

MISS GRETA ALLUM.

A Chicago Musician Who is a Marvel at Improvising.
The gift of musical improvisation is as rare as unusual. By knowing musicians and music lovers it is regarded as a unique and special faculty to be most tenderly admired, nurtured and cherished. To Miss Greta Allum, a pretty Chicago girl musician, has this gift been granted in remarkable degree.

Miss Allum, who was born in Scotland and educated in England, Scotland and Germany, but who has for some time been a resident of Chicago, is a daughter of Dr. Charles Allum, a noted English composer and organist, now also a Chicago resident. From her earliest infancy she evidenced a peculiar love for music, playing simple melodies with one tiny finger when



MISS GRETA ALLUM.

two years old. When a little over three she played any musical selection possible to the diminutive hands upon a single hearing, different sonatas, brilliant rhapsodies, mournful reveries, stirring marches, fantastic, whimsical dances and merry airs. The basic studies of musical expression and composition, harmony, fingering, technique, all these were as play to the small devotee of music.

Endowed with absolute pitch in all its workings, Miss Allum easily follows the course of each and every instrument of the largest orchestra and could name each and every note as it is sounded. When improvising she can make music in the style of any of the great masters and perform actual wonders of melodious and harmonious building.

No two improvisations are alike, although based on similar themes or musical fancies. So perfect are many of these themes it is difficult to believe them the production of the slender girl whose delicate hands seem almost inadequate to produce such volume and variety of harmony and purity of tone. The youthful improvisator, whose gift is little understood or comprehended outside of professional circles, will probably devote her whole energies to composing in the near future.—Chicago Tribune.

How to Treat Hysteria.

Hysteria is a disorder of the nervous system. It occurs chiefly in girls between fifteen and twenty-five years of age because at that period of life the constitution is often in a somewhat unsettled condition.

"Hysteria," says an eminent physician, "can be in some instances traced to digestive troubles. Causes referable to the mode of life in which girls are brought up and to their general habits add materially to its production, such as want of useful employment, indolent and luxurious habits, overpetting and spoiling, subjection to the petty worries of fashionable life, keeping late hours at parties or reading sentimental novels."

As a rule a fit of hysterics occurs when other people are present. It never comes on during sleep.

There is first sighing, sobbing, laughing and moaning. If the patient is sympathized with foolishly and fussed over she will then go on talking and gesticulating wildly, struggle violently and throw herself about, clenching her hands and feeling as if a ball were rising in her throat to suffocate her. She may appear to lose consciousness, but if you touch her eyeballs she will open her eyes quickly enough.

She will never fall so as to injure herself, as people do in epileptic fits.

Do not fuss. Let every one except one sensible person leave the room. This person should kindly but firmly speak to the patient and advise her to control herself. She should if necessary sprinkle cold water over her face and hold strong smelling salts to her nose. The threat of fetching a jug of cold water to throw over her has been known to effect a cure. It should never be more than a threat. Hysterical girls often need cod liver oil and iron and nourishing food.

Teach Children Presence of Mind.

In most families the teaching of children to meet emergencies is never thought of. That it has been neglected for ages is proved by the panic that is the inevitable occurrence at every serious accident in any of our cities. And it is a panic that causes the great loss of life in case of fire or accident or epidemic disease.

Teach the children to meet the danger they can see. Teach them to understand it, not to fear it. The danger is always greater in proportion as it is feared.

A runaway horse cannot do much

damage if people do not lose their heads. A child who is taught that he can ride as long as a horse can run is in less danger than the one who tries to jump or who screams. Screaming and dropping the reins are responsible for more accidents than any horse.

Presence of mind is a rare quality, and, were it cultivated in children, many a sad accident would be avoided.

Teach children to swim as soon as they can walk well, and they will be safer when playing about the water. And as soon as they can play in the water they can be taught how to hold on to others without interfering with the action of the arms. Many times help is made impossible by the frantic clinging of the drowning person to the rescuer and both are lost, when a little knowledge and presence of mind would have saved both lives.

A Closet Suggestion.

