselves and the microbes that attack fruit. In the end the microbes will win, but we can delay the victory. The fruit should be plucked a little on the green side. The bruised fruit should be carefully placed on one side and used first. A dry dark attic with good ventilation is the best store room. The fruit should not be heaped up. If any specimen shows decay it should be removed. Wrapping each apple or pear in paper is good. If a few drops of formalin are poured into the bottom of a jar and a layer of cotton wool then put in and then fruit added, and then more cotton wool and so on, with a few drops of formalin to finish, the fruit will keep for a long time. This does not apply to soft fruit like strawberries. The best way to preserve these is to "preserve" them. Of course the best means of all is cold storage, but this costs money.

(4) Q.—What is the origin of "Annie Laurie?"

A.—Annie Laurie was a real character who lived near Dumfries, Scotland. Her lover, a certain Mr. Douglas, wrote a song in her honor, but like many of the songs of the times, it was not just as happy in its expression as it might have been. About ninety years ago, the song was recast by Lady John Scott, a member of the Buccleugh family. She printed it for a bazaar held on behalf of the widows and orphans of Crimean soldiers. Immediately the song became popular, and it is probably the most loved song in English to-day.

(5) Q.—Can you give the name of the best exposition of the Sermon on the Mount?

A.—Read "The Ethics of Jesus" by Henry Churchill King, D.D., LL.D., published by Macmillan Co. There is a good bibliography here which directs to other books of value.

(6) Q.—Is there anybody in Western Canada who has made a special study of mosses, or is there any book that would help one in the study?

A.—The teachers of botany in the universities could help you. A fine book that can be understood by anybody is "How to Know the Mosses," by Elizabeth Marie Durham, published by Houghton, Mifflin Co.

(7) Q.—Which is better, top-dressing manure or plowing under?

A.—Probably two-thirds of the farm manure in Europe is applied as top-dressing. Most of it has been composted or mixed with soil and nitrogenous organic matter and allowed to ferment. This means work, but it is the best thing for intensive agriculture. Top-dressing is not common in America, yet it has much to commend it. The nitrogen in the manure is easily and quickly changed over into nitrates that are readily washed out in the drainage waters, and deposited on the surface layers of the soil. Where manure is coarse and unrolled, it is desirable to plow it under. This is practically true on heavy soils.

(8) Q.—I am far from a drug store. How can I prepare home-made seidlitz powders?

A.—Buy three parts of Rochelle salts and one part of bi-carbonate of soda, and mix evenly together. In another paper put tartaric acid and sugar—one-half a teaspoon of the acid to a tablespoon of sugar. Now dissolve in separate glasses two teaspoons from the first paper and all that is mentioned from the second paper. Now pour one glass into the other and drink while the mixture is effervescing.

(9) Q.—Name a good rat poison.

A.—Flour 3 pounds; water enough to make a paste. Dissolve 1 ounce of phosphorus in butter 1½ ounces by gently heating. Mix, spread on bread and place where rats can get it. As in case of all poisons, be careful to keep it away from children and from domestic pets.

(10) Q.—Do you think in these hard times the custom of giving presents on birthdays and at Christmas should not be done away with?

A.—No! Eat two meals a day instead of three for a week and spend the rest in something to make your wife or young lady friend happy. Happiness which follows giving and receiving presents is the cheapest and best medicine in the world, and is the heaven of society. The whole essence of true living is thinking of the other fellow. A man who forgets his wife's birthday or the anniversary of his wedding should be ashamed to live in his home. And as for the children—they grow up only once. It is right to make their lives worth living.

(11) Q.—What causes hives? Is there a good remedy?

A.—Often caused by eating indigestible substances. The following are stated as possible causes:—Oysters, fish, pickles, honey, strawberries, toasted cheese; certain medicines also produce the rash. Cause of it is unknown. As a remedy use an emetic, for example a teaspoonful of mustard in a glass of hot water. Use light diet.

(12) Q.—Can you test a steel blade by blowing on it?

A.—No. The evaporation depends upon the temperature of the room and the blade. Brightness of the blade may have something to do with it, as it indicates a perfectly smooth surface, which lends itself to evaporation.

(13) Q.—Has a teacher any right to punish a child for misbehaviour on way to school?

A.—Be mighty thankful if the teacher shows enough interest in your child to consider his conduct at all times. Instead of fighting with a teacher, co-operate with her. If she is no good persuade the trustees to get another, but whatever you do, don't fight with her. And if she insists on being careful of your boy's conduct, make her a present, for she is the best friend your family has.