ONE SOLUTION TO THE VEXING SER-VANT CIRL QUESTION.

Meals Ten Cents and No Care - A Michi-Village Teaches a Lesson to the Cities - Problem of Renomical ing and Still Having the Sest.

Decatur, a prosperous little village twenty-five miles west of Kalamazoo, Mich., is the scene of an interesting experiment with a plan to solve the problem of economical living and to do away with the servant question.

Briefly stated, the idea is the maintenance of a common table by some twenty-five of the leading families of the town, about one hundred persons being served in this way. A place for the experiment was found in a vacant shop building, which had been fitted up for the purpose.

The first week the cost averaged 12 1-2 cents a meal for each person. The second week the cost was 10

L. G. Stewart, a merchant, first thought of the plan. Mr. Stewart was asked to tell about the undertaking.

"There were two chief considera-tions," he said. "First, I thought it would be a great convenience for the business men of the village, who are often hurried at lunch time, and do not like to leave their stores.

Then, even in this little village, the servant question cuts considerable of a figure. The girls prefer to work in the shops or in the fruit fields and it is difficult to get competent help. I had experienced some difficulty in these respects and so I began to fig-

"The result was the organization of this co-operative scheme. We do not bave a formal organization, nor keep claborate books. The best people in the village are interested."

Mr. Stewart proceeded to explain the practical working of the plan. Two competent cooks were engaged and a sufficient number of waiters to serve the different families promptly. Each family has its table, except that several families, consisting of only two persons, may be seated at one

A strict account of everything is kept and at the end of each week all bills are audited and the expense divided pro rata. In this settling of accounts everything is included, such as rent, fuel and lights. When the bills for the week are settled the organization owes nothing, and has as assets whatever may be left over in the commissary department.

"We get the best of everything," said Mr. Stewart, "the best groceries and the best meats. Our butter is creamery butter and all the rest of the materials are equally good.

The management is in the hands of an executive comittee of five elected for thirty days and the menu for each week is prepared by another committee of five.

"I believe that the same plan could be worked to advantage in the large cities, and it would go far to solve the vexatious servant question. It seems to me that it would be feasible to se cure some dwelling, for instance, and fit it up for the purpose. It would then be possible to have private dining rooms only the cuisine being com-

Mrs. H. C. Lamond who is a member of the executive committee was asked for a sample menu. She furnished

Breakfast. Breakfast Food. Fried Potatoes. Eggs. Chocolate.

Roast Beef. Gravy Dressing. Green Corn. Boiled Potatoes Tea, hot or cold.

Taploca Pudding. Apple Pie White Bread. Supper. Cream Potatoes.

Cold Meats. Cake. Plum Sauc Warm Bread. Tea, hot or cold.

She was asked if the plan worked res and if it was economical. "It has its advantages and some dis

advantages," she replied. "Whether it is econmical or not depends somewhat on the style in which a person is accustomed to live; whether one keeps servants or not, for instance But, considering merely what is fur nished it certainly is economical.

"We are able to get better dishes at lower cost than if we set a separate The plan enables us to buy at wholesale and we reap the advan

Take the matter of roasts, as int of illustration. A good roast of eat is not an economical thing for a small family to buy. You cannot get a good roast unless it weighs several pounds, and the small family on its hands a large remnant. not all of which can be well utilized matter how clever the housewife

this method we get twenty roasts and of course we get the Then our bread is baked fresh day in our own ovens and that

have our individual tables. le there are three familles, each sting of husband and wife

each furnish our own silver have a vase in the centre of le which we keep filled with We take turns in furnishing linen. Our silver is taken

we occupy respectively.
see, we save a good de

takes considerable responsibility off my shoulders. If the scheme were carried out in a little different way we could go still further and have a laundress come in and do the table linen, which would take some more

care off our shoulders." Mrs. Lamond explained that the waiters had been neatly attired in white aprops and caps and said that altogether quite a homelike effect had been acomplished. Some difficulty had been found in buying from one of the butchers. One was willing to sell his meats at wholesale, but the other refused to do so, arguing that the people who had gone into the project would have been good customers at retail prices if they had not con-ceived this notion, and that they must continue to pay accordingly.

