

FLOWER LADIES.

A Charming Little Game to be Played by Charming Little Children.

Did any of you little people ever play "Flower Ladies?" This was the way we played. We gathered roses with stems about two inches long and set them down on their petals, and any one can see in a minute that they then became beautiful ladies, with tall, slender figures, lovely pink or crimson, satin or velvet, skirts and little green overskirts.

The men were thorns from the hedge which stood up very nicely when stuck in the ground, or else they were bits of sticks; but they were rather stiff and unbending—were the gentlemen—and really played a very insignificant part in the flower ladies' households.

The houses in which the ladies lived were of the very simplest architecture; just bits of stick or blades of grass laid together in squares to inclose rooms and halls. A green leaf made a pretty bed, and tiny that pebbles furnished excellently for a grand mahogany table, and upon very small mud-pies, frosted with acid, and mud chocolate custards, in saucers, and loaves of mud-bread, the flower ladies lived luxuriously.

Our ladies were divided into two families. My sister's family always bore the surname of Grey, and mine was called Graham. The big Solferatte roses with thick loose petals were the grandmothers, because they had wide laps for the babies to rest upon. The common damask-roses were nice comfortable mothers, who were careful lest the children should get their feet wet, and always had ready lovely mud-pies for the children when they came from school.

The Gloire de France roses were the sweetest young ladies, named Mabel, or Irene, and the moss-roses and old-fashioned thorn-roses were the ugly-tempered aunts, called Jane or Maria.

There was a rose bush that bore very long, slender white buds, and one of these buds, because it couldn't stand up well, was always a girl named Kate, who had hurt her spine. Lying on the orange-leaf sofa, she bore her sufferings with touching fortitude.

Next came the children. The Greys and Grahams had very large families. The peacocks-roses came in here, the fullest-blown kind being the eldest girls of about twelve, and from these they went down through various ages to the tiny, tiny bud that was the new-born baby, rocked to sleep in a velvet rose leaf, and so sensitive that all the little flower children had to tread lightly for fear of waking her.

Such lovely times those Greys and Grahams had! They went sailing on a big magnolia leaf in the garden ditch, or visited each other, driving up in a banana-leaf carriage, or danced at big balls, or gave splendid dinner-parties. Perhaps the best fun of all were the christenings and the burials. When the Grey and Graham babies were old enough every body drove to the grand church built for the occasion, and there they were baptized. The font was a white rose-leaf filled with water, and there was always so much excitement over choosing a name for the new baby and such a supper afterwards, with quantities of christening-cups of acorn-ware coming in every moment, that there wasn't anything but a funeral that was nearly as interesting.

When somebody's stem broke or the leaves dropped off, which happened frequently, the body was carefully wrapped in a banana-leaf and hauled away to the grave in a Japan-plum-leaf hearse. And there were sermons and hymns, and the flower ladies cried dreadfully and didn't give any more parties for a long time.

When we were kept in the house by rain a servant went out with an umbrella and fetched us in lots of roses, and then we played flower ladies in more artificial style.

The furniture was made of paste board, of a kind with which every little girl is familiar. All the family wore dresses cut from tissue paper, just oval pieces, with a little hole in the middle to put the stems through. The children's school dresses were simply pieces of plain paper, but their elders wore elaborate costumes cut in open-work patterns—a sort of lace over-dresses—through which the pink or red satin skirts could be seen.

The great charm of this play was that everything could be swept away in a moment. There was no trouble of putting away playthings; and then everything was fresh and new each day.

We used roses, because we had so many, all the year, but crocuses or daffodils or daisies (and red clovers) make nearly as lovely flower ladies.—Ella Beth Bistand in St. Nicholas.

THE following is a very curious puzzle. Try it all of you. Open a book at random and select a word within the first ten lines, and within the tenth word from the end of the line. Mark the word. Now double the number of the page and multiply the sum by 5.

Then add the number of the line you have selected.

Multiply the sum by 10. Add the number of the word in the line. From this sum subtract 220, and the remainder will indicate in the unit column the number of the word in the ten column number of the line, and the remaining figures the number of the page.

BEEF COLLOPS.—Take a pound and a half of steak from the tender part of the round, and cut it into pieces about three inches square. The meat should be an inch thick. Roll them in flour and fry brown on both sides in hot dripping. Lay in a stewpan, season with salt and pepper, and a chopped onion, and cover with brown gravy. Stew very slowly for two hours. They must never boil or bubble fast, but just simmer. Dish the pieces of meat; cut a tablespoonful of butter in bits, roll them in flour, and pour over the meat. This is a very good way of cooking an inferior piece of meat. The brown gravy must be made beforehand from some bones and trimmings of meat. If you have not these, add a pint of water to the pan in which the meat was fried, let it boil up and add the butter rolled in flour at the start.

