

Children's Column.

MATER'S LETTER BOX.

Mater invites children to send in stories for this column, or correspondence which will be replied to through these columns. All matter to be clearly written in ink, and on one side of the paper only. Name, age, and address, must be always given, and correspondence directed to "Mater," care of Editor, "The Digger," Box 310, Invercargill.

THE GIPSY GIRL.

(By Alice Rhodes).

Dorothy was a little gipsy girl who lived in a caravan most of her life. I say most of her life, because when she was about seven years old her father sent her to school to be educated. He wanted her, when she grew up, to be a "fine leddy," as he said.

So Dorothy was sent to a boarding-school, where she spent a very happy time. She was a very enthusiastic scholar, for she loved doing lessons. Although she was only a gipsy girl, she was very popular, both with the girls and the teachers, for she had such a winning way.

When she was about fifteen her father came to fetch her home. He said her new mother was waiting to welcome her. When Dorothy heard this she was very unhappy. It made her think longingly of her mother who was dead, and she did not like to think of anyone filling her place. Her father said he was staying at the small inn in the village for the night, and would call for her the following morning. She cried herself to sleep that night, for she felt so lonely and wished she had someone to help her, someone to comfort her, and to tell her what to do. When at last she fell asleep it was to dream of her mother, who told her to go home and try to be a good girl for her sake.

So the next day she set off with her father to her new home. She determined she would try her best to be good and dutiful, for her father was a very kind man, but he had a weak will. They soon arrived at the caravan, which was connected with a travelling show which went from place to place. Dorothy was very sorry to leave the school and come back to the roaming life. She often wished she could go back, for she had been so happy there.

They travelled from place to place, until at last they came to a village on the outskirts of a town Devonshire. Everything was unpacked, and was soon ready for the evening's performance.

Dorothy was to be a fairy in one of the side shows, but she hated this life, especially with her stepmother for she was always scolding her. She tried to be good, but angry words often came to her lips, which she repressed with difficulty.

In a large house near the circus there lived an old woman of the name of Mrs Carlton and her niece, Helen Carlton. Helen's father and mother were dead, but she was very happy with her aunt. Helen went to the show the first night, and saw Dorothy perform. She felt she would like to meet Dorothy and be a friend to her.

The next day Dorothy was out for a walk when she met Helen, who spoke to her. She said how she had enjoyed last night's entertainment, and they soon became very good friends.

Dorothy had a very good singing voice, and had often tried to persuade her father to let her have her voice trained, but he refused. She was often heard singing over her work, but if her stepmother came in she was always stopped at once.

One day she was out with Helen when she saw her stepmother coming along the path.

"Oh, here comes my stepmother," said Dorothy.

Dorothy never called her "mother," and her stepmother often became angry at this.

"What are you doing here?" said her stepmother, "fiddling your time away when there is work to be done?"

(To be Continued).

Just satin-smooth skin most divinely fair,
And eyes of celestial blue,
'Neath a glittering crown of crimson hair,
And that is sweet Coral Carew!
Just a beautiful lass of the business class,
Who freedom from colds should assure—
A sensible maid grown wise to the aid
Of Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

The Home.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Never fail to have some sort of fruit for breakfast. Half of an orange or half of a grape fruit is far better than no fruit, and will keep your system in good condition.

Do not put a coat or dress away with dust in the folds or plaits. Shake the garment well and brush with a soft whisk broom, for dust is never so easily removed as at first.

To make a light weight comfortable for summer, use two old worn blankets, tack together, cutting off frayed edges, and cover with some light material. Fasten with heavy cotton, turn in the edges and stitch.

To clean a greasy range, prepare black-lead thus: Dissolve a tiny piece of soap in a tablespoonful of hot water, then add a little paraffin. Into this mix one block of blacklead, and use in the ordinary way. Result—a clean range, showing a brilliant polish.

Shelves in pantries in which food is kept should be painted, as deal and other woods, especially if in a shut-up place, emit a certain odour which flavours eatables of the more sensitive kinds, such as butter, biscuits, etc. If the wood is well painted this is avoided.

Large figured papering makes a small room look smaller; but, on the contrary, a paper covered with a small pattern makes a room look larger, and a striped paper, the stripes running from ceiling to floor, makes a low room look higher.

SCOTCH POTTED MEAT.

Boil together gently a knuckle of hough and 3lbs of hough. The meat and bone should be covered with cold water. Stew until the meat is tender. Strain and chop the meat finely. Season lightly with pepper and salt. Mix with the gravy, boil again for ten minutes and put into moulds.

PAINFUL FEET.