Those who are managing the enterprise expect to have no difficulty in improving the service and making it a success.-New York Sun.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS

Visitors to Stratford-on-Avon com plain that small boys run after them, calling "All about Shakespeare for a

The wife of a potter named Braemer in Velten, has died through kissing her dead child. She contracted blood poisoning, which proved fatal.

The hominy-pounder was the first attempt at a corn-mill in the United States; but the first water-mill was made in Virginia in 1621 by George Sanlys, an English poet.

The first turkies-which are natives of America-were seen in South Am crica in 1523, by a Spanish explorer In 1608 the settlers in Virginia sent 20 to England-the first sent from the country included in the United States.

.The largest tree in the world is said to have recently been discovered in Africa in the region of the Upper Nyanza. Its height is said to be half again that of the tallest trees in California, and its thickness double that of the largest giant redwoods. The particulars are, however, suspiciously

Dogs have a great history. They did not spring from the wolf as popularly believed, but from species of wild dogs, which still exist in some countries. They have been wor shipped by the ancient Egyptians: Queen Elizabeth had 800 trained blood-hounds to fight the Scotch Alexander built a city in honor of a favorite dog; and in England dogs used to be fattened and driven to market for table use like our hogs.

An extraordinary scene was witness ed at the corner of the Rue des Mathurins in Paris recently. A man in his thirt sleeves was seen holding a string, the end of which was down a sewer grating. A hook was attached baited with meat. An enormous crowd gathered, and the man caught 14 rats in 25 minutes. He was liter ally fishing for them. The police in terfered and the man with two bas ketfuls of rats, was taken to the po lice station. He explained that he was catching the rats for a rat-killing contest for dogs, and was released.

Man has not a monopoly of cough ing. Before there was a vertebrate on the earth, while man was in pro cess of evolution through the vegeta ble world, Etada Tussien-that is what the botanists call him, while we know him as "the coughing bean"coughed, and blew dust out of his ungs. Recently botanists have bee giving special attention to this bean and tell interesting things about it It is a native of warm and moist trop ical countries, and objects most em phatically to dust. When dust settles on the breathing pores in the leaves of the plant and chokes them a gas accumulates inside, and when it gains sufficient pressure there comes an explosion with a sound exactly like coughing, and the dust is blown from its lodgment. And, more strange still, the plant gets red in the face through the effort.

Schools for Railroading.

One of the great western railroads has in force a system of education for the trainmen which rests upon a more scientific basis than has, until

recently, been recognized as needful. The fundamental principle lies in what the mental scientists term reflex action, or subconscious control. The brain may be taught to act according to the signals of the various sense without conscious thought. The first step is the complete training of the trainmen to their duties, so they respond on the instant, almost involuntarily, to any emergency.

In the life of the railroader there is no time for thought or reasoning. He must act instantly. If the engin driver is called upon to save a train from wreck he will be the more like ly to succeed if his brain has been so trained to act, not in response to his will, but to habit. Certain circum stances will call forth certain actions regardless of his own volition, so the man is put through a regular course of practical railroading before he is

The applicant for a position must not only be able to answer the ques-tions at an examination—he must give his replies without hesitation or he is eted. The habit of quick action

must be strong upon him. Long experience and close observa ion have demonstrated that most mer fter the age of 30 or 35 are not capa ble of acquiring this habit. The ture trainman must begin young."

CHILDREN'S COLUMN 0000000

A Sejourn in the South. One pleasant autumn morning
Mr. Swallow said: "My dear,
The nights are growing chilly;
We will soon have frost, I lear.
Don't you think the southern sunsh
And the breath of orange flowers
Would be most beneficial. fould be most beneficial For the children's health and ours?"

Then little Mrs. Swallow
Wisely nodded her wee head.
"My husband dear is always right;
We'll go," she promptly said.
"Just help me get the breakfast,
A worm for each small mouth,
And we'll start before it's sundown
For a sojourn in the south." -San Francisco Chroniele.

