

## Country Home Department.

Conducted by Mrs. E. D. Nall, Sanford, N. C., to Whom all Matter for this Department Should be Sent.

### THE UNFAILING CRUSE.

Is thy cruse of comfort wasting? Raise and share it with another  
And through all the years of famine it shall serve thee and thy brother.  
Love divine will fill thy storehouse, or thy handful still renew;  
Scanty fare for one will often make a royal feast for two.

For the heart grows rich in giving; all its wealth is living grain;  
Seeds which mildew in the garner, scattered, fill with gold the plain,  
Is thy burden hard and heavy? Do thy steps drag wearily?  
Help to bear thy brother's burden; God will bear both it and thee.

Numb and weary on the mountains, wouldst thou sleep amidst the snow?  
Chafe that frozen form beside thee, and together both shall glow.  
Art thou stricken in life's battle? Many wounded round thee moan;  
Lavish on their wounds thy balsams, and that balm shall heal thine own.

Is thy heart a well left empty? None but God its void can fill;  
Nothing but a ceaseless fountain can its ceaseless longings still.  
Is the heart a living power? Self-entwined its strength sinks low;  
It can only live in loving, and by serving, love will grow.

—Mrs. Charles.

### SOCIAL CUSTOMS FOR ST. VALENTINE.

This is an ideal time to announce an engagement. Cut from white or red cards two hearts of the same size, decorate them in any appropriate way or simply print on them the names of the bride and groom to be. This may be done in red ink if the cards are white, or in gold. Tie the two cards together with red ribbons or gold cord. Put in a suitable envelope and mail to friends.

A charming invitation may be made by a girl clever with her brush and pencil.

Cut from color paper a desirable shape and size, decorate with a cupid or padlock and key. Nicely lettered in gold or colors to match the decorations is the invitation: "Meet the Mystic Circle at 39 Flower Street, at 8 o'clock on February 14th, to unlock the secret of love."

More formal affairs require a more dignified invitation.

For dinner parties, invitations should be in the name of both husband and wife.

The invitation may be either written, printed or engraved. If it is written, the names and dates must be written distinctly, and in all other respects care must be taken.

A formal invitation is written in the third person.

The name of the hostess only is used for all occasions except weddings and dinners.

The invitation should be sent long enough beforehand to insure the timely receipt of it. A formal affair requires two weeks, one week for less formal.

### THE YOUNG HOUSEKEEPER'S GUIDE.

Boiled potatoes, 30 minutes; baked potatoes, 45 minutes; sweet potatoes boiled, 45 minutes; sweet potatoes, baked, 1 hour; squash, boiled, 25 minutes; squash, baked, 1 hour; green peas, boiled, 30 minutes or less; shelled beans, boiled, 45 minutes; shelled beans, baked, 5 hours; string beans, boiled, 30 minutes; green corn, 25 minutes; asparagus, 20 minutes; spinach, 1 hour; tomatoes, fresh, 1 hour; tomatoes, canned, 30 minutes; cabbage, 1 hour; cauliflower, 1 hour; onions, 1 hour; beets, 1 hour; turnips, 1 hour; parsnips, 45 minutes; carrots, 1 hour; rice, boiled, 30 minutes; rice, steamed, 1½ hours; bread, 1 hour; cake, fruit, 4 hours; cake, layer, 15 minutes; muffins, 20 minutes; pies, 30 minutes; puddings, 20 minutes to 1 hour; beef, 15 minutes for each pound; mutton, 15 minutes for each pound; lamb, 15 minutes for each pound; veal, 20 minutes for each pound; pork, 30 minutes for each

pound; chicken, 30 minutes for each pound; turkey, 20 minutes for each pound; goose, 20 minutes for each pound; duck, 1 hour; small birds, 30 minutes; fish, small, 30 minutes; fish, large, 45 minutes.

**Pitch, Wheel Grease, Tar Stains.**—Soften the stains with lard, then soak in turpentine. Scrape carefully with knife all the loose surface dirt; sponge clean with turpentine and rub gently till dry.