For painful feet, caused by excessive walking, constant standing, or long-continued movement, as in using the sewing machine, there is nothing better than a powder composed of half an ounce each of precipitated chalk and tannin. Apply this powder thrice daily after the feet have been bathed in warm water.

A NOVEL SPIRIT LAMP.

A simple spirit lamp can be easily made out of a blacking tin. Drill holes all round the lid, fill the tin with cotton wool, and soak it with methylated spirits. Put the lid on, and place a lighted match against the tin. The spirits, as they evaporate, will burn like a small gas ring. This makes a splendid little stove for invalid's food.

NUT AND RAISIN SANDWICHES.

One and a half cupfuls of seeded raisins, half a cupful of chopped nuts, juice of half a lemon, buttered bread. Chop the raisins finely or pass them through a meat chopper with the shelled nuts; blend smoothly and moisten with the lemon juice. Spread between slices of well-buttered bread.

A KITCHEN APRON.

A cotton skirt, the bodice of which is worn out, can be turned to account as a kitchen apron. Cut off the skirt at the waist and open it at the back or front—whichever is shabbiest—hemming each side and putting on a belt. Thus a large nice apron is the result. Before throwing away anything in the way of clothing, it is well to consider if there is no useful purpose to which it can be put.

TO CLEAN STAINED MARBLE.

Stained marble can be cleaned with the following:—Two ozs. of washing soap, one oz. of precipitated whiting, one oz. of pumicestone powder. Pound together, moisten with boiling water till of the consistency of cream. Apply this mixture to the marble with a brush. Leave it till quite dry, then wash off with hot

water. Dry and polish well. The mixture must be kept in a well-corked bottle.

LAMB'S FRY.

Boil 1lb of lamb's fry for a quarter of an hour in three pints of water, take it out and dry it in a cloth, grate some bread down finely, mix with it a teaspoonful of chopped parsley and a high seasoning of pepper and salt. Brush the fry lightly over the yolk of an egg, sprinkle over with bread-crumbs, and fry for five minutes. Serve very hot on a napkin in a dish, and garnish with plenty of crisped parsley.

HOMEMADE YEAST.

Boil half an ounce of hops in one quart water for 30 minutes; strain the liquor, and let it cool down to the heat of new milk, then add two teaspoonfuls of salt and 4lb moist sugar. Beat up with 4lb flour, and mix well together. Two days afterwards add 1½ potatoes boiled and mashed. While making, stir frequently and keep it near the fire, but do not cover it closely until it has ceased to work. It will keep in a cool place for two months, and one teacupful raises 6lb flour.

POACHED EGGS IN MILK.

For an invalid or a convalescent patient an egg poached in milk is most tempting, as it presents a snowlike appearance. The milk, after poaching the eggs, may quite well be used for something else, so that it is not extravagance using milk in place of water. Have the milk boiling (as much as will cover the eggs) and seasoned with a little salt. Break an egg into a wetted cup, then quickly transfer it to the boiling milk. Allow to boil up for a second, then draw to the side of the fire until the egg is set. Care should be taken that the milk is boiling before adding a second egg to the pan.

REVIVING A DUSTY COSTUME.

To revive a costume that is dusty-looking and wants freshening, first shake it in the air and brush it thoroughly, then lay on an ironing board, and have ready a dish of warm water, a cake of laundry soap, a damp rag, and a clean, dry cloth. Greasy spots and shiny places on the suit can be removed by rubbing with the slightly wet rag, moistened with soap, and, when clean, by wiping with the dry cloth. The whole suit should then be sponged with soap lather, a small portion at a time, and dried at once with a cloth. The result will be very satisfactory. Finally, press the suit with a hot iron, putting an almost dry cloth between the iron and the materials.

TWO DOZEN HOUSEHOLD MAXIMS.

All is fine that is fitting.
The first wealth is health.
Light suppers make long lives.
Too many cooks spoil the broth.
Bad habits gather imperceptibly.
As is the cook, so is the kitchen.
They who never think, always talk.
Do as you ought, come what may.
Better do a thing than wish it done.
Experience is the mother of science.
Example teaches more than precept.
In an orderly house all is soon ready.
Better is a small fish than an empty dish.

It is well to begin well, better to end well.
Frugality makes an easy chair for old age.

Time and tide wait for no man—or woman.
It is pride and not nature that craves much.

No one knows what's in a pie till the lid is off.
Better to go to bed supperless than rise in debt.

The father is the guest that best becomes a table.
Hunger is the mother of impatience and anger.

Advise not what is pleasant, but what is useful.
What is one man's food is another man's poison.

There is skill in all things, even in making porridge.

It is reported that a Wanganui dairy company contemplates paying 2s 8d per lb to its suppliers for butter-fat in the near future.