"Come, Tabby," called Roy, "here pussy, pussy, puss!" And Tabby trotted out of the closet; she thought that

meant dinner. "Bring out your new kitty to show Jamie," said the little boy, stroking her soft coat. 'Tabby purred and rubbed against Roy's knee. Then she trotted into the closet again and carried out a little bundle of fur and laid 't at Roy's feet.

Jamie smiled and stretched out his hands for it. "Isn't it pitty?" he said. 'Ittle malty kitty wiv a white neck-

Roy carefully placed the kitten in Jamie's arms. "You bet it's a beauty. Ain't got its eyes open yet. You see," he added, wisely, "it only came yesterday, that's why it's so little."

Tabby was sitting on a chair watch ing the proceedings anxiously. Now she laid one paw on Jamie's arm, but the little fellow didn't seem to notice it. He lifted the kitten and pressed it against his cheek. How soft and warm it was!

"There was three kittens," Roy went on, "only Bridget drowned the other two, 'cause she don't like cats. I just saved this one, and I think it's the prettiest of all. Tabby's awfully jealous of everybody that touches it, ain't you, pussy?"

Tabby answered with a loud "miaow!" She humped up her back and waved her tail angrily and stuck out her claws and said as plainly as she could, "Give me my baby or I'll scratch

"Better put it down," said Roy, so Jamie placed the kittle carefully on the floor with one last loving pat. Tabby jumped down and almost pouncing on her baby, trotted off with it to the closet.

"Wish vat kittle was mine," sighed

Jamie. He did so love pussie "Well, I tell you, we'll go halves on it," said Roy, "And when it gets really big and Tabby can spare it, maybe I'll give you my part, 'cause two cats is an awful lot, 'specially when Bridget don't like 'em 'round." And Jamie was happy.-Brooklyn Eagle,

The Muskrat Talks. A boy who often used a path along the banks of a river caught sight one afternoon of a muskrat on the bank of the stream. He was looking around for a club or a stone to throw at the

animal, when the muskrat said: "It would be no use for you throw at me, as I would be under water as soon as you raised your arm. You would better come here and have a talk. A boy of your age should know all about the animals to be found around his home. I suppose you have een a muskrat tefore?

"Lots of times,." replied the boy. "And why do they call us muskrats?"

I don't know "Your teacher in school probably could have told you. It is because we carry a little bag of musk with us. Whenever you smell the perfume you may remember that it comes from us. One drop of musk will scent your clothes for a year. It is not much used in America, but in Europe, especially in the olden times, it was a favorite perfume. Kings used to use so much away, and very often it was sprinkled of it, that you could smell them rods over the motar and plastered upon the walls of churches. Did you ever ask anybody how I lived?"

"You must live like the woodchuck,"

replied the boy. "Not at all, young man. The woodchuck has a burrow in a bank, and always seeks dry ground, while I have a house in a swamp or march, and spend much of my time in the water. When I do not build a house I make my home in a hole in the bank. Let me tell you that I can swim almost as fast as a fish, though I can't stay under water more than eight or ten minutes at a time. Had I been afraid of you I should have made a dive and swam clear across the river before coming up to breathe."

"I should think you would get water

"Do you know why I don't" It is because nature has provided me with little valves in my ears to shut the water out. If you dive you get water in your ears, and there is a roaring in your head, but nothing of that sort happens to me. I can hear under water almost as well as when I am on the land. If you open your eyes under water they ache, but mine do not; no reatter how muddy the stream is, my eyes never get sore. I am like a fish about that."

"What do you cat?" asked the boy. "Grasses, roots and barks mostly. but sometimes I nibble at apples and vegetables. I can always find plenty to eat, winter or summer, and I never have to go far from the water. I see you are looking for a hole in the bank but you won't find one. I dig into the bank below the surface of the river so that no one may know where I live. I can dig like a woodchuck and my

chamber at the and of it is above water so that I have a dry bed when I want to sleep. Sometimes the river rises and drives me out; but in such cases I make my bed in the ccarse grasses along the edges. Didn't you ever see a nuskrat's hous, in a swamp?"