Where closet room is at a premium and what woman in these days of cramped houses and elaborate wardrobes ever has enough closet room? It is a good plan to have a pole arranged in the clothes closet, right down the center, the ends resting in sockets, the same as are used for curtain poles. If the closet be of any length whatever a number of dresses, coats, waists and skirts may be supported on this pole by means of coat hangers. If the ordinary style of hanger is used a separate one is required for each waist and skirt, but there are improved types, which easily accommodate both skirt and waist. In such a closet it is easy to keep the clothes in good condition and also an easy matter to find any particular garment.

Saves Herself Work.

A housewife who "does her own work" has equipped herself with a big serving tray, such as waiters in hotels use. When she is getting a meal ready she sets this upon the kitchen table, and as fast as the dishes for the table are ready she places them upon it—bread, butter, pickles, celery, etc. Then she carries in everything at one trip, thus making "her head save her heels." When the meal is over she "carries out the dead," as they call it in the restaurants, in the same way.

To Keep the Door Ajar.

A dainty little device for keeping a door ajar and which is convenient because it need not be placed on the floor where one is liable to stumble over it consists of two small connected cushions to be hung over the top of the door in such a way that one is on either side of it. It is much lighter than a covered brick or similar contrivance and keeps the door from slamming just as effectively. It may be made of cretonne, silk or any material you like.—Boston Advertiser.

When Your Baby Is Asleep.

Watch baby's face while he sleeps. If the eyelids are not perfectly closed, suspect weakness. If you see a furrow passing from either side of the nose round the mouth there is probably something the matter with stomach or intestines. A furrow from either mouth corner, passing outward, may indicate something wrong with the throat or lungs. None of these signs are conclusive, but they are infinitely valuable in causing the careful parent to investigate the state of the child's health.

Thirst in Children.

Every child should be taught that thirst quenching does not depend so greatly on the quantity of fluid that is swallowed as on the length of time during which liquid is kept in contact with the tissues of the mouth and throat. A small quantity of water used as a mouth and throat rinse will relieve more than a pint swallowed hastily. In hot weather, when the skin is secreting profusely, there is no real demand on the part of the tissues for liquid.

A Child's Meal Hours.

A child's meal hours should be rigidly fixed, and under no circumstances, save illness, ought food to be given at other times. The contrary practice will lead to capricious appetite, now absent, now voracious. During the second year of life there should be five meals each day. Commencing in the morning, the hours may be 7, 10, 1, 4 and 7.

Fish Cakes.

Those who do not like fishballs are advised to try preparing them the following: Mix the flaked fish with hot mashed potatoes, half a cupful of hot milk, one beaten egg, a teaspoonful of butter and seasoning. When cool mold into croquettes, dip in rolled cracker crumbs and beaten egg and fry in deep fat. These are very delicate.

Rain Water Baths.

Rain water—pure and honest rain water—is Venus' own nectar as a beautifier and preservative of the skin, which it renders clean, soft, smooth, transparent and of a very juvenile loveliness. The rain water bath is best taken tepid at about 70 to 75 degrees F.

A plain brown or green wall paper makes an ideal background for pictures, and the absence of pattern on walls adds immensely to the apparent size of the room.

Unused table linens should be washed at least once a year, thoroughly dried and refolded to prevent yellowing and rotting where the folds are.

Don't give unnecessary time to a certain established routine of housework when it could be much more profitably spent in rest and recreation.

A tablespoonful of linseed oil will freshen and polish mahogany.

FEED YOUR HANDS.

You Can Make Them Plump, Soft and White With Milk Baths.

For pretty hands injured by the appearance of premature wrinkles use the milk cure and avoid scented soap, says a reliable authority. Sensitive skins become withered by frequent contact with perfumed soap and water. The very best castile soap is preferable to any other when the skin on a pair of fair and pretty hands begins to look dry and filled with tiny fresh crossed lines. The hand bath of fresh unskimmed milk is better still. A prima donna in the troupe that sings in the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, during the winter is not yet in the thirties. Her hands are slim and white, but they became suddenly as aged and withered as those of a woman of sixty. Miss Seabright saw them and showed her own pretty, plump, snow white members in comparison.