FARM NOTES.

CORN may do well on hilly land (though the crop must be uneven), but nearly always the land will lose heavily by the denuding action of rain—often so heavily as to make grass or small grain a more profitable crop. Drilling produces the larger yield and profit, except on very foul ground. If you have purchased such grounds you will be excused from planting in hills until you can cleanse the ground. If the 1888 corn crop were loaded on two-horse wagons, thirty-three bushels to the load, and the wagons were to be placed twenty-six feet apart, or as nearly as possible in a string, the string of wagons would reach twelve times around the globe—300,000 miles! Nothing promises so to revolutionize the present waste of corn fodder in the West as the new but growing practice of cutting the field corn close to the ground as soon as the kernels are well glazed and putting the whole crop directly into the silo, either whole or cut into half-inch lengths, ear and all.

HANDLE COLTS CAREFULLY.—The importance of this cannot be too often or strongly urged upon all who have charge of young colts. One of our best authorities, the Horseman, says that after a colt has been foaled it is like a plant—it needs care and cultivation. Thousands of dollars are lost to horse owners and the country every year by the carelessness with which colts are handled during the first six or nine months of their existence. Like plants, if they are stunted in the start it is very hard to get a rapid, healthy growth out of them afterward, as it will show on them as long as they live. There is no danger of handling and feeding the colt too early. The handling should begin as soon as it is foaled. Especially should it be accustomed to the halter. The interest which is being taken by farmers generally in the matter of breeding horse stock is beginning to tell very materially, and all engaged in the business should study the best method of treating young colts.

A CHEAP CREAMER.—A New England dairyman describes a simple device for cold setting of milk in summer that is well worth the notice of all interested. No patent creamer, no ice, no expensive room is called for. The milk is set in a can 12 inches in diameter and deep enough to hold the milk of six or eight cows. By a simple windlass this is lowered into a well where the temperature is uniform at 48 to 50 degrees, and allowed to set twenty-four hours, when the can is raised and the cream dipped off. No one need have any fears that they would get all the cream under such conditions. The cream will be thin, the same as in deep setting, but the butter will be all in it.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Massachusetts Ploughman says: "I once saw a row of current bushes some ten rods long, where one-half the row was completely bare of leaves, while the other half was in full foliage. Where the leaves were the ground was sowed with coal ashes, and there were no worms on the bushes. Where there was no ashes there were no leaves on the bushes. The use of ashes is a cheap way to secure a crop of currants.

SPEAKING of weeds, a Western journal says: "It is a most costly mistake to let them grow till light cultivation will not destroy them. Among small plants no cultivator is better than a good sharp-toothed rake. Stir the surface every few days with this, and the labor and cost of cultivation will be reduced by half, and the better growth secured will be surprising to one who has never tried the plan of killing the weeds in their early youth.

PROFESSOR SANBORN says in the Manchester (N. H.) Mirror: "In summer experiments with cows for a small dairy, I found it as cheap to go direct to the grain bin or hay mow for extra food to bridge over droughts or to maintain the milk flow in the fall as it was to depend upon the green foods, daily secured at much trouble. In a large dairy this element of inconvenience would disappear largely."

THE horticulturist should always be familiar with the more common insects that attack the particular fruits that he grows. The attack may be upon root, stalk, branch or leaf. In fact the injury is often done by insects that are submerged from view in bark or wood, and the plant or tree sickens and dies before the owner becomes aware of the cause of the mischief.

SPRAYING fruit trees in blossom with arsenical poisons is strongly condemned by Professor A. J. Cook. It poisons bees and the honey they are making, and Professor Cook thinks it may even poison people who eat honey made from the blossoms sprayed. He suggests that legislature should enact laws punishing the spraying of trees in blossom with fine and imprisonment.

In building grain stacks it will be economical to place some rails, old boards, hay or straw on the ground before commencing the stack. In case we have a wet fall or your threshing is delayed there will not be muddy or rotten butts to go through the machine or musty grain to go into the bin.

THE farmer who strays off habitually to town or elsewhere, for pastime loses interest in his work, forgets that it is to be done and goes down to the dogs by sure degrees, leading a pinched and miserable life on land that might have supplied him and his with more than competence.

AFTER the grain is harvested it is a number one plan to clean up the stackyard before beginning stacking, draw out all the manure, and if any old straw is left that can be used for bedding put that in as little space as possible, mend up the fences and have a place ready for stackmaking by the time the grain is dry enough to draw in.

TO HAVE a plentiful supply of early greens next season sow turnips seed now and allow the turnips to grow and remain in the ground during the winter. A slight covering of straw will protect them.

