Conducted by HELENE.

were did we but give ourselves with and lightness, not, indeed, any hea our gifts, for the mere formality of giving is so senseless, and at times there is not even a thought as to and glint it seems more dressy. It suitability, much less sincerity of eling, which should always accompany the humblest token. Then again, let no one be forgotten. From the birds which come to our window to the beggar at our door, all have a claim on us, so let our hearts open to those poor dependents and by so doing make the happy Christmas sea son one truly of peace and good will.

FASHIONS.

For the woman who is stout the full-corded and shirred skirts around the hips and waist-line should be put altogether out of the question, and only the flat, plaited skirts considered. The soft materials this year are often pressed into the plait and stitched only a very short distance below the waist line. This makes a softer falling skirt, yet with all the needed width and fulness in the lower portion. The plaits may stitched the entire length of the skirt if desired—that is, only the edges of the plaits stitched, the plaits themselves falling free from the material of the skirt. Or, again, in the flatly-pressed plaits, which are stitched only a couple of inches from the waistband, they are pressed to the top of the lower trimmings-that is to say, if the lower edge is trimmed with a wide set-on hem the plaits are pressed in only to the top of

One point to remember in the mak ing of a round-length skirt is that there should always be sufficient fulness in the front portion "to walk into." A skirt which is gored and is without any let-in or extra fulness in the front gores is apt to hoop around the feet and to catch in between the feet when walking, which is a very objectionable point in a walking-skirt. The better skirts are made .with a great deal of fulness below the knees, either with the seton circular-plaited flounce; or with inset inverted plaits at the seams This distribution of fulness at the various seams makes a short-length skirt that is constantly worn hang more evenly than one which has all the fulness in the centre of the back.

A suit you can use for the double oose of street and house wear with the simple changes of different be made up of either blouses, can one of the soft satin-finished broadcloths or one of the pretty new velveteens. The latter now come in all the new shades of the season such as plum, hunter's green and mouse-colored brown. These are all colors which combine well with the pale blues, ecrus and mauves for separate blouses, and with an black silk beaver or velvet hat. The skirts, of course, are made in a round length, and the jackets either in the short blouse-bolero style or in one of the very long coats. The coats of these dressy tailor-made suits are made almost to the edge of the skirt but not quite-some three or four inches from the edge. They are fitted in the back, and often in the front if one has a figure that can stand it; if not, they are double-breasted, and the line is straight in front and not curved in. The sleeves are of the dressy, more fancy types. If it is one of the blouse-bolero jackets, it is trimmed with rows of braid and made with loose-fitted fronts and tight-fitted back, and is finished with a snug belt. of the same material, which holds the little jacket in place The loose fronts are either shirred or plaited in at the shoulder-seams and hang quite free over the helt at the

One cannot get anything more serviceable and nicer for an evening dress than one of the fine light weight voiles. The chiffon cloths are all very nice, but such gowns are trifle dressier and you cannot wear them on the street so well as you can a voile gown. The chiffon cloth pretty, fine chiffon laces. These come both plain and spangled, and from them can be made lovely yokes and deep, tight-fitting undersleeves; these be transparent in a gown of this kind, lined only with chiffon. Net other if two laces also come in an immense variety of widths, prices and styles. The satin-striped gauzes have come back as much as possible. again into fashion, and are used for Another important point is, give

The time of remembrance is fast and dressy wear is chiffon velveteen. If the patient lies in a draught, but board, using powdered sugar to du This is of extraordinary supplemental vier than a good quality of silk, but having such a quantity can be had in all the light evening shades as well as the darker

more serviceable street colors. A very dressy model is one having a skirt with a deep Spanish flounce be dispensed with if you choose. Th waist, a full shirred one, has a small pening down the front, and lace with ribbon in a contrasting color and is piped with this ribbon. The yoke is of all-over lace in ecru coffee color. The girdle is of silk to match the ribbon.