"No, I never did." "Well, we build a house almost like the beaver, except that we use grasses instead of sticks and limbs. We plaster the roof with mud, and we have two and three rooms inside, and we always enter and leave them from below. have been in a house when the hunters came out on the ice and broke their way through the top and I was swimming away at the first alarm. The only way to catch us is to set steel traps for us at the mouth of our bur rows. We are not as cute as the mink or beaver, though some of us die of old age and never get a foot into a trap." "I have seen caps and capes and

muffs and gloves made of muskrat fur." said the boy. "Of course you have," said the muskrat, "and let me tell you that the furriers dye our skins and sell them for what they are not. Some of the capes called American seal are nothing but American muskrat. However, there is a big demand for our fur for what it is, and men hunt us so closely that in a few years more there will be none

"When a muskrat is gaught in a trap what does he do?"

"He makes a great struggle, ourse, and does his best to pull his oot out. Sometimes he gnaws his leg off, the same as a beaver, but if the trap is under water he generally drowns before anything can be done. I once caught the end of my tail in a trap and lost tw inches of it in gettray and lost two luches of it in getting away, but it grew out again after a while. Had my leg been caught I should not have had the pleasure of this talk with you. I'm going now, and you can remember what I've told you and relate it to the other pupils in your school "-- San Francisco Chron-

A "Might-Have-Been" Quarrel.

Jennie Andrews and Alice Smithers have lived next door to each other ever since they can remember, and both of them are "naif-past eleven," as they say. And never yet have they had a real quarrel, although last week-but just listen carefully. And never, never

e so careless or so positive yourselves. Jennie is learning to embroider, and Alice does basket-work with raffia and canes and such things. One day last week they sat out on the shady place between the two houses together, and they had a lovely time making presents for the schoolwate who is to have a birthday party very soon. Then this very little girl came over to seen them, and the girls, seeing her coming, tucked their work away under the edges of the two porches. They were hunting four leaved clovers, as innocent and unconscious looking as you please, when she sat down on the grass very

Then they had another lovely time and neither thought of the work again until late the next evening. Jennie, when she remembered, ran over to see Alice about it, and met Alice coming over to talk to her. Each had looked in every place the could think of, but lectors, neither could find what she sought.

"You must have taken my work in with yours," they said, simultaneously,

stopping half way. "I just know I haven't seen yours; so you must have had mine!" was the next simultaneous statement. "I think you're just too mean for

enything. There, now!" This was what the respective mothers heard after a few moments. Then the two women advanced from the opposite front porches, and stood looking down at the two girls. And each

held in her hand a little package of work. "I found this under the edge of the porch last evening, and laid it up here on the porch table. Is it yours, Jen-

This from Mrs. Andrews.

"I fancy this belongs to you, Alice," came the gentle voice of Mrs. Smithers. "Fido (the pet dog owned in common by the two girls) brought it over to me this morning when I was looking after the flowers. I don't know where the raffia is. This was all he

brought to me." Down to the edge of the north stoor ed Alice, very red of cheek and down cast of eye, and drew out the forgot-

ten bunch of material. Down to the edge of the other porch stooped Jennie, also very red shamefaced, and drew out the little case of embroidery, silks she, too, had

Then, very quietly, the two girls looked at each other, smiled apologetically, and slipped away from the smiling gaze of their mothers. And the "might-have-been" quarrel didn't come to pass, fortunately, after all.-Chicago Record-merald.

King Dagobert's Throne. Much has been written about the an tiquit of the throne on which King Edward of England was crowned, but, as French journalists are now taking pains to point out, it is not nearly as old as the throne of King Dagobert which is still religiously preserved at the National Library in Paris. According to the best authorities, this throne dates back to the seventh century, and consequently it is many year older than the throne of Edward the Confessor. Moreover, there is a popular tradition that it was fashion a saint who possessed much skill is carving and engraving. However this may be, the French are very proud of



Wallhanging for Nursery.

