

Household and Farm.

From the Hearth and Home.

Mrs. Kate Hummel's Diary.

Quite a number of the members of our Household Club were present at this meeting.

A letter was read from Miss Griswold, asking how to paint on porcelain.

Miss Fannie Blake.—Let Miss Griswold use the colors in her oil-stuffs mixed with copal-varnish. She must first sketch the design faintly. The distant mountains must be painted with a pale shade of blue and crimson lake, and afterward touched with yellow lake. Yellow lake and a little blue will give her foliage. Burnt sienna will give autumn tints. Vandyke brown and burnt sienna make stems of trees. Her flesh tints she will make of yellow lake, crimson lake and burnt sienna, very much reduced with varnish. The clouds are pale blue, and if dabbed white with a bit of cotton rolled into a tight ball, they will have a very soft, fleecy look. These brief directions may help her to "make pleasant the days when snow drifts fill the roads, and huge banks are piled up around the doors and windows."

Mrs. Van Ness writes to the Club inquiring why Cheddar and Swiss cheeses form part of the courses at a banquet?

Mrs. Lester.—The butyric, caproic, and other acids which chemists find in this and other old rich cheeses is rich in nutritive power. The Cheddar and Swiss cheeses have a peculiar flavor, which makes them especial favorites with epicures.

Ann Batesy.—That's too high brain for me. I don't know 'nuthin' 'tall 'bout all those big words.

Mrs. Lester.—Maybe not, but there are plenty of our young ladies at Vassar and at various academies and colleges who are studying chemistry, and who should be taught to apply what they learn to daily life. When Ann Batesy was young, chemistry had no place in female schools, but now, in my opinion, a young lady who has graduated in chemistry should be able to tell what food goes to form muscle, brain, skin, bones, cartilage, and hair, and be able intimately acquainted with the chemistry of food as seen at breakfast, dinner, and supper. The professor of this science who cannot teach all that is known on this particular subject is unworthy of his position, and should apply to one of the proper authorities for information. Why should chemistry be generally studied by our girls if they are not assisted by such knowledge to make better bread, to compound more wholesome dishes, and to provide with increased skill and scientific knowledge over the household of which they become mistresses?

Mrs. Lee.—The hour has arrived for taking up the regular topic of discussion, "Winter Clothing."

Mrs. Knapp.—It has come to be well understood by persons informed on matters of hygiene that nothing is gained in bodily hardiness by accumulating one's self to go with insufficient clothing. The heat of the body must be maintained at 98°. If on abundance of clothing is worn, so that as little heat as possible is wasted, less food will be required to keep the temperature of the body up to that point. Where food and clothing are scanty, the vital powers soon become partially or wholly bankrupt, and disease claims the sufferer for its own.

Miss Fannie Blake.—I find that suffering from cold depends quite as much upon the condition of one's skin as upon its being protected with clothing. My friend, Miss Augusta, bathes twice a week in tepid water before a fire—she wears flannel and furs, and in a constant shiver; while Mrs. B., another friend, takes a plunge bath in cold water every morning, and rubs the surface with a rough towel or flesh-brush till she is all in a glow. This may be too severe for many, but few in good health would be injured by a towel-bath in cold water every morning before a fire, and the bath followed by vigorous friction.

Mrs. Lee.—Miss Fannie rather wanders from the subject.

Mrs. Fennie.—The real subject, as I understand it, is protection of the body from the winter's cold, and what I wish to say is that this may be partly secured by keeping the skin in an active and healthy state. I believe also in flannels, and furs, and wrappings, and especially in thick woolen and fur-lined shoes for the street.

Ann Batesy.—I believe in warm shoes. Just look at this. I made them myself five years ago out of some pieces of doubled mill-knives left of Dr. Lester's overcoat. I fitted a piece of paper over my gaiter, and cut a pattern. See how high they come up, and button close round the ankle. I wear them whenever I go in the snow, and they keep my feet warm as toast. This is far better than a pair of old shoes, and the soles of a pair of India-rubber sandals.

Mrs. Knapp.—Arctic overshoes can be bought in the stores.

Ann Batesy.—But these I made myself, and these you can't get money, which every body can't afford.

Mrs. Fennie.—For two or three seasons I have used flannel linings in my boys' jackets and pants, and I like them much better than cotton. My boys are often out in rain and snow, and I have lined their clothes with flannel. I find they suffer far less from colds and coughs than they used to.

Mrs. Lester.—Dr. Lester finds a knit jacket worn over his waist a great protection to his bronchial tubes. They are very good also to wear when skating.

Mrs. Lee.—Our subject for next time is, by request, "The Health of Our Young Ladies." The Club adjourned.

The Musks.

A nobleman gave a grand supper to a few guests. While they sat at table, two handsome personages came into the room. They were not larger than children five or six years of age, and represented a gentleman and lady of high rank. The gentleman wore a scarlet coat with gold buttons, and his curly hair was powdered snow-white, and in an old-fashioned wig. The lady was dressed in yellow silk with silver spangles, and had a neat little hat with plumes on her head, and a fan in her hand. Both danced elegantly, and often made agile springs.

Everybody said: "The skill of these children is wonderful!"

An officer who sat at the table, took an apple and threw it between the gay dancers. Suddenly the little lord and lady rushed for the apple, quarreling as if they were two of their kind, and each, in the end, appeared a pair of fifty years. All at the table laughed loudly, but the old officer said, with much earnestness, "Ages and fools may dress as when they please, it becomes known who they are."