+ + + TIMELY HINTS.

A faded cotton dress can be made white by boiling in cream of tartar water.

Clean enamel shoes with sweet milk after all the dust and dirt have been removed, allowing the milk to remain on for a minute, then wiping with a soft, dry cloth.

Medicine can easily be administer ed to a cat by mixing it with lard and rubbing it on the forelegs near the shoulders, where it can be licked

Photographs can be nicely clean with a soft cloth moistened with luke warm water to which a little ammonia has been added. Use lightly, and immediately wipe picture with a soft dry cloth.

The little soft cotton dish mor nake excellent dusters.

The wax from dripping candles can be removed from table linen by generous application of alcohol.

A little soap mixed with stoy blacking will produce better and more lasting luster than without.

Cold rain water and soap will re move machine grease. To remove peach stains soak fabric in spirits of camphor before wetting.

The smart woman saves time and patience by keeping a shoe-horn for children's rubbers to make their dor ning easy.

If stovepipes are well rubbed with lard and tied in several thicknesses of newspapers, they can safely stored without fear of rust.

Alum, the size of a hickory nut dissolved in a pint of starch, brighten the color in the muslins. ginghams, and calicoes after wash-

To remove ink stains from carpe heat some milk very hot, and to save time heat only a very small quantity at first, then while that is being used, more can be heated. Absorb all the ink possible with a blotter; pour the steaming milk liberally on the ink stains, and then wash up the milk with a cloth and warm water. Renew the water as it becomes inky. Apply more milk if needed, A vigorous rubbing of the carpet with the cloth and warm water is neces sary. If the milk is not quickly wiped up it will leave a grease spot, which must be removed with gaso

A clever woman traveller mended rent in her gown by using a hair from her head as thread for needle she always carries in her purse.

line.

taken to clean the stove, the fingertips and nails will be saved contact with the grime.

Pongee silk to be successfully laundered must be hung on the line without wringing the water out and allowed to thoroughly dry. Press with a moderately warm iron without sprinkling.

* * * NURSING AT HOME.

One of the first essentials in caring for the sick, and one that is much neglected, is to enforce absolute quiet. It is very harmful to a sick man, woman or child, even in the gowns should be trimmed with the mildest forms of sickness, to have members of the family running in and out of the room constantly, or to have more than one person in the room at a time. Let one member of the family, or two to relieve each take to care for the sick one and have the others kept out of the room

whole gowns and separate blonses.

The prettiest of all the new winter the patient plenty of fresh air. Keep of granulated sugar, add two eggs, the windows open, put a screen, even and gradually three-quarters of a materials for the blouse for evening an impromptu one, in front of them spound of sour. Roll very thin on a

remember being called up-town night to take care of a little baby six weeks old, with double pneumo-

nía. The family had been trying to nurse it, and five of them were the room when I arrived. Both windows were carefully and tightly shut Three eminent physicians were holdon which flounce there are stitched ing a consultation and decided that all together and add sufficient flour the baby was too far gone to cover and would probably not live until morning. The little thing was stituted for currants. absolutely blue from head to foot for want of oxygen, the life-giving element in the fresh air. Its pulse could not be counted. I asked family if they would not leave baby alone with me for a little while. They gladly complied and I at once open ed the windows and then, of course under the physicians' orders, proceeded to administer to the little on compound oxygen, thus supplying the lack of it in the blood which need not have been so great if baby had been given plenty of fresh air from the first. This I kept up at intervals through the night, supplement ing it with small doses of stimulants and to the amazement of the physi cians and family the baby recovered

> A third very important point cleanliness-absolute-not just a little washing of face and hands night and morning, but a full sponge bed bath every day if possible, every econd day at least. This is very easily given with a little quiet care Very few people, unless they have been through it themselves, know the absolute comfort of a warm bed-bath and the delicious feeling it leaves be-

> sleep. A quiet sponging of the face, chest arms and hands, or even of the fac and hands alone several times through the night will often keep quiet and restful an otherwise

hind, usually, indeed, inducing quie

less patient. In adopting cold cloths on the head for headache or nausea, have the cloths thin and light. Three or four thicknesses of cheesecloth two of light muslin or linen is mucl more effective than a thick wad. which has the effect of a poultice, while your object is to cool head. The thinness of the cloths allows the heat to evaporate more readily. Renew frequently.