A paster frieze is a quaint new wallhanging for a nursery. It tells the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin town, with the rats and the mice, the boys and the girls, following the piper, It is printed on veloutines and grasscloths, and will be brought out on

How She Removed Ink Stains.

A woman who had the misfortune to disfigure the front of a handsome walking skirt with ink succeeded in removing the discoloration entirely. She sponged the blemishes without delay in cold water. Then, changing the liquid and cloth as often as they became discolored, she patiently sponged the spots until no color came off on the cloth. As soon as the skirt was dry she continued the treatment with a soft cloth and gasoline until the ink and milk were both gone.

A specialist says that hairbrushes should be washed once a week, and if used on hair in which there is much dandruff twice a week is not too often. The brushes should be washed in cold not hot water to which cloudy ammonia has been added in the proportion of a scant tablespoonful to a quart of water. Care should be taken not to wet the backs of the brushes, and when washed and rinsed-a good way to rinse them properly is to use a shower spray on them-they should be put on edge in the air to dry. Dressing combs, too, should be frequently cleaned, a comb cleaner being used for the purpose.

Old Candlesticks High.

With the increasing demand for antiques the supply of mementos and relics of past generations is becoming exhausted, and the prices of genuine pieces are waxing higher and higher. Old candlesticks, for example, have had such continuous popularity are scarce, and good specimens sell for almost any price that the dealer feels disposed to charge.

To tell old brass, copper or pewter from the modern imitation requires long experience and a trained eye. Brass varies much in color, its shade depending upon the proportion of copper and zinc used in its composition and also on the hue of the copper employed. Copper itself assumes a variety of complexions. The old Spanish and Russian copper and brass are both peculiarly rich in color and retain their polish longer than others In the old pieces there is a silkiness of texture not found in the sorts made now. This is partly due, it is said to the natural wear of the utensils. In some cases, such as pots, kettles and fireboxes, the action of heat may be responsible, in part at least, for this quality. Colonial furnishings are the kinds most eagerly sought by col-



English Bread Pudding-Crumb enough stale bread to make one pint fill two-thirds with the crumbs; sprinkle over a little chopped candled fruit; beat two eggs; add two tablespoon fuls of sugar and one and a half cup fuls of milk; mix thoroughly, and pour over the crumbs; stand the cups in a pan of boiling water and bake in a moderately quick oven fifteen minutes.

Macedoine Saled-Any mixture of regetables may be used for this salad peas, string beans, cauliflower, beets, white turnips and carrots give a pleasing variety; the vegetables should be cooked separately in boiling, salted water and when cooked turned into cold water; doing this keeps them a better color; mix equal quantities of each vegetable; mix them well together, and mix them with a French dressing: arrange them in a border of lettuce leaves or watercress.

Checse Souffle-Melt two tablespoonfuls of butter, then add onefourth cup of flour, one-fourth tea spoonful each of salt, soda and paprika, one-half cup of milk and onefourth pound of cheese, grated; or one cupful; when the cheese is melted; add the yolks of three eggs beater light: when cool add the whites of the egg beaten stiff; bake in individual china dishes, buttered; place in the oven until puffed and delicately colored; serve as soon as removed.

Raisin Puffs-Cream half a cupful of butter and two tablespoonfuls o sugar together; then add two cupfuls of flour, two well beaten eggs; one cupful of seeded raisins and two level teaspoonfuls of baking powder; steam in buttered earthen cup half an hour Serve with a sauce made as follows -Cream one-fourth of a cup of butter; add one cupful of sugar, yolk of one egg, beaten, one tablespoonful of flour and a little nutmeg; add one cupful of boiling water and cook in the double boiler until it creams.

"I really believe he married he only because he wanted a good house



Etons are receiving a large amount of attention at present for tailor made

suits as well as separate garments. A

BLOUSE ETON WITH SLOT SEAMS.

new and very stylish blouse is shown here, developed in dark blue Venetian with black moire and bands of white taffeta for trimming.

