

THE HOME CIRCLE COLUMN.

Pleasant Evening Reveries.—A Column Dedicated to Tired Mothers as They Join the Home Circle at Evening Tide

CRUDE THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITORIAL PEN

How many there are who would be unhappy if they could not find something to be miserable about.

Men can be found who are willing to go to Africa as missionaries who are not willing to take care of a cross baby for the tired wife for half an hour.

The best way to keep the boys at home is to make it an object for them not to go out and seek amusements, for these they will have. Every farm home ought to be made a very heaven on earth to its inmates. Not alone the farm home either, but all the houses in the land. Learn each child's nature, and then work some home charm to keep him in your circle.

Of all places, praise should be most lavishly used in the family circle. How many of us keep all our words of kindness for strangers, for those in whom we have not one spark of vital interest; and to the hearts dependent upon us for sympathy and appreciation, have scarcely one cheery word. If we are so niggardly in the expenditure of the sweet charities of life that we cannot squander commendations on the home folks and strangers too, by all means let the home folks come in first for their share.

Parents oftentimes wonder who or what has ruined their boys. They have been in school every day, but the teacher either does not teach them any lessons of morality or else his teaching is a failure. The truth is, the boys are on the street from the time school closes until late at night. The street corner is the best place in the world for teaching vice, profligacy and crime, nearly all the bad language and idle, vicious habits of boys are taught on the street at late hours of the night. Teachers may be able to accomplish a little in counteracting these evil influences, but much of their labor is in vain until parents co-operate with them in keeping their boys off the street.

It is a proverbial saying among all women that husbands have no adequate idea of the work which a housekeeper must do, and consequently are careless of the extra work they make for her. Would this be so in the next generation if every mother would begin with her little boys and teach them to be orderly with all their belongings, and to wait on themselves? Not only this, but teach them to help mother in every possible way; to keep the wood box filled with wood and the water pail with water; to save mother's tired feet by going upstairs and down cellar for her? Let him put up the clothes line, turn the wringer and empty the tubs for her on wash-day as soon as he is old enough. He will be proud enough to think that he is growing strong enough to do these things better than mother. Be very sure that you show your appreciation of every helpful act, and let him see that you look to him for assistance.

A SCOLDING HUSBAND CURED.

A woman, whom her husband used to scold, went to a cunning man to inquire how she might cure him of his barbarity. The sagacious soothsayer heard her complaint; and, after pronouncing some hard words, and using various gesticulations while he filled a phial with colored liquid, desired her, whenever her husband was in a passion, to take a mouthful of the liquid and keep it in her mouth for five minutes. The woman quite overjoyed at so simple a remedy, strictly followed the counsel which was given her, and by her silence escaped the usual annoy-

ance. The contents of the bottle being at last expended she returned to the cunning man and anxiously begged to have another possessed of the same virtue. "Daughter," said the man, "there was nothing in the bottle but brown sugar and water. When you husband is in a passion, hold your tongue, and my life on it, he will not scold you in the future."

Be careful how you speak of a woman's character. Think how many years she has been in building it, of the toil and privation endured, of the wounds received, and let no suspicion follow their actions. The purity of woman is the salvation of the race, the hope of future greatness, the redemption of man. Wipe out her purity and man sinks beneath the wave of despair, with no star to guide his life into a channel of safety. Think then before you speak, and remember that the hog can root up the fairest flowers that ever grew, so the vilest man can ruin the prettiest woman's character.

MOTHER AS A TEACHER.

The perception of beauty, dormant in the babe, is easily awakened with the other growing faculties. The kindergarden teacher's efforts in this direction are constantly bearing fruit, but let a word be given to mothers who have not had a kindergarden training.

Gather about your children a few beautiful objects; talk about them; let the children come, as they will unconsciously, under their influence; let beautiful ideas and images grow into their lives. Perhaps you have a dainty head in marble; put it on a low table to be admired, on the window-seat to cast a shadow, in the child's hand while he looks into the beautifully modeled face, at the smiling mouth, the wavy hair.

Take time to read and reread a gem of poetry, or to sing a sweet song to your children. Above all take time to study with your children the shading of the leaf, the bird, the bee, the stone, the pearls of dew on grass blade, the frost glitter, the snow crystal; take time to watch the trees in their grandeur, the stretch of meadow, the sparkling stream, the cloud mountains, the sunset glory. Beauties will be revealed to you you dream not of.

Even from our crowded city streets, to the eye that is opened and the heart that is awakened, beauty has not fled. The flickering light and shade weave themselves into exquisite patterns on our walls and pavements, the trees throw their long, dark shadows, the mists rise soft and gray, the sun pours its flood of golden light down the long dusty streets; to the ear that is attuned, harmony rises from the discord of sounds. He loves beauty and is looking for it will find it everywhere. And the mother who keeps her enthusiasm alive by working with her children, developing their perception of beauty and love for the beautiful works of nature and art, and reverence for the beautiful truths divine, will give them a blessed inheritance which will lighten their burden as they grow beyond her sheltering care, and bring more of cheerfulness, and hopefulness, and youthfulness into their lives.

A failing tiny nerve—no larger than the finest silken thread—takes from the heart its impulse, its power, its regularity. The stomach also has its hidden or inside nerve. It was Dr. Shoop who first told us it was wrong to drug a weak or failing stomach, heart or kidneys. His prescription—Dr. Shoop's Restorative—is directed straight for the cause of these ailments—These weak and faltering inside nerves. This, no doubt clearly explains why the restorative has of late grown so rapidly in popularity. Druggists say that those who test the restorative even for few days soon become fully convinced of its wonderful merit. Anyway, don't drug the organ. Treating the cause of sickness is the only sensible and successful way. Sold by The Scoggin Drug Co.

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- ¶ This is because a half century has been devoted to training and specializing men, each to *do one thing best* in sewing machine construction. The Singer's superiority—its *lifetime-lasting value*—does not appear on the surface.
- ¶ One machine *does* sew better than any other—and that *one* is the Singer.

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