Alcohol added to the ice water or poured over a piece of ice and the cloths laid directly on the ice is of ten very efficacious.

For nausea, nothing is better than cold compresses to the throat. Use these also thin and light.

The amateur purse should always carefully write out every order of th doctor, and, of course, be both prompt and careful in carrying them out. This is neglected more often than one would suppose. Those who are not much with the sick find it hard to realize the importance little details.

+ + + TO PARENTS.

Often when I have been asked what are the causes of crime, or what is the peculiar cause that sends most of our men to prison, I have of late years invariably answered, want of family discipline." The indulgence of the father and mother who allow the child to grow up with out any discipline to form character, hand before the cloth or brush is and consequently to prison.—Ex-War den A. A. Brush, of Sing Sing + + +

BE WARM-HEARTED.

If you wish to be loved and to have friends, throw away your serve and your suspicions. in your friends for pure friendship's When you meet one, do not sake. offer him the tips of your fingers, or give your sympathy grudgingly and stingily, as if you were afraid you would commit yourself by being cor-

dial. Grasp your friend's hand warmly. Put your heart into your Do not give him a cold, formal "How do you do ?" but a hear ty, whole-souled salutation. Throw your personality, love and good-will into your "How are you?" be afraid to let yourself out. Do not be on your guard every moment. give yourself up heartily.

RECIPES

Cookies.—After creaming one-half pound of butter with half a pound

the board and rolling pin, instead of no better medicine for anything. I flour, and bake in well-buttered tins watching carefully to prevent burn

> Current Loaf. - Bake two small to cupsful of sponge out of the general in baking and before it is kneaded add one-half a cupful of butter with a half cupful of sugar, one well b egg and one cupful of currants. Stir to knead lightly. When light bak half an hour. Raisins may be sub-

Raisin Rounds-Mix a cupful of eeded raisins with half a cupful o chopped walnuts. Sift together two cupsful of flour, one teaspoonful baking powder, three teaspoonsful of sugar and one-half a teaspoonful salt; rub into this one teaspoonful of butter; when blended stir in one half a cupful of milk. Roll into a thin sheet, longer than wide, sprinkle the raisins and nuts over it and roll up compactly. Cut crosswise into slice about two inches wide and place the cut side up, without crowding, into a baking pan. Put over the top one fourth of a cupful of sugar and tablespoonful of butter, cut into bits, pour one cupful of boiling wate around them and bake in a bris oven for twenty minutes.

Cranberry Sauce.-Wash one quart of cranberries, put them into a gra nite kettle with one pint of water and cook about ten minutes. Strain through a colander, return to the fire, with one pound of granulated sugar added; stir until dissolved and turn out at once

Bourbon Fruit Cake.-The follow ng recipe is from a Kentucky cook Seed and chop fine one pound of layer raisins. Dissolve a quarter of a in two tablespoonsful of warm water then stir it into half a cupful of New Orleans molasses; add to this half a pint of sour thick cream and a cup ful of dark brown sugar. Sift thre upsful and a quarter of pastry flour; add it to the mixture and beat the roughly; then add a tablespoonfu ach of allspice and cinnamon. Flour the raisins and add to mixture. Tur into a round or square pan, an bake in a moderate oven for one hour and a half. This is a deliciou cake, but it must be made mos carefully to obtain the best results It is better for standing, like al fruit cakes.