HOUSEHOLD.

SCHOOL LUNCHEONS.—It is always unfortunate when children are obliged by circumstances to take a lunch to school, but when on account of distance, wet weather, or inability to walk it becomes necessary there should be a wise judgment as to the selection of food and the way in which it is prepared. If a child returns home at noon there is no necessity to supply anything to eat at recess, and a warm lunch should be always awaiting the child at home. It may be simply a warm dish of oat meal or soup with bread and butter or crackers; whatever it is it should be ready when the child comes in for an hour is a very little time between schools and some margin should be left for exercise. Hats and cloaks should be removed while they stay and if possible the lunch should be pleasant and not disturbed by fault-finding. If there school grievance let it be talked over quietly and mother's kind sympathy will often remove half the sting from some wound given during the morning. A child often returns to school in the afternoon in far better condition to study than when he left at the close of the morning session.

In case, however, the child must carry a luncheon to be eaten during the noon hour, there are several things which are absolutely necessary: First, the lunch basket should be light and convenient to carry. It should fasten easily and securely. There is a pretty but troublesome fashion just now of adorning the lunch basket with large bows of ribbon, and the young girls in the older classes vie with each other as to the daintiness of arrangement. This is very well in fine weather, but a struggle with an umbrella and a bundle of books and one of these fine affairs on a wet morning often proves fatal to the ribbons.

The basket—it should be a basket, not a box—should always contain a napkin, and if possible a small glass for water, because the habit of drinking from the same glass with fifty others is not desirable, and often the cups provided are not clean.

It is astonishing what people will give their children to eat! Fancy a lunch basket containing a cucumber, a huge piece of cheese and five soda crackers! Or another with a slice of bologna sausage, a piece of mince pie and two packages of a third with coconut layer cake, candy, and some suggestions on this part of the subject: Never supply soda crackers in a child's lunch basket; Graham or oat meal are far more palatable and much healthier, from the fact that children are without exercise for a number of hours each day during the school term and the food should be laxative. Sautéed meats, such as ham and dried beef, should be avoided. In fact, meat is unnecessary for a child's lunch; once a day being sufficient, and that may be either at breakfast or 5 o'clock dinner.

Fruit of some kind should always have a place in the basket. Oranges are the best, but peaches and pears in season with grapes are all good. Apples are good also if they are soft, and do not form the only article of food. Bread and butter is better than bread with jelly or preserves as the latter are sticky and cause thirst when it may not be easy to obtain water.

A little simple cake is not out of place, and it is well sometimes—not every day—to put in something dainty which shall be a surprise to the child when opening the basket—a tiny cup custard, or a croquette of some kind, a very beautiful peach or a red banana. It is dull work to eat a lunch at school, and it should be prepared carefully and made as tempting as possible.

PICKLED BUTTERNUTS OR WALNUTS.—This is an old-fashioned recipe that went the rounds of the newspapers some years ago, but it is good enough to appear again in print. Gather the nuts when soft enough to be pierced by a pin, and lay them in str ng brine for six days, changing the brine twice, then remove them from the brine and wipe them on a cloth. Pierce each by running a large needle through it, then let it lie in cold water for six hours. Drain off the water, and pack the nuts in jars and pour over them scalding hot vinegar spiced as follows: To each gallon of vinegar allow half a pint of sugar, a pound of the rounds of whole cloves and black peppercorns, a teaspoonful of allspice and a dozen blades of mace. Boil all together for five or six minutes, then it is ready to be poured over the nuts. In two days, pour off the vinegar and re-heat it, and after two days more repeat the operation. Then let the pickles stand one week, and once more heat the vinegar, when they will be ready to tie up and set away.

TOMATOES AND POTATOES.—Take small ripe tomatoes, cut off the bottom, scoop out the seeds, and with a small knife pare off the thin skin without breaking the fruit; fill them with cold potatoes cut into tiny squares and mixed in a little mayonnaise sauce, turn them upside down on a bed of chopped lettuce seasoned with oil and vinegar.

TOMATOES WITH MINCED MEAT.—Prepare the tomatoes in the same way as in the preceding recipe; fill them with minced chicken and ham, a few shreds of anchovy and gherkins mixed in a little mayonnaise sauce, which is seasoned with a little chopped tarragon; dish them on a bed of chopped salad, garnish round with chopped aspic jelly, and finish with a few sprigs of tarragon.

To-Night and To-Morrow Night.—And each day and night during the week you can get at all druggists Kemp's Balsam for the Throat and Lungs, acknowledged to be the most successful remedy ever sold for the cure of Coughs, Croup, Bronchitis, Whooping Cough, Asthma, and Consumption. Get a bottle to-day and keep it always in the house, so you can check your cold at once. Price 50c and \$1. Sample bottles free.