"Use milk, my child," was her consolation. "Every morning a quart of the best milk is sent to my rooms in the hotel, and four times a day I soak my hands just a moment or two in the sweet white dudd. I dry them gently with a very old piece of soft pure linen, and they shine and glitter like new ivory. Milk is a tonic to dry skins such as yours and mine. It also tightens up the outer cuticle and lends it a downy softness."

A Scent Jar.

How to Make a Fragrant and Lasting Potpourri.

Girls no longer hang up in their dressing rooms the flowers sent them by their most prized admirers. Neither do they select special buds or blossoms and press them between the leaves of books for keepsakes. There is a deal of sentiment in the lines,

"'Tis but a little faded flower,
But, oh, so fondly dear,

while, in fact, there's neither sentiment, perfume nor beauty in a bunch of dried roses of a posy from which the life has been pressed. Present day girls preserve the fragments of their flowers, and the fragrance of a flower is its soul, in rose jars. They make them in potpourri!

Pretty Chinese and Japanese jars are generally used, says Home Notes.

The best way to make a potpourri is to put into the receptacle nothing but the leaves of the flowers and salt. Rose leaves must be used for the foundation, as no other flower will hold the flavor of itself. Alternate layers of rose leaves and salt, pressing the salt down upon the leaves. When the scent becomes evident any other fragrant flower or leaves may be added, such as violets, heliotrope, lemon, verbena or geranium leaves. A jar filled in this way will remain a well of delicious perfume for months, flooding an apartment whenever the lid is removed.

CULINARY CONCEITS.

In adding boiling milk to beaten eggs first put in a spoonful at a time, and the eggs will not curdle.

To stir the yolks of eggs into soup or hot custard so that they will be smooth first beat them and add a teaspoonful of cold water.

A steak to retain its juices should be cooked in the quickest manner possible consistent with safety from burning and not seasoned until placed upon the table.

In serving sardines many people drain and wipe the fish and after placing on the serving platter pour a teaspoonful of pure olive oil over each. This is supposed to render them more delicate in flavor.

To stew figs cover them with cold water, let them simmer. When nearly tender add to one pound of figs one-half of a medium sized lemon chopped and half a cupful of sugar. If not acid enough add a little more lemon juice.

What May Be Done With a Box.

One of the most useful articles in my kitchen is a common wooden box from the grocery store. It is 28 inches high and 13 by 15 inches wide, open on one side, with a shelf midway. It is the same height as the range, and when getting a meal it is a convenient place on which to set a platter or other dishes. When raising bread I put the pan of dough on the box near the stove. When raising in the loaf one tin stands on top and the other inside on the shelf. If I am tired, I bring the box to the table and use it for a stool to sit on while washing dishes or ironing small articles. If the table is crowded with dishes it can be used to set the dishpan on while washing, as it is nearly the height of the table. The box should be painted the same color as the woodwork.—Woman's Home Companion.

Woman in Her Clothes.

Women never move enough in their clothes, and the clothes are by no means all to blame, although men are in the habit of thinking that they are. How much more men use their whole bodies than women do, partly because their dress encourages this and partly because women have formed generations of habits of being rigid. Years ago it was considered "ladylike" to keep the hands folded in the lap as much as possible, to place the feet exactly together when sitting and in general to be "gentle." There are all sorts of ways of interpreting "gentle." It is doubtful if the kind of gentleness that prevented women from breathing heartily, from moving easily and in a limber way, ever was a proof of good breeding.

THE PRETTY GIRL.

It Is Attention to Little Things That Makes Her So Attractive.