A large query mark has been chalked on one of the pinnacles of the school memorial hall at Eton College, and it is thought to be the work of an Etonian to record his secret climb. There is no clue to the identity of the climber.

BARLOW'S Jubilee Store.

NEVER SAY DIE, BUT ALWAYS TRY

BARLOW'S JUBILEE TEA.

Owing to the rise in Butter you will find it cheaper to use Pure Jama. I have a full range in glass and tins in 1, 2, 4, and 7. TRY IT.

Is the place to buy your GROCERIES—where you get the best value for cash. Established nearly a quarter of a century; still going strong. Send your orders by post or 'phone, and you will receive them promptly for cash on delivery. Pay cash and save booking charges.

DEE STREET, INVERCARGILL.

ADVERTISERS!

We guarantee the "Digger" to penetrate the whole of Southland, Lake District, South Otago, and to a lesser degree, a few places beyond this sphere, including as far north as Auckland. The destiny of the "Digger" as an effective and efficient advertising medium is assured.

We can tell you of a number who can testify to our claim and we are always ready to discuss advertising with firms who are desirous of reaching the purchasing public.

Remember ONE advertisement in the "Digger" covers the whole field.

We guarantee to have the largest circulation of any weekly, south of Dunedin, and the largest circulation outside of the leading morning and evening papers.

Failure to change your advertisement is failure to get effective service, and no fault of the "Digger."

INVERCARGILL MILK SUPPLY

Phone 556. 53 Yarrow street.
MILK MILK MILK
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CREAM! CREAM! CREAM!

Clean, pure, sweet, wholesome, and scientifically pasteurised.

A BOON FOR BABIES.

Our Motto: "Purity."

MILK MILK MILK
and and and
CREAM! CREAM! CREAM!

Invercargill Milk Supply,

53 YARROW STREET.

TRUTH AND FICTION.

I saw the posters in a row that advertised a movie show. The characters were far from show,

With guns and ropes and knives.
Their plain intention brought dismay.
They were prepared to maim or slay
and possibly to run away.
With one another's wives.

I told myself I'd give no heed, to satisfy
my mental need, to turbulence in
thought or deed,
But comfort I would find.

By sitting in an easy chair, where warmth
and comfort fill the air, to read the
daily page with care,
And thus improve my mind.

I read of Soviets and rum; of burglars
bold who go and come; of prophets
who are going some.
Predicting troubles new.

Suspicious dark I found rehearsed; old
grudges vengefully were nursed.
And all of it, this seemed the worst.
Some of it might be true!

I tossed away the fateful page, which
told of reckless human rage, and
hied myself unto the cage
Where movie tickets grow.

And there I gave my kind applause to
clubs and dirks and gats and saws,
and feel quite peaceable because
It's only just a show.

Washington "Star."

SMART WHITE VOILE BLOUSE

10/6, 11/6, 16/6, to 19/6.

WHITE SILK BLOUSES, 15/6 and 25/6
CREPE DE CHENE, in all colours, from
35/6 to 65/-

MISS BREY,

THE PARAMOUNT, ESK STREET.

TO HOUSEWIVES.

HAVE you a Sewing Machine? If so the greatest care should be bestowed on its upkeep; especially does it apply to the method of oiling, and the class of oil used. A Sewing Machine may be ruined in a very short time with poor oil, whereas the machine should last a lifetime if properly maintained.

WEKA BRAND

SEWING MACHINE OIL.

is a pure mineral oil of the finest possible quality, with only a faint taste and smell. It can even be swallowed without any ill effects. It has more body than any other Spindle or Machine Oil on the market. Also the WEKA OIL.

WILL NOT MARK OR STAIN

the finest fabric, which is a distinct advantage, as often valuable garments are practically ruined by oil stains. We have no hesitation in recommending this oil. It is used throughout the largest Woollen Mills in the Dominion, and is pronounced by experts to be better than anything else have previously used.

Also on sale—

DUSTOL,
STONE OIL,
RAZOR STROP OIL,
LARISSA LEMON CREAM.
Etc., etc.

Each of these preparations carries the hall-mark of Perfection.

DUSTOL is a preparation for using on dusters for furniture, etc.

RAZOR STROP OIL has been produced with a special view to keeping a razor strop in perfect order, thus ensuring a reliable and keen-edged razor.

STONE OIL.—The action of this Oil on a stone is to remove the residue of steel from the edge of the tool being sharpened. It has been tested and pronounced perfect.

LARISSA LEMON CREAM.—This Cream is a protection for the skin under all conditions of exposure to wind and sun; it is also a valuable hand emollient, and is specially recommended for softening the beard and ensuring an easy shave, used after shaving it is very soothing to tender skins.

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