Oyster Sausages .- In the propor one-half a pound of rump steak, chop

salt, pepper and herbs, and roll into the form of sausages, frying quickly in deep hot fat.

ouff paste or purchase them from a caterer. Scald sufficient oysters in ine. Make a richly seasoned crear essing and while hot stir in the erve hot.

🔯 In St. Patrick's Ward.

place at all (New York I think it But I am goin' out West,' says he, "to a place where I'm told there's fortunes made in no time, so I'll be over wid ye soon," he says, till then. The worst of it is," says, "it's a terrible wild outlandish place, and I can't be promisin' ye nany letters, for God knows if there 'll be a postoffice in it at all." says, "but I'll be thinkin' of ye often an' ye must keep heart." Well, sucking up her breath again, "poor Mrs. Byrne done all she could for me, but of course when it got to be weeks an' months that T was on my back not able to do a hand's turn for myself, an' no money comin' an' no sign o' Barney, what could she do, the crature? One day Dr. Isaacs says to her, 'Mrs. Byrne, says he, 'why don't ye send Mrs. Brady to the infirmary. infirmary, sir ?' says she. 'The Union infirmary,' says he, 't's the on'y place she's fit for except the incurables in Dublin,' says he, 'an' I'm afraid there's no chance for there. 'Oh, docther, don't mention it !' says poor Mrs. Byrne—she was telling m bout it afterwards. 'Is it the book, hence comes well recommended: Union? I wouldn't name it,' says she, 'to a decent respectable woman like Mrs. Brady. She's a cousin by aspoonful of bicarbonate of soda marriage o' me own, she says, 'I wouldn't name it to her. I assure ye.' 'Just as ye please,' says Dr. Isaacs. 'It 'ud be the truest kindne you could do her all the same, for get better care and nourish ment than you could give her.' Well, poor Mrs. Byrne kept turnin' it over but she raly couldn't bring herself to mention it no wouldn't, on'y she was druv to it in last Sacraments. the end, the crature, with me being ill so long, an' the rent comin' heavy on her an' all. So we settled an' she passed me her word to bring Barney's letther-if ever a wan comes -the very minute she gets it, and if he comes himself she says she won't ion of one dozen large oysters to let on where I am all at once, but she'll tell him gradual. Sometimes I

do be very unaisy in me mind, Miss Mahoney, I assure ye, wonderin' what Mehoney, I assure ye, wonderin what he'll say when he hears. I'm afcard he'll be ready to kill me for bringin' such disgrace on him."

"Sure, what could ye do?" said Kate a little tartly, for naturally, enough as "an inmate" of many years' standing, she did not quite fill the heated shells and this point. "Troth, it's aisy talkin" but it's not so aisy to starve. An' afther all, there's many a one that's worse off than us here, I can tell ye, especially since the Sisters come,

God bless them, with their holy ways,

Je like to be beyantwhere the nurses gobbles up all the ourishment that's ordered for the poor unfortunate creatures that's in it, an' leaves thim stretched from ornin' till night without doin' a hand's turn for them. Aye, an' 'ud go near to kill them if they dar'd let on to the Docther. Sure, don't I know how it was before the Sisters were here-we have different times "wid a power o' money an' I'm sure statye o' St. Patrick that ye were now I can tell ye. Why, that very talkin' of a while ago, wasn't them brought it? And there's St. Joseph over in the ward fornenst this, an' St. Elizabeth an' the Holy Mother above. See that now. Isn't it a comfort to be lookin' at them holy things, and to see the blessed Sisters come walkin' in in the mornin' wid a heavenly smile for everyone, an' their holy eyes lookin' into every hole and corner an' spyin' out what's wrong?

"Aye, indeed," assented Mrs Brady a little faintly, though, for however grateful she might be, and comfortable in the main, there was a bitterness in the thought of her "come down" that nothing could alleviate, She and her neighbors were excellent friends all the same, and she soon shared Kitty's enthusiasm for "the Sisthers," finding comfort moreover in the discovery that Sister understood and sympathized with her feelings, and was willing to receive endless confidences on the the "little boy" and to discuss the probability of his speedy advent with almost as much eagerness as self.