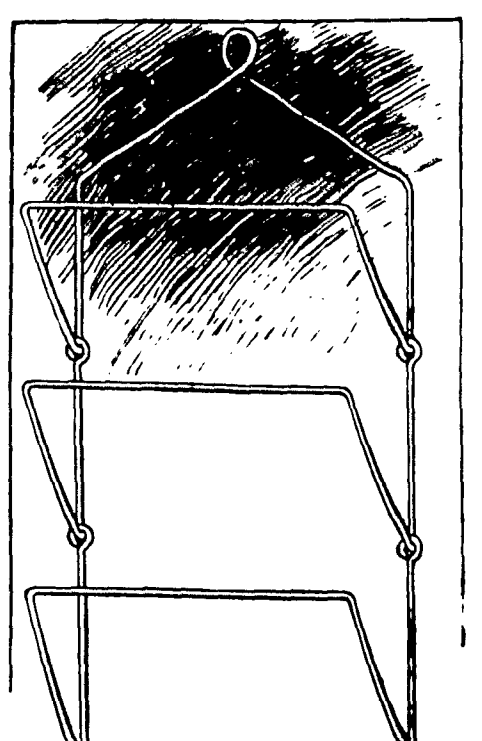
Ask any one to explain why a certain girl is regarded as pretty and see if you get a direct answer. Probably you will hear that "she certainly is pretty, but really I don't know why, for she has not a good feature in her face, and, now I come to think about it, I have seen prettier complexions." She may have a good figure, but that does not alone make a girl worth looking at twice and certainly does not gain her a reputation for prettiness. Your "pretty girl," you will find, is immaculately fresh and neat looking. Her hair looks well brushed and is well and becomingly arranged; her dress is well chosen in color, and, however simple in style, it is thoroughly trim at the neck, and there is never a suspicion of rags or untidiness about her skirt, braids or her petticoat.

The "little things" of that girl's toilet are not slurred over, and her hands and feet are as dainty as a queen can make them, for her minute refinement makes her abhor the dictum of the sloven that "all that matters is the general effect, and little details are not worth bothering about." Those little details just make all the difference between the well and badly dressed girl, but attention to them is not enough to gain a girl of average looks the reputation of being pretty. Look at her well and see if her irregular features do not form part of a bright and animated face that makes you feel glad when you look at it. The attractive girl who without beauty is considered to possess it is a girl of culture and refinement, and the reason why ugly girls are less often met now than in former times is owing to the superior education which maidens of today in every class of life enjoy.

PHOTOGRAPH RACK.

How to Make a Serviceable One From Ordinary Wire.

Photograph or letter racks come in various more or less ornamental designs and are very handy in the home. Here is a suggestion by which you



PHOTOGRAPH RACK.

may make a very serviceable one yourself out of ordinary wire: The single parts of this rack are three inches wide and two and a quarter inches high. Take strong pliable copper wire and cut off pieces about twelve inches long, which you form into the shapes shown in our illustration with the help of a pair of tweezers or strong scissors. They are joined together by hooks. The holder can be made of two, three or more parts, but each part must be bent carefully and accurately.

Woman's Happiest Age.

When a girl is eighteen she thinks the best time of a woman's life must certainly be from eighteen to twenty-two. When she has passed her twenty-second year she is decidedly of opinion that from then until the age of twenty-eight really marks the limits of the best time, and when thirty comes on the scene she is ready to give way to all those who believe a woman to be then at the zenith of her life. It is generally maintained that after twenty-five the average woman begins to attain her physical and mental perfection and that for some eight or ten years after this she still retains her charms undiminished. After this time, of course, it depends entirely upon the woman whether she chooses to advertise her years or by her charming personality and clever dressing to conceal all ravages of time.

Modern Unrest.

The women of this generation are undoubtedly suffering from too much occupation. The listless, bored, discontented, unsettled girl of twenty years ago has given place to the restless, energetic and positively desperate business woman thirsting for fresh outlets for enterprise. We are caught up in the whirlwind of modern unrest, and we imagine we are happy because we have no time to think anything to the contrary.

Saving an Egg.

When the white of an egg is used the yolk is often left to harden and is then thrown out. A teaspoonful of cold water poured into the eggshell will keep it soft. If hardened, beat in a little milk and the yolk may be made usable again. Whites of eggs must be kept covered if not used at once.

The Plucky Girl.

How the world likes a cheerful, plucky girl who makes a brave fight and hides her skeleton in a closet instead of folding her hands and whimpering because things don't come her way, the girl who puts her own griefs as much as possible aside, who takes a wholesome interest in life!

CHOOSING A LOVER.