The back is fitted with seams that extend from shoulder to belt, tapering toward the waist line. A half-inch tuck at each side of these seams is fiatly stitched to produce the fashion able slot seam. A smooth adjustment is maintained under the arms.

In front, seams reach from the shoulder to correspond with those in the back, and the garment blouses over the trimmed with ribbon.

New York City.-Short jackets and black chenille, which gives an odd finish.

Coats in this style are made of biscutt and ash colored cloth, severely plain with machine stitching or bands of cloth for trimming, and make splendid garments for automobile and carriage

To make the coat in the medium size will require three and one-half yards of forty-four-inch material with one yard of silk for trimming.

An All-White Hat. In an all-white bat, a big flat one has the white ribbon trimming put on the top to give the effect of two big rosettes, the only trimming, with the exception of a line of single white dahllas set on under the rim on the left side and carried well to the back.

Girl's Dress.

Green in all shades is very fashionable this season and will be used for children's dresses as well as ladies' costumes. It is shown here in a light hade, trimmed with white liberty satin and darker green velvet.

The foundation is a fitted body lining, adjusted with shoulder and underarm seams. It is faced with velvet to a pointed yoke depth back and front, and completed with a shallow

collar. The backs are arranged to outline the yoke, plain across the shoulders, and blousing stylishly at the belt. fronts are crossed just below the yoke

in double-breasted style A fancy sailor collar outlines the yoke and extends down the front edges, the right side fastening on the left with a small rosette of velvet ribbon. The collar is made of white satin



LATEST MONTE CARLO COAT.

velvet belt. This is narrow at the back and extends to a point in front Shaped tabs of velvet are applied.

The fronts are deeply underfaced with moire and rolled back to form revers. The neck is completed with deep rolling collar of moire. They are finished with bands of white taffeta, machine stitched. The garment may be made without the collar and finished plain at the neck, giving a collarles

Eton with long revers and slot seams. The bishop sleeves are shaped with inside seams and fit the upper arm closely. Two tucks on top of the sleeve are inverted to form a slot and stitched down almost to the wrist. The fulness provided by the tucks makes a puff that is gathered and ar ranged on narrow wristbands.

Any light weight cloth is appropriate for this mode, with silk or velvet trimmings. Some severely plain tailored effects have the collar and revers of the material heavily machine stitched.

To make the coat in the medium size will require one and three-quarter yards of material forty-four inches wide, with one and one-quarter yards of silk for trimming.

Monte Carlo Coat.
The latest thing in outside garments is the Monte Carlo coat, which is in re ality a very loose three-quarter box garment. Some beautiful fabrics are employed for their development-heavy silks, rich velvets and brocades with exquisite laces and applique for trim-

The large illustration shows a coat made of black velvet trimmed with ivory satin. The adjustment is made shoulder and under-arm seam The garment fits well on the only. shoulders, but flares widely at the low er edge. It closes in double-breasted effect with large pearl buttons. The fronts are deeply under-faced with be made of silk, muslin, foulard, liber-white, and rolled back to form broad ty satin crepe de chine, Lansdowne or revers, that meet the wide cape collar

The sleeves are made in one piece, fit fect at the wrist. They are completed with deep cuffs of white. Bands of wide, with three-quarter yards of ecru lace that trim the edges of collar, trasting material and one-half yar cuffs and revers are run through with

The full puff sleeves are gathered at upper edge, and attached to short fitted caps, the joining being concealed by ribbon that ties in a bow at the back. The sleeves are finished with narrow

velvet cuffs. The skirt is made in one piece, full at the waist and the body portion closing in the back. A ruffle of the material, headed by ribbon, provides an attractive finish, and gives an extra

weep to the back of the skirt. Very stylish frocks in this mode may



poplin, with contrasting material for trimming.

To make the dress for a girl of eight the upper arm well and flare in bell ef- years will require two and three-quar-