Children's Department.

"DEAR FATHER DON'T DRINK ANY MORE."

BY MRS. M. A. KIDDER.

Dear father, dear father, why are you sad, And why are the tears in your eyes? Are you sorry that poor brother Dennis is dead And gone up to his home in the skies? Let your own little Mary climb up on your knee, As she has many evenings before; And if you would make mother happy again, Dear father, don't drink any more.

Dear father, dear father, oh! sing us the song That used to soothe brother to sleep, And make darling Mother so smiling and glad, She lately does nothing but weep. Let me lean on your breast as you sing "Home, sweet Home,"

As often you've sang it before, And I'm sure it will seem like the old happy time— Dear father, don't drink any more.

Dear father, dear father, don't go out to-night: 'Tis stormy, and rains as you see: The table is spread and the tea is poured out; Sit down between mother and me. Then, father, dear father, though it may rain, We'll close up the windows and doors— How happy we'd be if you'd only stay home; Dear father, don't drink any more.

The Christmas Eve.

FROM THE GERMAN.

One day, just before Christmas, Carrie was talking with Minnie. Carrie's parents were rich. They had a large amount of money, a fine house, carriage and horses. But Minnie's father and mother were poor, and lived in a cottage.

"Minnie," said Carrie, "to-morrow will be Christmas, and then I shall get many things from the Christmas-tree—many very beautiful things, such as articles of dress, and plenty of toys. Do you know what you will have?"

"Oh, dear! I have nothing to expect from the Christmas-tree," Minnie answered sadly. "My father is poor, and has no money; therefore he can afford no presents for me. While you and other children shall be joyful around the Christmas tree on which candles are burning, I must sit at home in the dark room without any gift as mine pleasure."

Minnie took so said that Carrie pitied her, and secretly resolved to provide something to make her glad. For Minnie was always good and kind, and Carrie loved her.

Now, when Christmas eve had come, Carrie's parents gave her a great many pretty things. She shouted and danced around in her joy; but in the midst of all she still thought of Minnie, who she knew was at the same time truly unhappy at her home.

Carrie threw her arms around her mother's neck, and said, "Dearest mother, you have given me so many nice things to-day—more than I deserve. I thank you heartily for them. But now I want you to take a favor of you. Minnie told me yesterday that her father was so poor that he could give her no present; will you allow me to take her some of my many gifts, so that she may have some pleasure, too?"

"Gladly, most heartily, will I permit you to do this," the mother replied, and kissed her good child. "Pick out what you please, and give it to Minnie."

Then Carrie selected a very beautiful dress and elegant locket, and laid them in a basket, which she filled up with nuts, apples and cakes, and then carried it herself to Minnie. Oh, then it would have done you good to see the pleasure that Minnie had! It was too great to be told. When Carrie was returning to her home, she thought she had never been so happy as she was that day.—*Franz Hoffmann.*

Crooked Pears.

BY ANNIE B. C. KEENE.

Once, when I was a little girl, a good old lady lived in a tiny, red house, down under the hill, on the very top of which my father lived. Every year, when the pears were ripe, she used to invite us three children—Johnny, Susie and Anna, to spend the day with her.

After our nice supper was over, while we were putting on our hats to go home, she always picked out some of the largest and fairest pears she could find, and put them into a pretty red and white wicker basket, for us to carry to our mother. Once I said, "how can you choose, grand-mother, when all are so nice?"

"O, child! I pick out these for you, because I know you like pretty things; but when I got out under the trees after dinner, to eat a pear, I always hunt for a crooked, odd-shaped one!"

"What makes you do that, grand-mother?"

"They are always sweetest, dear!"

We thought our grand-mother the oddest woman in the world, and laughed about her crooked pears as we trotted along home; once in a while taking out a big pear, to lay its brown, luscious cheek to our lips. We wanted ever so much, to try our little, sharp teeth on it; but they were all for our dear, sick mamma, so we laid it back all safe. Somehow, I have never forgotten those somewhat of the crooked pears! and today they sounded out as loud as if our grand-mother had just spoken them!

I will tell you two little stories now, if you are not too tired, and we will see if you can guess from them, why I think of the words to day, after all these long years!

When I was giving Baby a ride in his new carriage this morning, a bright voice from a garden close by, said, "O, Mrs. Bird, look at my card!" And there, peeping through the fence, was the owner of the sweet voice; a child fresh as a rose, great dimples in her cheeks and bright curls all over her head. I took the card, on which was written in crimson letters, "Good!"

"Only two besides me got one!" she said smiling all over. Partly to try her, I said, "wouldn't you like to send this to poor Becky?" She has been home for two weeks now, you know, to rock and tend her sick baby brother, so that her mother can earn some money to buy wool and flour for the cold winter that is coming pretty soon!" Mabel reached out her hand for the card; it was the forehead of a naughty scowl on it, but she said nothing. "If you can give it to her, dear, and to do it, because Becky is poor, and you want to make her happy, perhaps Jesus will give you some good things for your good deed!"

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The lady was dressed in yellow silk with silver spangles, and had a neat little hat with plumes on her head, and a fan in her hand. Both danced elegantly, and often made agile springs.

Everybody said: "The skill of these children is wonderful!"

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