She Is a Wise Maiden Who Waits Until She Is Twenty.

It is rather a difficult matter to say exactly at what age a girl should have a lover. (Circumstances alter cases, and an age which might be applicable to one girl would be inadvisable in the case of another. One is fairly safe in saying, however, that in the great majority of love affairs the happiest are those which are never thought about until a girl has passed her twentieth birthday. By that time a girl may be said to have reached the age of discretion. She has probably had opportunities of meeting various types of men, gained a clear insight into their characteristics and acquired that knowledge of men and their ways which prevents her fixing her thoughts and affections on the first man who attracts her particular attention.

She has got past the schoolgirl age, when a maiden is apt to vote every member of the opposite sex charming and lovable if able to talk and flirt in a fascinating manner. The sensible girl who is well past her teens, however, probes deeper beneath the surface, so to speak, and does not judge a man when he is on his best behavior at a ball or a party. It is quite possible, of course, for her to make a mistake and bestow her affections on one who is unworthy of them, but the girl of twenty or twenty-one makes fewer mistakes in estimating a man's character than sweet sixteen or seventeen, and consequently saves herself much unhappiness by choosing at the right time no lover but "Mr. Right"—American Queen.

MANAGING CHILDREN.

The Mother Should Make Her Own Rules and Enforce Them.

It is very seldom indeed that a number of children play together for five minutes without some member of the group piping: "Now, you stop that; I'll tell mamma on you!" Sometimes the threat to tell is repeated a dozen times in half an hour.

Have you ever noticed that "I'll tell mother on you" is nearly always whined forth, not shouted? Of course. That's instinctive inclination toward the fitness of things. The telltale habit is a winning habit and comes from a winning frame of mind, and is altogether as contemptible a frailty as ever beset human nature.

Not that the children are to blame; they pattern themselves very often after adult telltales. It is scarcely conceivable but there are actually mothers who tell tales on the little ones to their father.

"You just wait till your father comes home," she says. "I'm going to tell him what you did. Then we'll see."

And the children go around hangdog fashion, dreading instead of welcoming the hour of their father's arrival. He comes, hears the tale of horror and, blindly imagining—poor, ignorant man—that he ought to enforce his wife's authority, "corrects" the children. What a mistaken way of bringing them up! How infinitely more worthy of respect is the mother who settles her own scores with them! That act of telling is nothing more nor less than a confession of weakness.

THE HOME DOCTOR.

Rotten apple applied to an inflamed part of the body will relieve the inflammation.

The juice of a lemon taken in water, with no sugar, the first thing in the morning will improve a sallow complexion.

Two teaspoonfuls of salt in half a pint of tepid water is an emetic always on hand, and it is an antidote for poisoning from nitrate of silver.

If tincture of iodine is instantly applied where carbolic acid has touched the flesh no blister will result. The iodine should be applied with a feather.

A delightful essence to inhale when suffering from headaches is composed of one dram of oil of lavender, one ounce of lump camphor, three ounces of liquid ammonia and one pint of alcohol. Dissolve and bottle.

Down Quilts.

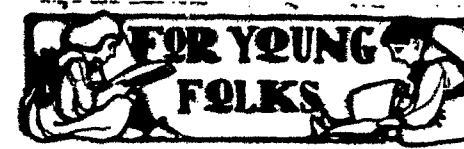
Few people really understand the washing of down quilts, especially those made of sateen, cretonne or any other of washable cotton stuffs. The first thing to do is to rub the quilt well over with naphtha soap, taking care the best brand is utilized for this purpose. The quilt at all points should be carefully laid in with great success by a clever homemaker, who, after using these downy spreads, decided they must be laundered in some way or given up as a bed covering. Pillows that have been used for a number of years and become soiled through sickness can be treated to a more rigorous washing by scrubbing the ticking with a scrubbing brush and following the rules given here.

The Wash Boiler.

One often hears complaints that the wash boiler rusts and iron molds the clothes. This may be easily prevented by rubbing the boiler directly if it is emptied and while still warm with any good household soap. Give it a good coating of soap, for the soap will not only prevent rust, but will help to make the suds when the boiler is filled for the next washing day.