But all too soon it became evident that unless Barney made great haste another than he would take Mrs. Brady "out of" the workhouse. Grim death was approaching with rapid strides, and one day the priest found her so weak that he told her he would come on the morrow to hear her confession and to give her the

Not one word did the old woman utter in reply. She lay there with her eyes closed and her poor old face puckered up, unheeding all Kate fahoney's attempts at consolation. though well meant, were slightly inconsistent, as she now assured her friend that it was well for

(Continued on Page 3.)



FOR THE HOLIDAYS, Everyone wishes

to have a Rich Fur, and one which Will Look

It is only reasonable that during these days, the Merriest in the Year, one should dress in a suitable way-rather of rich appearance—there is no wrong pride in it.

IF it is necessary to have a rich, elegant and comfortable FUR ARTICLE at all times, it is more so at Christmas and New Year's time.

OUR HOUSE IS KNOWN BY ALL,

ITS IMPORTANCE IS UNIQUE IN THE FUR TRADE We offer you the Largest and Most Varied Choice of All Sorts of Furs, made up into Ludies' Jackets, Coats, Collarettes, Polerines, Boas, Stoles, Muffs, etc., etc.

SLEIGH ROBES A SPECIALTY.

OUR PRICES ARE ALWAYS MODERATE,

Chas. Desjardins & Cie 1531-1539 Rue Ste Catherine Montreal

Dear Boys and Girls: I fancy you are all ve doing. If you are going surprises for your friends

you are expecting Santa

ing reading for the little

It is with great pleasu

Dear Aunt Becky:

my first letter to you. I great deal about you from the letters in the True Wi enjoy this beautiful Catho very much, and I've been since I was able to read, now fourteen years old. ffteen on Christmas Day. a beautiful birthday to he tend the Collegiate Instit like the studies very much Latin, French, zoology, be many others. I also str and I like all my teachers We have had two or thr storms this year and the very, very cold. Our Pete thedral is a magnificent politecture. The plan is so ly laid out. The women jubilee a week ago, and had theirs last week. I r jubilee and received Comn have four brothers and fo My eldest sister entered th of St. Joseph three years is at present in Lindsay missed her very much at f does still, but she is getti being without her. Moth father are anxious that we be sisters. At times I thin and other times I think I I suppose when 1 get olde feel different. Well, dear hope this is not too lo close, with hopes to see my

Your affectionate nied

Peterboro, Ont.

Dear Aunt Becky: I am glad Christmas is near, for Santa Claus alwa me presents and lots of ca fruit. I wonder if there children that he does not Xmas. My papa started to his wood pile. We raised and forty-five chickens this

My baby brother, who is

old, gathers the eggs most

time. Good-bye,

Dear Aunt Becky: I was reading some very ries in the True Witness 1 on the children's page. I read them. You think the depending on our charity in weather, so do 1. There a of birds stay in the cupola barn, and they come down day into the door yard to crumbs my little brother sc them. It is such fun to se hop about trying to see whi

get the most. He takes g

light in feeding them. Goo

Dear Aunt Becky:

We have been taking the ness for a long time and no boys' and girls' little le St. Patrick's School. I like well, it is a fine school. It best part of the city and we The Christian Brot very nice. I was in the cou summer. I had a fine time, ly on hot days, when we w races, in our bare feet. Or brother, cousin and I went the mountain to pick bern the top of the mountain the hig bush which is about wide and I don't know how ter we had eaten our fill o we thought it was time to but when we looked around not know where we were. ther, who is three years of I, said it would be better

one direction and keep strai so we started, and we walk walked. We were all scrate the bushes. I was afraid t the next morning, but at 1 came to a road and we tho would follow it. After we consume to a road and we inquired the house and we inquired the get home. However, we get and found our neighbors we

ing for us with lanter will have to close now, as I