**Soot Stains.**—Rub the spots with dry corn-meal, before sending the clothes to the wash, and for vaseline stains saturate the spot with ether and lay a cup over it to prevent evaporation until the stain is removed. Use the ether with very great care.

**Chocolate and Cocoa Stains.**—Wash with soap in tepid water.

### HOW TO JUDGE A MAN.

To get along with your neighbors, to be on felicitous terms with your relatives, to enjoy the organizations of society, such as churches and parties, and to succeed in business, it is important to be a good judge of men. Here are a few hints:

To judge men correctly you have to like them. You can never rely upon your estimate of any one you dislike. If, therefore, a certain person irritates, angers, or disgusts you, be careful to form no judgment at all of him, for it is sure to be wrong.

This is a very vital point. There is no insight into character without love. Just learn that truth by heart, please; because it is about the truest truth there is.

To judge men justly you must be independent of them. Your opinion of any one from whom you expect favors or fear harm, is not worth a cent.

Vanity, pride, egotism and all such forms of sensitiveness of self, are fatal to correct judgment.

Take three or four people that you despise. Examine your record honestly, and in every case almost you can trace your hard feeling back to something these persons said about you that wounded you.

If Mrs. Smithers hears that Mrs. Judkins said that she was an unattractive woman with a commonplace mind, or that she'd better look after her children a little more carefully, or that her house showed very bad taste, the chances are twenty to one that Mrs. Smithers will have a bad opinion of Mrs. Judkins and of all her works. Mrs. Judkins may bake the most marvelous lemon pies, wear the handsomest of gowns, and read the cleverest of papers at the woman's clubs, but you may rest assured that

Mrs. Smithers will not think much of them; pies, gowns and papers have been spoiled by what Mrs. Smithers heard that Mrs. Judkins said about her.

And when we hear of a compliment a certain person has paid us, doesn't that person's stock soar skyward in our eyes?

Therefore if you truly want to be honest and fair in your estimates of people, be very thorough in searching to see if any hurt self-love or any flattered self-esteem mingles in your conclusion.

It is essential to correct judgment of a man that you should be acquainted with him in his work. Here his serious, deliberate self comes out.

Most of us have two natures, a work-self and a play-self. Watch a man playing golf, or fishing or chatting with friends on the front porch of a summer evening; and then visit his office and see him handling his affairs; and often you will find it difficult to believe it is one and the same man.

Also you must know him at play. Here often the secret flaw in his character comes out. I knew a man of the utmost probity in business, the superintendent of a great public concern, who was honest to the penny in his work affairs, but he would cheat at whist.

If you want to keep a high opinion of an author you love to read, of a statesman you admire and follow, or of your pastor, it is well not to become too well acquainted.

People in authority or high position run great risks when they descend to play and be off guard with those whom they are to guide or command. The crowd is so sensitive, fickle and often unjust that public functionaries are not to blame for maintaining reserve.—Woman's World.

### A VALENTINE PARTY.

The preparations for this party are few and simple. It should be held on the afternoon of the 14th of February, if the children invited are very young. As is the case with every child's party, care should be taken to keep everything as simple as possible, using no elaborate decorations and only very easily prepared refreshments.

Pink-and-white makes a very pretty color scheme for decoration. The needful materials are easily procured in these colors, and it is quite appropriate that Saint Valentine should imbue the festivities with a rose-colored atmosphere.

Quantities of pink and white hearts may be quickly strung about the rooms on baby ribbon, small pink hearts may be pinned to the curtains, and all the old valentines left over from former years may be used for the purpose of wall decorations.

The invitations sent out should be written upon tiny pink hearts, and enclosed in envelopes of the usual size. For the accustomed formal wording some appropriate jingle may be substituted, such as:

Come to meet Saint Valentine  
At Woodworth Avenue Number Nine.  
On the fourteenth day you must arrive,  
In the afternoon, from three to five.

Another pleasant and informal invitation is made by enclosing in the small envelope the visiting card of the mistress of the house, with date and street address. On the reverse of this card, draw with pen and ink or sketch in water colors the outline of a pink heart, with the couplet:

Come and hunt for hearts with me,  
Tuesday afternoon at three.

Before the children come, a heart-hunt may be arranged for, by hiding

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