The Way to Slice Bacon.

In cutting breakfast bacon lay the rind side down on the meat board, cut down to the rind as many slices as are needed, then cut it off in a block. Turn sideways and cut off one end, then the other end, the inside and last the rind, and you will have trimmed all the slices nearly as quickly as you could have trimmed one.



MONKEY AND PARROT.

What Did the Man Do With the Switch From the Tree?

"If you will slip into the pantry and get me some cake I will give you this fine gold watch to wear," said the parrot to the monkey, holding up a beautiful watch for the monkey to admire.

So the monkey ran into the house and into the pantry and got cake covered with sugar and gave it to the par-



GAVE THE CAKE TO THE PARROT.

rot, for he felt that it would be a very grand thing indeed to have a watch to wear.

He placed the chain about his neck and walked up and down the garden, feeling very proud of his new possession. He liked to hear it tick, he liked to see the little hand go bobbing around, and he liked to wind the stem of the watch when it ran down.

While he was thus enjoying himself who should come along but his master. "Oh, ho!" sang out the man. "So you are the young rascal who stole my fine watch that my wife gave me for a Christmas present!"

He grabbed poor monkey by the back of the neck and took the watch from him. Then the man broke a little sweat from a tree, and what do you suppose he did with it? All the bad little boys and girls know, and I shall not tell the good ones.—Exchange.

A BEAR HUNT.

Do You Think the Man With the Knife Got the Big Grizzly?

When papa puts his pipe away and takes me on his knee I know he's got a story that he wants to tell to me. I put my arms around his neck and hug him tight and good. For that's his pay. He wants it first. That's always understood. It's always 'bout a little boy just 'actly big as me who's got a pony, got a dog, a gun and things, you see; who kills some injuns on the plains an' goes an' traps an' hunts, who shoots big bears an' buffaloes an' never misses one. He goes out in the woods alone an' travels through the day an' builds a fire up evry night to keep the wolves away, then in the mornin' takes his gun an' finds a grizzly's den an' chases bears fer miles an' miles, a-shootin' now an' then. At last he gets one up a tree an' walks aroun' an' 'roun' an' shoots his powder all away, an' then the bear comes down. So next the fellow takes his knife without a bit o' fear—an' then I git so sleepy that's 'bout all I ever hear. Then in the mornin' when I wake an' find myself in bed I git to wonderin' if the bear is 'live or if he's dead. I look aroun' fer daddy, but can't see him anywhere. An' so I holler mighty loud, "Pop, did he git the bear?"—Exchange.

Walled Up Alive.

A very interesting bird is one which follows the trade of a plasterer—the hornbill.

It makes its home in faroff Africa, and this home is in the trunk of a hollow tree. You see, monkeys run wild in this country, and there is nothing they like better than hornbill eggs for breakfast, so in order to save the lives of her young the mother hornbill consents to what do you think? To be walled up alive!

She and her mate select a suitable tree and work together, plastering up with mud any opening there may be in the trunk. Having made it small enough to only just admit the passage of her body, the mother hornbill goes in, and her mate continues plastering until there is only a little round hole left, enough for him to put in the tip of his beak. Through this he passes in food to the mother while she is hatching her eggs and rearing her babies; nor do the latter get out into the light and air until they have donned their first suit of feathers. Then the door of the nursery is broken down, and the family begins to enjoy free life again.

About Marmosets.

Marmosets are too expensive and too delicate to make very good pets for children, but they are the cunningest little things in the world. Probably you have seen them in the animal stores. They are very, very small monkeys, you know, and come from South America. As to disposition, they are both gentle, tame and intelligent. As you know, they are only the size of squirrels, but their faces are owl-like—so old and wise.

That Was Different.

When naughty Jim pulled Jenny's braids she cried (the inconsistent girl): "Oh, what a funny thing to see! 'Tee-hee, tee-hee, tee-hee!"

But when Jim twiddled at Susie's own hair she cried (the inconsistent girl): "Oh, what a naughty thing to do! 'Boo-hoo, boo-hoo, boo-hoo!"

—Youth's Companion.