TOMATOES WITH EGGS.—Skin and scoop out a sufficient number of small tomatoes, fill them with hard boiled eggs and anchovies cut in very small dice, mixed with a tablespoonful of chopped tarragon and chervil, with a very small quantity of chives, pepper, salt, salad oil, and vinegar, in the proportion of three tablespoonfuls of oil to one of vinegar; turn each on to a slice of hard boiled egg; dish in a circle, with pickled watercress in the centre.

IT WOULD LOOK LIKE HOME.—Invalid (from Philadelphia)—Yes, my health is improving, but I think I grow more homesick every day! Neighbor—And is there nothing we can do? Well—it's only my fancy, I know—but if you and the others on the street would only send the girls out every morning to scrub the doorsteps!

HE was the dunce of his class; that was what they said of him. But one day the teacher put this question to him: "How do you pronounce s-t-l-u-g-y?" "It depends a good deal on whether the word refers to a person or a bee, was the reply.

REPEATED THE LAW.—Tramp No. 1 Wat's de matter, nitsey? Tramp No. 2.—Just got out of Westchester county. Why, culley, dat's one of our best destricts in de summer. Used to be; but they've repealed the law what made 'em muzzle their dogs.

AT THE OBELISK.—Brown—These hieroglyphics remind me of New York aldermen. Robinson—In what way? They are doubtful characters, brought here from abroad. That's so.

"JOHN," said Mrs. Bumbleton to her son, "your grammar is very bad." "In what respect?" "You said 'copyrighted' just now, in talking about an article you saw in the paper." "So I did." "I should think any one with as much schooling as you've had would know that you ought to say 'copywritten.'"

A NEW-FANGLED NAME.—Ambitious Daughter—I do wish I could find something more about this new science of hypnotism. Matter-of-fact Mother—Well, now, 'Lizbeth, do tend to that churrin', an not be botherin' about hypnotiz. It's just a new-fangled name they've for rheumatiz, the kind that turned your Uncle Jake's hip out o' joint.

MRS. ALEET—If you should make a thousand dollars unexpectedly, Tom, would you give me that diamond pendant I've been looking at so long? Mr. Aleet—Why, yes, dear; I'll order it to-morrow. I stopped wanting that ivory-finished piano to-day, and a thousand was just the price of it.

A GENTLE HINT.—Wife—are you going out gunning, John? Husband—Yes, dear. W.—What do you expect to shoot? H.—Partridges. W.—If I could handle a gun I know what I would shoot. H.—What? W.—I'd shoot this summer hat of mine and get a new one for this fall.

THE MOST EDUCATED ANIMALS.—He—I wonder what animals are the most intelligent? She—Monkey, of course. He—Why "of course?" She—Because they are educated in the higher branches from infancy.

HER FACE WAS HER FORTUNE.—She was as pretty as a picture and so animated and lively that it did one good to look at her. She was all this but she is not now. Poor soul, the roses linger no more in her cheeks, and the luster and sparkle of her eyes is gone. She is a woe-begone looking piece of humanity now. She has one of those troubles so common to women, and needs Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It recuperates the wasted strength, puts the whole system right, restores the roses and the luster and makes the woman what she once was, bright, well and happy. "Favorite Prescription" is the only medicine for women, sold by druggists, under a positive guarantee, from the manufacturers, that it will give satisfaction in every case, or money will be refunded. This guarantee has been printed on the bottle-wrapper, and faithfully carried out for many years.

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A good pig should average about eight or ten pounds gain daily from birth to slaughter until 12 months old.

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If liquid manure is used upon the strawberries, weak and often is better than heavy doses of very strong.

Any article that has outlived 24 years of competition and imitation, and sells more and more each year, must have merit. Bobbins' Electric Soap first made in 1865 is just that article. Ask your grocer for it. He has it, or will get it.

HIS PRAYER.—A small boy began his regular prayer in his regular way: "Now—I lay—me"—and then he stuck fast. "Down," said his mother, prompting. Whereupon Johnny started again "with great alacrity and fluency: "Down came a blackbird and nipped off her nose."

A DISTINCTION.—Gus writes a good deal of poetry, does he not? "Oh, no." "Why! I thought he did. He told me so himself." "He doesn't just the same; but he writes any quantity of verses that rhyme."

It has always been observed in public bodies that married men are invariably the best debaters. They may not have a chance to talk, much at home, but they have unexampled opportunities to observe and learn.

AN EXPLANATION.—C.—Wanamaker says that the New York post-office is unhealthy, that foul odors exude from the basement. D.—May be they keep the dead letters down in the cellar.

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